

***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:

- *Inclusion of a Tailings Retreatment Plant within the final disturbance footprint of the Tailings Storage Facility 4 [this means an increase to tailings production from 8 to 9 Mega tonnes per annum (Mtpa)];*
- *Increase in the rate of ore processing (from 9.5 to 11.6 Mtpa due to the inclusion of the Tailings Retreatment Plant which will increase production capacity of lithium mineral concentrate from 2.3 to up to 2.8 Mtpa);*
- *Revision of the description of the mining rate (the maximum annual mining rate of 25 Million bank cubic metres (Mbcm) is provided instead of the 16 Mbcm that represents average annual mining rate over the life of mine); and*
- *Change in the crusher description from three-stage to a two-stage crusher.*

**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**

29 November 2018

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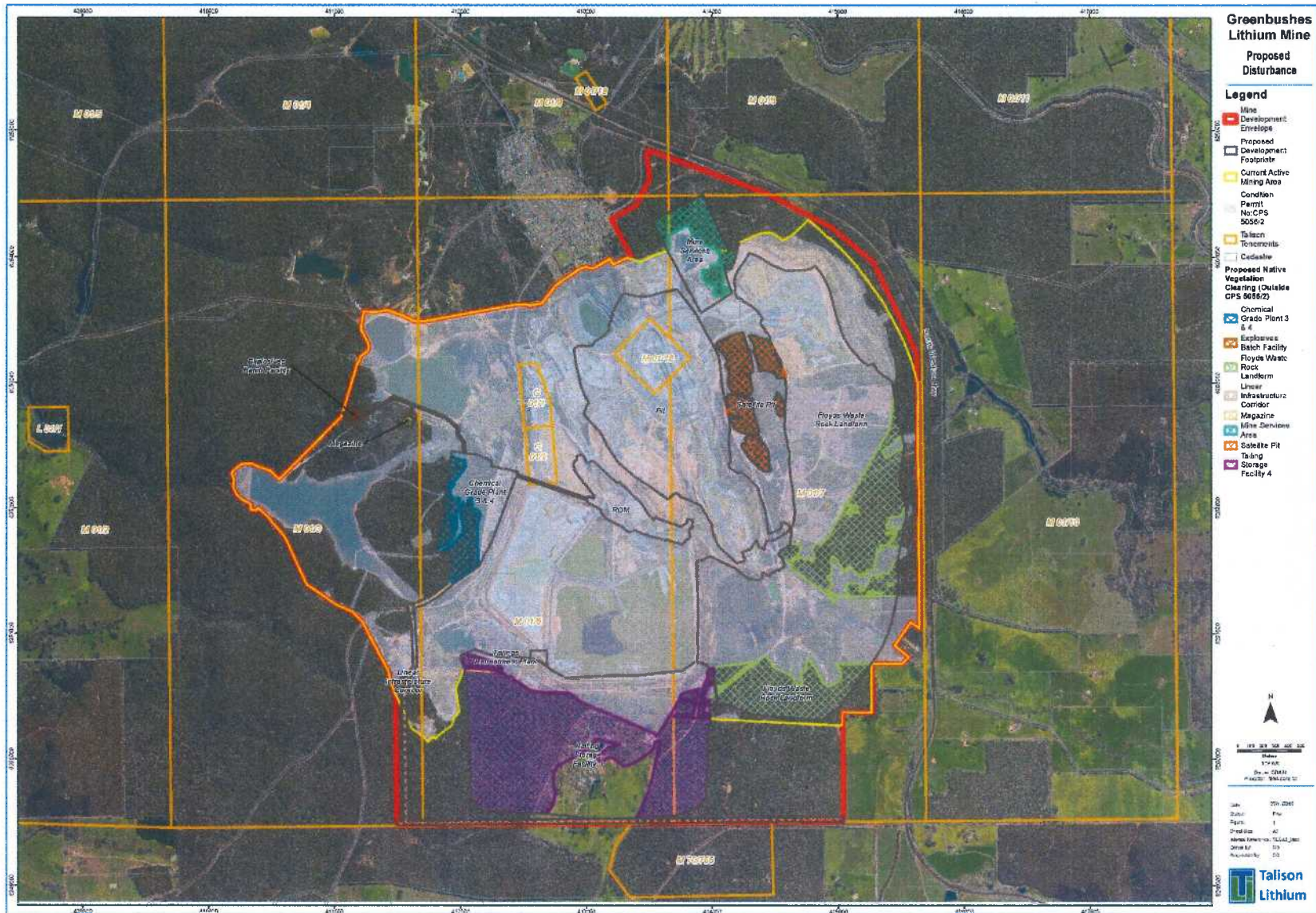


Figure 1: Development Envelope and Disturbance Footprint

***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. Referral supporting document (GHD Pty Ltd, July 2018)
2. Section 43a application (Talison Lithium Australia Pty Ltd, November 2018)

## Consideration

### 1. Nature of the proposed change

The proposed changes involve the following elements:

- Inclusion of a Tailing Retreatment Plant<sup>1</sup> within the final disturbance footprint of the Tailings Storage Facility 4 [this means an increase to tailings production from 8 to 9 Mega tonnes per annum (Mtpa)];
- Increase in the rate of ore processing (from 9.5 to 11.6 Mtpa due to the inclusion of the Tailings Retreatment Plant which will increase production capacity of lithium mineral concentrate from 2.3 to up to 2.8 Mtpa);
- Revision of the description of the mining rate (the maximum annual mining rate of 25 Million bank cubic metres (Mbcm) is provided instead of the 16 Mbcm that represents average annual mining rate over the life of mine); and
- Change in the crusher description from three-stage to a two-stage crusher.

The proposed changes will not require additional clearing. Therefore, the proposed changes are not expected to result in additional environmental impacts to that predicted in the Referral Document.

### 2. Stage of the assessment process

The proponent is currently working on finalising the additional information required for the EPA's assessment. As this proposal is being assessed as an accredited assessment, the proponent's additional information document would be subject to a three-week public review period.

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

The final additional information would have incorporated comments from various areas of the DWER, DBCA and the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Energy.

### 4. Community engagement

The referral was advertised for a seven-day public comment period, and comments received were considered in determining the appropriate level of assessment. The additional information documents would also be subject to a three-week public review period.

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<sup>1</sup> The Tailings Retreatment Plant will treat 2.0Mtpa of tailings, producing an additional 0.3Mtpa of lithium mineral concentrate. Due to refinement of production numbers for the remaining plants, the total ore processed is increased to 11.6Mtpa.

## 5. Level of public concern

The proposal received seven comments during the seven-day public comment period at referral. The key issues raised included biodiversity, noise and dust from drilling and blasting, contaminated water runoff from the waste dump, and greenhouse gas.

The EPA does not consider there to be an increased level of public interest in the proposal as a result of the change.

### **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 change will not introduce new environmental factors and does not increase the level of impact as described in the Referral Document. The values, sensitivity and quality of the environment would be further described in the additional information document.

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

The main component of the proposed change is construction of the Tailing Retreatment Plant which will be built within the final footprint of the TSF4 and does not require any additional clearing.

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

The additional information required for a 3-week public review period are currently being finalised. 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 proposal was advertised for a seven-day public comment period and a total of seven public comments were received. Once finalised, the additional information will be advertised for three weeks.

### Schedule 1

#### Change to Proposal

Element	Current Proposal (Referral Doc)	Changed Proposal (s43a)
<b>Physical Elements</b>		
Tailings Retreatment Plant	Not included in referral	The plant will be built within the final footprint of the Tailings Storage Facility 4 and therefore does not require any additional clearing.
<b>Operational</b>		
Tailings Production	8 Mtpa	9 Mtpa
Ore Processing	9.5 Mtpa [establishment of two additional process plants, Chemical Grade Plants 3 and 4 (CGP3 and 4) will increase processing capacity to 9.5 Mtpa to produce up to 2.3 Mtpa of lithium mineral concentrate]	11.6 Mtpa (establishment of two additional process plants, CGP3 and CGP4 and the Tailings Retreatment Plan will increase processing capacity to 11.6 Mtpa to produce up to 2.8 Mtpa of lithium mineral concentrate).
Mining Rate	16 Mbcm	25 Mbcm (which is the maximum annual mining rate, whereas 16 Mbcm is the average annual mining rate. The maximum has been included to account for the fluctuations in the mining rate).

\* 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.

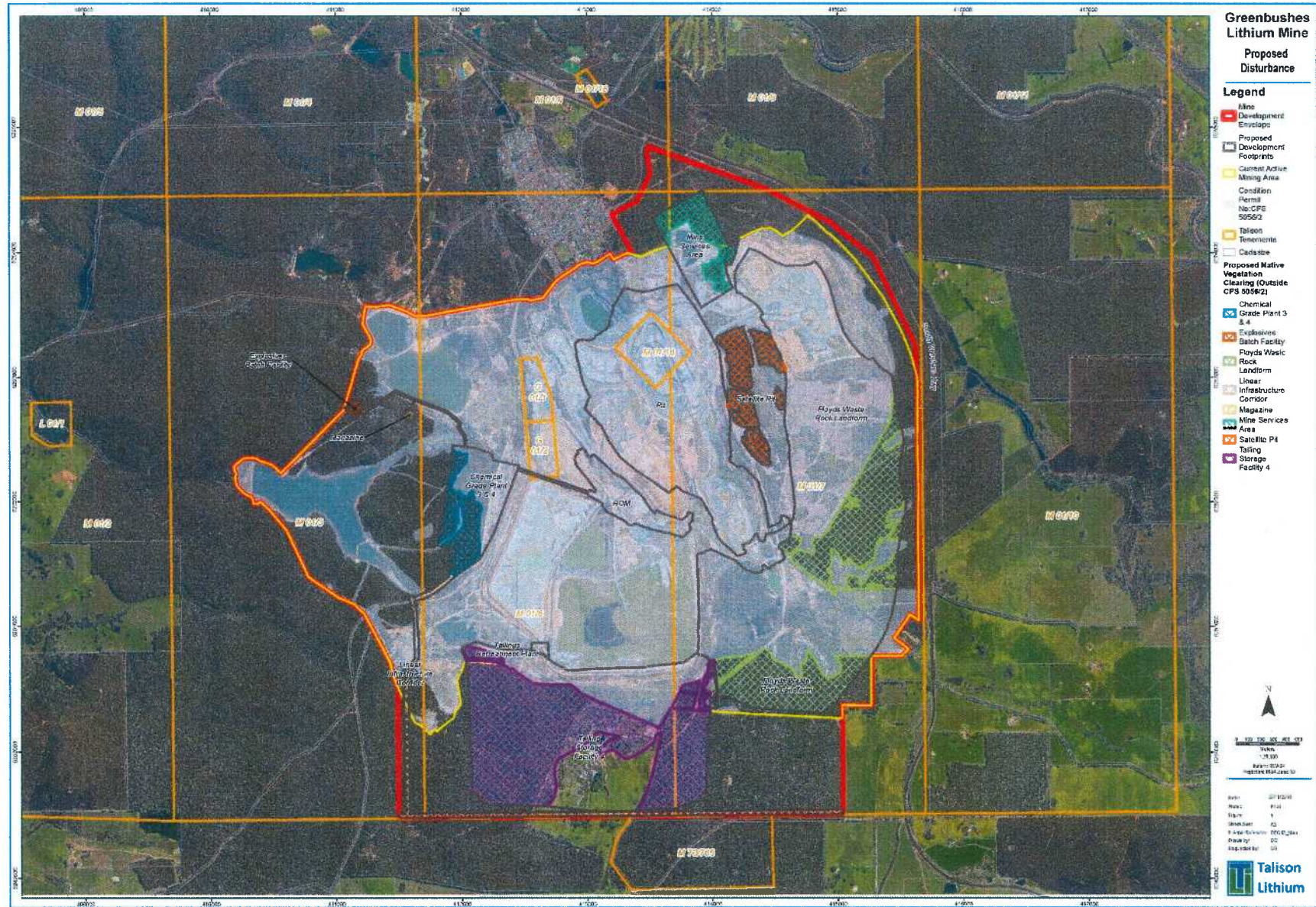


Figure 1: Development Envelope and Disturbance Footprint