

Environmental Protection Act 1986

Section 43A

**NOTICE OF DECISION TO CONSENT TO CHANGE TO PROPOSAL DURING
ASSESSMENT**

PERSON TO WHOM THIS NOTICE IS GIVEN

Talison Lithium Australia Pty Ltd (ACN: 139 401 308)
Maranup Ford Road
GREENBUSES WA 6254

PROPOSAL TO WHICH THIS NOTICE RELATES:

Greenbushes Lithium Mine Expansion
Assessment No. 2172

Pursuant to section 43A of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act), the Environmental Protection Authority consents to the proponent making the following changes to the proposal during assessment without a revised proposal being referred:

- *Revision of the proposal's Development Envelope to include supporting linear road infrastructure, including the Mine Access Road and access road to the proposed Tailings Treatment Plant*

EFFECT OF THIS NOTICE:

1. The proponent may change the proposal as provided for in this notice.

RIGHTS OF APPEAL:

There are no rights of appeal under the EP Act in respect of this decision.



Dr Tom Hatton
Delegate of the Environmental Protection Authority
CHAIRMAN

7 March 2019

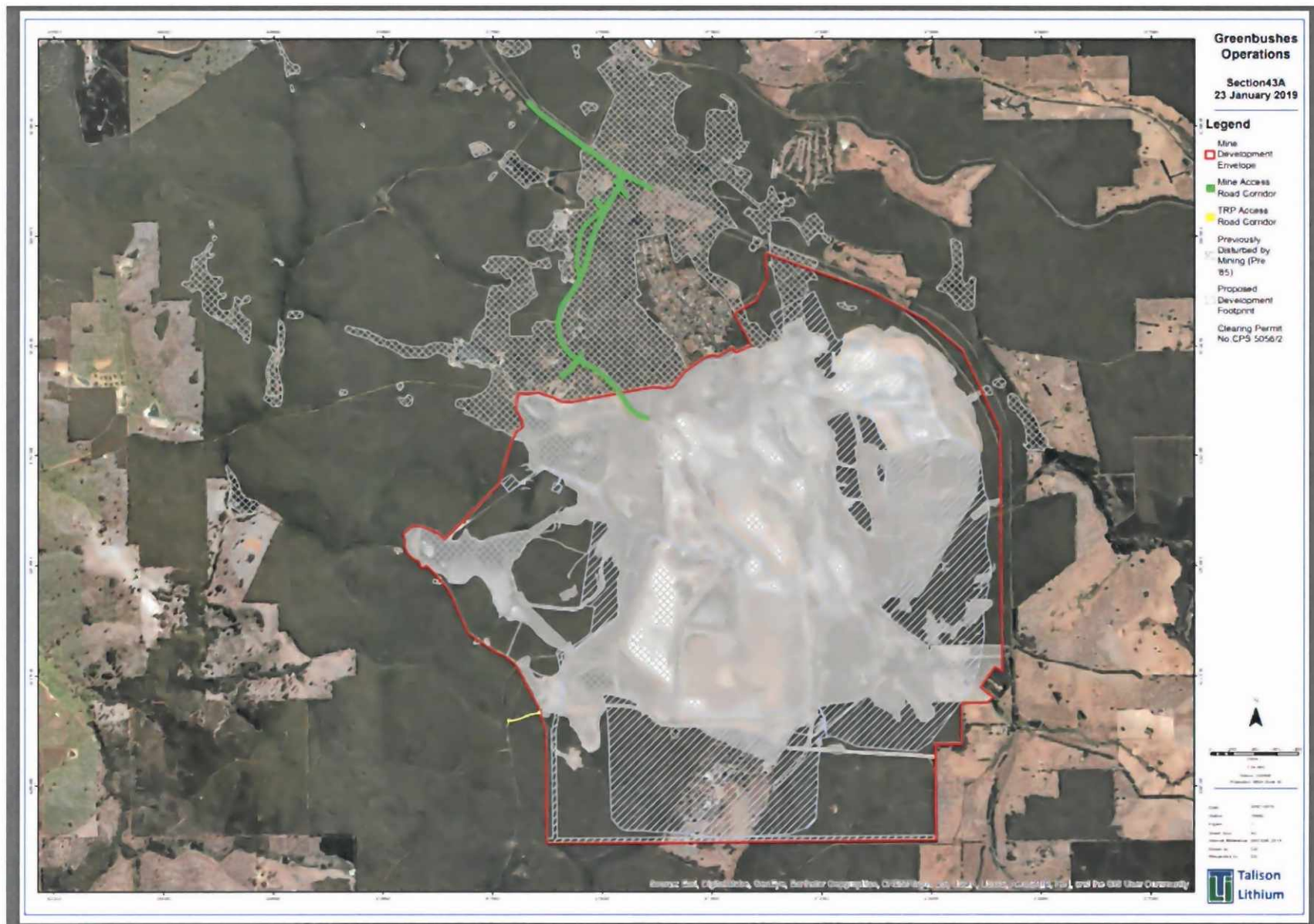


Figure 1: Development Envelope and Disturbance Footprint

Environmental Protection Act 1986

Section 43A

STATEMENT OF REASONS

CONSENT TO CHANGE PROPOSAL DURING ASSESSMENT

Proposal: Greenbushes Lithium Mine Expansion

Proponent: Talison Lithium Pty Ltd

Decision

For the reasons outlined below, the EPA has determined to consent to the Proponent changing the Proposal outlined in Schedule 1 attached to this Statement of Reasons.

Background

On 29 June 2018 Talison Lithium Pty Ltd referred the Proposal to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) under section 38 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. The Proposal is to expand the existing Greenbushes Lithium Mine, to increase the production of spodumene ore and lithium mineral concentrate from the operation. This proposal is an expansion of the existing mining operation that has been operating for over 30 years and did not previously require assessment by the EPA. The mine is located in the South West of Western Australia, immediately south of the town of Greenbushes, approximately 250 km south east of Perth.

The EPA determined to assess the Proposal at the level of Referral Information (with additional information required under section 40(2)(a) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* on 1 August 2018.

In advance of the EPA preparing a report on the outcome of its assessment of the Proposal, the Proponent has sought the EPA's consent to the proponent changing the Proposal.

Relevant Statutory and Administrative Provisions

Section 3.8 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (Part IV Divisions 1 and 2) Procedures Manual 2016 guides what information the EPA requires from a person wanting to change its proposal during assessment.

In considering the request for consent, the EPA considered the:

- details of the proposed change;
- statement of the significance of the change; and
- rationale for the change.

Materials considered in making this decision

In determining whether to consent to the proponent changing the proposal the EPA has considered the following:

1. Flora and Vegetation Survey Reports (Onshore Environmental, 2018)
2. Section 43A application letter (Talison Lithium Australia Pty Ltd, January 2019)

Consideration

1. Nature of the proposed change

The proposed changes involve the following elements:

- Revision of the proposal's Development Envelope to include supporting linear road infrastructure, including the Mine Access Road and access road to the proposed Tailings Treatment Plant

The proposed changes will result in a total of 6.4 hectares (ha) of clearing within the proposed development footprints, however the net clearing will remain unchanged from the original submission and additional referral information submitted (Referral Document). It is proposed that 6.4 ha will be relinquished from the southern aspects of the proposal to account for the increased clearing proposed for the road infrastructure.

Therefore, the proposed changes are not expected to result in additional environmental impacts to that predicted in the Referral Document as there will be no net increase to the 350ha as previously applied for. Furthermore, the majority of the mine access road falls within previously disturbed historic mining areas outside the current active mining area.

2. Stage of the assessment process

The proponent is currently working on finalising the final Assessment Referral Information (ARI) required for the EPA's assessment.

3. Currency, relevance and reliability of the information, including submissions

The final additional information would have incorporated comments received from the public.

4. Community engagement

The section 43A request and supporting environmental survey work was advertised for a seven-day public comment period, and comments received were considered in determining the acceptability of the section 43A.

The proponent has indicated that previous stakeholder engagement has been undertaken regarding the establishment of the Mine Access Road, separate to the overall consultation with respect the project's expansion. The access road was presented at two public meetings. The proposed layout plans and design document information was publicly available at the Greenbushes Community Resource

Centre and Shire of Bridgetown Greenbushes administration offices for two months. The Shire of Bridgetown Greenbushes also ran a formal consultation process requesting public feedback.

5. Level of public concern

The proposal received three comments during the seven-day public comment period. The key issues raised included:

- Impacts associated with clearing of threatened and vulnerable flora, wetland vegetation, and indigenous fauna habitat vegetation;
- Requirement for a pedestrian crossings near the Greenbushes sportsground and any walk trail crossing points; and
- Impacts to the Greenbushes Pool and neighbouring parks and recreational facilities.

The EPA does not consider there to be an increased level of public interest in the proposal as a result of the change, considering seven submissions were received during the initial seven-day public review period of the referral documentation.

Consideration of Whether the Change is Unlikely to Significantly Increase Any Impact that the Proposal May Have on the Environment

The following were considered:

a) Values, sensitivity and the quality of the environment which is likely to be impacted

The Proponent's environmental consultants completed a two-season detailed flora and vegetation survey of the proposed infrastructure corridors. The survey work recorded a number of potential habitat trees for conservation significant fauna during the survey, however only one was deemed to provide a potential hollow suitable for use by black cockatoos. The Proponent has committed to undertaking the clearing activities in accordance with the submitted Conservation Significant Fauna Plan to ensure no impact occur to this hollow. Management actions include establishing a Black Cockatoo Tree Protection Zones of 10 metres around the hollow, as well as timing the works outside the black cockatoo breeding seasons if possible.

The road infrastructure will be designed by road engineers to the meet MRWA standards and the Austroads Design Guidelines to minimise noise and dust. Noting that the road will be a sealed road to ensure these factors are minimised in the long-term. A suitable contractor will be engaged to construct the roads and established recognised construction principles will be followed during the road to ensure noise and dust are managed during the construction phase. The Proponent will also apply the appropriate noise and dust management plans and procedures to the construction of the roads.

Noting the above, the proposed changes will not introduce new environmental factors and does not increase the level of impact as described in the Referral Document.

b) Extent (intensity, duration, magnitude and geographic footprint) of the likely impacts

The main component of the proposed change is the construction of the linear road infrastructure, which will be mostly built within previously disturbed historic mining areas outside the current active mining area. Furthermore, there will be no net increase to the clearing of native vegetation associated with the proposal.

c) Consequence of the likely impacts (or change)

The proposed change is not expected to introduce additional environmental impacts.

d) Resilience of the environment to cope with the impacts or change

The resilience of the environment to cope with the proposed change remains unchanged from that of the original proposal.

e) Cumulative impacts with other projects

There would be no additional cumulative impacts with other projects.

f) Connections and interactions between parts of the environment to inform holistic view of impacts of the whole environment

There is no change to the potential connections and interactions of the environment due to the change from the original proposal.

g) Level of confidence in the prediction of impacts and the success of proposed mitigation

There is no change to the level of confidence in the predicted impacts and the success of proposed mitigation.

h) Public interest about the likely effect of the proposal, if implemented, on the environment, and public information that informs the EPA's assessment

Public interest in the proposal is unlikely to change from these changes. The proposed changes were advertised for a seven-day public comment period and a total of three public comments were received.

Schedule 1

Change to Proposal

Element	Current Proposal (Referral Doc)	Changed Proposal (s43a)
Physical Elements		
Mine and Supporting linear infrastructure (access roads/pipelines/powerlines) and explosives and MSA infrastructure	Clearing of up to 350 ha of native vegetation	No net change in clearing
Mine Access Road	Not included in referral	Clearing of up to 4.3 ha
TRP Access Road	Not included in referral	Clearing of up to 2.1 ha

* A new table will be developed to align the changed proposal description with Instruction: Key Proposal Characteristics. The Key Characteristics table derived from the proponents s43a request has been used to illustrate the changes as compared to the proposal as described in the referral document.

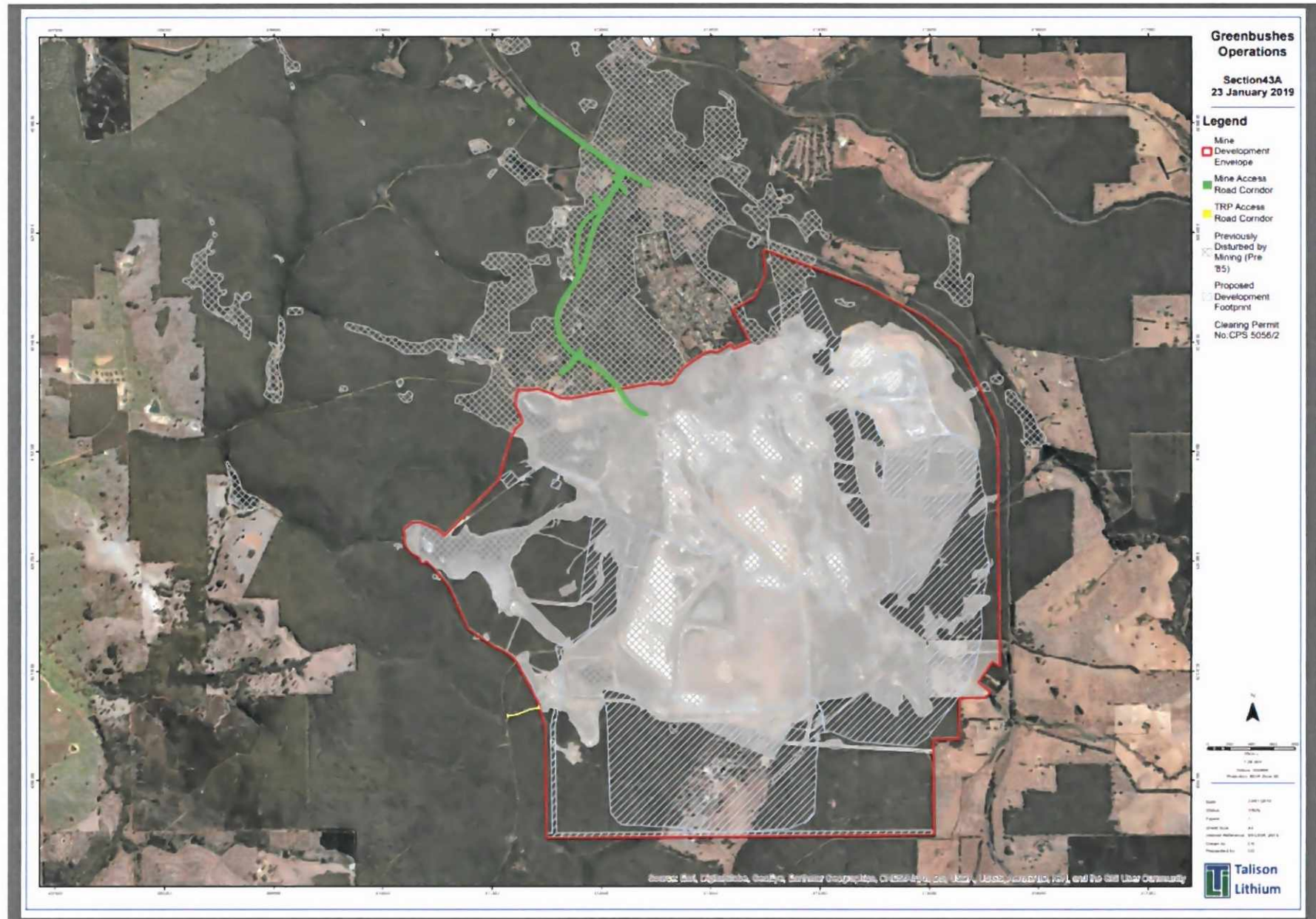


Figure 1: Development Envelope and Disturbance Footprint