



Environmental Protection Authority

Environmental Protection Act 1986

Section 43A

NOTICE OF DECISION TO CONSENT TO CHANGE TO PROPOSAL DURING ASSESSMENT

PERSON TO WHOM THIS NOTICE IS GIVEN:

Tronox Management Pty Ltd (ABN: 59 009 343 364)
PO Box 22
MUCHEA WA 6501

PROPOSAL TO WHICH THIS NOTICE RELATES:

Cooljarloo West Titanium Minerals Project
Assessment No. 2024

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

- Increase the disturbance footprint from 2,000 hectares (ha) to 2,033 ha.
- Reduce the amount of clearing of native vegetation from 1,886 ha to 1,884 ha.

Refer to the attached map.

EFFECT OF THIS NOTICE:

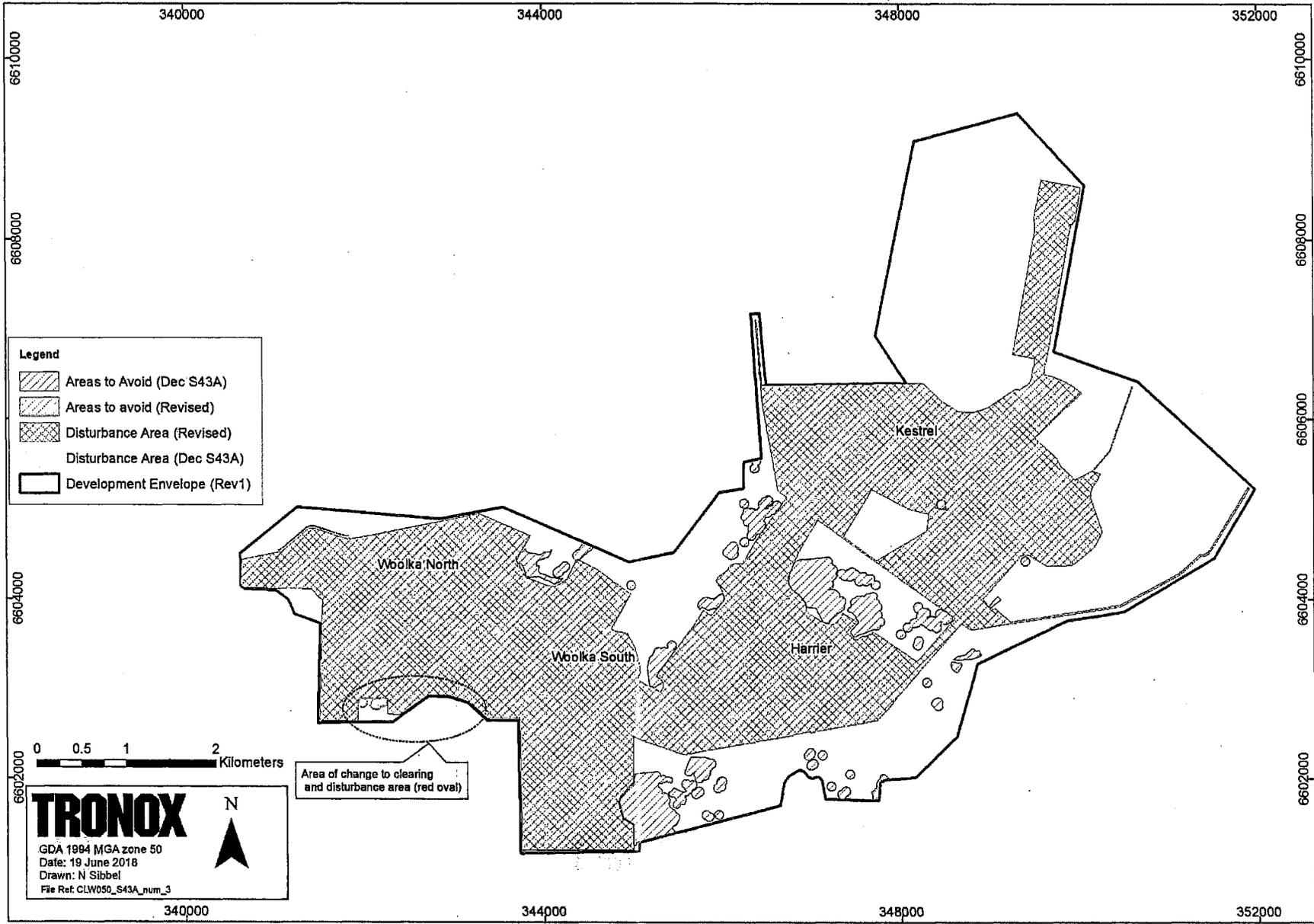
1. The proponent may change the proposal as provided for in this notice.

RIGHTS OF APPEAL:

There are no rights of appeal under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* in respect of this decision.

Dr Tom Hatton
Delegate of the Environmental Protection Authority
CHAIRMAN

2 August 2018



Environmental Protection Act 1986

Section 43A

STATEMENT OF REASONS

CONSENT TO CHANGE PROPOSAL DURING ASSESSMENT

Proposal: Cooljarloo West Titanium Minerals Project

Proponent: Tronox Management Pty Ltd (Tronox)

Decision

For the reasons outlined below, the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) has determined to consent to the proponent changing the proposal outlined in Schedule 1 attached to this Statement of Reasons.

Background

On 15 May 2013, Tronox referred the proposal to the EPA under section 38 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. The proposal is to expand the current mining operations at the Cooljarloo Mineral Sands Mine to the west, by developing new mine pits. The EPA determined to assess the proposal at the level of Public Environmental Review (PER) on 5 June 2013.

In advance of the EPA preparing a report on the outcome of its assessment of the proposal, Tronox has sought the EPA's consent for a change to 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:

- Details of the proposed change.
- Statement of the significance of the change.
- Rationale for the change.

Materials considered in making this decision

In determining whether to consent to Tronox changing the proposal, the EPA considered:

1. The proposal description within the Environmental Scoping Document (2 September 2013).
2. The potential impacts identified in the proponent's PER document (May 2017).

3. The proposal description within the most recent approved section 43A (7 December 2017).
4. The proponent's current application for a change to the proposal during assessment (27 June 2018).

Consideration

1. Nature of the proposed change

The proposed change is to:

- Increase the disturbance footprint from 2,000 to 2,033 hectares (ha).
- Reduce the area of clearing of native vegetation from 1,886 to 1,884 ha.

Tronox submitted a previous section 43A application to the EPA in October 2017 to reduce the development envelope from 5,082 to 3,812 ha, reduce the amount of clearing from 1,890 to 1,886 ha, and to remove option 1 for the transportation channel. The EPA approved the change on 7 December 2017. These changes also resulted in an increase to the disturbance area from 2,000 to 2,033 ha. However, this increase to the disturbance area was not identified in the details of the change in the proponent's application, but was identified in the map and accompanying spatial data of the application. The current proposed change seeks to confirm the correct disturbance area for the assessment.

After approval of the last section 43A application, Tronox carried out additional flora surveys in early 2018. The surveys identified additional locations of the threatened flora species, *Macarthuria keigheryi*. As a result, Tronox has modified the clearing footprint to avoid locations of the threatened flora species *M. keigheryi*. This change also results in a reduction in the amount of clearing of vegetation type 17 and individuals of the Priority 3 flora species *Stylidium hymenocraspedum*.

2. Stage of the assessment process

The PER document was released for public review for four weeks, from the 29 May 2017. Nine submissions were received. Tronox is currently preparing the Response to Submissions document.

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

The change has been made to ensure the correct disturbance area for the proposal is assessed, and to reduce the potential impacts of the proposal on threatened flora species *Macarthuria keigheryi*.

4. Community engagement

Community input was sought on the Cooljarloo West Titanium Minerals Project during the public review of the PER document. Tronox has responded to the comments by reducing the area of the development envelope and identifying avoidance areas where significant flora and vegetation would not be impacted.

5. Level of public concern

The level of public concern regarding the proposed changes to the proposal is anticipated to be low as the changes clarify the disturbance area for which the spatial extent was approved in the previous section 43A application, and results in a reduction of the potential impacts on threatened flora species *Macarthuria keigheryi*.

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 proposed change will not introduce new environmental factors. No new vegetation or habitat types are proposed to be affected.

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

The geographic footprint of the disturbance area would increase by 1.7% to 2,033 ha. The spatial extent of the disturbance area shown in the map and spatial data in the previous section 43A application that was approved remains the same, but is now formally acknowledged in the characteristics of the proposal.

The proposed change would result in a reduction in the amount of clearing by 0.1% to 1,884 ha. The intensity and duration remain unchanged. The proposed change will not increase the level of impact on the environment from what was predicted in the PER document.

c) Consequence of the likely impacts (or change)

The modifications to the disturbance area would reduce the amount of clearing of vegetation type 17. It would also avoid new locations of significant flora identified during the 2018 surveys, including 6,360 plants of the threatened flora species *Macarthuria keigheryi* and 200 plants of the Priority 3 flora species *Stylidium hymenocraspedum*. The modifications to the footprint would result in an overall reduction in the amount of clearing by 2 ha.

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

The resilience of the environment to cope with the proposed change remains the same as the original proposal.

e) Cumulative impacts with other projects

There are no additional cumulative impacts as a result of the proposed change to the proposal to that identified in the PER document.

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

The proposed change will not alter the potential connections and interactions of the environment from the original proposal.

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

The proposed change does not change 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

The level of public interest in the proposal will remain unchanged.

Schedule 1

Change to Proposal

Table 1: Summary of the proposal

Proposal title	Cooljarloo West Titanium Minerals Project
Proponent name	Tronox Management Pty Ltd
Short description	<p>The proposal is to expand a mineral sands mine located approximately 175 kilometres north of Perth and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of a transportation channel. • Construction of topsoil and overburden stockpiles. • Dredge mining of Kestral, Harrier, Woolka North and Woolka South orebodies. • Construction of tailings storage facility. • Movement of the dredge and concentrator from Cooljarloo West back to the Cooljarloo Mine through the transportation channel.

Table 2: Location and proposed extent of physical elements

Element	Figure	Current proposal	Changed proposal (s43A)
Disturbance	Figure 1	Clearing of no more than 1,886 ha within a development envelope of 3,812 ha.	<p>Disturbance footprint of no more than 2,033 ha within a development envelope of 3,812 ha.</p> <p>Disturbance footprint includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,884 ha clearing of additional native vegetation. • 53 ha already cleared native vegetation, of which 43 ha is within existing operations. • 96 ha pasture within existing operations.

Note: There is no change to any of the operational elements in the key characteristics table, so operational elements have not been included in this version of the table.

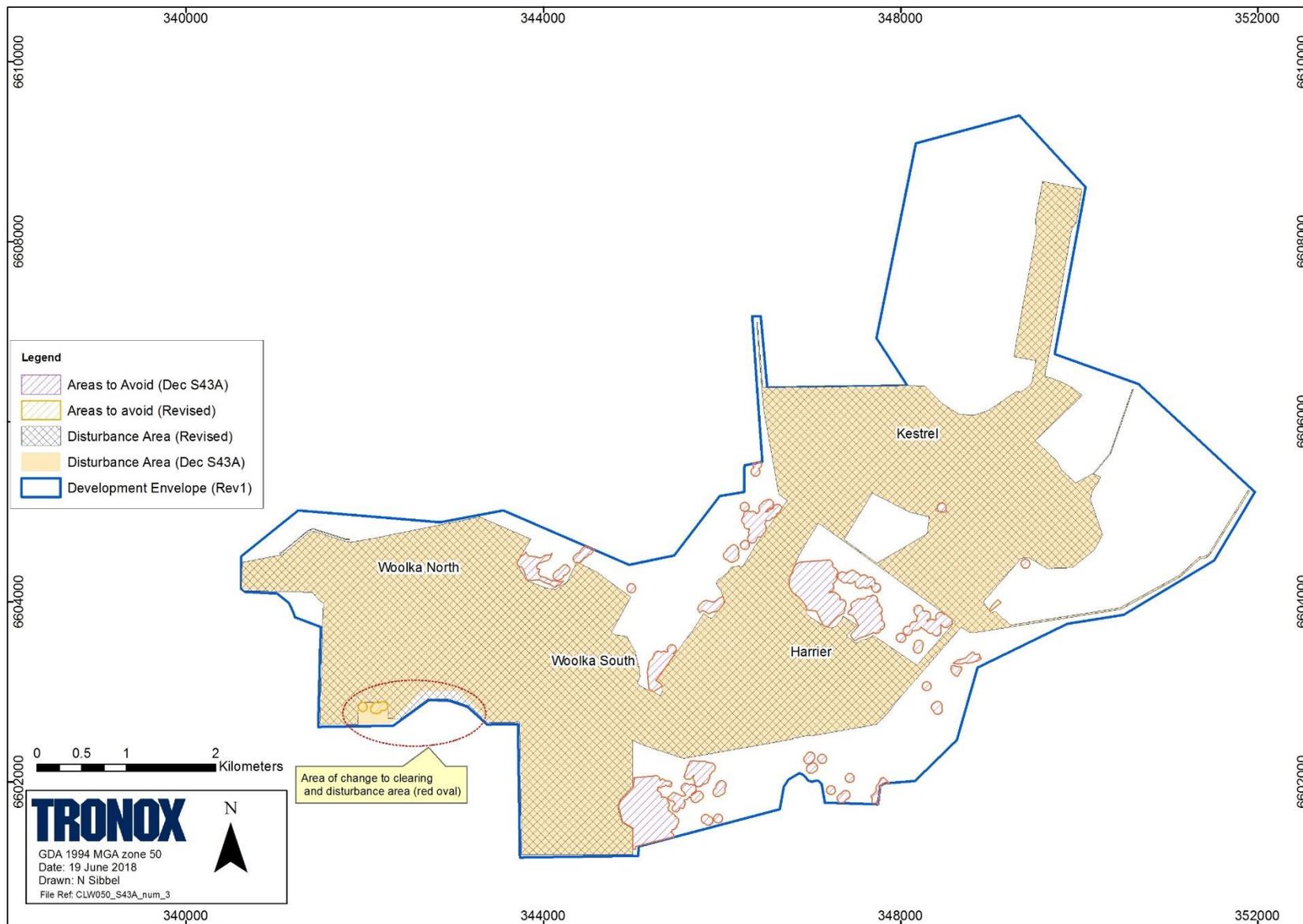


Figure 1: Proposed change – Development envelope, disturbance area (hatched beige) and avoidance areas