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Published on 24 October 2007

Statement No. 753

**STATEMENT THAT A PROPOSAL MAY BE IMPLEMENTED  
(PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1986)**

**MT GIBSON IRON ORE MINE & INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT  
SHIRE OF YALGOO**

**Proposal:** To mine and process iron ore from Extension Hill and Extension Hill North, within the Mt Gibson Ranges, construct a pipeline to transport the magnetite slurry to Geraldton Port, and construct infrastructure at the port to strip the ore from the slurry for export.

**Proponent:** Mount Gibson Mining Limited

**Proponent Address:** Level 1, 7 Havelock Street, WEST PERTH WA 6872

**Assessment Number:** 1538

**Report of the Environmental Protection Authority:** Bulletin 1242

The proposal referred to in the above report of the Environmental Protection Authority may be implemented. The implementation of that proposal is subject to the following conditions and procedures:

**1 Proposal Implementation**

- 1-1 The proponent shall implement the proposal as documented and described in schedule 1 of this statement subject to the conditions and procedures of this statement.

**2 Proponent Nomination and Contact Details**

- 2-1 The proponent for the time being nominated by the Minister for the Environment under sections 38(6) or 38(7) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* is responsible for the implementation of the proposal.
- 2-2 The proponent shall notify the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Environment and Conservation (CEO) of any change of the name and address of the proponent for the serving of a notice or other correspondence within 30 days of such change.

### **3 Time Limit of Authorisation**

- 3-1 The authorisation to implement the proposal provided for in this statement shall lapse and be void within five years after the date of this statement if the proposal to which this statement relates is not substantially commenced.
- 3-2 The proponent shall provide the CEO with written evidence which demonstrates that the proposal has substantially commenced on or before the expiration of five years from the date of this statement.

### **4 Compliance Reporting**

- 4-1 The proponent shall submit to the CEO environmental compliance reports annually reporting on the previous twelve-month period, unless required by the CEO to report more frequently.
- 4-2 The environmental compliance reports shall address each element of an audit program approved by the CEO and shall be prepared and submitted in a format acceptable to the CEO.
- 4-3 The environmental compliance reports shall:
  - 1. be endorsed by signature of the proponent's Managing Director or a person, approved in writing by the CEO, delegated to sign on behalf of the proponent's Managing Director;
  - 2. state whether the proponent has complied with each condition and procedure contained in this statement;
  - 3. provide verifiable evidence of compliance with each condition and procedure contained in this statement;
  - 4. state whether the proponent has complied with each key action contained in any environmental management plan or program required by this statement;
  - 5. provide verifiable evidence of conformance with each key action contained in any environmental management plan or program required by this statement;
  - 6. identify all non-compliances and non-conformances and describe the corrective and preventative actions taken in relation to each non-compliance or non-conformance;
  - 7. provide an assessment of the effectiveness of all corrective and preventative actions taken; and
  - 8. describe the state of implementation of the proposal.
- 4-4 The proponent shall make the environmental compliance reports required by condition 4-1 publicly available in a manner approved by the CEO.

## **5 Performance Review**

5-1 The proponent shall submit a Performance Review report every five years after the start of ground-disturbing activities to the Environmental Protection Authority, which addresses:

1. the major environmental issues associated with implementing the project; the environmental objectives for those issues; the methodologies used to achieve these; and the key indicators of environmental performance measured against those objectives;
2. the level of progress in the achievement of sound environmental performance, including industry benchmarking, and the use of best available technology where practicable;
3. significant improvements gained in environmental management, including the use of external peer reviews;
4. stakeholder and community consultation about environmental performance and the outcomes of that consultation, including a report of any on-going concerns being expressed; and
5. the proposed environmental objectives over the next five years, including improvements in technology and management processes.

5-2 The proponent shall make the Performance Review reports required by condition 5-1 publicly available in a manner approved by the CEO.

## **6 *Darwinia masonii* Research and Recovery Plans**

6-1 Prior to the commencement of ground-disturbing activities for the mine site, the proponent shall prepare a *Darwinia masonii* Research Plan to the requirements of the Minister for the Environment on advice of the Environmental Protection Authority and the and the Department of Environment and Conservation.

The objective of this Plan is to facilitate the continued *in situ* survival and improvement in the conservation status of *Darwinia masonii* over time through targeted research which assists development of a recovery plan for the species.

This Plan shall set out a timetable, objectives and methodologies for research and measures to:

1. monitor the numbers of individuals of the species, their health, and reproductive success;
2. investigate the requirements for maintaining or improving the viability of the population through genetic and ecological factors relating to the conservation, management, restoration, propagation and translocation of the species;
3. provide a scientifically robust analysis of the habitat requirements of the species;

4. offset the direct impacts of the proposal on the local population of the species by regeneration, re-establishment or translocation of additional plants or sub-populations on suitable un-impacted areas of banded ironstone formations in the Mt Gibson area; and
  5. provide information which, combined with the results of monitoring activities required by condition 8, assists in ensuring that mining and other activities of the proposal, particularly the generation of dust, do not lead to a further decline in the local population of the species.
- 6-2 Prior to the commencement of ground-disturbing activities for the mine site, the proponent shall prepare an Interim Recovery Plan for *Darwinia masonii*, to the requirements of the Minister for the Environment on advice of the Environmental Protection Authority and the Department of Environment and Conservation.

The objective of this Plan is to maintain or improve the conservation status of *Darwinia masonii* during the development of the Recovery Plan required by condition 6-3.

This Plan shall include a timetable for and actions to:

1. locate and report any additional populations of the species;
2. enhance the survival of existing populations of the species; and
3. expand the existing populations or establish new populations;

based on currently available information and the results of early research and experimentation undertaken in accordance with condition 6-1.

- 6-3 Within four years following the commencement of ground-disturbing activities for the mine site, the proponent shall prepare a Recovery Plan for *Darwinia masonii* to the requirements of the Minister for the Environment on advice of the Environmental Protection Authority and the Department of Environment and Conservation.

The objective of this Plan is to maintain, and ultimately improve, the conservation status of *Darwinia masonii* such that its conservation status is more secure in the Mt Gibson area.

This Plan shall identify:

1. habitats which are critical to the survival of the species and the actions needed to protect those habitats;
2. threats to the species, and areas and populations under threat;
3. objectives to be achieved;
4. criteria against which achievement of the objectives is to be measured;

5. management actions, based on the outcomes of the implementation of the Research Plan referred to in Condition 6-1 and the Interim Recovery Plan referred to in Condition 6-2 that will remediate the impacts of the project and provide for a net improvement on the pre-mining conservation status of the species; and
6. further research required into the management or recovery of the species,

and shall be consistent with the requirements of the current version of the “Recovery Plan Guidelines for Nationally Listed Threatened Species and Ecological Communities under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*” (published on the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage website).

- 6-4 The proponent shall implement the *Darwinia masonii* Research Plan required by condition 6-1.
- 6-5 The proponent shall implement the Interim Recovery Plan for *Darwinia masonii* required by condition 6-2.
- 6-6 The proponent shall implement the Recovery Plan for *Darwinia masonii* required by condition 6-3.
- 6-7 The proponent shall review and revise the *Darwinia masonii* Research and Recovery Plans required by conditions 6-1, 6-2 and 6-3 as and when directed by the CEO.
- 6-8 The proponent shall implement revisions of the *Darwinia masonii* Research and Recovery Plans required by condition 6-7.
- 6-9 The proponent shall make the *Darwinia masonii* Research Plan required by condition 6-1 and revisions required by condition 6-7 publicly available in a manner approved by the CEO.
- 6-10 The proponent shall make the Interim Recovery Plan for *Darwinia masonii* required by condition 6-2 and revisions required by condition 6-7 publicly available in a manner approved by the CEO.
- 6-11 The proponent shall make the Recovery Plan for *Darwinia masonii* required by condition 6-3 and revisions required by condition 6-7 publicly available in a manner approved by the CEO.

## **7 *Lepidosperma* sp. Mt Gibson - Research and Recovery Plans**

- 7-1 Prior to the commencement of ground-disturbing activities for the mine site, the proponent shall prepare a *Lepidosperma* sp. Mt Gibson Research Plan to the requirements of the Minister for the Environment on advice of the Environmental Protection Authority and the Department of Environment and Conservation.

The objective of this Plan is to facilitate the continued *in situ* survival and improvement in the conservation status of *Lepidosperma* sp. Mt Gibson over time through targeted research which assists development of a recovery plan for the species.

This Plan shall set out a timetable, objectives and methodologies for research and measures to:

1. monitor the numbers of individuals of the species, their health, and reproductive success;
2. investigate the requirements for maintaining or improving viability of the population through genetic and ecological factors relating to the conservation, management, restoration, propagation and translocation of the species;
3. provide a scientifically robust analysis of the habitat requirements of the species;
4. offset the direct impacts of the proposal on the local population of the species by regeneration, re-establishment or translocation of additional plants or sub-populations on suitable un-impacted areas of banded ironstone formations in the Mt Gibson area; and
5. provide information which, combined with the results of monitoring activities required by condition 8, assists in ensuring that mining and other activities of the proposal, particularly the generation of dust, do not lead to a further decline in the local population of the species.

7-2 Prior to the commencement of ground-disturbing activities for the mine site, the proponent shall prepare an Interim Recovery Plan for *Lepidosperma* sp. Mt Gibson, to the requirements of the Minister for the Environment on advice of the Environmental Protection Authority and the Department of Environment and Conservation.

The objective of this Plan is to maintain or improve the conservation status of *Lepidosperma* sp. Mt Gibson during the development of the Recovery Plan required by condition 7-3.

This Plan shall include a timetable for and actions to:

1. locate and report any additional populations of the species;
2. enhance the survival of existing populations of the species; and
3. expand the existing populations or establish new populations;

based on currently available information and the results of early research and experimentation undertaken in accordance with condition 7-1.

7-3 Within four years following the commencement of ground-disturbing activities for the mine site, the proponent shall prepare a Recovery Plan for *Lepidosperma* sp. Mt Gibson to the requirements of the Minister for the Environment on advice of the Environmental Protection Authority and the Department of Environment and Conservation.

The objective of this Plan is to maintain, and ultimately improve, the conservation status of *Lepidosperma* sp. Mt Gibson such that its conservation status is more secure in the Mt Gibson area.

This Plan shall identify:

1. habitats which are critical to the survival of the species and the actions needed to protect those habitats;
2. threats to the species, and areas and populations under threat;
3. objectives to be achieved;
4. criteria against which achievement of the objectives is to be measured;
5. management actions, based on the outcomes of the Research Plan referred to in Condition 7-1 and the Interim Recovery Plan referred to in Condition 7-2 that will to remediate the impacts of the project and provide for a net improvement on the pre-mining conservation status of the species; and
6. further research required into the management or recovery of the species,

and shall be consistent with the requirements of the current version of the “Recovery Plan Guidelines for Nationally Listed Threatened Species and Ecological Communities under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*” (published on the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage website).

- 7-4 The proponent shall implement a *Lepidosperma* sp. Mt Gibson Research Plan required by condition 7-1.
- 7-5 The proponent shall implement the Interim Recovery Plan for *Lepidosperma* sp. Mt Gibson required by condition 7-2.
- 7-6 The proponent shall implement the Recovery Plan for *Lepidosperma* sp. Mt Gibson required by condition 7-3.
- 7-7 The proponent shall review and revise the *Lepidosperma* sp. Mt Gibson Research and Recovery Plans required by conditions 7-1, 7-2 and 7-3 as and when directed by the CEO.
- 7-8 The proponent shall implement revisions of the *Lepidosperma* sp. Mt Gibson Research and Recovery Plans required by condition 7-7.
- 7-9 The proponent shall make the *Lepidosperma* sp. Mt Gibson Research Plan required by condition 7-1 and revisions required by condition 7-7 publicly available in a manner approved by the CEO.
- 7-10 The proponent shall make the Interim Recovery Plan for *Lepidosperma* sp. Mt Gibson required by condition 7-2 and revisions required by condition 7-7 publicly available in a manner approved by the CEO.
- 7-11 The proponent shall make the Recovery Plan for *Lepidosperma* sp. Mt Gibson required by condition 7-3 and revisions required by condition 7-7 publicly available in a manner approved by the CEO.

## 8 Conservation of Significant Flora and Communities

- 8-1 Prior to the commencement of ground-disturbing activities, the proponent shall prepare a Significant Flora Species and Communities Management Plan to the requirements of the Minister for the Environment on advice of the Environmental Protection Authority and the Department of Environment and Conservation.

Note: “Significant flora species” include: Declared Rare Flora; Priority Listed Flora; geographically restricted flora; and newly discovered and undescribed flora.

The following species shall be addressed in the Plan:

- *Darwinia masonii*;
- *Lepidosperma* sp. Mt Gibson;
- *Acacia cerastes*;
- *Grevillea* aff. *yorkrakinensis*;
- *Cryptandra imbricata*;
- *Podothea uniseta*; and
- *Psammomoya implexa*.

Note: “Significant communities” include: Threatened Ecological Communities; Priority Ecological Communities; and geographically restricted ecological communities.

The objectives of this Plan are to:

- maintain the conservation status of significant native flora species and communities through the avoidance or management of adverse impacts of the proposal (other than those within the approved area of direct disturbance set out in schedule 1), including dust, and through improvements in knowledge of their distribution and ecology; and
- ensure compliance with the requirements of the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* and the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* for significant flora species and communities.

This Plan shall:

1. provide the results of targeted flora and vegetation surveys where surveys have not been completed or where the result of previous surveys are no longer current, to provide further information on the conservation and baseline conservation status of each of the significant flora species and communities within the project area;
2. describe details of monitoring and management activities to ensure that the proposal does not lead, directly or indirectly, to the taking of significant flora beyond the approved area of direct disturbance, including:
  - monitoring of the numbers and population distribution of *Darwinia masonii* and *Lepidosperma* sp. Mt Gibson, their health and reproductive success; and



- a detailed risk management plan setting out monitoring and management procedures, parameters, and schedules, and defining response triggers and acceptable performance criteria for the avoidance and management of potential indirect impacts of mining activities, including, the impacts of dust deposition, fire, weeds, altered hydrology and unauthorised disturbance, on the populations of *Darwinia masonii* and *Lepidosperma* sp. Mt Gibson outside the mining footprint;

Note: See also Weed Management Plan (condition 9) and Bush Fire Management Plan (condition 10).

3. describe measures to ensure that direct and indirect impacts on significant flora species and communities within the mine site and along the services corridor are minimised;
  4. describe measures to manage impacts of the mining operation on vegetation downstream of the mine site;
  5. set out monitoring parameters, methods and criteria for establishing impact on significant flora species and communities within the mine site and along the services corridor;
  6. outline the regeneration or revegetation strategies which may be required for significant flora species and components of communities, including completion criteria to be met;
  7. outline management or mitigation actions required to address any failure to achieve regeneration completion criteria arising from item 6 above; and
  8. outline further investigations into the regeneration and reproductive ecology of affected significant flora species and components of communities, in order to determine appropriate regeneration methodologies, if the completion criteria are not being achieved.
- 8-2 The proponent shall implement the Significant Flora Species and Communities Management Plan required by condition 8-1.
- 8-3 The proponent shall review and revise the Significant Flora Species and Communities Management Plan required by condition 8-1 as and when directed by the CEO.
- 8-4 The proponent shall implement revisions of the Significant Flora Species and Communities Management Plan required by condition 8-3.
- 8-5 The proponent shall make the Significant Flora Species and Communities Management Plan required by condition 8-1 and revisions required by condition 8-3 publicly available in a manner approved by the CEO.

## **9 Weeds**

- 9-1 Prior to the commencement of ground-disturbing activities, the proponent shall prepare, in consultation with the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Department of Agriculture and Food, a Weed Management Plan.

The objectives of this Plan are to:

- prevent the spread of existing weeds within the mine site and along the services corridor caused by the activities of the proponent;
- prevent the establishment of new weeds within the mine site and along the services corridor caused by the activities of the proponent;
- control and/or eradicate weeds within the mine site and along the services corridor; and
- minimise the potential for the impact of weeds and weed management on significant flora identified in condition 8.

This Plan shall:

1. identify the location and approximate number of each weed species recorded within the mine site and along the services corridor, during previous vegetation surveys, while having regard for weed species outside the project area;
  2. identify weeds of environmental significance in the project area as target weeds in collaboration with the Department of Environment and Conservation;
  3. map the presence of target weeds;
  4. implement appropriate hygiene practices for all plant and vehicle equipment operated by the proponent;
  5. control and eradicate target weeds during construction and operation of the mine site and construction of the services corridor;
  6. identify performance indicators for weed management; and
  7. monitor the success of weed control.
- 9-2 The proponent shall implement the Weed Management Plan required by condition 9-1.
- 9-3 The proponent shall review and revise the Weed Management Plan required by condition 9-1 as and when directed by the CEO.
- 9-4 The proponent shall implement revisions of the Weed Management Plan required by condition 9-3.
- 9-5 The proponent shall make the Weed Management Plan required by condition 9-1 and

revisions required by condition 9-3 publicly available in a manner approved by the CEO.

## **10 Bush Fires**

- 10-1 Prior to the commencement of ground-disturbing activities, the proponent shall prepare, in consultation with the Department of Environment and Conservation and the relevant Local Governments, a Bush Fire Management Plan.

The objective of this Plan is to reduce the risk of unplanned fires and provide contingency measures to minimise the impacts of fires on the local environment.

This Plan shall set out the provision of resources and measures to:

1. prevent bushfires in the vicinity of the mine site;
2. detect bushfires in the vicinity of the mine site;
3. train personnel to fight fires in the vicinity of the mine site; and
4. respond to bush fire emergencies.

- 10-2 The proponent shall implement the Bush Fire Management Plan required by condition 10-1.

- 10-3 The proponent shall review and revise the Bush Fire Management Plan required by condition 10-1 as and when directed by the CEO.

- 10-4 The proponent shall implement revisions of the Bush Fire Management Plan required by condition 10-3.

- 10-5 The proponent shall make the Bush Fire Management Plan required by condition 10-1 and revisions required by condition 10-3 publicly available in a manner approved by the CEO.

## **11 Malleefowl *Leipoa ocellata***

- 11-1 Prior to the commencement of ground-disturbing activities, the proponent shall prepare, in consultation with the Department of Environment and Conservation, a Malleefowl Conservation Plan.

The objective of this Plan is to maintain the abundance, diversity, geographic distribution and productivity of the Malleefowl *Leipoa ocellata* through mitigation of adverse impacts and improvements in knowledge.

This Plan shall:

1. identify the distribution and abundance of *Leipoa ocellata* (Malleefowl) within and around the project area, including the services corridor;
  2. identify the threats to the Malleefowl populations in the areas identified in item 1 above;
  3. identify management objectives and actions to minimise impacts on Malleefowl from the threats identified in item 2 above, including feral animal control and investigations into avoiding mounds being used by Malleefowl;
  4. identify a monitoring program to assess the Malleefowl population and any impacts as a result of the proposal; and
  5. identify measures for community involvement in Malleefowl conservation.
- 11-2 The proponent shall implement the Malleefowl Conservation Plan required by condition 11-1.
- 11-3 The proponent shall review and revise the Malleefowl Conservation Plan required by condition 11-1 as and when directed by the CEO.
- 11-4 The proponent shall implement revisions of the Malleefowl Conservation Plan required by condition 11-3.
- 11-5 The proponent shall make the Malleefowl Conservation Plan required by condition 11-1 and revisions required by condition 11-3 publicly available in a manner approved by the CEO.

## **12 Fauna Management at the Mine Site**

- 12-1 Prior to the commencement of ground-disturbing activities for the mine site, the proponent shall prepare in consultation with the Department of Environment and Conservation, a Mine Site Fauna Management Plan.

The objective of this Plan is to maintain the abundance, diversity, geographic distribution and productivity of native fauna through mitigation of adverse impacts and improvements in knowledge.

This Plan shall address management and monitoring to:

1. demonstrate that the effects of vegetation clearing, noise and vibration, light overspill and vehicle movement on fauna are minimised; and
2. in particular, management and monitoring of *Egernia stokesii badia* (Western spiny-tailed skink); *Falco peregrinus* (Peregrine Falcon); *Cacatua leadbeateri* (Major Mitchell's Cockatoo); and *Merops ornatus* (Rainbow Bee-eater).

Note: The management of Malleefowl is considered in a separate Malleefowl Conservation Plan (condition 11).

- 12-2 The proponent shall implement the Mine Site Fauna Management Plan required by condition 12-1.
- 12-3 The proponent shall review and revise the Mine Site Fauna Management Plan required by condition 12-1 as and when directed by the CEO.
- 12-4 The proponent shall implement revisions of the Mine Site Fauna Management Plan required by condition 12-3.
- 12-5 The proponent shall make the Mine Site Fauna Management Plan required by condition 12-1 and revision required by condition 12-3 publicly available in a manner approved by the CEO.

### **13 Fauna Management along the Services Corridor**

- 13-1 Prior to ground-disturbing activities of the Services Corridor, the proponent shall clearly delineate on the ground the boundaries of the services corridor, being up to 20 metres wide from Geraldton Port to Monger's Lake (agricultural section) and up to 15 metres wide from Monger's Lake to the mine site (pastoral section).
- 13-2 The proponent shall not cause or allow disturbance of vegetation outside the delineated services corridor referred to in condition 13-1, unless authorised by the Minister for the Environment.
- 13-3 The proponent shall undertake open trench works in the pastoral section of the services corridor from April to September (inclusive) unless otherwise authorised by the CEO.
- 13-4 Prior to vegetation clearing, the proponent shall mark significant habitat trees of sufficient age to form nesting hollows for hollow-nesting birds and mammals, and Malleefowl mounds, in consultation with the Department of Environment and Conservation.
- 13-5 The proponent shall not fell marked trees or disturb mounds referred to in condition 13-4, except in the case where habitat trees or mounds occur in the direct line of the proposed pipeline and cannot reasonably be avoided.
- 13-6 The proponent shall limit the length of open trench to a maximum length of 10 kilometres at any time in the pastoral section and 20 kilometres at any time in the agricultural section of the services corridor.
- 13-7 No part of the trench shall remain open for more than seven days, unless authorised by the CEO.
- 13-8 The proponent shall install ramps at intervals of 500 metres along the entire route of the open trench to allow trapped animals to escape, except in remnant vegetation patches in the agricultural section, where each remnant vegetation patch shall have at least one ramp.

13-9 The proponent shall employ at least two “fauna clearing persons” per ten kilometres of open trench to remove fauna from the trench. The “fauna clearing persons” shall be able to demonstrate suitable experience to obtain a fauna handling licence issued by the Department of Environment and Conservation.

13-10 The open trenches shall be inspected by the “fauna clearing persons” for trapped fauna each day by no later than three hours after sunrise and half an hour prior to backfilling of the trench.

13-11 In the event of significant rainfall, the proponent shall, following the clearing of fauna from the trench, pump out any pooled water in the open trench (with the exception of groundwater) and discharge it via a mesh (to dissipate energy) to adjacent areas.

Note: “Fauna clearing persons” means employees whose responsibility is to daily walk the open trench to recover and record fauna found within the trench.

13-12 The proponent shall produce monthly performance monitoring reports on fauna management. These reports shall include a Fauna Register on the fauna found in the trenches, and fatalities. These reports are to be provided to the Department of Environment and Conservation each month, and made publicly available.

## **14 Closure**

14-1 Prior to ground-disturbing activities, the proponent shall prepare a Preliminary Closure Plan in consultation with the Department of Environment and Conservation, the Department of Industry and Resources, the Department of Water, the Australian Bush Heritage Fund, the Australian Wildlife Conservancy, the Pindiddy Aboriginal Corporation and the relevant Local Governments, which describes the framework to ensure that the mine area and the services corridor are left in an environmentally acceptable condition, and provides:

1. the rationale for the siting and design of plant and infrastructure as relevant to environmental protection;
2. a conceptual description and design of the final landform at closure;
3. for the long-term management of groundwater and surface water systems affected by the mining operations and services corridor;
4. for the management of noxious materials to avoid the creation of contaminated areas (including acid-generating materials);
5. a rehabilitation program, which aims to restore the original vegetation communities to areas disturbed by the mining operations and construction within the services corridor, and includes completion criteria to be met; and
6. for the monitoring and response to the progress towards the re-establishment of the floristic communities as part of the rehabilitation of the area, including studies on the composition of the floristic communities on Extension Hill North.

14-2 The proponent shall make the Preliminary Closure Plan required by condition 14-1 publicly available in a manner approved by the CEO.

14-3 At least two years prior to the anticipated date of closure, or at a time agreed with the Environmental Protection Authority, the proponent shall prepare a Final Closure Plan, to the requirements of the Minister for the Environment on advice of the Environmental Protection Authority.

The objectives of this Plan are to:

- achieve construction of landforms which are stable, non-polluting and aesthetically compatible with the surrounding landscape; and
- ensure that closure planning and rehabilitation are carried out in a coordinated, progressive manner and are integrated with development planning, consistent with current best practice, and the agreed end land uses.

The Final Closure Plan shall set out details and measures for:

1. removal or, if appropriate, retention of plant and infrastructure in consultation with relevant stakeholders;
2. final landforms and the extent of the mine void;
3. long-term management of groundwater and surface water systems affected by the waste rock dumps, the mine void and the services corridor;
4. identification of contaminated areas, including provision of evidence of notification and proposed management measures to relevant statutory authorities; and
5. rehabilitation of all disturbed areas, including the mine area and the services corridor, to ensure establishment of sustainable vegetation communities with local species and local provenance, consistent with the reconstructed landscape and surrounding vegetation and in accordance with the completion criteria.

14-4 The proponent shall implement the Final Closure Plan required by condition 14-3 until such time as the Minister for the Environment determines, on advice of the CEO, that the proponent's closure responsibilities have been fulfilled.

14-5 The proponent shall make the Final Closure Plan required by condition 14-3 publicly available, in a manner approved by the CEO.

## **15 Performance Bond**

- 15-1 As security for the due and punctual observance and performance by the proponent of the requirement to rehabilitate that part of the services corridor that lies outside mining tenure, as required by conditions 14-1(5) and 14-3(5), the proponent shall lodge with the CEO on demand prior to commencement of operations of the mine, an irrevocable Unconditional Performance Bond as nominated and approved by the CEO in his sole unfettered discretion to a cash value and in a form acceptable to the CEO ("the Security") which Security at the date hereof being \$5,000 per hectare of disturbance from Geraldton Port to Mongers Lake (agricultural section) and \$7,000 per hectare of disturbance from Mongers Lake to the mining tenure at the Mt Gibson mine site (pastoral section).

The proponent shall lodge with the CEO an Unconditional Performance Bond executed by a Bank or other approved financial institution for due compliance with the environmental conditions in the sum of \$576,000.

- 15-2 The CEO may review the Security required by condition 15-1 at any time or times and if, on such review, the CEO considers that a security has ceased to be acceptable to the CEO, then the CEO may, with the approval of the Minister for the Environment, require the proponent to furnish replacement or additional security for performance by the proponent of its obligations to rehabilitate that part of the services corridor that lies outside mining tenure, as required by conditions 14-1(5) and 14-3(5).
- 15-3 The proponent shall within fourteen days after written request by the CEO furnish replacement or additional security in such sum as the CEO shall nominate, in a form and upon terms and conditions approved by the CEO, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld. On receipt of approved replacement security the CEO shall release and discharge the original security.

Note:

1. In the preparation of advice to the CEO in relation to conditions 15-1, 15-2 and 15-3, the Environmental Protection Authority expects that the advice of the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Department of Industry and Resources will be obtained.
2. The rehabilitation of the services corridor referred to in conditions 15-1 and 15-2 is required by conditions 14-1(5) and 14-3(5).

## **16 Offsets**

- 16-1 The proponent shall implement the offset package set out in Schedule 2 to the requirements of the Minister for the Environment on advice of the Department of Environment and Conservation.

## **Notes**

1. Where a condition states "on advice of the Environmental Protection Authority", the Environmental Protection Authority will provide that advice to the Department of Environment and Conservation for the preparation of written notice to the proponent.



2. The Environmental Protection Authority may seek advice from other agencies or organisations, as required, in order to provide its advice to the Department of Environment and Conservation.
3. The Minister for the Environment will determine any dispute between the proponent and the Environmental Protection Authority or the Department of Environment and Conservation over the fulfilment of the requirements of the conditions.
4. The proponent is required to apply for a Works Approval and Licence for this project under the provisions of Part V of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.

David Templeman MLA

MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT; CLIMATE CHANGE; PEEL

# Schedule 1

## The Proposal (Assessment No. 1538)

### General Description

The proposal is to mine and process iron ore (hematite and magnetite) from Extension Hill and Extension Hill North and to construct an underground pipeline, within a services corridor, to transport the magnetite slurry to Geraldton Port, and infrastructure at the port to strip the magnetite ore from the slurry for export. Extension Hill and Extension Hill North are part of a ridge of banded ironstone formations within the Mt Gibson Ranges. The banded ironstone formation contains hematite, and the underlying magnetite. The mine site is located approximately 350 kilometres north-east of Perth (Figure 1).

Details of the proposal are provided in the proponent's *Mt Gibson Iron Ore Mine and Infrastructure Project Public Environmental Review*, April 2006.

### Summary Description

A summary of the key proposal characteristics is presented in Table 1.

**Table 1 – Summary of the Key Proposal Characteristics**

Element	Description
Project life	Approximately 20 years
Ore quantity	Magnetite approximately 230 Million tonnes Hematite approximately 13 Million tonnes
Waste management	Overburden will be stockpiled in a dump to the east of the pit. Tailings from magnetite processing will be combined with the overburden dump.
Processing requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dry and wet processing of magnetite to produce approximately 5 Million tonnes per annum of magnetite concentrate</li><li>• Dry processing of hematite</li></ul>
Size of final pit	Approximately 2,400 metres long and 700 metres wide
Depth of final pit	Not more than 350 metres below the ground level (approximately 220 metres below the groundwater level)
Dewatering	Approximately 2,500 cubic metres per day
Mine water supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dewater for potable and domestic supplies: 80 cubic metres per day</li><li>• Dewater for dust suppression: 2,055 cubic metres per day</li><li>• Process water and slurry transportation water: 5,424 cubic metres per day from the Tathra borefield (piped 168 kilometres to the mine site) and drying of tailings</li></ul>
Vegetation disturbance	Not more than 880 hectares at the mine site (152 hectares for the mine pit and 552 hectares for the waste dump) Not more than 90 hectares along the services corridor
Underground pipelines within	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Slurry pipeline from the mine site to Geraldton Port</li></ul>

the services corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Return water pipelines from Geraldton Port to Three Springs, from Three Springs to the mine site, and from the Tathra Borefield to the return water pipeline near Three Springs</li> <li>• Pumping stations for the water</li> <li>• Gas pipeline from Main Line Valve 92 on the Dampier-Bunbury Natural Gas Pipeline to the mine site</li> </ul>
Width of services corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not more than 15 metres in pastoral section (from Monger's Lake to the mine site)</li> <li>• Not more than 20 metres in the agricultural section (from Geraldton Port to Monger's Lake)</li> </ul>

### Figures (attached):

Figure 1 - Regional location

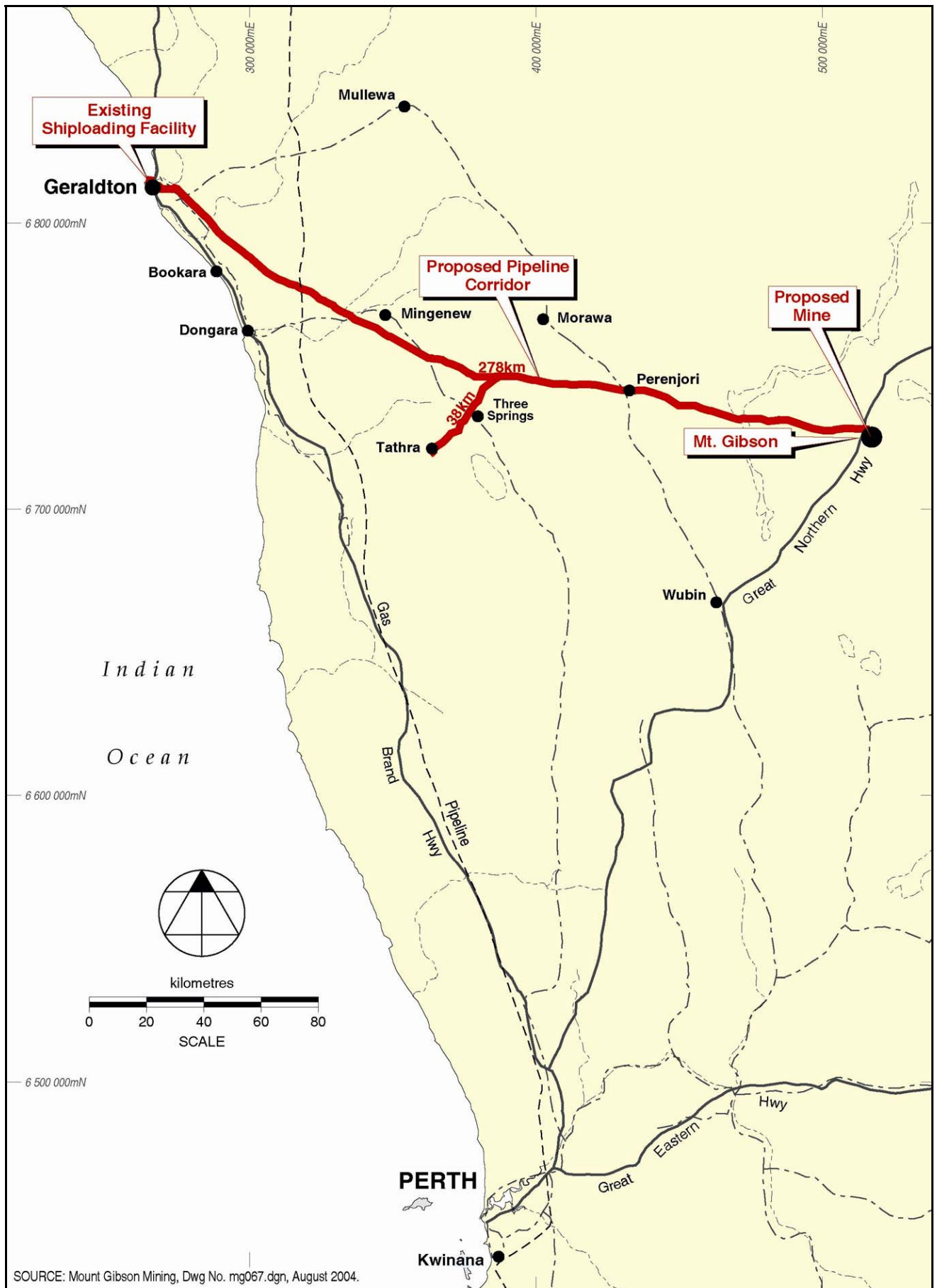
Figure 2 - Mt Gibson Ranges and pit

Figure 3 - Mine site layout

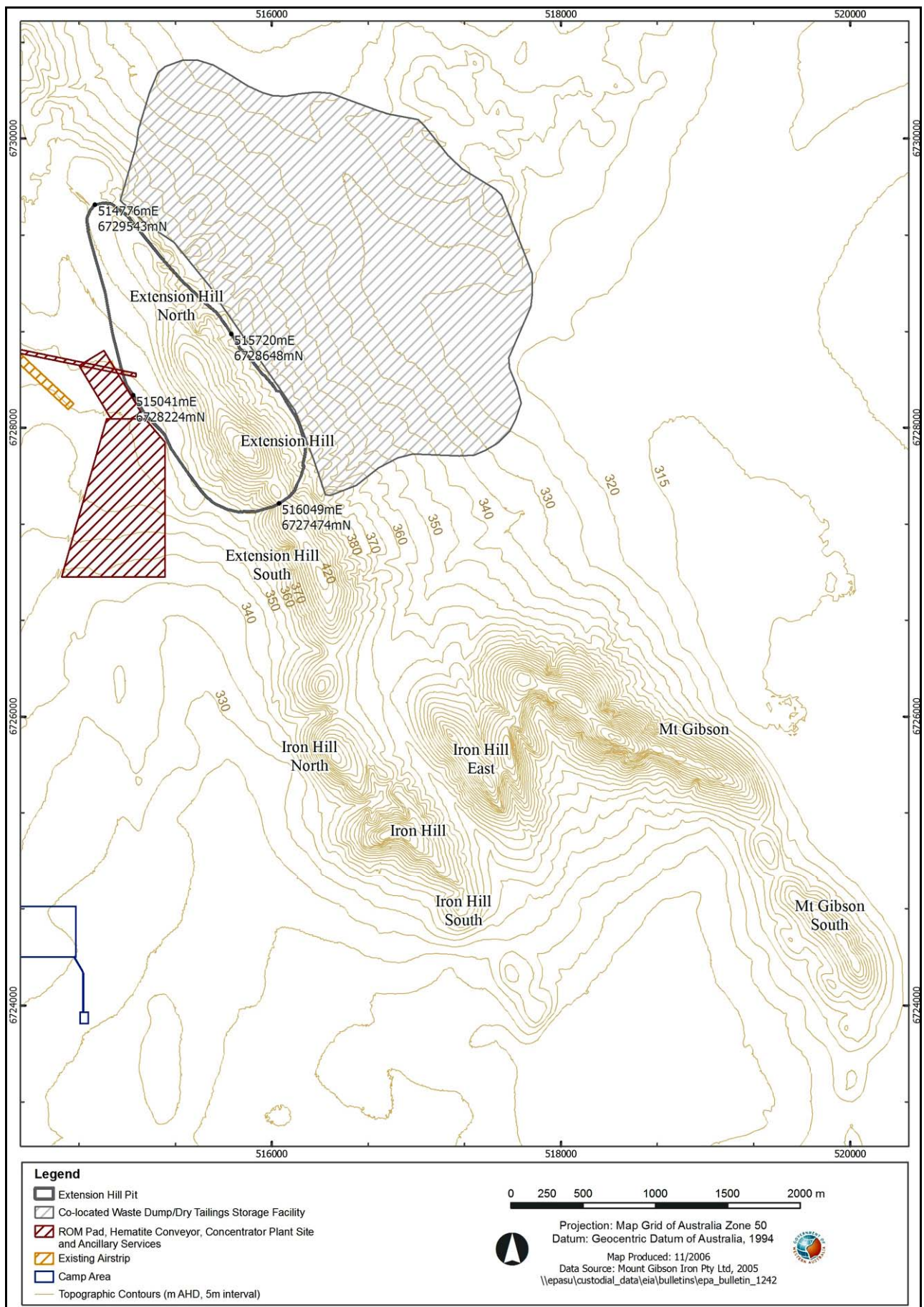
Figure 4 - Location of services corridor

Figure 5 - Facilities at Geraldton Port

Figure 6 - *Darwinia masonii*, *Lepidosperma* sp. Mt Gibson and floristic vegetation communities at Mt Gibson.

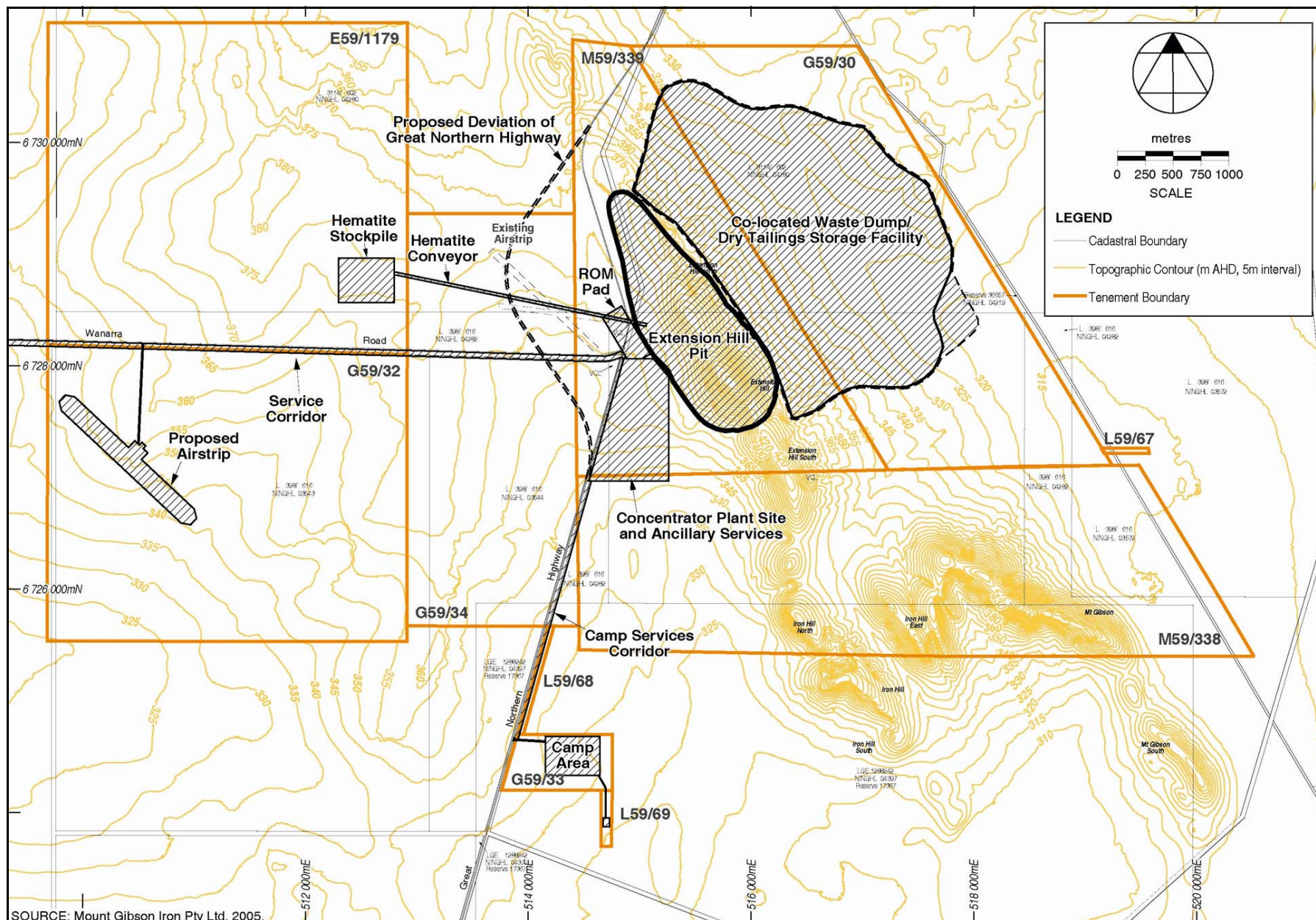


**Figure 1: Regional location**

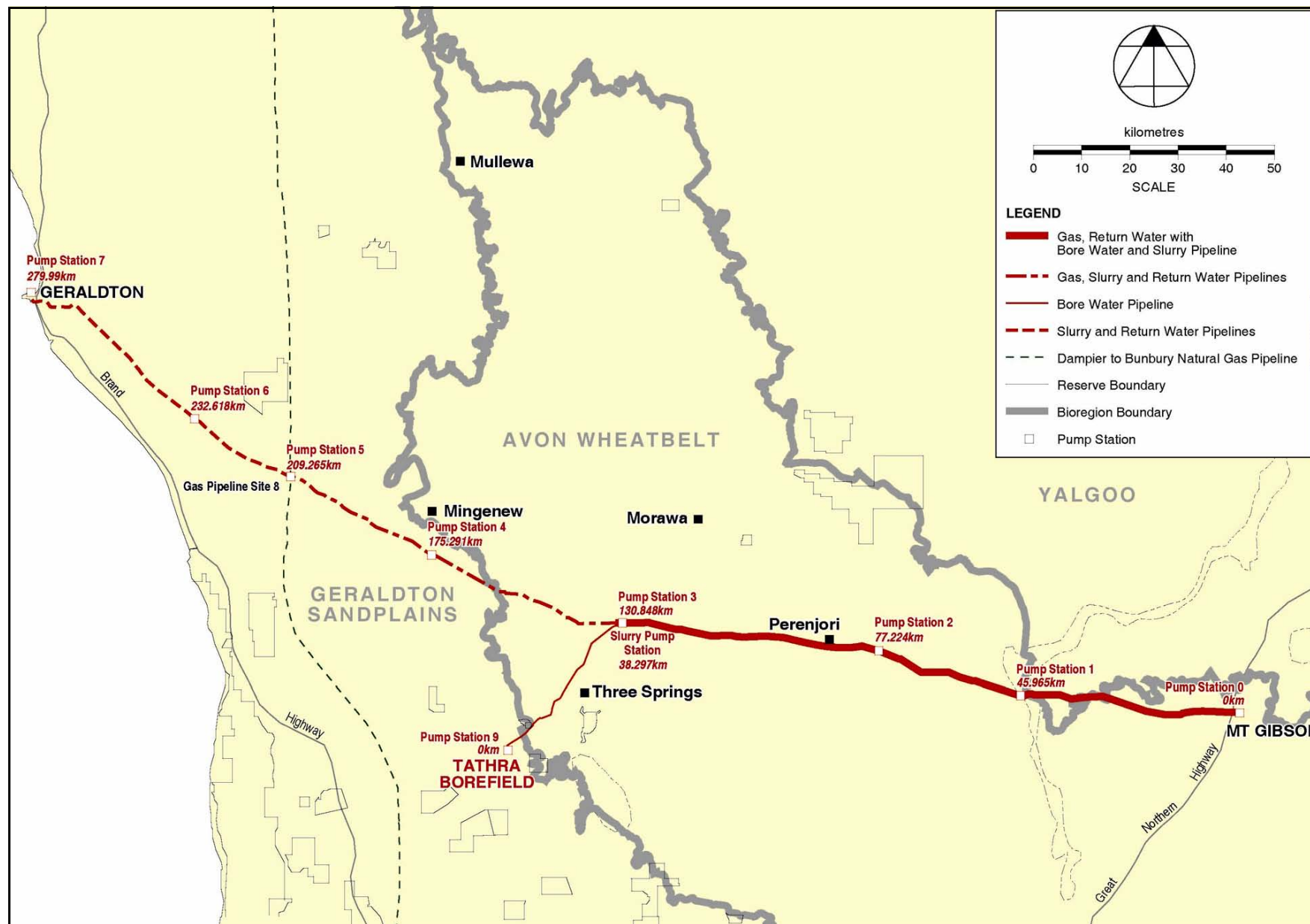


**Figure 2: Mt Gibson Ranges and pit**



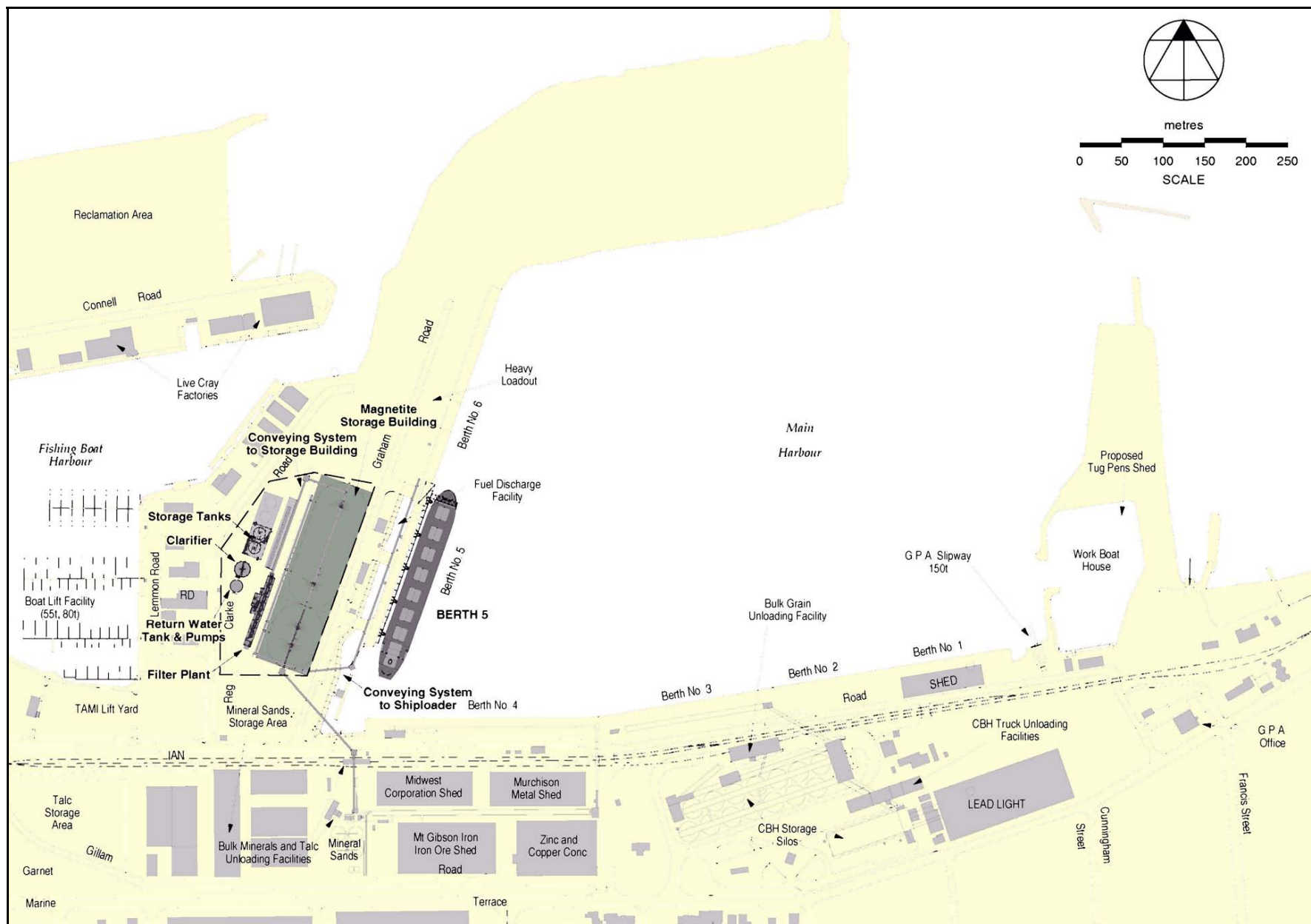


**Figure 3: Mine site layout – NOTE: This hatched area defines the ‘mine site’ as referred to in the conditions**



**Figure 4: Location of services corridor**





**Figure 5: Facilities at Geraldton Port**



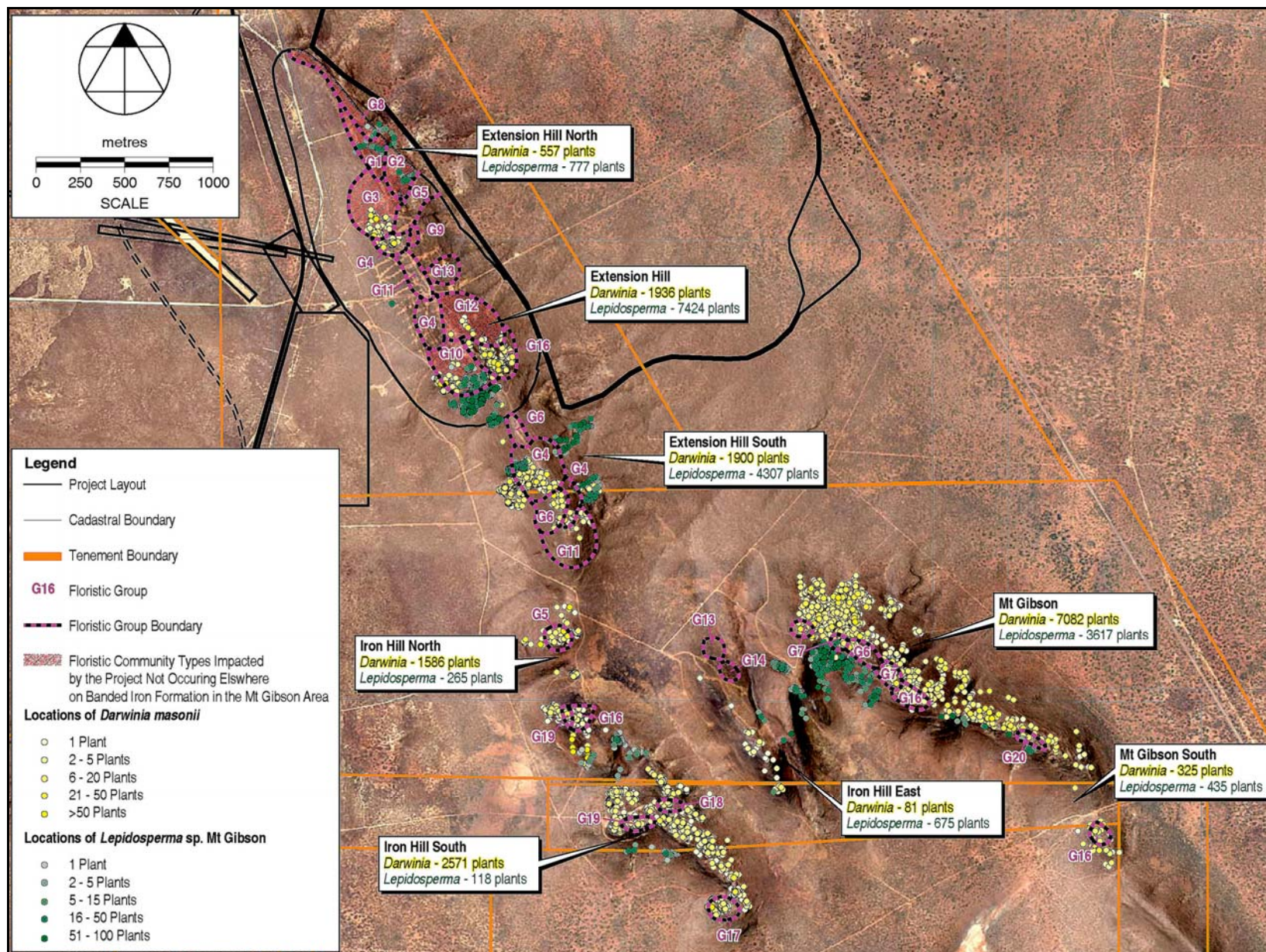


Figure 6: *Darwinia masonii*, *Lepidosperma* sp. Mt Gibson and floristic vegetation communities at Mt Gibson

## Schedule 2

### Schedule: Summary of Proponent Offsets

Offset	Governance	Timeline	Value
Support for a 3 year plus (Stage 2) research program to be undertaken by BGPA leading to the preparation & implementation of a Recovery Plan for the DRF <i>Darwinia masonii</i> (already commenced).	BGPA commissioned to undertake this work  To the requirements of the Minister for the Environment on advice of the EPA	Three years or as required to meet objectives of the Research Plan. Stage 1 of the Research Plan completed. Stage 2 of the Research Plan commenced in May 2007	Stage 1 = \$215,900 (already completed)
Support for a 3 plus year (Stage 2) research program to be undertaken by BGPA leading to the preparation and implementation of a Recovery Plan for the DRF <i>Lepidosperma</i> sp Mt Gibson (already commenced).	BGPA commissioned to undertake this work  To the requirements of the Minister for the Environment on advice of the EPA	Three years or as required to meet objectives of the Research Plan. Stage 2 of the Research Plan commenced in May 2007	Stage 2 of combined research program = \$1.11 million
Management of the Proponent's mining tenements in the Mt Gibson Ranges in accordance with the: (i) Significant Flora Species and Communities Management Plan (Condition 8) (ii) Weed Management Plan (Condition 9) (iii) Fire Management Plan (Condition 10) (iv) Malleefowl Management Plan (Condition 11); (v) Minesite Fauna Management Plan (Condition 12); (vi) Fire Management Plan (Condition 10); and Preliminary Closure Management Plan (Condition 14).	To the requirements of the Minister for the Environment on the advice of the EPA, DEC, DAF, DOIR, DoW	Ongoing for the life of the project	
Funding of \$110,000 pa for the position of a DEC officer(s) during the life of the proposal. The funding is to be directed towards the achievement of environmental objectives detailed below and will cease in the event of any type of conservation reserve being imposed on the all or part of the Proponents Non Project land by any government agency. The role of the DEC position will be limited to • Assist with the development and implementation of the	Expenditure of funds to be agreed between Proponent and DEC's Regional Manager for the Midwest by 30 Nov each year  DEC to provide an annual report to the Proponent by the end of September in each year which addresses performance in that role in the previous 12 months to assist in Proponents annual environmental reporting requirements	Ongoing for the life of the project	\$2.2 million (\$110,000pa)

<p>interim and full recovery plans for <i>Lepidosperma</i> sp Mt Gibson and <i>Darwinia masonii</i>;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinating the management of threatening processes in relation to <i>Lepidosperma</i> sp Mt Gibson and <i>Darwinia masonii</i>;</li> <li>• Oversee the development and implementation of a Malleefowl Management Plan; and</li> <li>• Other environmental target areas in DEC's Midwest Region as agreed by the Proponent and the DEC Manager for the Mid West Region on an annual basis</li> </ul>			
<p>Provide support of \$50,000 pa each to ABHF, AWC and Pindiddy for predominately on-ground projects aimed at enhancing biodiversity and regional sustainability values on White Wells, Mt Gibson and Ninghan Stations respectively.</p>	<p>Simple contract between Pindiddy, AWC, ABHF and the Proponent</p> <p>Reporting by each organisation on expenditure of funds &amp; works undertaken.</p> <p>Included in Proponents annual compliance reporting</p>	<p>Ongoing for the life of the project</p>	<p>\$3 million (\$150,000pa)</p>
<p>Establishment of and support for a Regional Conservation Association with the objectives of enhancing biodiversity and regional sustainability values. Funding of \$100,000pa for projects in the northern Avon Wheatbelt and Southern Yalgoo IBRA bioregions generally focusing on an 2,600,000 ha area between Morawa and Beacon (200km west – east) and Wubin to Paynes Find (approximately 130km north – south). Provision of \$100,000 seed funding on receipt of all State and Commonwealth approvals to establish the organisation</p>	<p>In accordance with the Proponents Biodiversity Offset Management Plan</p> <p>Articles of Association of the Regional Conservation Association determined by the members</p> <p>Annual reporting by Association on financial expenditure and the success of the various projects to the Proponent</p> <p>Proponent will report on allocation of monies in Progress and Compliance reporting</p> <p>Operation of the Association will be</p>	<p>Ongoing for the life of the project</p>	<p>\$2 million (\$100,000 pa)</p>



	reviewed triennially by a current member of the EPA		
Contribute to a regional feral animal control program (in particular foxes)	Proponent, DEC, AWC, ABHF and Pindiddy to agree scope and implementation	On- going, for the life of the project	

## Attachment 1 to Statement 753

### Changes to Proposal

**Proposal:** Mount Gibson Iron Ore Mine and Infrastructure Project

**Proponent:** Mount Gibson Mining Limited

**Change:** Changes to road and mine layout

#### Amendment of Schedule 1 – Key Proposal Characteristics

##### Features of previously approved Proposal:

Element	Quantities/Description
Project Life – Hematite	Minimum 8 years
Mining Rate – Hematite	1.5 – 2 Mtpa
Hematite Stockpile area and conveyer	26 ha
Hematite ROM, process plant	0 ha
Accommodation Village and associated services (incl camp access track)	19 ha
Deviation of Great Northern Highway	8 ha

##### Features of changed Proposal:

Element	Quantities/Description
Project Life – Hematite	Minimum 5 years
Mining Rate – Hematite	3 Mtpa
Hematite Stockpile area and conveyer	0 ha
Hematite ROM, process plant	10.5 ha
Accommodation Village and associated services (incl camp access track)	21 ha
Deviation of Great Northern Highway	21 ha

**Approved under delegation  
from Minister for the Environment:**

**Approval Date:** 20.2.08

RECEIVED

1 SEP 2008



## Environmental Protection Authority

The Atrium.  
Level 8, 168 St Georges Terrace,  
Perth, Western Australia 6000.  
Telephone: (08) 6364 6500.  
Facsimile: (08) 6467 5557.

Postal Address: Locked Bag 33,  
Cloisters Square, Perth, Western Australia 6850.  
Website: [www.epa.wa.gov.au](http://www.epa.wa.gov.au)

Mr Bill Mackenzie  
Managing Director  
Extension Hill Pty Ltd  
PO Box 82  
**WEST PERTH WA 6872**

Our Ref: File no. 6497-02  
Enquiries: Ann Stubbs 6467 5409  
Email: [Ann.Stubbs@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:Ann.Stubbs@dec.wa.gov.au)

Dear Mr Mackenzie

### **CHANGE TO MT GIBSON IRON ORE MINE AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT),STATEMENT 753**

Under section 45C of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* I am able to approve a change or changes to a proposal, without a revised proposal being submitted to the Environmental Protection Authority.

I consider that the changes described in the attachment will not result in a significant, detrimental, environmental effect in addition to, or different from, the effect of the original proposal.

Nevertheless, it is recommended that Mt Gibson examines the areas to be cleared in the vicinity of the recorded Shield-backed Trapdoor Spider for Shield-backed Trapdoor Spider burrows prior to ground-disturbance. Should any Shield-backed Trapdoor Spiders be found, this should be reported to the Department of Environment and Conservation, and burrows should be avoided if practicable.

Approval is therefore granted under section 45C of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* for the changes to the proposal. You are reminded that this approval shall be implemented in accordance with the implementation conditions in Statement 753, and also that this approval does not replace any responsibilities you may have for seeking approvals from other government agencies to implement the change.

Please provide GIS co-ordinates for the project and the changes that have been made to the layout as soon as possible.

Your attention is drawn to the enclosed guidelines for requesting a change to proposal under section 45C of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. Should you request further changes to the project, please ensure that the application fulfils these guidelines. Applications that do not conform with the guidelines will be returned for amendment.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dr. Paul Vogel', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

**Dr Paul Vogel**  
CHAIRMAN

26 August 2008

Encl

cc : Mr David Quinlivan  
Chief Executive Officer  
Mount Gibson Mining Limited  
PO Box 55  
**WEST PERTH WA 6872**



Attachment 2 to Statement 753

Change to Proposal

**Proposal:** To mine and process iron ore from Extension Hill and Extension Hill North, within the Mt Gibson Ranges, construct a pipeline to transport the magnetite slurry to Geraldton Port, and construct infrastructure at the port to strip the ore from the slurry for export.

**Proponent:** Extension Hill Pty Ltd and Mount Gibson Mining Limited

**Changes:**

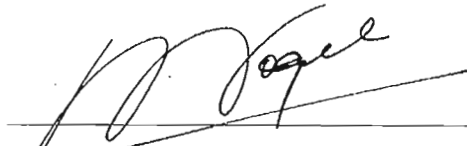
- 1) relocation of the hematite administration and workshop area;
- 2) increasing the clearing area related to the hematite ROM pad, processing plant, internal roads and administration buildings by 2.5 hectares;
- 3) moving of the camp area to the east;
- 4) increasing the size of the sewage evaporation ponds and relocating south;
- 5) definition of the location of a putrescible waste facility site;
- 6) definition of the location of a gate house security area; and
- 7) construction of a haul road from the pit to the waste dump.

No changes to Key Proposal Characteristics are required.

Figure 3 is replaced with the attached Figure 3.

Figure 2 is superseded in the areas that it does not agree with the attached Figure 3

**Approved under delegation  
from Minister for the Environment:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
EPA Chairman

**Approval Date:** 28.8.08







## GUIDELINE FOR PROPONENTS

### CHANGES TO A PROPOSAL AFTER IMPLEMENTATION STATEMENT ISSUED

Please note that it is not possible for this Guideline to address all the situations to which section 45C of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* will be applied. To determine whether a situation comes within the scope of section 45C of the Environmental Protection Act, it will be necessary for the Proponent to look at the context and purpose of Part IV of the Environmental Protection Act, and where necessary, consult with the Director, Environmental Impact Assessment Division of the Department of Environment and Conservation.

### INTRODUCTION

The Proponent, named in a statement issued under section 45(5) ("Implementation Statement") of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* ("EP Act") must ensure that the implementation of the Proposal, to which the Implementation Statement relates, is in accordance with the implementation conditions.

From time to time it may be necessary for a Proponent to change the Proposal after the Implementation Statement has been issued<sup>1</sup>. Section 45C allows the Minister<sup>2</sup> to approve a change to the Proposal after the Implementation Statement has been issued without a revised proposal being referred to the Environmental Protection Authority ("EPA"). However, the exercise of this power is subject to limitations which are discussed in these Guidelines.

This Guideline is intended to assist Proponents:

- determine whether, and in what circumstances, they require approval under section 45C of the EP Act; and
- prepare the information necessary to enable the Minister to consider and, if appropriate, approve a proposed change to a Proposal.

### DETERMINATION OF WHETHER APPROVAL UNDER SECTION 45C IS REQUIRED

As stated above, section 45C allows the Minister to approve a Proponent changing a Proposal after an Implementation Statement has been issued. The Minister must not give approval under section 45C if the Minister considers that the change, or changes, "might have a significant, detrimental effect on the environment in addition to, or different from, the effect of the original Proposal".<sup>3</sup>

In order to be considered a revised proposal, a change in the proposal must be related to or connected with the subject matter of the original proposal. The Minister may exercise the power under section 45C(1) if a proposed change to the proposal and the original proposal, combined, constitute a revised proposal.

<sup>1</sup> A reference to 'change' in this document includes "changes"

<sup>2</sup> If the power has been delegated, reference to the Minister, is a reference to the Minister's delegate.

<sup>3</sup> Section 45C(2) of the EP Act.

If the change is considered to be unrelated or unconnected with the subject matter of the original proposal, the proposed change is likely to be characterised as a new proposal and should be referred to the EPA to determine if it requires assessment.

The Minister may exercise the power to approve a change in the proposal without a revised proposal being referred to the EPA if the Minister is of the opinion that there is no reasonable possibility that the proposed changes “might have a significant, detrimental effect on the environment in addition to, or different from, the effect of the original Proposal”.

### **The Original Proposal**

The original Proposal is that project, plan, programme, policy, operation, undertaking or development or change in land use which was assessed by the EPA under Part IV of the EP Act and determined by the Minister to be implemented subject to such conditions and procedures as are set out in the Implementation Statement issued under section 45(5).

A preliminary step in determining whether approval under section 45C is required is to understand what constitutes the original Proposal. The original Proposal is also summarised in the description that is included in the Implementation Statement. However, given the complex nature and scope of many proposals, it may also be necessary to look beyond the description provided in the referral information and Implementation Statement and consider other information, for example, the EPA's report published under section 44 of the EP Act, and, where there is an appeal, the Appeal Convenor's report and the Minister's appeal decision.

Accordingly, to identify what is the original Proposal, a Proponent may need to refer to the following information:

- the description of the Proposal in the referral documentation;
- the description of the Proposal in the public review documentation, as this is considered the most complete description of the Proposal as assessed by the EPA;
- the report prepared by the EPA under section 44 of the EP Act;
- appeal documentation, if relevant; and
- the key characteristics of the Proposal, which are summarised in Schedule 1 of the Implementation Statement.<sup>4</sup>

The key characteristics of a Proposal are intended to readily identify those components of the Proposal that may have, or be related to, a detrimental effect on the environment. The key characteristics of a Proposal will generally include the following information:

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<sup>4</sup> Please note that pre-June 1998 Implementation Statements do not have a Schedule 1. The summary of the description of the Proposal is found in the header of these Implementation Statements.

- location of the Proposal e.g. land title/tenure description;
- cadastral and spatial information e.g. natural and constructed constraints related to land use and features which may potentially be affected by the Proposal;
- position and size of the components (e.g. buildings, structures, and infrastructure);
- general and specific activities (e.g. mining, mineral processing, infrastructure development, canal development);
- processes, technology, construction methodology, programmes of operations that influence the degree, nature and extent of impact on the environment (e.g. construction methodology; dewatering; emissions or wastes discharged); and
- areas of impact and influence of the Proposal.

However, being a summary, the key characteristics may not be sufficiently comprehensive and it may be necessary to refer to other information.

In cases where the implementation of a proposal has already commenced, consideration will need to be given to the effect on the environment of the original proposal as it has been implemented in fact.

The assessment of the effect of the original proposal is not an assessment of the effect of the original proposal if it had been implemented substantially or wholly in accordance with the original proposal as authorised, but must be an assessment of the proposal as it has actually been implemented.

It must be noted that any approval given by the Minister pursuant to section 45C is not retrospective. Although a comparison between the original proposal, as implemented in fact, and a revised proposal is to be made for the purposes of section 45C, proponents need to be aware that any failure to implement a proposal in accordance with the Implementation Statement is an offence under section 47(1) of the EP Act.

## **INFORMATION REQUIRED TO FACILITATE CONSIDERATION UNDER SECTION 45C**

If a Proponent requests a change to the Proposal, the following information is required:

1. Description of the original proposal as implemented and details of its current detrimental effects. Information regarding environmental management performance and compliance with the conditions of the Implementation Statement should also be provided.
2. Description of the proposed change or changes to the original Proposal. The information should be presented in a table format (shown in Attachment 1 to this Guideline) which lists the existing approved component, activity or process, and a list of the intended change to that approved component, activity or process.
3. Details of the detrimental effect on the environment of the proposed change.



4. An assessment of the significance of each of the effects of the original proposal as implemented and an assessment of the significance of each of the detrimental effects that the change might have, based on both a comparison of the effects of the original Proposal and technical information, policies and guidelines relevant to those effects. As an example see Attachment 2 for guidance on the scope of information required on effects on biodiversity.
5. An assessment of whether the proposed change can be regulated using the conditions and procedures of the existing Implementation Statement, and, if not, what additional regulation of the change the Proponent considers appropriate.<sup>5</sup>

This information will assist the Minister in evaluating whether the change might have a significant detrimental effect on the environment in addition or, or different from, the effect of the original proposal. If the Minister forms the opinion that there is no reasonable possibility that the change will have the requisite detrimental effect, then the Minister may approve the change pursuant to section 45C(1).

The nature of the information that the proponent is required to provide is discussed in more detail below.

#### **DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED CHANGE(S) TO THE PROPOSAL**

The Proponent should describe the features of the change in relation to the existing approved components of the Proposal. This information may be presented in a table format.

Attachment 1 of this guideline provides an example of, in table form, a description of the existing approved component, activity or process and a description of the proposed change. The initial section of the table provides a description of what is approved and is followed by a section describing the corresponding change for which approval is sought.

Common changes are:

- new or expanded components (e.g. infrastructure; processing plant; mine pits; waste material dump);
- new or expanded activities (e.g. dewatering; processing ore to concentrates; increasing waste discharge to the environment); or
- other modifications (e.g. realignment of a road or noise bund; specification of plant / infrastructure layout rather than a conceptual layout; a change in the land use).

Information regarding the rationale, circumstances and scope of the change should be provided. This should include information on the:

<sup>5</sup> If the changes are approved section 45B applies, that is the implementation conditions continue to apply to the revised proposal. The need to amend conditions of the existing Implementation Statement will be independently assessed by the agency and the Minister. However, the exercise of considering whether the existing conditions are relevant to the proposed change will assist the Proponent and the DEC to determine the nature of the change and its impacts on the environment. Any amendments to conditions will need to be effected under section 46 of the EP Act.

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1. need for the change, including why this aspect was not included in the original Proposal;
2. timing for the change; and
3. whether the change is part of a future program of upgrading the original Proposal.

#### **DETAILS OF LIKELY ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF THE CHANGE**

Details of the likely environmental effect of the proposed change must be examined in a similar manner to that required at the time of the initial assessment of the original Proposal. Information regarding the effects of the original proposal must be provided to enable this examination.

The Proponent should comment on whether it considers the effects of the change to be detrimental, and whether those detrimental effects are additional to, or different from, the effects of the original Proposal. An effect may be additional to an effect previously assessed (e.g. extra clearing of native vegetation; increased level of emissions) or may be a different effect to any of the effects of the original Proposal (e.g. clearing of a different location).

As discussed above, the Minister must not approve changes to a Proposal if the Minister considers the change might have a significant detrimental effect on the environment in addition to, or different from, the effect of the original Proposal. In order for the Minister to refuse to approve a change to a Proposal there must be a reasonable possibility that the change might have a significant, detrimental effect on the environment in addition to, or different from, the effect of the original Proposal.

#### **AN ASSESSMENT OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT, BASED ON A COMPARISON OF THE EFFECTS OF THE ORIGINAL PROPOSAL AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION, POLICIES AND GUIDELINES RELEVANT TO THOSE EFFECTS**

An assessment of the significance of the effects on the environment should involve consideration of the following aspects, where applicable:

1. the extent and consequences of the specific and cumulative biophysical impacts;
2. the environmental values of the area to be affected;
3. the extent of emissions and their potential to unreasonably interfere with the health, welfare, convenience or amenity of people;
4. the potential for biophysical impacts of the change to significantly and adversely affect people's social surroundings;
5. the extent and rigour to which potential impacts have been investigated and proposed management methods for those impacts;
6. the extent to which the change to the Proposal is in accordance with the principles of sustainability;
7. the ability of decision-making-authorities' legislation to regulate the environmental effects of the change;
8. the overall scale and scope of the proposed change to the original Proposal and the related detrimental environmental effects.

If the change involves clearing of native vegetation, the Proponent must provide information which addresses the ten clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 to the EP Act.

This section of the Proponent's submission must include enough detailed information to enable consideration of the significance of the effects, and any conclusions made by the Proponent in relation to the likely significance of the change must be supported by scientific evidence. While the Proponent is invited to provide comment in relation to the significant detrimental effects on the environment of the Proposal, ultimately, the Minister must determine this issue.

#### **CONDITIONS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLANS THAT APPLY TO THE CHANGE**

Unless the approval of the Minister under section 45C indicates otherwise, the Implementation Statement for the Proposal will apply to and regulate the implementation of the Proposal, as amended. Accordingly, the Proponent must review any environmental management plans required by the Implementation Statement and ensure that those plans are amended and, if required, reviewed and endorsed by the Department of Environment and Conservation ("DEC") when the change is approved.

If there are amendments required to the conditions of the Implementation Statement, such amendments will be made under section 46 of the EP Act.

#### **ENQUIRIES**

Enquiries about the draft Guidelines should be directed to the Director, Environmental Impact Assessment Division, (08) 6364 6500.

DEC recommends that for multiple changes or a substantial degree of variation to the original Proposal (or both), the Proponent contact DEC to arrange a meeting prior to the submission of a draft section 45C application

#### **APPENDIX**

Attachment 1. Table providing a description of the features of a change.

Attachment 2. Information required on biodiversity matters.



Attachment # to Statement XYZ (# numbered consecutively)

Change to Proposal

Proposal:

Proponent:

Change: *fill in table below and (if required) provide a brief description (including figures) here*

Components of original Proposal:

Component	Quantities/Description
<i>All components of proposal that are being changed and any new components are listed</i>	
<i>New component</i>	<i>Not part of original proposal</i>

Components of changed Proposal:

Component	Quantities/Description
<i>Repeat components with the description of the change</i>	

*List of Figures (If required) e.g. Figure 1. Layout map revised*

Approved under delegation  
from Minister for the Environment:

\_\_\_\_\_  
EPA Chairman

Approval Date:

## Attachment 2

### Supporting Information on the Impacts of Revised Proposals on Biodiversity and Conservation Estate

#### 1. **Need for clear comparison of characteristics and impacts of amended Proposal with original Proposal**

A detailed spatial and quantitative comparison of the original Proposal, as implemented, with the amended Proposal (and the effect on environmental impacts) is considered necessary.

This should include maps or photo overlays of the same scale indicating where all components of the changes are proposed in relation to the original Proposal and environmental characteristics such as vegetation types and landforms. A table which quantitatively compares the impacts pre and post change or lists the net change in impacts according to each listed change should also be provided (for example to describe the changes to the area of disturbance of vegetation complexes, priority species or significant fauna habitat).

The list below provides a generic example of how the changes could be presented in an application:

*Biodiversity value*

*Approved (assessed in original assessment)*

*Proposed Change*

*Description of difference (qualitative description of change, quantitative where appropriate)*

*Existing Regulatory Instrument (legislation) to manage the change*

For example:

*Area of vegetation clearing*

*Vegetation (ha) proposed to be cleared in original proposal*

*Additional X hectares(ha) of vegetation proposed to be cleared*

*Clearing managed by Flora and Vegetation Management Plan and vegetation clearing protocol.*

*Native vegetation complexes (note: all priority vegetation complexes should be listed)*

*% cleared or disturbed.*

*Additional clearing of vegetation complexes, or clearing of new vegetation complexes.*

*Vegetation management plan.*

*Declared Rare Flora (DRF) or priority (P) flora  
Number of populations affected, no of plants removed.*

*Two other species of P2 disturbed that weren't assessed in original Proposal, or all species disturbed have been assessed in original Proposal.*

*Significant Species Management Plan; permit to take rare flora.*

*Fauna habitat*

*. % of disturbance to threatened and P1 habitat.*

*Additional impacts on P1 or threatened fauna habitat.*

*Threatened Fauna Management Plan.*

*Subterranean fauna*

*Dewatering of X ML/d, habitat removal of X m<sup>3</sup>*

*Assessments undertaken in original Proposal, changes will not require further investigation because ... (e.g. risk based assessment is indicating that habitat is not suitable for stygofauna etc)*

*...*

*Stygofauna Management Plan.*

*Troglofauna*

*Removal of Xm3 of troglofauna habitat*

*Assessments undertaken in original proposal for areas proposed to be impacts, changes will not require further investigation because...for example. assessments not undertaken in original proposal, areas not high risk troglobitic fauna habitat because (refer to EPA Guidance 54a)*

## **2. Flora and vegetation**

If the proposed change affects vegetation, all relevant flora and vegetation reports should be provided to the DEC, together with a summary of the key findings from these reports describing the extent and significance of impacts on Declared Rare Flora ("DRF"), priority flora, and threatened ecological communities or restricted vegetation complexes.

Flora and vegetation survey reports should be provided to DEC as soon as possible following the surveys and, ideally, prior to the lodgement of the application to enable

adequate review and discussion of survey methods and results and suitable alignments and locations for powerlines, rail sidings, workshops and stockpiles, that minimises biodiversity impacts and provides adequate protection for important biodiversity values.

Specifically, applications should indicate whether and to what extent the proposed change will:

1. Have either new or additional impacts on similar or different vegetation communities to those impacted by the original Proposal;
2. Change the extent or percentage of disturbance to vegetation communities assessed in the original Proposal;
3. Disturb DRF or priority species that were not affected by the original Proposal;
4. Impact on species and communities on a regional scale (including how the Proposal will impact on regional and locally significant communities and the potential impacts to local/regional conservation status); or
5. Be adequately managed in regard to flora and vegetation conservation under existing management plans.

#### **4. Fauna and fauna habitat**

Any relevant fauna reports should be provided to the DEC together with maps identifying important fauna habitats and locations of threatened and priority species.

It is recommended that the application describes to what extent the proposed change will affect:

1. Conservation significant fauna (threatened fauna, priority fauna, migratory fauna);
2. Subterranean fauna;
3. Short-ranged endemic fauna;
4. The local and regional conservation status of fauna (this is particularly important when related to subterranean fauna and short-range endemic fauna); and
5. How fauna conservation can be adequately managed under existing management plans.

#### **5. Groundwater and Surface water dependent ecosystems**

The potential impact on groundwater dependent ecosystems resulting from water abstraction and/or changes in surface water hydrology must be assessed. The assessment should include a summary of relevant scientific information and, also, obtain advice from appropriate agencies (e.g. Department of Water) on issues resulting from groundwater drawdown and changes in surface water hydrology that may impact on groundwater dependent ecosystems/communities/species (including subterranean fauna and phreatophytic vegetation).



The information provided when seeking an approval for the change should include how the effects would be managed in regard to the maintenance of surface and groundwater regimes and associated ecosystems, including reference to management plans where appropriate.

This information should be compiled before seeking approval for the change and provided to the DEC.

## **6. Weeds**

When seeking an approval for a change to the original Proposal information on the status and management of any weed species that are related to the activities of the proposed change should be provided to the DEC.

## **7. Conservation Estate**

When a change to a Proposal affects lands vested, or proposed to acquired and vested, in the Conservation Commission (under the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*), the following information (additional to the above) should be provided:

1. A comparison of the original Proposal and the recommended changes related to amenity, aesthetics, visual impacts, natural and cultural heritage, tourism and recreational values of a reserve and its visitors;
2. Information on inductions for contractors/staff that will be operating in the reserve, and/or are likely to access the reserve and facilities for recreational/social purposes;
3. A procedure to notify the DEC regional office of the arrival of new contractors/machinery prior to the commencement of ground disturbing activities;
4. Evidence of consultation with relevant Traditional Owners about the cultural values of the Park that may be affected by the activities;
5. Clarification on whether conservation estate values were addressed in the original approval for the project, and whether the proposed change can be adequately managed under existing management plans; and
6. How the proponent intends to obtain Conservation Commission approval for the activities on vested land.

RECEIVED

5 JUN 2009



## Environmental Protection Authority

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Level 8, 168 St Georges Terrace,  
Perth, Western Australia 6000.  
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Facsimile: (08) 6467 5557.

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Cloisters Square, Perth, Western Australia 6850.  
Website: [www.epa.wa.gov.au](http://www.epa.wa.gov.au)

Mr Bill Mackenzie  
Managing Director  
Extension Hill Pty Ltd  
PO Box 82  
**WEST PERTH WA 6872**

Our Ref: DEC6497  
Enquiries: Melinda Macleod 6467 5427  
Email: [melinda.macleod@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:melinda.macleod@dec.wa.gov.au)

Dear Mr Mackenzie

### **CHANGE TO MT GIBSON IRON ORE MINE AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT, MINISTERIAL STATEMENT 753**

Under section 45C of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* I am able to approve a change or changes to a proposal without a revised proposal being submitted to the Environmental Protection Authority.

I consider that the changes described in Attachment 3 to Ministerial Statement 753 will not result in a significant, detrimental, environmental effect in addition to, or different from, the effect of the original proposal.

Approval is therefore granted under section 45C of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* for the changes to the proposal. You are reminded that this approval shall be implemented in accordance with the implementation conditions in Ministerial Statement 753, and also that this approval does not replace any responsibilities you may have for seeking approvals from other government agencies to implement the change.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "P. Vogel", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**Dr Paul Vogel**  
CHAIRMAN

2 June 2009

Encl

cc: Mr David Quinlivan, Chief Executive Officer, Mount Gibson Mining Limited

## Attachment 3 to Statement 753

### Change to Proposal

**Proposal:** Mt Gibson Iron Ore Mine & Infrastructure Project, Shire of Yalgoo

**Proponent:** Joint: Mt Gibson Mining Limited and Extension Hill Pty Ltd

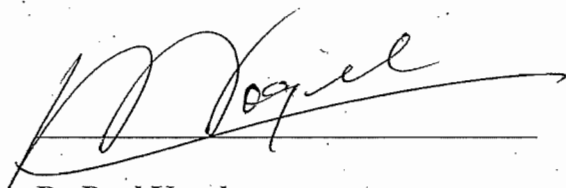
**Change:** Increase the mine pit, waste dump and processing plant area, and change the location of the accommodation village and airstrip.

Element	Description of approved proposal	Description of approved changes to proposal
Project life	Approximately 20 years	<b>Approximately 40 years</b>
Project life - hematite	Hematite project life minimum 5 years	Hematite project life minimum 5 years
Ore quantity	Magnetite approximately 230 Million tonnes Hematite approximately 13 Million tonnes	<b>Magnetite approximately 1,000 million tonnes</b> Hematite approximately 13 million tonnes
Waste Management	Overburden will be stockpiled in a dump to the east of the pit. Tailings from magnetite processing will be combined with the overburden dump.	Overburden will be stockpiled in a dump to the east of the pit. Tailings from magnetite processing will be combined with the overburden dump.
Processing requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dry and wet processing of magnetite to produce approximately 5 Million tonnes per annum of magnetite concentrate</li> <li>• Dry processing of hematite</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dry and wet processing of magnetite to produce approximately 10 million tonnes per annum of magnetite concentrate</b></li> <li>• Dry processing of hematite</li> </ul>
Mining rate - hematite	Hematite mining rate 3 MTPA	Hematite mining rate 3 million tonnes per annum
Size of final pit	Approximately 2,400 metres long and 700 metres wide.	<b>Approximately 2,500 metres long and 1,000 metres wide</b>
Depth of final pit	Not more than 350 metres below the ground level (approximately 220 metres below the groundwater level)	<b>Not more than 500 metres below the ground level (approximately 370 metres below the groundwater level)</b>
Height of waste dump	400 metres RL	<b>Not more than 460 metres RL</b>
Dewatering	Approximately 2,500 cubic metres per day	Approximately 2,500 cubic metres per day
Mine water supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dewater for potable and domestic supplies: 80 cubic metres per day</li> <li>• Dewater for dust suppression: 2,055 cubic metres per day</li> <li>• Process water and slurry transportation water: 5,424 cubic metres per day from the Tathra borefield (piped 168 kilometres to the mine site) and drying of tailings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dewater for potable and domestic supplies: 80 cubic metres per day</li> <li>• Dewater for dust suppression: 2,055 cubic metres per day</li> <li>• Process water and slurry transportation water: 5,424 cubic metres per day from the Tathra borefield (piped 168 kilometres to the mine site) and drying of tailings</li> </ul>

Element	Description of approved proposal	Description of approved changes to proposal
Vegetation disturbance	Not more than 880 hectares at the mine site (152 hectares for the mine pit and 552 hectares for the waste dump) Not more than 90 hectares along the services corridor	Not more than 1,038 hectares at the mine site, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 251 hectares mine pit;</li> <li>• 548 hectares waste dump;</li> <li>• 99 hectares magnetite processing; and</li> <li>• 24 hectares temporary laydown area (to be rehabilitated)</li> </ul> Not more than 90 hectares along the services corridor
Hematite ROM process plant	10.5 ha	10.5 hectares
Underground pipelines within the services corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slurry pipeline from the mine site to Geraldton Port</li> <li>• Return water pipelines from Geraldton Port to Three Springs, from Three Springs to the mine site, and from the Tathra Borefield to the return water pipeline near Three Springs</li> <li>• Pumping stations for the water</li> <li>• Gas pipeline from Mine Line Valve 92 on the Dampier-Bunbury Natural Gas Pipeline to the mine site</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slurry pipeline from the mine site to Geraldton Port</li> <li>• Return water pipelines from Geraldton Port to Three Springs, from Three Springs to the mine site, and from the Tathra Borefield to the return water pipeline near Three Springs</li> <li>• Pumping stations for the water</li> <li>• Gas pipeline from Mine Line Valve 92 on the Dampier-Bunbury Natural Gas Pipeline to the mine site</li> </ul>
Width of services corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not more than 15 metres in pastoral section (from Monger's Lake to the mine site)</li> <li>• Not more than 20 metres in the agricultural section (from Geraldton Port to Monger's Lake)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not more than 15 metres in pastoral section (from Monger's Lake to the mine site)</li> <li>• Not more than 20 metres in the agricultural section (from Geraldton Port to Monger's Lake)</li> </ul>
Airstrip	West of plant	South west of plant (28.5 hectares)
Deviation of Great Northern Highway	21 ha	21 hectares
Hematite village	South of plant site (21 ha) (including camp access track)	South of plant site (21 hectares) (including camp access track)
Magnetite village	Co-located with hematite village, south of plant site	West of plant site (40 hectares)
Power	Gas supplied power station	Electricity from South West Interconnection System grid to supplement gas power station

#### List of Figures:

Figure 7: Mt Gibson Iron Ore Mine & Infrastructure Project – Mine site layout



**Dr Paul Vogel**

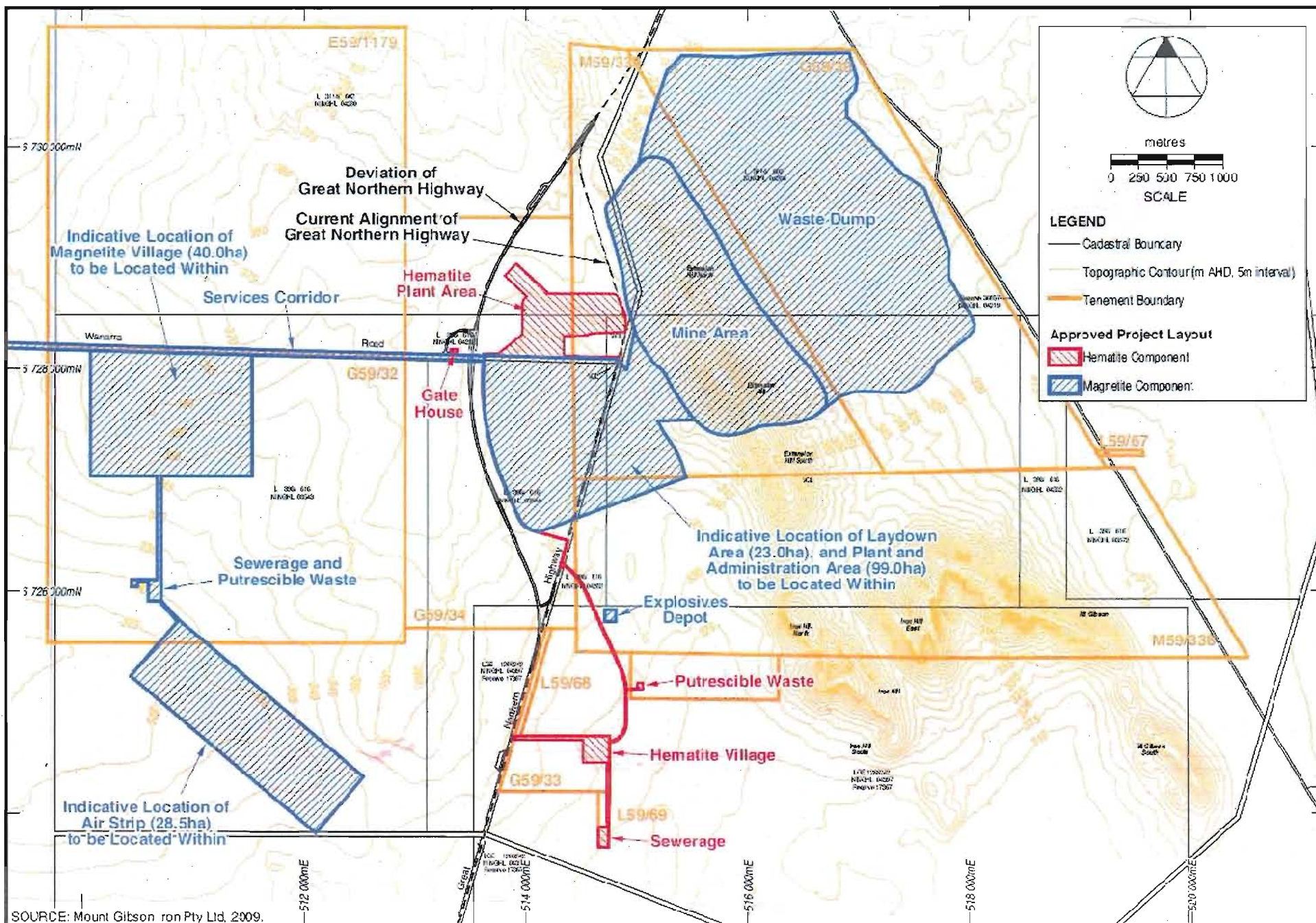
CHAIRMAN

Environmental Protection Authority  
under delegated authority

Approval date: 2-6-09



Figure 7: Mt Gibson Iron Ore Mine & Infrastructure Project – Mine site layout





# Environmental Protection Authority

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RECEIVED  
9 APR 2010

Mr Bill Mackenzie  
Managing Director  
Extension Hill Pty Ltd  
PO Box 82  
**WEST PERTH WA 6872**

Your Ref: 10-800-PM-LET-0063-1  
Our Ref: File DEC6497-04  
Enquiries: Anthony Sheehan (6467 5439)  
Email: [anthony.sheehan@epa.wa.gov.au](mailto:anthony.sheehan@epa.wa.gov.au)

Attention: Mr Harry Goth

Dear Mr McKenzie 

## **APPROVAL OF SECTION 45C APPLICATION: MT GIBSON IRON ORE MINE & INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT (STATEMENT 753)**

Thank you for your letter of 9 February 2010 requesting approval for a change to the above proposal under section 45C of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.

Under section 45C of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, I am able to approve a change or changes to a proposal, without a revised proposal being submitted to the Environmental Protection Authority.

I consider that the changes described in Attachment 4 to Ministerial Statement 753 will not result in a significant, detrimental, environmental effect in addition to, or different from, the effect of the original proposal.

Approval is therefore granted under section 45C of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, for the changes to the proposal. You are reminded that this approval shall be implemented in accordance with the implementation conditions in Statement 753, and, also, that this approval does not replace any responsibilities you may have for seeking approvals from other government agencies to implement the change.

Yours sincerely

  
**Dr Paul Vogel**  
CHAIRMAN

31 March 2010

Encl

## Attachment 4 to Statement 753

### Change to Proposal

**Proposal:** Mt Gibson Iron Ore Mine & Infrastructure Project, Shire of Yalgoo

**Proponent:** Joint: Mt Gibson Mining Limited and Extension Hill Pty Ltd

**Change:** Correct two errors in the Key Characteristics Table.

Element	Description of approved proposal	Description of approved changes to proposal
Project life	Approximately 40 years	Approximately 40 years
Project life - hematite	Hematite project life minimum 5 years	Hematite project life minimum 5 years
Ore quantity	Magnetite approximately 1,000 million tonnes Hematite approximately 13 million tonnes	Magnetite approximately 1,000 million tonnes Hematite approximately 13 million tonnes
Waste Management	Overburden will be stockpiled in a dump to the east of the pit. Tailings from magnetite processing will be combined with the overburden dump.	Overburden will be stockpiled in a dump to the east of the pit. Tailings from magnetite processing will be combined with the overburden dump.
Processing requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dry and wet processing of magnetite to produce approximately 10 million tonnes per annum of magnetite concentrate</li> <li>• Dry processing of hematite</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dry and wet processing of magnetite to produce approximately 10 million tonnes per annum of magnetite concentrate</li> <li>• Dry processing of hematite</li> </ul>
Mining rate - hematite	Hematite mining rate 3 million tonnes per annum	Hematite mining rate 3 million tonnes per annum
Size of final pit	Approximately 2,500 metres long and 1,000 metres wide	Approximately 2,500 metres long and 1,000 metres wide
Depth of final pit	Not more than 500 metres below the ground level (approximately 370 metres below the groundwater level)	Not more than 500 metres below the ground level (approximately 370 metres below the groundwater level)
Height of waste dump	Not more than 460 metres RL	Not more than 460 metres RL
Dewatering	Approximately 2,500 cubic metres per day	Approximately 2,500 cubic metres per day
Mine water supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dewater for potable and domestic supplies: 80 cubic metres per day</li> <li>• Dewater for dust suppression: 2,055 cubic metres per day</li> <li>• Process water and slurry transportation water: 5,424 cubic metres per day from the Tathra borefield (piped 168 kilometres to the mine site) and drying of tailings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dewater for potable and domestic supplies: 80 cubic metres per day</li> <li>• Dewater for dust suppression: 2,055 cubic metres per day</li> <li>• <b>Process water and slurry transportation water: 5.5 Giga litres per annum from the Tathra borefield (piped 168 kilometres to the mine site) and drying of tailings</b></li> </ul>



Element	Description of approved proposal	Description of approved changes to proposal
Vegetation disturbance	Not more than 1,038 hectares at the mine site, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 251 hectares mine pit;</li> <li>• 548 hectares waste dump;</li> <li>• 99 hectares magnetite processing; and</li> <li>• 24 hectares temporary laydown area (to be rehabilitated)</li> </ul> Not more than 90 hectares along the services corridor	Not more than 1,038 hectares at the mine site, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 251 hectares mine pit;</li> <li>• 548 hectares waste dump;</li> <li>• 99 hectares magnetite processing; and</li> <li>• 24 hectares temporary laydown area (to be rehabilitated)</li> </ul> Not more than 90 hectares along the services corridor
Hematite ROM process plant	10.5 hectares	<b>13 hectares</b>
Underground pipelines within the services corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slurry pipeline from the mine site to Geraldton Port</li> <li>• Return water pipelines from Geraldton Port to Three Springs, from Three Springs to the mine site, and from the Tathra Borefield to the return water pipeline near Three Springs</li> <li>• Pumping stations for the water</li> <li>• Gas pipeline from Mine Line Valve 92 on the Dampier-Bunbury Natural Gas Pipeline to the mine site</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slurry pipeline from the mine site to Geraldton Port</li> <li>• Return water pipelines from Geraldton Port to Three Springs, from Three Springs to the mine site, and from the Tathra Borefield to the return water pipeline near Three Springs</li> <li>• Pumping stations for the water</li> <li>• Gas pipeline from Mine Line Valve 92 on the Dampier-Bunbury Natural Gas Pipeline to the mine site</li> </ul>
Width of services corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not more than 15 metres in pastoral section (from Monger's Lake to the mine site)</li> <li>• Not more than 20 metres in the agricultural section (from Geraldton Port to Monger's Lake)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not more than 15 metres in pastoral section (from Monger's Lake to the mine site)</li> <li>• Not more than 20 metres in the agricultural section (from Geraldton Port to Monger's Lake)</li> </ul>
Airstrip	South west of plant (28.5 hectares)	South west of plant (28.5 hectares)
Deviation of Great Northern Highway	21 hectares	21 hectares
Hematite village	South of plant site (21 hectares) (including camp access track)	South of plant site (21 hectares) (including camp access track)
Magnetite village	West of plant site (40 hectares)	West of plant site (40 hectares)
Power	Electricity from South West Interconnection System grid to supplement gas power station	Electricity from South West Interconnection System grid to supplement gas power station



**Dr Paul Vogel**  
CHAIRMAN  
Environmental Protection Authority  
under delegated authority

Approval date: 31.3.10



# Environmental Protection Authority



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Website: [www.epa.wa.gov.au](http://www.epa.wa.gov.au)

Mr David Quinlivan  
Chief Executive Officer  
Mount Gibson Mining Limited  
PO Box 55  
**WEST PERTH WA 6872**

Your Ref: 10-800-EN-LET-0035  
Our Ref: OEPA2010/001009 – A352817  
Enquiries: Jose Villamizar (6467 5438)  
Email: [Jose.Villamizar@epa.wa.gov.au](mailto:Jose.Villamizar@epa.wa.gov.au)

Dear Mr Quinlivan

## **MOUNT GIBSON IRON ORE MINE AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT (MINISTERIAL STATEMENT 753) – SECTION 45C APPLICATION**

Thank you for your letter of 29 November 2010 requesting approval of a change to the above proposal under section 45C of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.

Under section 45C of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* I am able to approve a change or changes to a proposal without a revised proposal being submitted to the Environmental Protection Authority.

I consider that the changes described in Attachment 5 to Ministerial Statement 753 will not result in a significant, detrimental, environmental effect in addition to, or different from, the effect of the original proposal.

Approval of the changes to the proposal is therefore granted under section 45C of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. You are reminded that this approval shall be implemented in accordance with the implementation conditions in Ministerial Statement 753, and also that this approval does not replace any responsibilities you may have for seeking approvals from other government agencies to implement the change.

Yours sincerely

**Dr Paul Vogel**  
CHAIRMAN

2 February 2011

## Attachment 5 to Ministerial Statement 753

### Change to Proposal

**Proposal:** Mt Gibson Iron Ore Mine & Infrastructure Project, Shire of Yalgoo

**Proponent:** Joint: Mt Gibson Mining Limited and Extension Hill Pty Ltd

**Change:** Include two haul track access roads from the mine pit to the hematite ROM processing plant; expand an existing track to the waste dump area and the revision of the layout of the approved hematite explosives depot

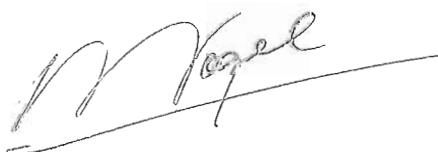
#### Key Characteristics Table:

Element	Description of approved proposal	Description of approved changes to proposal
Project life	Approximately 40 years	Approximately 40 years
Project life - hematite	Hematite project life minimum 5 years	Hematite project life minimum 5 years
Ore quantity	Magnetite approximately 1,000 million tonnes Hematite approximately 13 million tonnes	Magnetite approximately 1,000 million tonnes Hematite approximately 13 million tonnes
Waste Management	Overburden will be stockpiled in a dump to the east of the pit. Tailings from magnetite processing will be combined with the overburden dump.	Overburden will be stockpiled in a dump to the east of the pit. Tailings from magnetite processing will be combined with the overburden dump.
Processing requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Dry and wet processing of magnetite to produce approximately 10 million tonnes per annum of magnetite concentrate</li> <li>◦ Dry processing of hematite</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Dry and wet processing of magnetite to produce approximately 10 million tonnes per annum of magnetite concentrate</li> <li>◦ Dry processing of hematite</li> </ul>
Mining rate - hematite	Hematite mining rate 3 million tonnes per annum	Hematite mining rate 3 million tonnes per annum
Size of final pit	Approximately 2,500 metres long and 1,000 metres wide	Approximately 2,500 metres long and 1,000 metres wide
Depth of final pit	Not more than 500 metres below the ground level (approximately 370 metres below the groundwater level)	Not more than 500 metres below the ground level (approximately 370 metres below the groundwater level)
Height of waste dump	Not more than 460 metres RL	Not more than 460 metres RL
Dewatering	Approximately 2,500 cubic metres per day	Approximately 2,500 cubic metres per day
Mine water supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Dewater for potable and domestic supplies: 80 cubic metres per day</li> <li>◦ Dewater for dust suppression: 2,055 cubic metres per day</li> <li>◦ Process water and slurry transportation water: 5.5 Giga litres per annum from the Tathra borefield (piped 168 kilometres to the mine site) and drying of tailings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Dewater for potable and domestic supplies: 80 cubic metres per day</li> <li>◦ Dewater for dust suppression: 2,055 cubic metres per day</li> <li>◦ Process water and slurry transportation water: 5.5 Giga litres per annum from the Tathra borefield (piped 168 kilometres to the mine site) and drying of tailings</li> </ul>

Element	Description of approved proposal	Description of approved changes to proposal
Vegetation disturbance	Not more than 1,038 hectares at the mine site, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ 251 hectares mine pit;</li> <li>◦ 548 hectares waste dump;</li> <li>◦ 99 hectares magnetite processing; and</li> <li>◦ 24 hectares temporary laydown area (to be rehabilitated)</li> </ul> Not more than 90 hectares along the services corridor	<b>Not more than 1,040 hectares at the mine site, including:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ 251 hectares mine pit;</li> <li>◦ 548 hectares waste dump;</li> <li>◦ 99 hectares magnetite processing; and</li> <li>◦ 24 hectares temporary laydown area (to be rehabilitated)</li> </ul> Not more than 90 hectares along the services corridor
Hematite ROM process plant	13 hectares	13 hectares
Underground pipelines within the services corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Slurry pipeline from the mine site to Geraldton Port</li> <li>◦ Return water pipelines from Geraldton Port to Three Springs, from Three Springs to the mine site, and from the Tathra Borefield to the return water pipeline near Three Springs</li> <li>◦ Pumping stations for the water</li> <li>◦ Gas pipeline from Mine Line Valve 92 on the Dampier-Bunbury Natural Gas Pipeline to the mine site</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Slurry pipeline from the mine site to Geraldton Port</li> <li>◦ Return water pipelines from Geraldton Port to Three Springs, from Three Springs to the mine site, and from the Tathra Borefield to the return water pipeline near Three Springs</li> <li>◦ Pumping stations for the water</li> <li>◦ Gas pipeline from Mine Line Valve 92 on the Dampier-Bunbury Natural Gas Pipeline to the mine site</li> </ul>
Width of services corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Not more than 15 metres in pastoral section (from Monger's Lake to the mine site)</li> <li>◦ Not more than 20 metres in the agricultural section (from Geraldton Port to Monger's Lake)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Not more than 15 metres in pastoral section (from Monger's Lake to the mine site)</li> <li>◦ Not more than 20 metres in the agricultural section (from Geraldton Port to Monger's Lake)</li> </ul>
Airstrip	South west of plant (28.5 hectares)	South west of plant (28.5 hectares)
Deviation of Great Northern Highway	21 hectares	21 hectares
Hematite village	South of plant site (21 hectares) (including camp access track)	South of plant site (21 hectares) (including camp access track)
Magnetite village	West of plant site (40 hectares)	West of plant site (40 hectares)
Power	Electricity from South West Interconnection System grid to supplement gas power station	Electricity from South West Interconnection System grid to supplement gas power station
Additional Mine Haul Roads		<b>2 hectares</b>

#### List of Figures:

Figure 8: Mt Gibson Iron Ore Mine & Infrastructure Project -- Mine site layout



**Dr Paul Vogel**

CHAIRMAN

Environmental Protection Authority  
under delegated authority

Approval date: 2.2.11



Figure 8: Mt Gibson Iron Ore Mine & Infrastructure Project – Mine site layout

