



**MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT;
LABOUR RELATIONS**

Statement No.

000500

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

NARNGULU TO OAKAJEE RAIL ROUTE

Proposal: The construction and operation of a 34 kilometre single narrow gauge rail line from the Oakajee Industrial Estate (approximately 23 kilometres North of Geraldton) to the Mullewa-Geraldton rail line. The rail line will meet the proposed standard gauge rail line from Talling Peak and the northern third of the rail line will consist of a dual (three rails) standard/narrow gauge rail line, as documented in schedule 1 of this statement.

Proponent: Westrail

Proponent Address: Westrail Centre, West Parade, PERTH WA 6000

Assessment Number: 1165

Report of the Environmental Protection Authority: Bulletin 915

The proposal to which the above report of the Environmental Protection Authority relates may be implemented subject to the following conditions and procedures:

1 Implementation

- 1-1 Subject to these conditions and procedures, the proponent shall implement the proposal as documented in schedule 1 of this statement.
- 1-2 Where the proponent seeks to change any aspect of the proposal as documented in schedule 1 of this statement in any way that the Minister for the Environment determines, on advice of the Environmental Protection Authority, is substantial, the proponent shall refer the matter to the Environmental Protection Authority.
- 1-3 Where the proponent seeks to change any aspect of the proposal as documented in schedule 1 of this statement in any way that the Minister for the Environment determines, on advice of the Environmental Protection Authority, is not substantial, those changes may be effected.

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2 Proponent Commitments

- 2-1 The proponent shall implement the consolidated environmental management commitments documented in schedule 2 of this statement.
- 2-2 The proponent shall implement subsequent environmental management commitments which the proponent makes as part of the fulfilment of conditions and procedures in this statement.

3 Environmental Management System

- 3-1 In order to manage the environmental impacts of the project, and to fulfil the requirements of the conditions and procedures in this statement, prior to ground-disturbing activities, the proponent shall demonstrate to the requirements of the Environmental Protection Authority on advice of the Department of Environmental Protection that there is in place an environmental management system which includes the following elements:
 - 1 An environmental policy and corporate commitment to it;
 - 2 Mechanisms and processes to ensure:
 - (1) planning to meet environmental requirements;
 - (2) implementation and operation of actions to meet environmental requirements;
 - (3) measurement and evaluation of environmental performance; and
 - 3 Review and improvement of environmental outcomes.
- 3-2 The proponent shall implement the environmental management system referred to in condition 3-1.

4 Noise Management

- 4-1 The proponent shall, subject to conditions 4-2, 4-3 and 4-4, design and operate the railway so as to limit the noise from passing trains to an L_{Amax} of 65 dB(A) at any point within 15 metres from existing residences located within 500 metres of the rail line.
- 4-2 Where the noise level from passing trains exceeds an L_{Amax} of 65 dB(A) at any point within 15 metres from a residence, the proponent shall offer to acoustically treat that residence to ensure that passing trains do not cause noise levels within the bedrooms to exceed an L_{Amax} of 55 dB(A).

Note: The type of acoustic treatment applied shall be agreed with the property owner, and the air quality in the bedrooms shall meet Australian Standard 1668.2-1991 when the windows are shut.

- 4-3 Where the noise level from passing trains exceeds an L_{Amax} of 75 dB(A) at any point within 15 metres from a residence, the proponent shall offer to purchase that residence or if practical relocate that residence.
- 4-4 Where agreement for the acoustic treatment, purchase, or relocation of a residence cannot be reached with the owner, the proponent shall prepare a Noise Management Plan for that residence, to the requirements, including timelines, of the Minister for the Environment on advice of the Environmental Protection Authority.

This Noise Management Plan shall detail the measures taken to reduce noise as far as practical, the actions taken to avoid complaints and provide for the opportunity to reopen negotiations for the acoustic treatment or purchase or relocation of the residence, with the owner in the future.

Note: Noise levels shall be measured in accordance with the Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997.

5 Decommissioning Management Plan

- 5-1 At least six months prior to decommissioning, the proponent shall prepare a Decommissioning Management Plan to the requirements of the Environmental Protection Authority on advice of the Department of Environmental Protection.

This Plan shall address:

- 1 removal or, if appropriate, retention of plant and infrastructure;
- 2 rehabilitation of all disturbed areas to a standard suitable for agreed new land uses; and
- 3 identification of contaminated areas, including provision of evidence of notification to relevant statutory authorities.

- 5-2 The proponent shall implement the Decommissioning Management Plan required by condition 5-1.

- 5-3 The proponent shall make the Decommissioning Management Plan required by condition 5-1 publicly available, to the requirements of the Environmental Protection Authority.

6 Proponent

- 6-1 The proponent for the time being nominated by the Minister for the Environment under section 38(6) or (7) of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 is responsible for the implementation of the proposal until such time as the Minister for the Environment has exercised the Minister's power under section 38(7) of the Act to revoke the nomination of that proponent and nominate another person in respect of the proposal.

- 6-2 Any request for the exercise of that power of the Minister referred to in condition 6-1 shall be accompanied by a copy of this statement endorsed with an undertaking by the proposed replacement proponent to carry out the proposal in accordance with the conditions and procedures set out in the statement.

- 6-3 The proponent shall notify the Department of Environmental Protection of any change of proponent contact name and address within 30 days of such change.

7 Commencement

- 7-1 The proponent shall provide evidence to the Minister for the Environment within five years of the date of this statement that the proposal has been substantially commenced.

- 7-2 Where the proposal has not been substantially commenced within five years of the date of this statement, the approval to implement the proposal as granted in this statement shall lapse and be void. The Minister for the Environment will determine any question as to whether the proposal has been substantially commenced.

- 7-3 The proponent shall make application to the Minister for the Environment for any extension of approval for the substantial commencement of the proposal beyond five years from the date of this statement at least twelve months prior to the expiration of the five year period referred to in conditions 7-1 and 7-2.
- 7-4 Where the proponent demonstrates to the requirements of the Minister for the Environment on advice of the Environmental Protection Authority that the environmental parameters of the proposal have not changed significantly, then the Minister may grant an extension not exceeding five years for the substantial commencement of the proposal.

8 Compliance Auditing

- 8-1 The proponent shall submit periodic Performance and Compliance Reports, in accordance with an audit program prepared in consultation between the proponent and the Department of Environmental Protection.
- 8-2 Unless otherwise specified, the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Environmental Protection is responsible for assessing compliance with the conditions, procedures and commitments contained in this statement and for issuing formal clearances.
- 8-3 Where compliance with any condition, procedure or commitment is in dispute, the matter will be determined by the Minister for the Environment.

CHERYL EDWARDES (Mrs) MLA
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

- 8 MAR 1999

Schedule 1

The Proposal

The construction and operation of a 34 kilometre single narrow gauge rail line.

The rail line will start at the Mullewa-Geraldton rail line east of the Narngulu Estate, which is about 5 kilometres south-east of Geraldton. The rail line then runs north, initially on the eastern side of the Moresby Range and to the west of Narra Tarra Moonyoonooka Road. The alignment passes through the Wokatherra Pass and then heads westerly to the Oakajee Industrial Estate, which is approximately 23 kilometres north of Geraldton.

The rail line will meet the proposed standard gauge rail line from Talling Peak and the northern third of the rail line will consist of a dual (three rails) standard/narrow gauge rail line.

Key characteristics table

Element	Description
Life of railway project	On-going
Duration of construction	approximately 18 months
Vegetation disturbance	1.2 hectares in Wokatherra Pass area
Major components:	
• railway reserve	40 metres overall width
• length	34 kilometres
• rail formation	6 metres wide
• drains	either side of rail formation.
• access road	3 metres wide in rail reserve
• fire break	3 metres wide on both boundaries of railway reserve.
• rail track	single
• ballast	47,600 tonnes sourced from existing quarries
• gauge	Narrow gauge from Geraldton-Mullewa railway to 13 kilometres east of North-West Coastal Highway. Dual narrow/standard gauge (three rails) west of this point.
• bridges	Over the Chapman River and over the North-West Coastal Highway.
• underpass	Under the Geraldton-Mount Magnet Road.

Route

The regional location of the rail route is shown on Figure 1.

Figures 2, 3 and 4, show the southern, central and northern portions of the rail route, respectively.

Note: In Figure 4 the rail route is labelled as "Modification to Alignment".

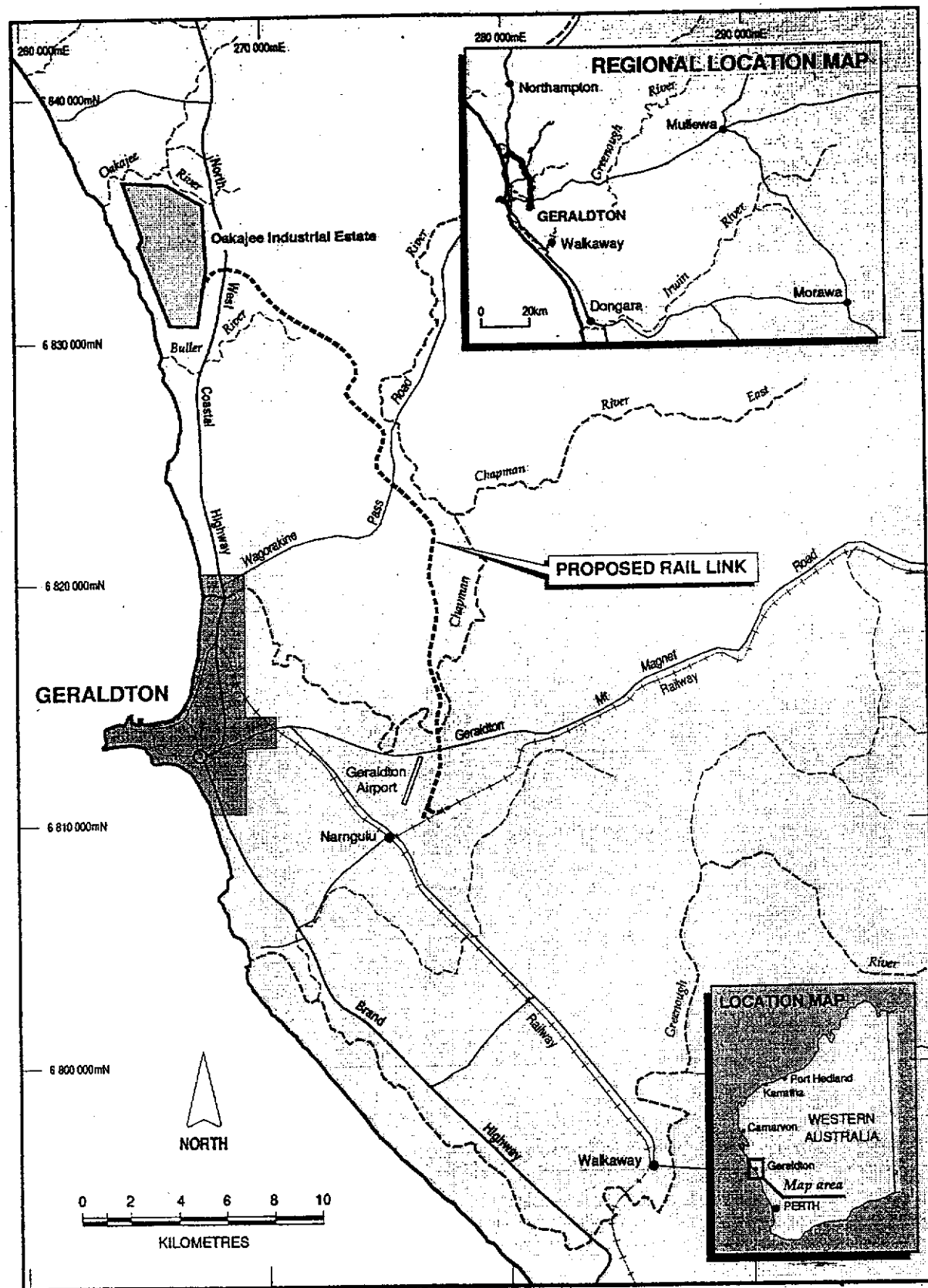
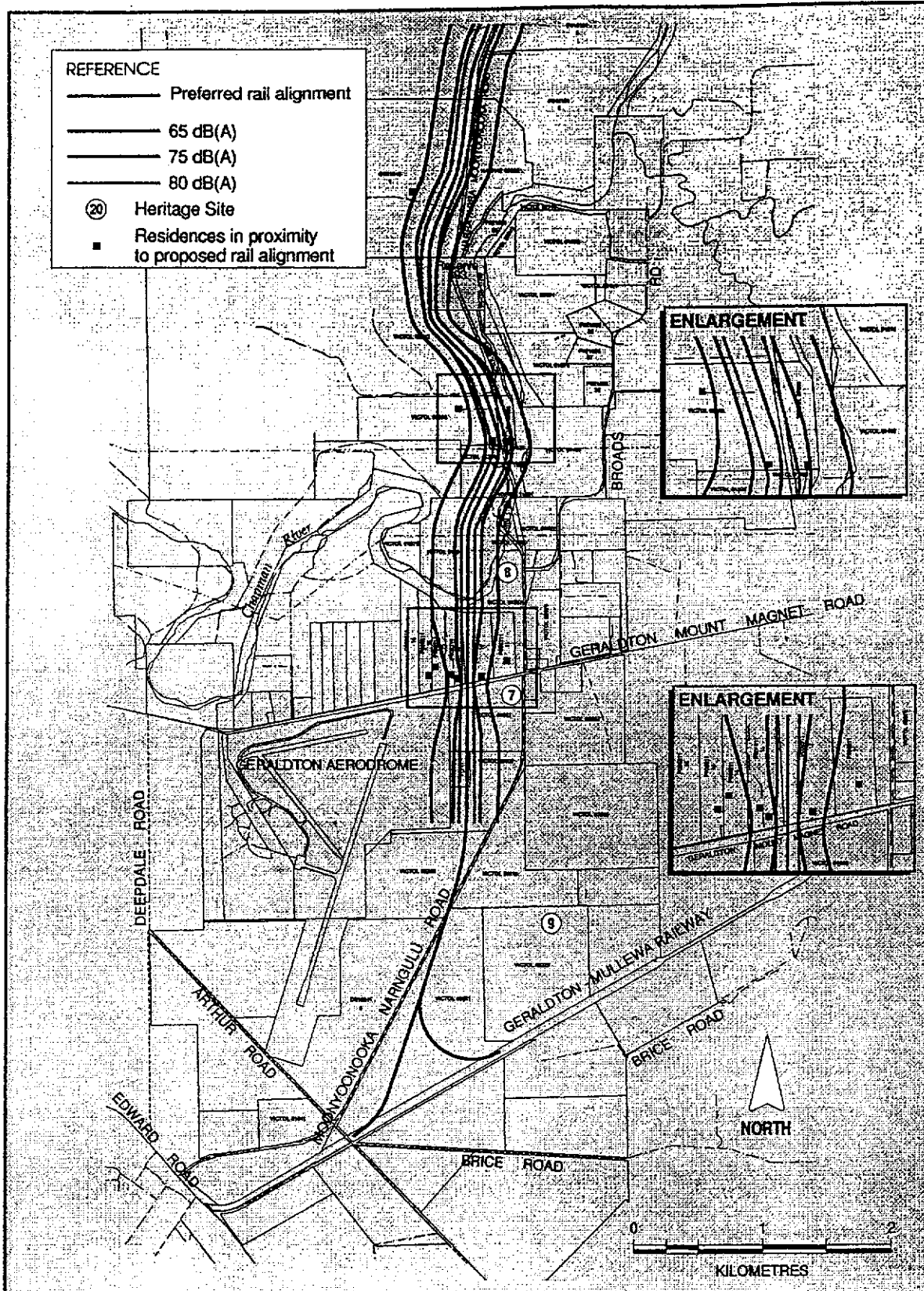
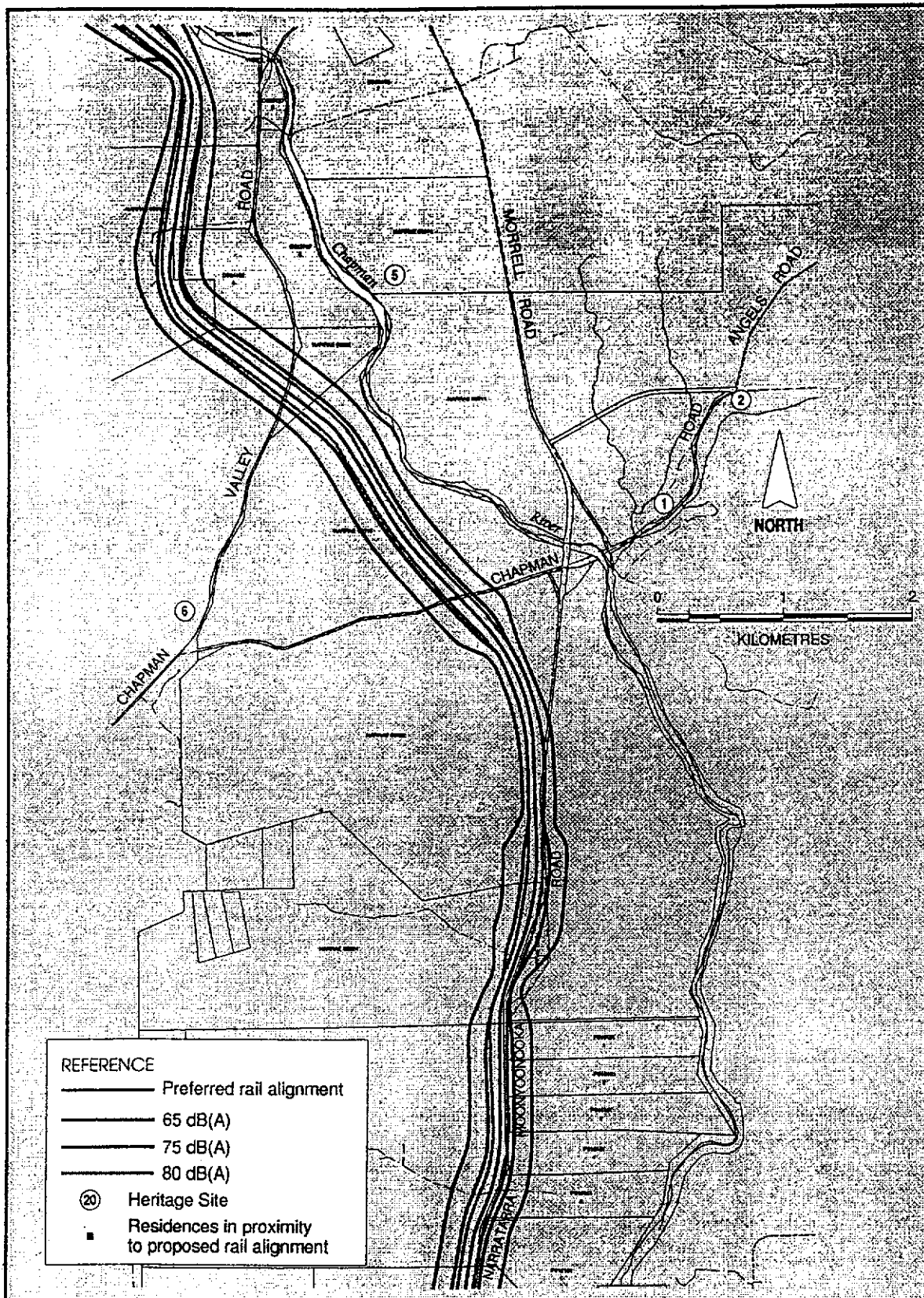
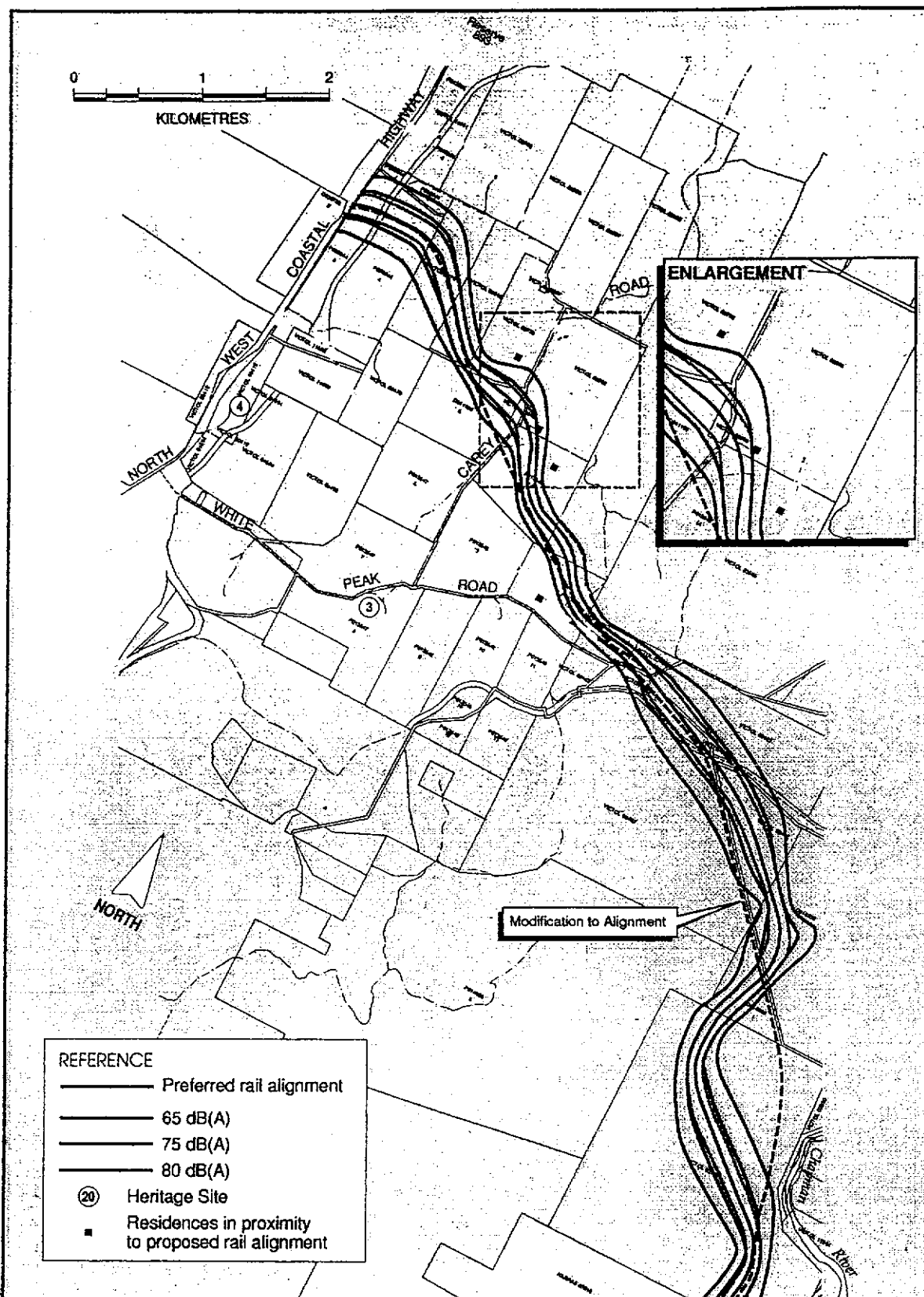


Figure 1. Regional location.







**Proponent's Consolidated Environmental Management
Commitments**

February 1999

**NARNGULU TO OAKAJEE RAIL ROUTE
(1165)**

WESTRAIL

SUMMARY OF PROPONENT'S COMMITMENTS - FEBRUARY 1999 (1165)

Summary of Commitment	Objective	Action	Timing	Whose Advice	Measurement/ Compliance criteria
1. Prepare and implement an environmental management plan (EMP) incorporating all management plans nominated in commitments (commitments 2, 5, 9 and 14).	To document the measures and procedures that will be used to minimise environmental impact.	By preparing and implementing the EMP.	Prepare before construction. Implement during construction and operation.	Shires of Chapman Valley and Greenough, DEP, WRC, Department of Aboriginal Affairs	Letter from Shires and Department of Aboriginal Affairs indicating the plan meets requirements. Implementation is consistent with EMP.
2. Prepare and implement a vegetation management plan (VMP) to protect, retain or rehabilitate to acceptable levels identified environmental values of remnant vegetation affected by the development.	To minimise the impact on vegetation communities	By refinement of rail alignment, rail design, rehabilitation and acquisition of land with comparable vegetation values.	Prepare before construction. Implement during construction.	DEP and CALM.	Letter from CALM indicating VMP meets their requirements. Implementation is consistent with the VMP.
3. The VMP to include but not be limited to: weed control and where appropriate eradication; dieback management measures; procedures to keep vegetation clearing to a minimum; and rehabilitation of areas to best practice standards where applicable.					
4. To compensate for the loss of particular conservation values at remnant "G" a remnant with equivalent vegetation and landscape values will be securely protected.					
5. A fauna management plan (FMP) which includes procedures and measures to keep impacts on the Blue-breasted Fairy-Wren (Malurus pulcherrimus) habitat and terrestrial and aquatic fauna to practical minimum	To minimise impacts on fauna.	By use of culverts, design of bridges, the railway and preparing and implementing the FMP.	Prepare before construction. Implement during construction.	CALM, WRC	Letter from CALM and WRC indicating the FMP meets its requirements. Implementation is consistent with FMP.

Summary of Commitment	Objective	Action	Timing	Whose Advice	Measurement/ Compliance criteria
6. Apply dust guidelines from the DEP document "Land development sites and impacts on air quality".	To ensure that there is no adverse dust impacts.	By preparing and implementing the EMP consistent with the DEP document and best practice for dust suppression.	Prepare before construction. Implement during construction and operation.	DEP and Shires	Letter from Shires indicating the EMP meets requirements. Implementation is consistent with EMP.
7. Establish a procedure for dust suppression from rail transportation, including the use of covered wagons or a crusting agent for the transport of iron ore.					
8. Document dust suppression procedures for dust blow areas.					
9. Prepare and implement a water supply and drainage management plan (WSDMP) which includes measures to make good water supplies that are disrupted and manage spills and stormwater.	To maintain water supplies, not to unduly affect land uses, vegetation and surface water quality.	By design of drainage systems, replacement of bores and dams, management procedures for spills and preparing and implementing a WSDMP.	Prepare before construction. Implement during construction.	WRC and Soil & Land Conservation	Letter from WRC indicating that the WSDMP meets its requirements. Implementation is consistent with WSDMP
10. Ethnographic and archaeological Aboriginal sites detected by survey will be avoided unless otherwise authorised.	To ensure compliance with the requirements of the heritage legislation.	By design and realignment of rail route and preparing and implementing an EMP.	Prepare before construction. Implement during construction.	Aboriginal Affairs Department.	Letter from Aboriginal Affairs Department indicating that the EMP meets requirements. Implementation is consistent with EMP.
11. Restore disrupted public and private access.	To ensure that impacts on social surrounds are managed. To ensure the rail reserve is managed to avoid conflict with adjacent land uses	By preparing and implementing procedures for compensation and providing road and internal access.	Prepare before construction. Implement during construction.	DEP	Letter from proponent advising of actions taken.
12. Establish and implement a procedure for compensation.					
13. The rail reserve will be managed to avoid conflict with adjoining land uses.					
14. Prepare and implement a landscape management plan (LMP).	To ensure that visual amenity is not unduly impacted.	By preparing and implementing a LMP.	Prepare before construction. Implement during construction.	Shires of Chapman Valley and Greenough and Moresby Range Management Committee.	Letter from Shires and Moresby Range Management Committee indicating the LMP meets requirements. Implementation is consistent with the LMP.
15. Establish native vegetation buffers in rail reserve					
16. Hydraulically assess river crossings.	To ensure that the afflux for each bridge/culvert associated with 100 year flow is acceptable.	By preparing hydraulic assessment.	Prepare before construction. Implement during construction.	WRC.	Letter from WRC indicating the hydraulic assessment is acceptable.