

ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING DOCUMENT

**PROPOSAL:** Eneabba Mineral Sand Mine IPL North  
(Assessment No. 1927)

**LOCATION:** Eneabba, Western Australia

**LOCALITY:** Shire of Carnamah

**PROPONENT:** Iluka Resources Limited (Iluka)

**LEVEL OF  
ASSESSMENT:** Public Environmental Review with a 4 week public  
review period

**EPBC REFERENCE:** 2012/6408

This Environmental Scoping Document (ESD) is provided to define the requirements of the Public Environmental Review (PER) document to be prepared in accordance with the Western Australian *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) and the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

The preliminary key environmental factors, Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) objectives and work required are identified in Section 2.

The Public Environmental Review document must adequately address all elements of this scoping document prior to approval being given to commence the public review.

## 1. Introduction

The EP Act sets out that where a proposal is considered to have a significant environmental impact it will be subject to an assessment by the EPA under section 38 of the EP Act. This proposal is being assessed by way of a PER because it raises significant environmental factors. The EPA will, at the conclusion of its assessment, prepare a report on the outcome of its assessment of the proposal and give the assessment report to the Minister for Environment. In accordance with the requirements of the EP Act, the Minister for Environment will then decide whether or not the proposal may be implemented, and, if the proposal may be implemented, the conditions and procedures that implementation of the proposal should be subject.

The procedure for a PER is described in the Western Australian EP Act *Environmental Impact Assessment – Administrative Procedures 2010*. The

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proponent should have regard to the Administrative Procedures when preparing the PER.

Under the EPBC Act, a proposed action that has been determined to have a significant impact on one or more Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) protected under the EPBC Act will need to be assessed and approved before it can proceed. This proposal was determined as likely to have a significant impact on listed threatened species and ecological communities (EPBC2012/6408), in particular, the native vegetation proposed to be cleared provides habitat for EPBC listed threatened Black Cockatoo species *Calyptorhynchus latirostris* (Carnaby's Black Cockatoo), and the EPBC listed endangered flora *Paracaleana dixonii* Hopper & A.P.Br. *nom. inval.* (Sandplain Duck Orchid).

This proposal is being assessed by way of an accredited process with the EPA under a bilateral agreement made under section 47 of the EPBC Act. The Bilateral agreement allows the Australian Government Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities to rely on the PER process of the State Government of Western Australia in assessing this action under the EPBC Act.

The PER document should contain a separate section identifying MNES, discussing how these matters have been addressed within the document and discussing any offsets proposed to address MNES. Any potential Commonwealth offset must align with the Department for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (DSEWPaC) offset policy principles. More information on the EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy is available from:

<http://environment.gov.au/epbc/publications/environmental-offsets-policy.html>

The assessment report on the proposed action prepared by the EPA and provided to the Western Australian Minister for Environment is forwarded to the Commonwealth Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities who will then make a decision as to whether or not the proposal should be approved under the EPBC Act. This is separate from any Western Australian approval that may be required.

As this proposal is subject to a PER, the proponent is required to produce a PER document in accordance with an approved ESD. The purpose of the ESD is to:

- develop proposal-specific guidelines to direct the proponent on the preliminary key environmental factors for the proposal, including MNES that should be addressed in preparing the PER document; and
- identify the necessary impact predictions required for an assessment of the proposal, and the information on the environmental setting required to carry out the assessment.

The EPA has determined that it will prepare and issue the ESD outlining the scope and content of the PER in relation to this proposal.

The EPA, in its formulation of the ESD, undertakes consultation with the proponent regarding the details of the proposal, its environmental setting, the environmental surveys and investigations required and expected outcomes. In addition the EPA will

consult with the relevant government agencies, including decision - making authorities. The Office of the EPA (OEPA) provides services and facilities for the EPA. In many cases the OEPA will act for the EPA.

ESDs prepared by the EPA are not subject to a public review period. The ESD will be available on the EPA website ([www.epa.wa.gov.au](http://www.epa.wa.gov.au)) upon finalisation and will be included as an appendix in the PER document.

The proponent will then be required to prepare a PER document in accordance with the ESD. When the EPA is satisfied that the PER document has adequately addressed all of the environmental factors and studies identified in the ESD, the proponent will be required to release the document for a public review period of 4 weeks.

An important aspect of the environmental impact assessment process is the review by the public. The EPA requires public input into the possible environmental impacts of this proposal and its implementation. The EPA expects the proponent to fully consult with interested members of the public and relevant stakeholders, and to take due care in ensuring any other relevant environmental factors which may be of interest to the public and stakeholders are succinctly addressed. The PER should document the matters raised in consultation ideally in a table.

The EPA considers that adequate consultation can be demonstrated when:

- stakeholders are included in the consultation process and are able to make their concerns known;
- are kept informed about the potential and actual environmental impacts; and
- receive responses to the concerns raised including identifying how the proposal has been modified and/or identifying management measures that will be implemented to address the concerns raised.

To facilitate adequate public input, the PER should be made available as widely as possible and at a reasonable cost.

## **2. Specific Guidelines for the Preparation of the Public Environmental Review Document**

### **2.1 The proposal**

The EPA has prepared *Environmental Assessment Guideline for Defining the Key Characteristics of a Proposal* (May 2012) (EAG 1). EAG 1 describes how to define the Key Proposal Characteristics for the purposes of assessing the proposal and subsequent incorporation in the Ministerial approval statement. It is expected that the Key Proposal Characteristics will be informed by the outcome of the work required for the preliminary key environmental factors that are relevant to the proposal specified below (Section 2.2).

The proposal that is the subject of this assessment is Iluka Resources Limited (Iluka's) proposed Eneabba Mineral Sands Mine IPL North. The proposal is located

approximately 280 kilometres (km) north of Perth and 150 km south of Geraldton. The location of the proposal is indicated on Figure 1. The general layout of the proposal is shown on Figure 2.

Mineral sands mining commenced at Eneabba in the 1970s and involved several mining companies. A series of mergers and acquisitions resulted in Iluka taking over all mineral sands mining at Eneabba during 1999. Mining has occurred on Crown Land, including the South Eneabba Nature Reserve (SENR), and freehold land largely cleared for agricultural purposes but containing some areas of native vegetation.

The proposal is under the *Mineral Sands (Eneabba) State Agreement Act 1975* (MSSAA), which sets out the rights and obligations of both the proponent and the State Government. The MSSAA requires the submission of Annual and Triennial Environmental Reports to the State. These reports are required to address the mining and rehabilitation conducted and to detail planned future mining and rehabilitation activities. The reports are referred to the Mineral Sands Agreement Rehabilitation Coordinating Committee (MSARCC) which is chaired by the Department of State Development (DSD).

There are currently no active mining proposals subject to EP Act Ministerial Statements that the proposal can be implemented. The former Eneabba West Mineral Sands Project located west of the Brand Highway is subject to Ministerial Statement 81. Mining at Eneabba West has ceased and the site is being rehabilitated. Current mining operations are subject to Part V of the EP Act works approval and licensing requirements.

The proposal is for an open cut mine that will operate over approximately six years and will extract over 2.1 million tonnes (Mt) of heavy mineral concentrate (HMC) (mostly zircon and titanium minerals) from the IPL North mineral deposit. Ore will undergo initial onsite processing to produce HMC. Mining will commence at the most southern end of the deposit and progress to the north. It is expected that mining will occur 24 hours/day for the majority of the proposal.

The proposal covers an area of 545 hectares (ha) and includes areas of native vegetation as well as previously and/or currently disturbed areas such as the railway line, gas pipeline, existing roads and motocross site. The proposed locations for the topsoil stockpiles are on existing disturbed land.

### *Mine infrastructure*

The proposal will continue to utilise existing roads, infrastructure corridors and supply networks as per current mining operations. The proposed mining will continue to source groundwater for mineral separation, slurring processes, vehicle washdown, the plant nursery and dust suppression from existing production bores (under existing groundwater licences). Haul roads will be located adjacent and within the mine paths.

The Proposal does not involve any increase to the mine throughput, and hence there will be no increase to unit (i.e. daily) water consumption, unit electricity consumption, unit waste and wastewater production. The rate of mining is estimated as 850

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tonnes per hour (tph). The Proposal will have a processing rate of approximately 600 tph, and will produce around 350 kilo tonnes per annum of HMC and use approximately 8 giga litres per year (GL/yr) of water for processing.

### *Water supply*

Water supplies for the existing Iluka Eneabba operations are drawn predominantly from the deeper Yarragadee aquifer. Groundwater licences (GWL) administered by the Department for Water (DoW) allow the abstraction of 4 GL/yr from the Twin Hills sub-area from six bores (GWL104709) and 12 GL/yr from the Eneabba Plains sub-area from 22 bores (GWL104700). Water is used to transport ore through the various stages of the ore processing system. Water is recovered and recycled where possible from in pit tailings dams to minimise losses to evaporation and infiltration.

### *Electricity supply*

The proposal will utilise this temporary on-site power generation until the upgrade of the previously approved power supply lines are complete. Power lines will run from the temporary on-site power generation system along the existing mine roads to the proposal area.

### *Transport*

HMC from the Iluka Eneabba operations is transported to the Narngulu mineral separation plant via the designated railway line installed in the 1970s. Non-saleable by-products are returned from Narngulu to Eneabba via pocket road trains. Around three to four loads of these by-products (approximately 52 tonnes per load) is delivered daily with trucks returning to Narngulu loaded with HMC.

**Table 1 – Summary of the proposal**

Proposal Title	Eneabba Mineral Sand Mine IPL North
Proponent Name	Iluka Resources Limited (Iluka)
Short Description	<p>The proposal is for an open cut mineral sands mine approximately 280 km north of Perth and 150 km south of Geraldton.</p> <p>The mining rate will be 850 tonnes per hour over a 6 year life span (depending on market demands), to remove approximately 36.7 million tonnes of ore at a processing rate of 600 tonnes per hour, producing a total of 350 000 tonnes of heavy mineral concentrate (HMC) per annum. This will be done using a dry mining method above the watertable, with indicative overall mine pit dimensions of 500-3,200 metres (m) in length (total of 6,300 m), 100–500 m in width and 15-30 m in depth.</p> <p>The equipment used for this mining proposal would be one mining unit plant (mining unit plant for life of mine) and heavy mobile equipment including trucks, excavators, scrapers, loaders or dozers.</p>

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**Table 2 - Location and extent of physical and operational elements**

Physical Element	Location	Proposed Extent Authorised
Proposal area	Figure 2	545 ha
Native vegetation disturbance		Not more than 350 ha at the mine site within a 545 ha maximum proposal area
Off-path stockpile requirement		2.2 million bank cubic metres 57 ha
Open (disturbed) mine pit area		30 ha
Total open (disturbed) area during mining (excluding infrastructure)		87 ha
Operational Element		Proposed Extent Authorised
Water supply		Existing groundwater production bores – 8 GL/yr
Fines disposal		Sand tails back into mine pit Clay/slimes and remaining sand tails into other Eneabba mine voids/Tailings Storage Facility
Hours of operation		24 hours per day, 7 days per week Mining in close proximity of Eneabba townsite according to noise regulation

### **2.2 Preliminary key environmental factors and policy documents relevant to this proposal**

The PER should give a detailed assessment of each of the preliminary key environmental factors identified for this proposal. At this stage, the EPA has identified the preliminary key environmental factors, objectives and work required as detailed below (see Table 3).

The EPA has identified a list of relevant policy documents (see Table 3) which set out how the EPA expects the environmental factors to be considered. The EPA expects that the treatment of environmental factors will be consistent with the approaches set out in these policy documents. The EPA also considers that the proponent should assess the proposal in a local and regional context and ensure that all cumulative impacts are addressed.

The proponent should demonstrate in the PER that best available technology would be implemented to prevent, control and abate emissions to an acceptable level or explain any deviations from best available technology.

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The EPA considers that the following environmental factors are relevant to the proposal:

- Flora and Vegetation;
- Terrestrial Fauna;
- Human Health and Amenity - Noise
- Rehabilitation and closure; and
- Offsets.

**Table 3: Preliminary key environmental factors relevant to the proposal**

Flora and Vegetation	
<b>EPA objective</b>	To maintain representation, diversity, viability and ecological function at the species, population and community level.
<b>Potential Impacts</b>	The Proposal area covers an area of 545 ha however the area of clearing required for the Proposal has been estimated at approximately 350 ha. These areas allow for the establishment of the mine pit, overburden (clay and sand) stockpiles (if not directly returned), run of mine stockpiles, mining unit plant pads, noise bund, access and haul roads, lay-down areas, off-mine path infrastructure and areas of native vegetation affected by proposed mulch harvesting for mine rehabilitation.
<b>Work required</b>	<p>Detailed description of the proposed clearing associated with the proposal.</p> <p>Figure showing the extent of clearing or loss of vegetation from direct and indirect impacts (including altered surface and groundwater hydrology or dust).</p> <p>Desktop study and discussion of flora and vegetation surveys conducted in areas that are likely to be directly or indirectly disturbed as a result of the proposal. Where previous survey information is not available, or is not of acceptable quality in accordance with Guidance Statement 51, surveys to be undertaken in accordance with Guidance Statement 51.</p> <p>A quantitative analysis of the extent of clearing and conservation status of vegetation communities and flora species to be cleared or indirectly impacted, including percentages of vegetation communities and conservation significant species affected to assist in the determination of the significance of impacts. Assessment of impacts on conservation significant species should include the number of plants in the affected populations, the number of plants to be impacted (directly and indirectly) in a 'worst case scenario' and the number of plants known to occur outside the disturbance footprint (at both a local and regional scale.</p> <p>Conservation significant species as defined by Guidance Statement 51 and 56 includes taxa other than those that are listed at the State or national level as threatened, Priority and specially protected (e.g. endemic or restricted taxa; new taxa or affinities; taxa at the limits of their range, etc.)</p> <p>Discussion of potential direct and indirect impacts to Flora and vegetation as a result of the proposal, with particular regard to EPBC Act MNES and provision of quantitative data on impacts of the proposal to species of conservation significance.</p> <p>Identify dieback affected areas in any area likely to be directly or indirectly impacted by the proposal.</p> <p>Discussion of proposed management, monitoring and mitigation methods to be implemented.</p> <p>Completion of checklist for documents submitted for EIA on marine and terrestrial biodiversity.</p>



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<b>Relevant policy/guidance documents</b>	<p>Position Statement 2 Environmental Protection of Native Vegetation in Western Australia.</p> <p>Position Statement 3 Terrestrial Biological Surveys as an Element of Biodiversity Protection.</p> <p>Guidance Statement No. 51 Terrestrial Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Australia June 2004.</p> <p><i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.</i></p> <p>Checklist for documents submitted for EIA on marine and terrestrial biodiversity.</p>
<b>Terrestrial Fauna</b>	
<b>EPA objective</b>	To maintain representation, diversity, viability and ecological function at the species population and assemblage level.
<b>Potential impacts</b>	<p>Clearing of vegetation will result in loss or fragmentation of fauna habitat and consequential displacement of fauna.</p> <p>Death or injury of fauna may occur during clearing, construction and operation.</p>
<b>Work required</b>	<p>Description of expected impacts to fauna and habitat from the proposal.</p> <p>Desktop study of information available to provide a comprehensive listing of fauna known or likely to occur in the habitat present, and identification of conservation significant fauna species likely to occur in the area. Identify currency, limitations and any inconsistencies of surveys.</p> <p>Where previous surveys are not available, or are not of acceptable quality in accordance with Guidance Statement 56, Level 1 survey and mapping of habitats within areas to be impacted should be conducted in accordance with Guidance Statement 56.</p> <p>Where a risk assessment indicates that the area may support short range endemic fauna, survey and mapping of habitats within areas to be impacted should be conducted in accordance with Guidance Statement 20.</p> <p>Identification of important, rare or unusual habitat types.</p> <p>Analysis of the extent of clearing, including percentages of habitat types to be cleared, to assist in determination of significance of impacts to fauna.</p> <p>Where the desktop study and habitat analysis indicates that it is appropriate, conduct targeted Level 2 surveys for conservation significant species.</p> <p>Discussion of potential impacts to fauna as a result of the proposal, with particular regard to EPBC Act MNES, threatened and Priority fauna, other conservation significant fauna and provision of quantitative data on impacts of the proposal to these species.</p> <p>Demonstrate the extent to which areas are used for foraging and/or nesting by conservation significant avifauna (in particular Carnaby's Black Cockatoo).</p> <p>Discussion of proposed management, monitoring and mitigation methods to be implemented.</p>
<b>Relevant policy/guidance documents</b>	<p>Guidance Statement No. 56 Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Australia June 2004;</p> <p>Guidance Statement No. 20 Sampling of short range endemic fauna for environmental impact assessment in Western Australia May 2009;</p> <p>Position Statement 3 Terrestrial Biological Surveys as an Element of Biodiversity Protection;</p> <p><i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999;</i> and</p> <p>Checklist for documents submitted for EIA on marine and terrestrial biodiversity.</p> <p>Technical guide – Terrestrial Vertebrate Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment.</p>



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<b>Human health and Amenify-Noise</b>	
<b>EPA objective</b>	<p>Human Health - To ensure that human health is not adversely affected.</p> <p>Amenity - To ensure that impacts to amenity are reduced as low as reasonably practicable.</p>
<b>Potential impacts</b>	<p>The proposal area is closer to the Eneabba townsite than past mining operations and therefore has the greatest potential to impact on nearby residents. Mining operations are proposed for 24 hours/day.</p> <p>Previous acoustic modelling results indicate that the day and night-time noise levels are the same, but they are influenced by wind directions. Noise levels will increase at the Eneabba townsite as mining operations occur more towards the north of the Proposal area. There is the potential for assigned noise levels to be exceeded at some noise sensitive receivers in the town of Eneabba for worst-case meteorological conditions during the implementation of the Proposal if noise attenuation measures are not investigated, identified and implemented.</p>
<b>Work required</b>	<p>Undertake a detailed assessment as specified by the draft EPA Guidance Statement No. 8 and demonstrate that the noise from the proposal can be managed to comply with the Noise Regulations at residential properties and at the boundary of the proposal site.</p> <p>A map showing the locations of all noise sensitive premises adjacent to the mining operations or likely to be affected by the proposal.</p> <p>Environmental noise monitoring at representative noise-sensitive premises.</p> <p>Noise predictions for proposed operations and proposed management measures.</p> <p>Discuss noise controls to be put in place when mining, in particular in the section of the proposal adjacent to the Eneabba townsite. Noise controls may include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ restricting certain machines or mining on night shift and weekends.</li> <li>◦ modifying machines to reduce noise (eg. different reversing beepers).</li> <li>◦ cladding of noisy equipment (eg. pumps and parts of mining units).</li> <li>◦ building earthen "noise" bunds between the mine and Eneabba town.</li> </ul> <p>Undertake an assessment of the potential noise impact of the proposed bund construction and demonstrate the overall benefit of the earthen bund in terms of noise impact.</p>
<b>Relevant policy/guidance documents</b>	<p>Draft Guidance Statement No. 8 Environmental Noise May 2007.</p> <p>Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997.</p>
<b>Rehabilitation and Closure</b>	
<b>EPA objective</b>	To ensure that premises can be closed, decommissioned and rehabilitated in an ecologically sustainable manner, consistent with agreed outcomes and land-uses, and without unacceptable liability to the State.
<b>Potential impacts</b>	<p>Poor rehabilitation and closure procedures, planning and management practices may result in a number of undesirable impacts to the receiving environment such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ rehabilitation fails to achieve minimum required standards relating to environmental values and functions;</li> <li>◦ unauthorised vegetation disturbance;</li> <li>◦ Depletion and inefficient use of topsoil resources;</li> <li>◦ compacted soil layers with poor infiltration rates;</li> <li>◦ the formation of slime pockets or layers;</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ vegetation not sustainable because soil profile contains physical or chemical barriers to root growth; and</li> <li>◦ the introduction of <i>Phytophthora</i> Dieback or weeds to rehabilitated areas.</li> </ul>
<b>Work required</b>	<p>Desktop study of successful best practice mine rehabilitation procedures, including review of learnings from rehabilitation at Eneabba to date;</p> <p>Collection of baseline data on existing geochemical and geophysical properties of soil (including nutrients, pH, EC, particle size distribution, soil strength and bulk density), landforms and root distribution in soil profiles</p> <p>Identification of completion criteria, including criteria for reconstructed soils and soil profiles (identification and profile reconstruction) and landforms; and</p> <p>Prepare a mine closure plan in accordance with the DMP – EPA (2011) Guidelines for Preparing Mine Closure Plans, and submit the plan with the PER.</p>
<b>Relevant policy/guidance documents</b>	<p>Guidelines for Preparing Mine Closure Plans. June 2011. (Environmental Protection Authority and Department of Mines and Petroleum); and</p> <p>Guidance Statement No. 6: Rehabilitation of Terrestrial Ecosystems. June 2006.</p>
<b>Offsets</b>	
<b>EPA objective</b>	To counterbalance any significant residual environmental impacts or uncertainty through the application of offsets.
<b>Potential impacts</b>	Potential impacts on vegetation, flora and fauna species.
<b>Work required</b>	<p>Examination of residual impacts and development of draft program of environmental offsets;</p> <p>Identification of residual impacts with regard to MNES and WA listed and other conservation significant flora and fauna, species and communities; and</p> <p>Inclusion in the PER of completed Environmental Offsets Reporting Form and any offsets required and proposed.</p>
<b>Relevant policy/guidance documents</b>	<p>WA Environmental Offsets Policy, September 2011;</p> <p>Environmental Protection Bulletin No 19 – Environmental offsets – Biodiversity September 2008;</p> <p>Position Statement 9 Environmental offsets; and</p> <p>EPBC Environmental Offsets Policy</p> <p>Offsets reporting form.</p>

These preliminary key environmental factors must be addressed within the environmental review document for the public to consider and make comment to the EPA. The EPA anticipates addressing these factors in its report to the Minister for Environment, which is forwarded to the Commonwealth Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities. All technical reports, modelling and referenced documents (not currently in the public domain) used or relied upon in the preparation of the PER should be included as appendices to the document and must not contain disclaimers that prevent them being made publicly available.

### 2.3 Other Environmental Matters

The EPA expects the proponent to take due care in ensuring other relevant environmental factors which may be of interest to the public are addressed and that management is described in the PER.

The EPA has identified other environmental matters which it considers warrant attention as part of the environmental review of this proposal to the extent that the PER should show how these matters will be mitigated and the extent to which other statutory decision making processes can regulate potential impacts to meet the EPA's objectives. These include but are not limited to the following:

- *Dust*

To ensure that emissions to air do not adversely affect environmental values of the health, welfare and amenity of people and land uses by meeting statutory requirements and acceptable standards. The majority of any airborne particulates from the proposal area are likely to be visible dust, with a potential for some fine particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>). Visible dust cannot be measured and therefore cannot be modelled and monitored. The proponent is expected to outline the:

- history of dust issues and success of management measures;
- extent to which buffer distances and proposed management are adequate to manage potential impacts of dust.

The DEC has provided preliminary advice that whilst some level of control may be afforded under an EP Act Part V licence, the overall management of dust may be of limited effectiveness unless suitable buffer distances are maintained. The proponent is expected to consult the DEC.

- *Public Drinking Water Supply*

The proposal is in proximity to an existing public drinking water supply bore. The proponent will need to demonstrate that it has consulted with the Water Corporation and the Department of Water about appropriate buffers to bore infrastructure and confirming that mining activities including potential for fuel storage are compatible with ensuring the town drinking water supply is not at significant risk.

- *Dieback mapping and management*

Due to the existing presence of Dieback, mining activities such as vehicle movement and site disturbance associated with the proposal may result in the spread of dieback within and outside the project area. The proponent should provide baseline mapping of dieback affected areas in any area likely to be directly or indirectly impacted by the proposal, and propose management and mitigation measures to address the potential risks and consequences of introducing or spreading dieback.

This list is provided to assist with the preparation of the Environmental Review document. If during the course of the preparation of the document other environmental factors are identified, these factors should be discussed with the OEPA to determine whether they are to be addressed in the PER.

## 2.4 Other Approvals

The EPA notes that a number of other approvals will be required for the proposal. Where possible, the EPA advises that these approvals should be processed in parallel with the PER. These may include Water Licensing approvals required by the Department of Water, the Mine Proposal and Mine Closure Plans required by the Department of State Development and/or Department of Mines and Petroleum, and works approval and licence requirements by the Department of Environment and Conservation.

Inclusion of information relating to these approvals as appendices to the PER document prior to public review would be desirable and would eliminate some duplication of processes.

## 2.5 Agreed Assessment Milestones

EPA Environmental Assessment Guideline No. 6 "Timelines for EIA of Proposals" addresses the responsibilities proponents and EPA for achieving timely and effective assessment of proposals.

This timeline (Table 3) is agreed between the EPA and proponent. Proponents are expected to meet the agreed proposal assessment timeline, and in doing so, provide adequate, quality information to inform the assessment. Proponents will need to allocate sufficient time to undertake the necessary studies to the appropriate standard and incorporate the outcomes of the studies into the PER.

Where an agreed timeline is not being met by the proponent, or if adequate information is not submitted by the proponent, the timeline for subsequent steps will be re-established. Where the OEPA is unable to meet a date in the agreed timelines the proponent will be advised and the timeline adjusted.

The EPA will report to the Minister for Environment on whether the agreed proposal assessment timeline has been met. Where the timeline has not been met, the reasons for this will be identified.

**Table 4: Agreed Milestones for the proposal**

Key Stage of Proposal	Agreed Milestone
EPA approval of ESD Document	April 2013
Proponent submits first adequate draft of PER Document	1 July 2013
OEPA provides comment on first draft PER Document	12 August 2013 (6 weeks)
Proponent submits adequate revised draft PER Document	9 September 2013 (4 weeks)
EPA authorises release of PER Document	23 September 2013 (2 weeks)
Proponent releases approved PER Document	30 September 2013 (1 Week)

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Public Review of PER Document	Ends: 28 October 2013 (4 weeks)
EPA provides Summary of Submissions	25 November 2013 (3 Weeks)
Proponent provides Response to Public Submissions	6 January 2014 (4 Weeks+2 weeks for Christmas)
OEPA assesses proposal for consideration by EPA	24 February 2014 (7 Weeks)
Preparation and finalisation of EPA Report (including 2 weeks consultation on draft conditions with proponent and key Government agencies)	31 March 2014 (5 Weeks)

### 2.6 Decision Making Authorities

At this preliminary stage, the EPA has identified the following decision making authorities (DMAs) (see Table 4). These DMAs are constrained from making any decision that could have the effect of causing or allowing the revised proposal to be implemented. Throughout the assessment process further DMAs may be identified.

**Table 5: Nominated Decision Making Authorities**

Decision Making Authority	Relevant Legislation
Minister for Indigenous Affairs	<i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972</i>
Minister for Water	<i>RiWI Act 1914</i>
Minister for State Development	<i>Mineral Sands (Eneabba) State Agreement Act 1975</i>

DMAs are not prevented from parallel processing, up to the point of their decision, so that their views can inform the ministerial consultation process.

### 2.7 Preparation of the Public Environmental Review Document

The generic guidelines for the format of an environmental review document are available on the EPA's website [www.epa.wa.gov.au](http://www.epa.wa.gov.au).

When the EPA and DSEWPaC are satisfied with the standard of the PER document (see EAG 6 Section 4.3) it will provide a written sign-off, giving approval to advertise the document for public review. The review document may not be advertised for release before written approval is received.

The proponent is responsible for advertising the release and availability of the PER in accordance with the guidelines which will be issued to the proponent by the OEPA. The EPA must be consulted on the timing and details for advertising the document.

Figure 1 - Location of Proposal

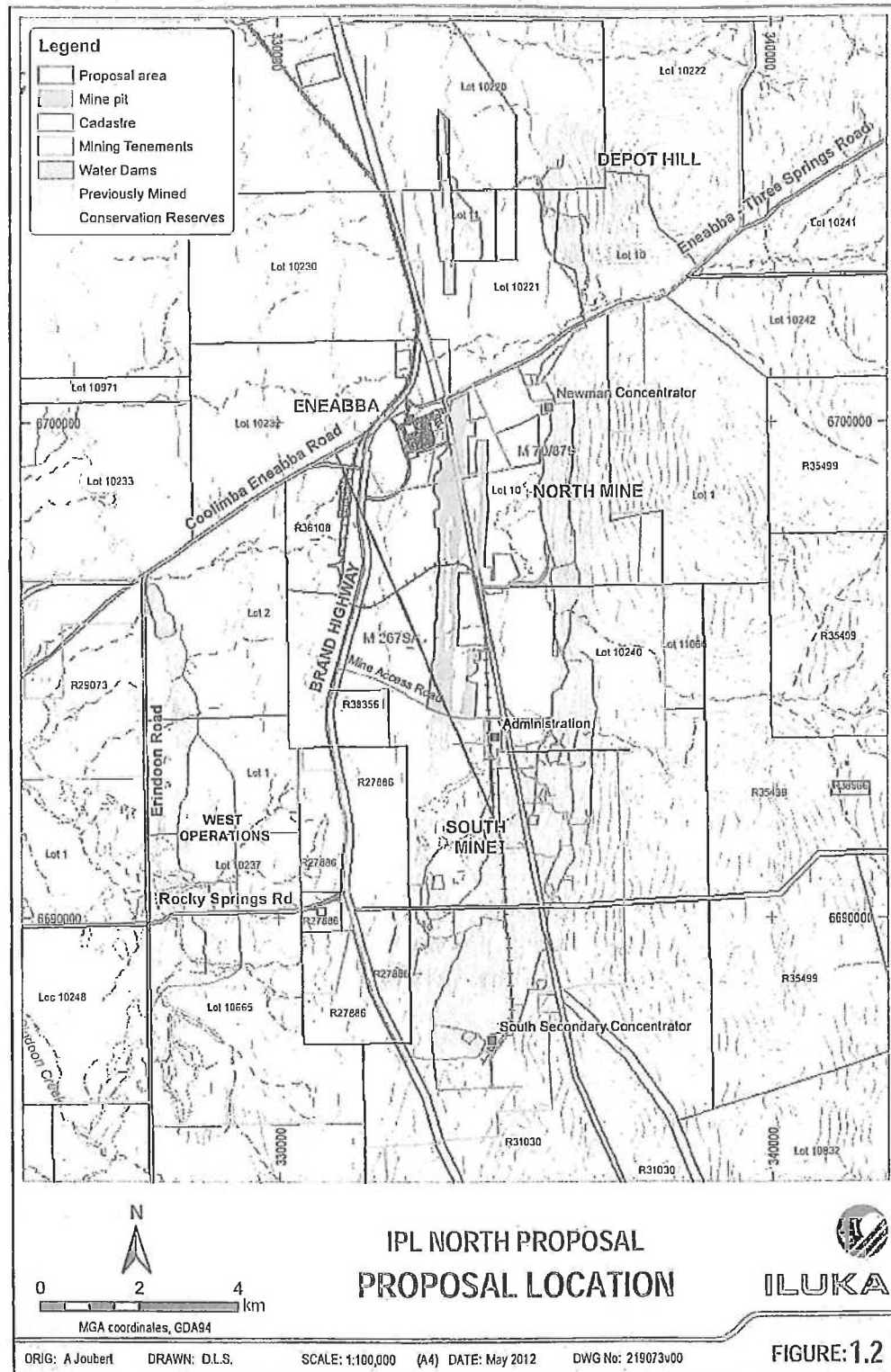




Figure 2 – Mine Envelope

