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Published on: 1 February 2013

Statement No: 933

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

**IRON VALLEY ABOVE WATERTABLE MINING PROJECT**

**Proposal:** The proposal is to construct and develop an iron ore mine and associated infrastructure on the Iron Valley tenement located approximately 90 kilometres north-west of Newman in the Shire of East Pilbara.

**Proponent:** IRON ORE HOLDINGS LTD  
Australian Company Number 107 492 517

**Proponent Address:** Level 1  
1 Altona Street  
WEST PERTH WA 6005

**Assessment Number:** 1905

**Report of the Environmental Protection Authority Number:** 1463

This statement authorises the implementation of the proposal described and documented in Columns 1 and 2 of Table 2 of Schedule 1. The implementation of the proposal is subject to the following implementation conditions and procedures and Schedule 1 details definitions of terms and phrases used in the implementation conditions and procedures.

**1 Proposal Implementation**

1-1 When implementing the proposal, the proponent shall not exceed the authorised extent of the proposal as defined in Column 3 of Table 2 in Schedule 1, unless amendments to the proposal and the authorised extent of the proposal has been approved under the EP Act.

## **2 Contact Details**

- 2-1 The proponent shall notify the CEO of any change of its name, physical address or postal address for the serving of notices or other correspondence within 28 days of such change. Where the proponent is a corporation or an association of persons, whether incorporated or not, the postal address is that of the principal place of business or of the principal office in the State.

## **3 Time Limit for Proposal Implementation**

- 3-1 The proponent shall not commence implementation of the proposal after the expiration of 5 years from the date of this statement, and any commencement, within this 5 year period, must be substantial.
- 3-2 Any commencement of implementation of the proposal, within 5 years from the date of this statement, must be demonstrated as substantial by providing the CEO with written evidence, on or before the expiration of 5 years from the date of this statement.

## **4 Compliance Reporting**

- 4-1 The proponent shall prepare and maintain a compliance assessment plan to the satisfaction of the CEO.
- 4-2 The proponent shall submit to the CEO the compliance assessment plan required by condition 4-1 at least six months prior to the first compliance assessment report required by condition 4-6, or prior to implementation, whichever is sooner.

The compliance assessment plan shall indicate:

- (1) the frequency of compliance reporting;
  - (2) the approach and timing of compliance assessments;
  - (3) the retention of compliance assessments;
  - (4) the method of reporting of potential non-compliances and corrective actions taken;
  - (5) the table of contents of compliance assessment reports; and
  - (6) public availability of compliance assessment reports.
- 4-3 The proponent shall assess compliance with conditions in accordance with the compliance assessment plan required by condition 4-1.
- 4-4 The proponent shall retain reports of all compliance assessments described in the compliance assessment plan required by condition 4-1 and shall make those reports available when requested by the CEO.
- 4-5 The proponent shall advise the CEO of any potential non-compliance within seven days of that non-compliance being known.

- 4-6 The proponent shall submit to the CEO the first compliance assessment report 15 months from the date of issue of this statement addressing the 12 month period from the date of issue of this statement and then annually from the date of submission of the first compliance assessment report.

The compliance assessment report shall:

- (1) be endorsed by the proponent's Managing Director or a person delegated to sign on the Managing Director's behalf;
- (2) include a statement as to whether the proponent has complied with the conditions;
- (3) identify all potential non-compliances and describe corrective and preventative actions taken;
- (4) be made publicly available in accordance with the approved compliance assessment plan; and
- (5) indicate any proposed changes to the compliance assessment plan required by condition 4-1.

## **5 Public Availability of Data**

- 5-1 Subject to condition 5-2, within a reasonable time period approved by the CEO of the issue of this statement and for the remainder of the life of the proposal the proponent shall make publicly available, in a manner approved by the CEO, all validated environmental data (including sampling design, sampling methodologies, empirical data and derived information products (e.g. maps)) relevant to the assessment of this proposal and implementation of this statement.

- 5-2 If any data referred to in condition 5-1 contains particulars of:

- (1) a secret formula or process; or
- (2) confidential commercially sensitive information;

the proponent may submit a request for approval from the CEO to not make this data publicly available. In making such a request the proponent shall provide the CEO with an explanation and reasons why the data should not be made publicly available.

## **6 Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems**

- 6-1 The proponent shall ensure that groundwater drawdown associated with the proposal does not cause long term impacts to the health and abundance of *Eucalyptus victrix* outside the approved disturbance footprint as shown in Figure 3 of Schedule 1.
- 6-2 Prior to the commencement of groundwater abstraction, the proponent shall conduct a targeted survey to determine the spatial extent and health of *E. victrix* inside the expected area of groundwater drawdown as shown in Figure 3 of Schedule 1, to the satisfaction of the CEO.

- 6-3 The proponent shall repeat the surveys undertaken pursuant to condition 6-2 following the commencement of groundwater abstraction in the project area annually or at a frequency agreed by the CEO.
- 6-4 Where the results of monitoring undertaken pursuant to condition 6-3 indicate adverse changes in the extent or condition of *E. victrix*, the proponent shall provide a report to the CEO within 21 days which:
- (1) describes the decline or change;
  - (2) provides information which allows determination of the likely root cause of the decline or change; and
  - (3) if considered likely to be the result of activities undertaken in implementing the proposal, describe which management actions will be implemented and the associated timelines to remediate the decline or change.
- 6-5 The proponent shall implement the actions identified in condition 6-4(3) until the CEO determines that the remedial actions may cease.

## **7 Weeds**

- 7-1 The proponent shall prevent the establishment of any new species of weeds within the project footprint as defined in Figure 1 of Schedule 1.
- 7-2 The proponent shall ensure there is no increase in weed cover, extent or diversity of weeds in the project footprint as defined in Figure 1 of Schedule 1.
- 7-3 Prior to ground-disturbing activities in the project area, the proponent shall undertake and submit a baseline weed survey to identify the presence, extent, species diversity and invasive characteristics of weeds and weed cover, to the satisfaction of the CEO.
- 7-4 The proponent shall repeat the surveys undertaken pursuant to condition 7-3 following the commencement of ground disturbance activities in the project footprint annually or at a frequency agreed by the CEO.
- 7-5 Where the results of monitoring undertaken pursuant to condition 7-4 indicate adverse changes in the presence, extent, species diversity and invasive characteristics of weeds and weed cover, the proponent shall:
- (1) immediately implement, and/or propose appropriately timed weed control measures in affected areas to the satisfaction of the CEO;
  - (2) submit details of weed control measures that have or will be implemented pursuant to condition 7-5 (1) and any proposed rehabilitation measures to be implemented to the CEO, within 21 days of becoming aware of adverse changes; and
  - (3) implement weed control and rehabilitation measures detailed pursuant to condition 7-5 (2) until such time as the CEO agrees implementation may cease.

## **8 Short Range Endemic Fauna**

- 8-1 In order to ensure that the proposal does not result in significant impacts to the population size or distribution of *Aganippe* MYG086, the proponent shall ensure that no clearing or loss of vegetation occurs within the area of vegetation defined as Zone 1 in Figure 2 of Schedule 1, unless otherwise approved by the CEO under condition 8-2.
- 8-2 Should the proponent demonstrate to the satisfaction of the CEO that *Aganippe* MYG086 is not a Short Range Endemic species, the proponent may apply to the CEO for approval to disturb vegetation within Zone 1.

## **9 Surface Water**

- 9-1 The proponent shall ensure that:
- (1) run-off and/or seepage from waste material landforms and other disturbed areas does not cause a detrimental change to the quality of surface water downstream of the project footprint relative to pre-mining surface water quality established in baseline surveys required by condition 9-3; and
  - (2) alterations to surface water flows associated with the proposal in the Iron valley Catchment do not result in significant detrimental changes to the hydrological regime of water entering the Weeli Wolli Creek catchment relative to pre-mining conditions.
- 9-2 The proponent shall:
- (1) monitor the quality of surface water at locations not more than 500 metres upstream and downstream of the waste material landforms and other disturbed areas quarterly to ensure that the requirements of condition 9-1 (1) are met. This monitoring is to be carried out using methods consistent with ANZECC Guideline (and its updates) and to the satisfaction of the CEO.
  - (2) monitor surface water flows to the satisfaction of the CEO to ensure that the requirements of condition 9-1 (2) are being met.
- 9-3 The proponent shall commence the monitoring required by condition 9-2 prior to the commencement of ground disturbing activities in order to collect baseline data.
- 9-4 In the event that monitoring required by condition 9-2 indicates that the requirements of condition 9-1 are not being met, the proponent shall provide a report to the CEO within 21 days which:
- (1) describes the decline or change;
  - (2) provides information which allows determination of the likely root cause of the decline or change; and
  - (3) if considered likely to be the result of activities undertaken in implementing the proposal, describe which management actions will be implemented and the associated timelines to remediate the decline or change.

9-5 The proponent shall implement the actions identified in condition 9-4 (3) until the CEO determines that the remedial actions may cease.

## **10 Residual Impacts**

10-1 In view of the significant residual impacts as a result of implementation of the proposal, the proponent shall contribute funding for the impact to good to excellent condition native vegetation to the strategic regional conservation initiative for the Pilbara as pursuant to condition 10-2.

10-2 The proponent's contribution to the initiative identified in condition 10-1 based on approximately 670 ha of good to excellent condition native vegetation at \$1500 AUD/ha shall be paid in annual instalments of \$100,000 AUD (excluding GST) per year over ten years, with the first payment due within twelve months of ground disturbance.

10-3 The real value of contributions described in condition 10-2 will be maintained through indexation to the Perth Consumer Price Index, with the first adjustment to be applied to the first contribution.

[Signed 1 February 2013]

**HON BILL MARMION MLA  
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT; WATER**

**Table 1: Summary of the proposal**

<b>Short Description</b>	<p>Iron Ore Holdings Ltd proposes to develop an iron ore mine on its Iron Valley tenement located approximately 90 kilometres north-west of Newman in the Shire of East Pilbara. The proponent has identified a resource of 50 million tonnes to be mined at up to 5 million tonnes per annum.</p> <p>The project would include blast and hydraulic shovel open pit mining wholly above the watertable, dry crushing and screening and transport of product by road.</p> <p>Permanent surface water diversions would be required to redirect three minor tributaries around the project area and into Weeli Wolli Creek, which runs to the east of the project area.</p> <p>Infrastructure would include office buildings, power production, internal roads, hazardous material storage, waste management facilities, surface water diversions and an accommodation camp.</p>
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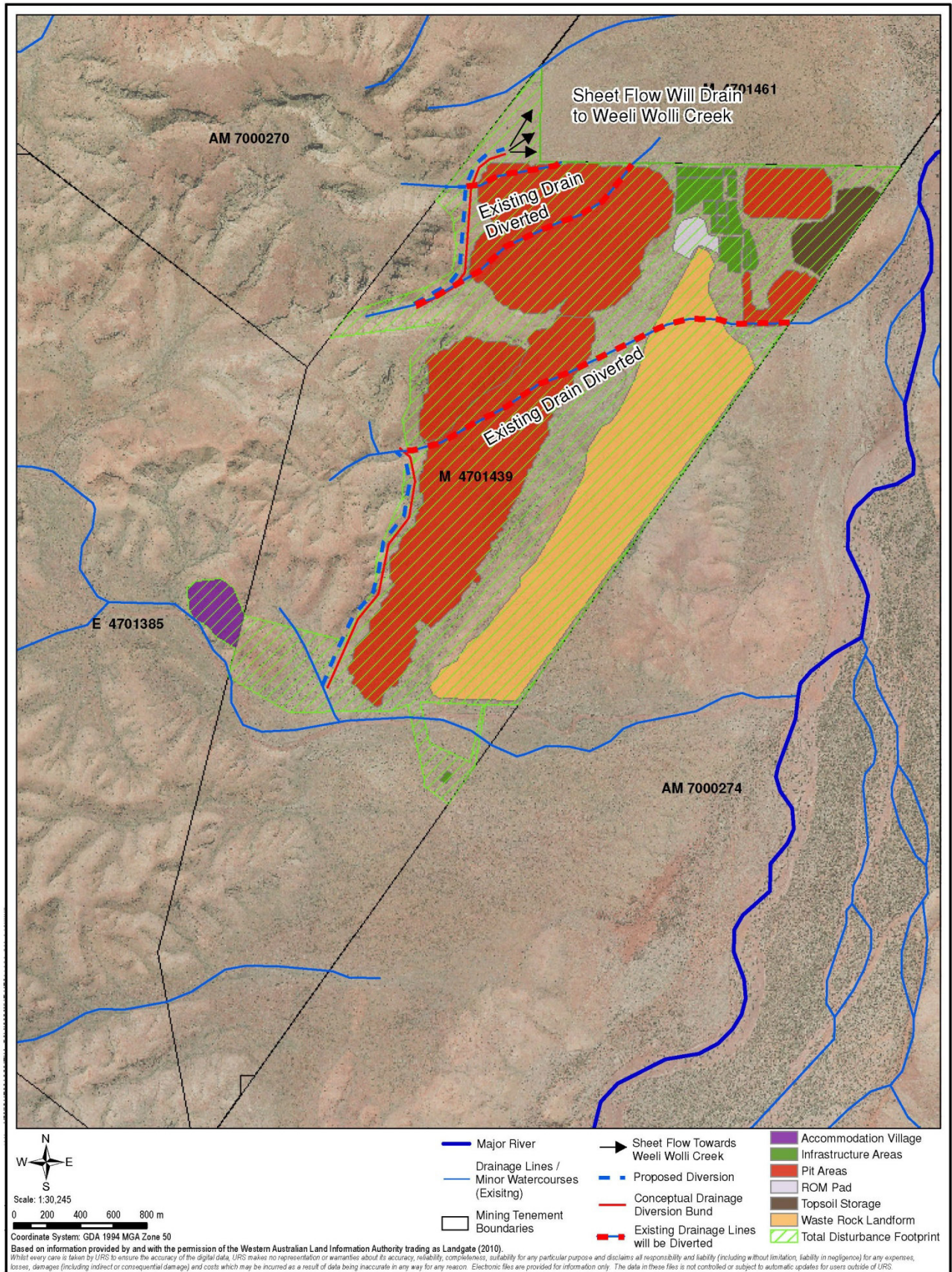
**Table 2: Location and authorised extent of physical and operational elements**

<b>Element</b>	<b>Location/Description</b>	<b>Authorised Extent</b>
Project footprint (Total Disturbance Footprint)	See figure 1	Up to 674 hectares
Pit Depth	Excavation to remain above the watertable	An unsaturated zone of at least 3 metres to be maintained in mine pits.
Waste rock dump	See figure 1	Up to 137 hectares with a maximum height of 30 metres
Water use	Water supply sourced from a single bore within the tenement	Up to 360 mega litres per year

**Figures**

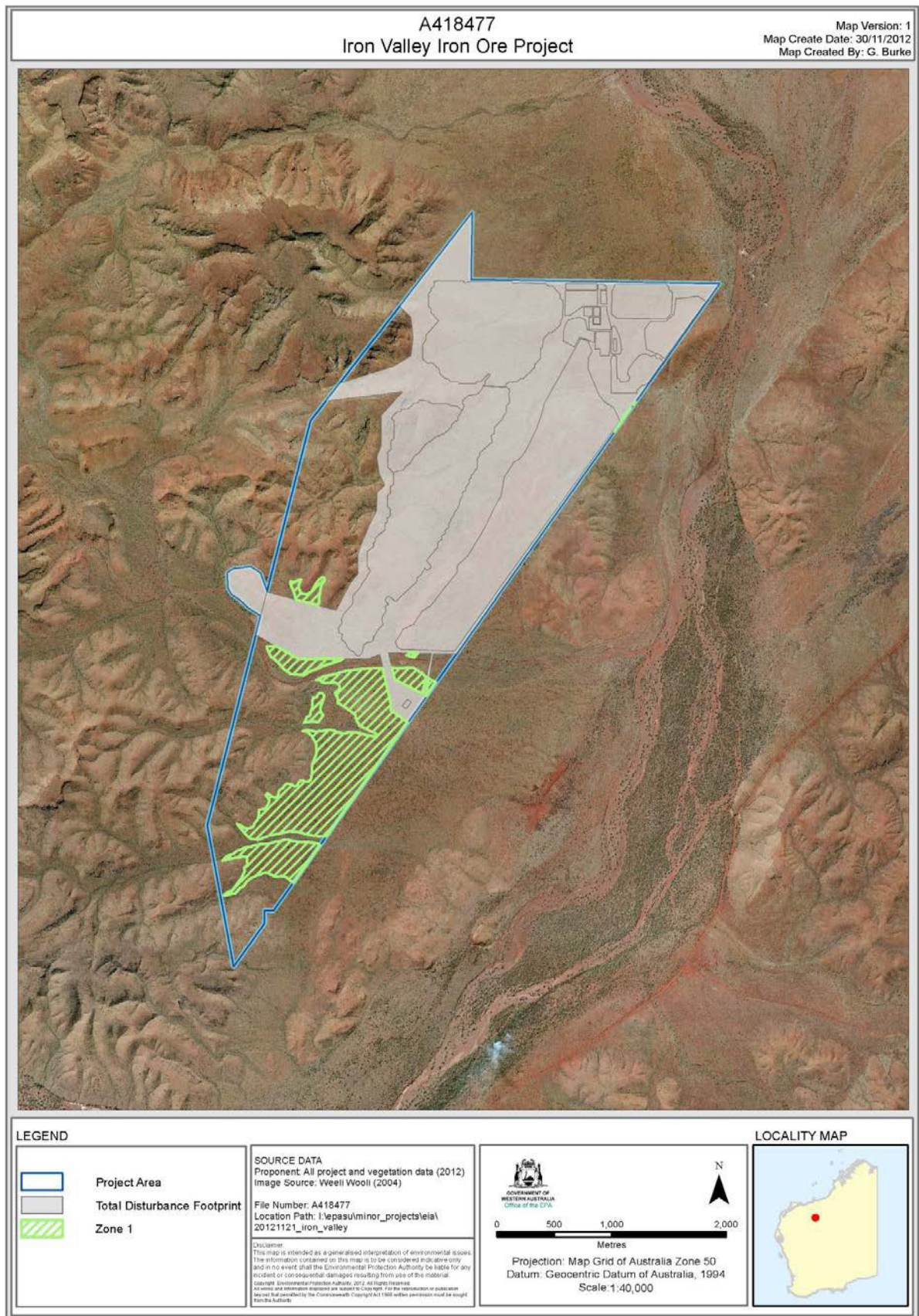
- Figure 1 Project layout
- Figure 2 Potential short range endemic *Aganippe* MYG086 – Zone 1 Undisturbed Vegetation Type 3 in tenement area
- Figure 3 Predicted aquifer drawdown





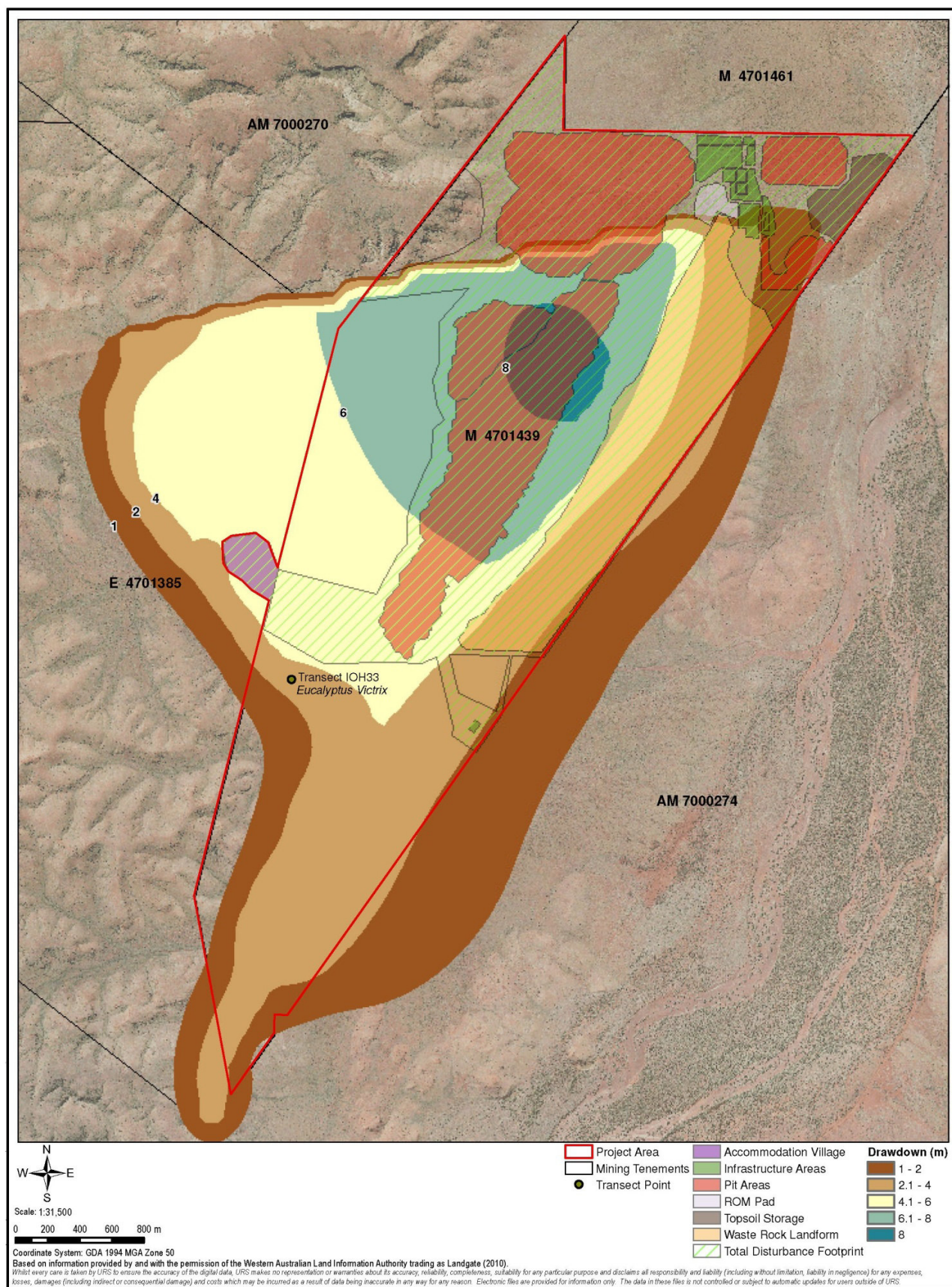
**Figure 1. Project layout**





**Figure 2. Potential short range endemic *Aganippe* MYG086 – Zone 1 Undisturbed Vegetation Type 3 in tenement area**





**Figure 3. Predicted aquifer drawdown**

## Schedule 2

Term or Phrase	Definition
CEO	The Chief Executive Officer of the Department of the Public Service of the State responsible for the administration of section 48 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> , or his delegate.
EP Act	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i>
AUD	Australian Dollars
GST	Goods and Services Tax
ANZECC	Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council and Agriculture and Resource Management Council of Australia and New Zealand 2000, <i>Australian Water Quality Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Waters</i>

### Notes

The following notes are provided for information and do not form a part of the implementation conditions of the statement:

- The proponent for the time being nominated by the Minister for Environment under section 38(6) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* is responsible for the implementation of the proposal unless and until that nomination has been revoked and another person is nominated.
- If the person nominated by the Minister, ceases to have responsibility for the proposal, that person is required to provide written notice to the Environmental Protection Authority of its intention to relinquish responsibility for the proposal and the name of the person to whom responsibility for the proposal will pass or has passed. The Minister for Environment may revoke a nomination made under section 38(6) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* and nominate another person.
- To initiate a change of proponent, the nominated proponent and proposed proponent are required to complete and submit *Post Assessment Form 1 – Application to Change Nominated Proponent*.
- The General Manager of the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority was the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of the Public Service of the State responsible for the administration of section 48 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* at the time the statement was signed by the Minister for Environment.

## Attachment 1 to Ministerial Statement 933

### Change to proposal approved under section 45C of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*

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This Attachment replaces Schedule 1 of Ministerial Statement 933

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**Proposal: Iron Valley Above Watertable Mining Project**

**Proponent: Iron Ore Holdings Ltd (ACN: 107 492 517)**

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#### **Changes:**

- Changes to surface water management (changes to Table 1 and Figure 1)

**Table 1: Summary of the Proposal**

<b>Short Description</b>	<b>The proposal is to develop an iron ore mine approximately 90 kilometres north-west of Newman in the Shire of East Pilbara.</b>  <b>The project would include blast and hydraulic shovel open pit mining wholly above the watertable, dry crushing and screening and transport of product by road.</b>
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**Table 2: Location and authorised extent of physical and operational elements**

Element	Location	Authorised Extent
Project footprint (Total Disturbance Footprint)	See Figure 1	Up to 674 hectares
Pit Depth	Excavation to remain above the watertable	An unsaturated zone of at least 3 metres to be maintained in mine pits.
Waste Rock Dump	See Figure 1	Up to 137 hectares with a maximum height of 30 metres
Water use	Water supply sourced from a single bore within the tenement	Up to 360 mega litres per year

Note: Text in **bold** indicates a change to the proposal.

**Replacement Figures (attached)**

**Figure 1 Project layout;**

Figure 2 Potential short range endemic Aganippe MYG086 – Zone 1 Undisturbed Vegetation Type 3 in tenement area

Figure 3 Predicted aquifer drawdown

[Signed: 23 January 2015]

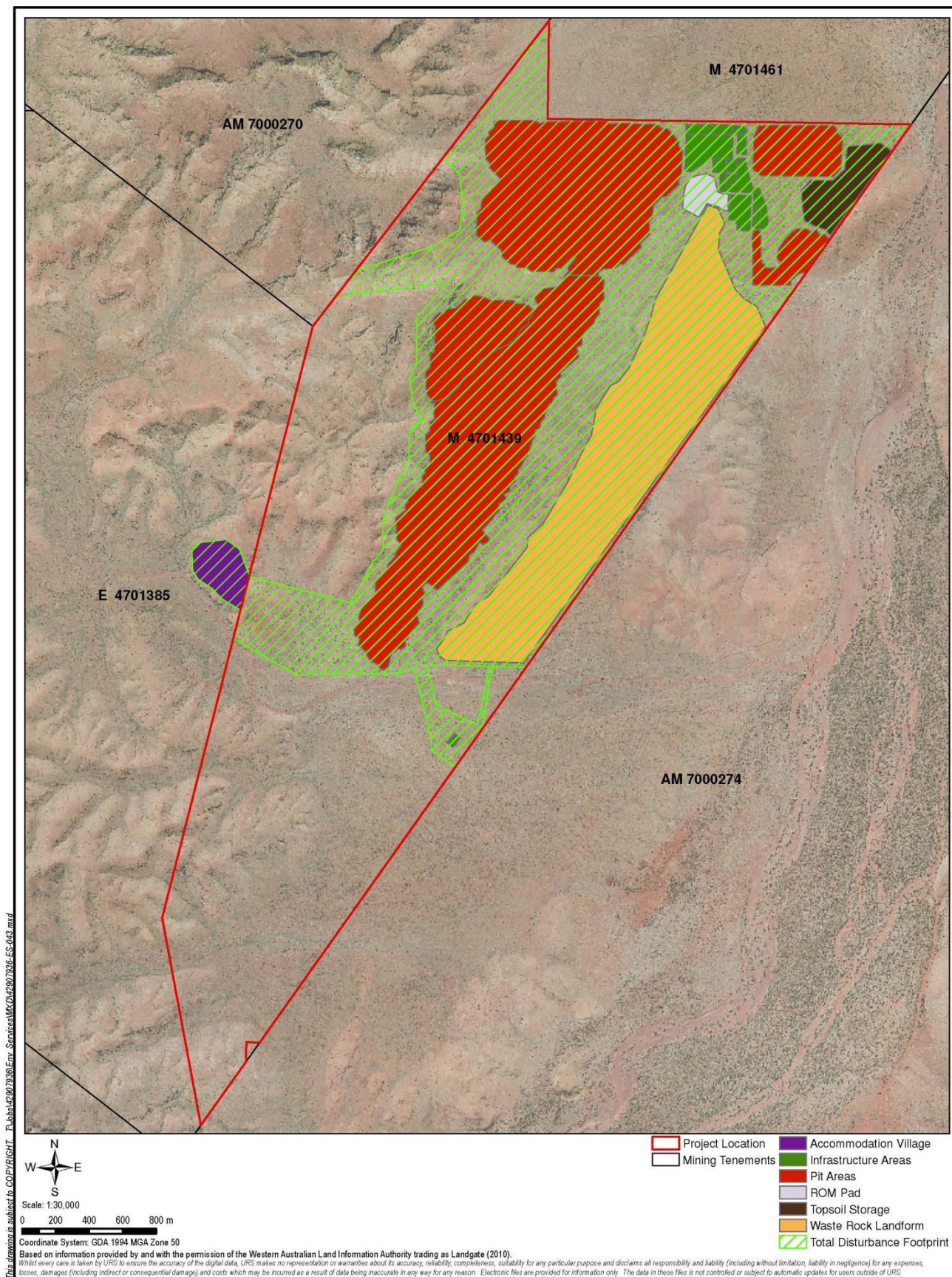
**Dr Paul Vogel**

CHAIRMAN

Environmental Protection Authority

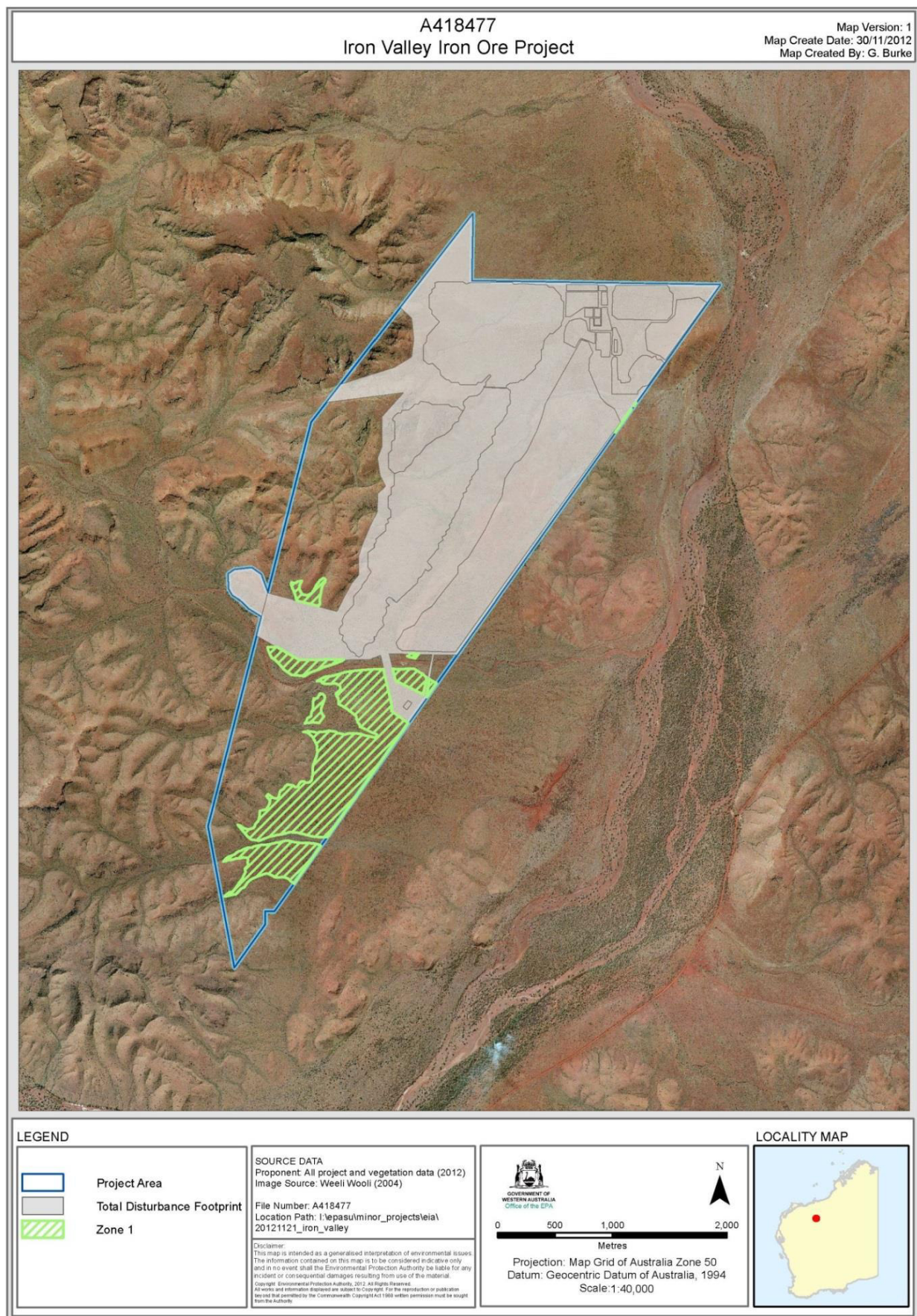
for the Minister for Environment  
under Notice of Delegation dated 24 November 2004.





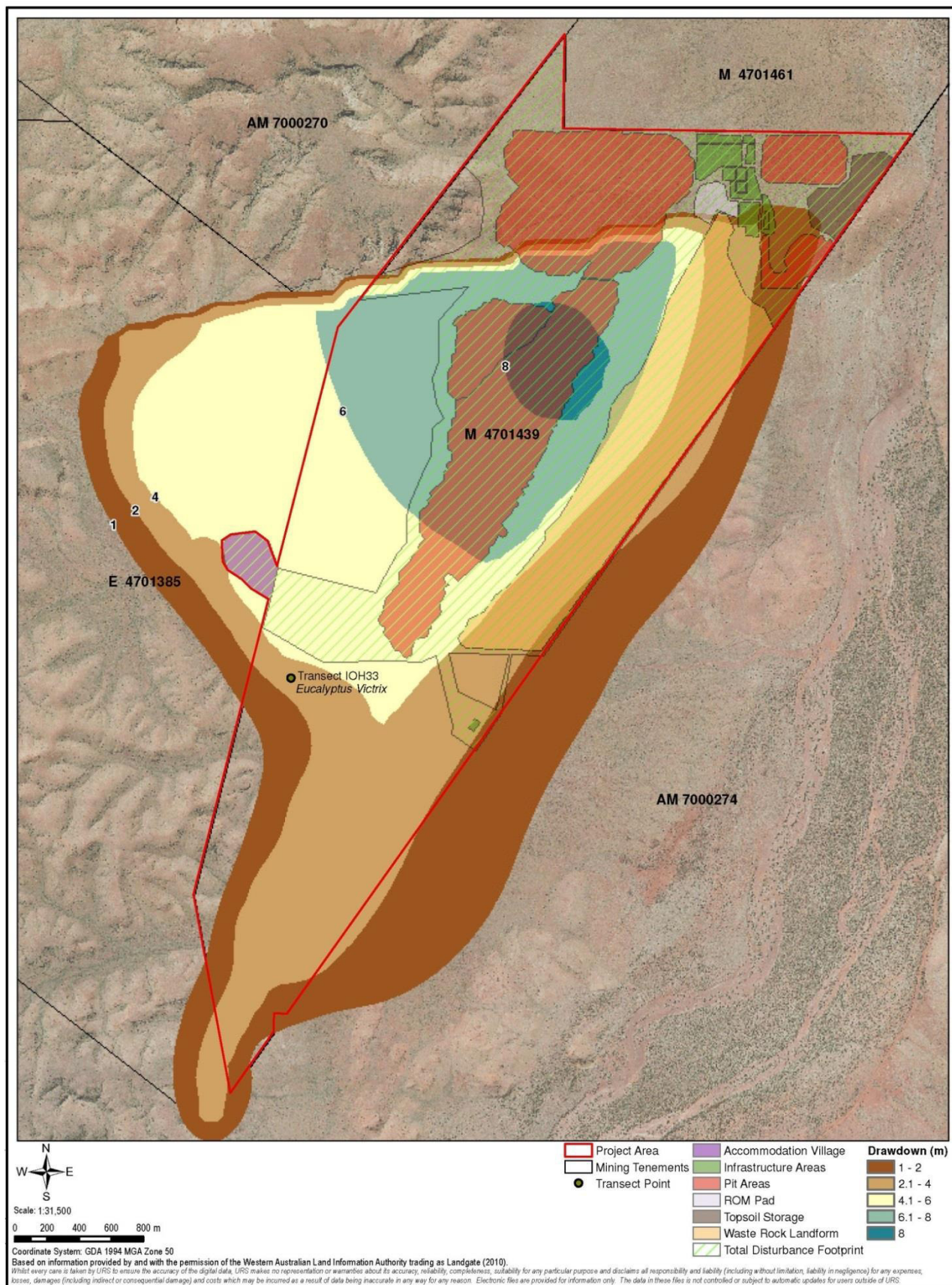
**Figure 1. Project layout**





**Figure 2. Potential short range endemic *Aganippe* MYG086 – Zone 1 Undisturbed Vegetation Type 3 in tenement area**





**Figure 3. Predicted aquifer drawdown**

## Attachment 2 to Ministerial Statement 933

### Change to proposal approved under section 45C of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*

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This Attachment replaces Table 2 in attachment 1 of Ministerial Statement 933

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**Proposal: Iron Valley above Watertable Mining Project**

**Proponent: BC Pilbara Iron Ore Pty Ltd**

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**Change: Increase to water use from 360 to 720 mega litres per year**

**Table 2: Location and authorised extent of physical and operational elements**

Column 1 Element	Column 2 Location	Column 3 Authorised Extent	Column 4 Previously Authorised Extent
Project footprint (Total Disturbance Footprint)	See Figure 1	Up to 674 hectares	Up to 674 hectares
Pit Depth	Excavation to remain above the watertable	An unsaturated zone of at least 3 metres to be maintained in mine pits.	An unsaturated zone of at least 3 metres to be maintained in mine pits.
Waste Rock Dump	See Figure 1	Up to 137 hectares with a maximum height of 30 metres	Up to 137 hectares with a maximum height of 30 metres
Water use	Water supply sourced from <b>two</b> bores within the tenement	Up to <b>720</b> mega litres per year	Up to 360 mega litres per year

Note: Text in **bold** in Table 2 indicates a change to the proposal.

[Signed 19 October 2015]

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**Dr Paul Vogel**  
CHAIRMAN  
Environmental Protection Authority  
under delegated authority

## Attachment 3 to Ministerial Statement 933

### Change to proposal approved under section 45C of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*

This Attachment replaces Schedule 1 of Ministerial Statement 933 and Attachment 1 and Attachment 2 of Ministerial Statement 933

**Proposal: Iron Valley Above Watertable Mining Project**

**Proponent: BC Pilbara Iron Ore Pty Ltd**

#### Changes:

- Remove 'wholly above the watertable' from the short description of the project.
- Temporary approval to discharge 2 GL of surplus groundwater.
- Remove the 'Pit Depth' element from the Key Characteristics Table.

**Table 1: Summary of the Proposal**

Proposal Title	Iron Valley Above Watertable Mining Project
Short Description	The proposal is to develop an iron ore mine approximately 90 kilometres north-west of Newman in the Shire of East Pilbara. <b>The project would include blast and hydraulic shovel open pit mining, dry crushing and screening and transport of product by road.</b>

Note: Text in **bold** in Table 1 indicates a change to the proposal.

**Table 2: Location and authorised extent of physical and operational elements**

Element	Location	Previously Authorised Extent	Authorised Extent
<b>Mine and associated infrastructure</b>	<b>Figure 2</b>	Up to 674 hectares	<b>Clearing of no more than 674 hectares within the Project Area</b>
Pit Depth	Excavation to remain above the water table	An unsaturated zone of at least 3 metres to be maintained in mine pits	<b>Pit depth element removed as not environmentally relevant</b>
Waste Rock Dump	Figure 1	Up to 137 hectares with a maximum height of 30 metres.	Up to 137 hectares with a maximum height of 30 metres.
Water supply	<b>Figure 2</b>	Up to 720 mega litres per year	Up to 720 Megalitres per year <b>of groundwater sourced from two bores within the Project Area</b>
Temporary surplus groundwater management	<b>Figure 2</b>	<b>Not previously authorised</b>	<b>Disposal of up to 2 Gigalitres groundwater during a period of 12 months from 1 July</b>

Element	Location	Previously Authorised Extent	Authorised Extent
			<b>2016 to 30 June 2017, to multiple bores and/or sumps to a creekline within the Project Area</b>
<b>Groundwater drawdown</b>	<b>Figure 3</b>	<b>Not previously authorised</b>	<b>Limit aquifer drawdown to the spatial extent defined by the groundwater contours</b>

Note: Text in **bold** in Table 2 indicates a change to the proposal.

#### **Figures (attached)**

Figure 1 Project layout

Figure 2 Potential short range endemic Aganippe MYG086 – Zone 1 Undisturbed Vegetation Type 3 in tenement area

Figure 3 Predicted aquifer drawdown

[Signed 2 May 2016]

**Dr Tom Hatton**

CHAIRMAN

Environmental Protection Authority  
under delegated authority

Approval date: \_\_\_\_\_



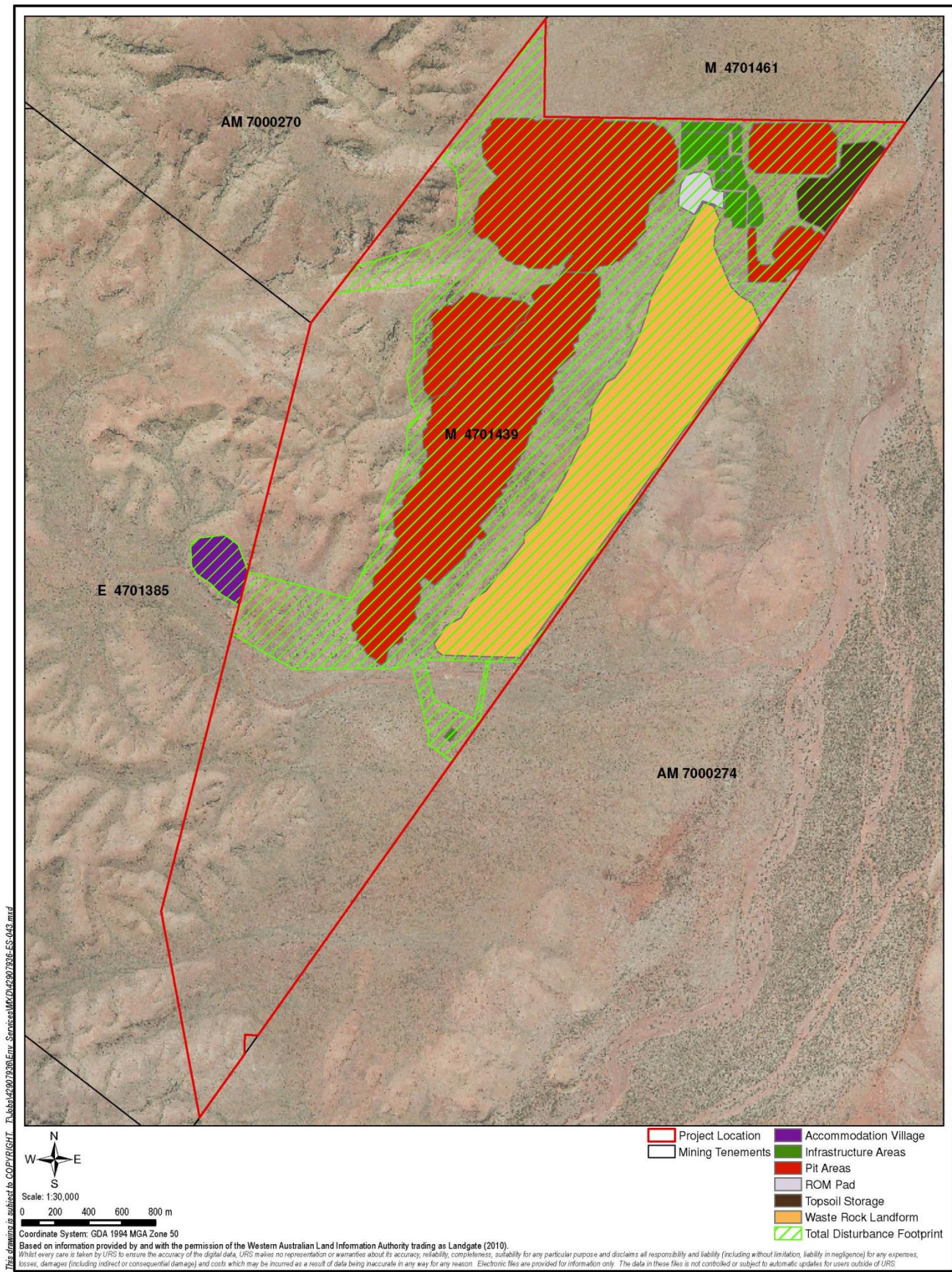
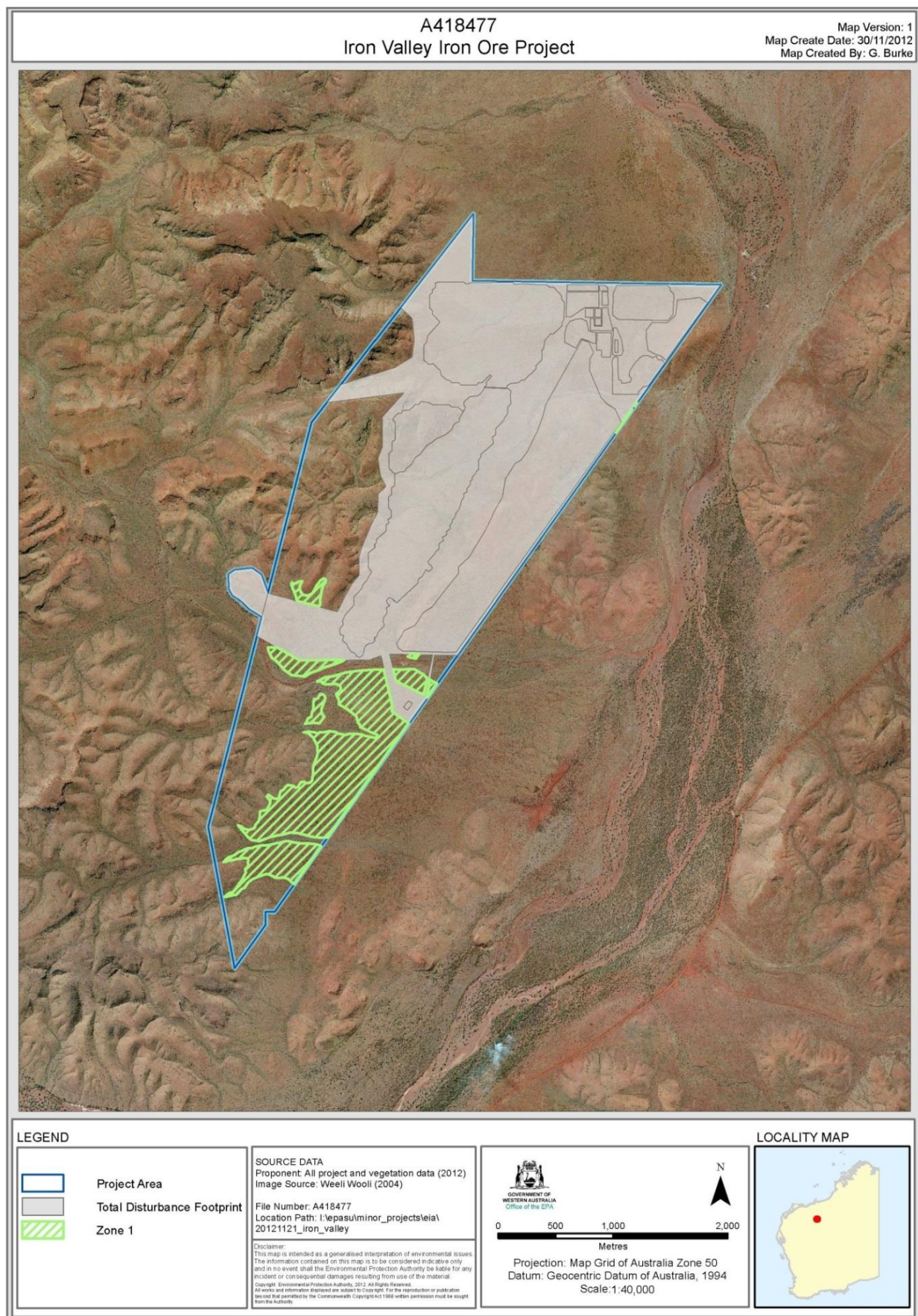


Figure 1. Project layout





**Figure 2. Potential short range endemic *Aganippe* MYG086 – Zone 1 Undisturbed Vegetation Type 3 in tenement area**



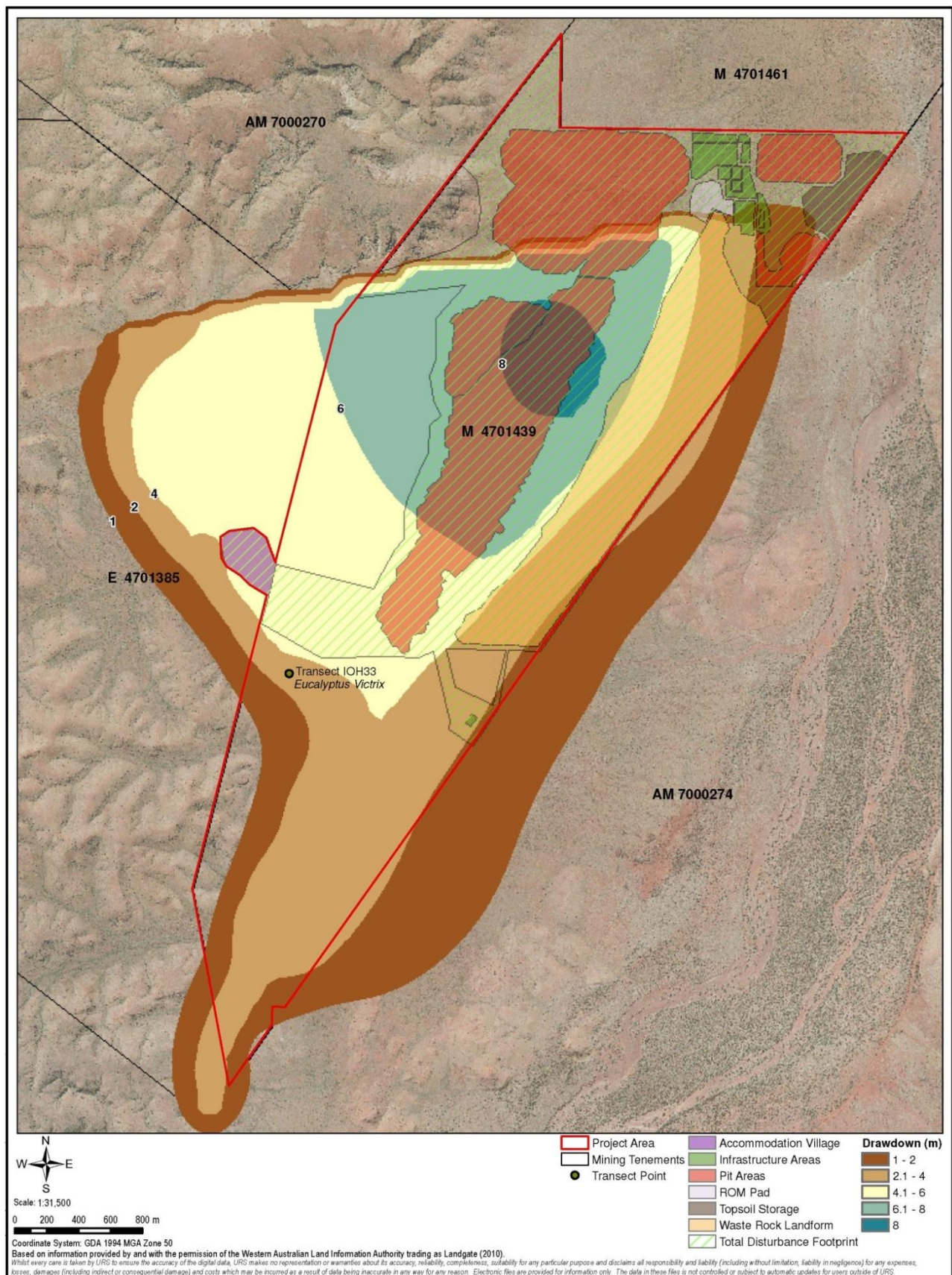


Figure 3. Predicted aquifer drawdown