

Environmental Protection Authority

Environmental Protection Act 1986

Section 45C

NOTICE OF DECISION TO CONSENT TO AMEND AN APPROVED PROPOSAL AND IMPLEMENTATION CONDITIONS WITHOUT INQUIRY

PERSON TO WHOM THIS NOTICE IS GIVEN

Minara Resources Ltd

PROPOSAL TO WHICH THIS NOTICE RELATES

Murrin Murrin Nickel-Cobalt Project Stage 2 Expansion, 60 km east of Leonora

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT and ANY APPROVED CHANGES

Ministerial Statement 506, issued 31 May 1999

DECISION

Pursuant to s. 45C (1) (c) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act), the Chair acting as delegate for the Minister for Environment gives approval to the following amendments of the approved proposal:

- Addition of an 849 hectares (ha) Hybrid Renewable Energy (HRE) development envelope (DE), 404 ha of which overlaps the Mining development envelope, and 455 ha is an overall increase in combined Mining and HRE development envelope of 20,627 ha.
- Increased disturbance of 188 hectares (ha) for the construction and operation of hybrid renewable energy system consisting of a solar farm, wind turbines, battery storage system and associated infrastructure.
- Additional Proponent commitment required by Condition 2 to implement the *MMO Hybrid Renewable Energy Project – Bird and Bat Adaptive Management Plan (2025)*.

A proposal content document and Attachment 9 to Ministerial Statement 506 (MS 506) are attached.

SUMMARY OF REASONS

- The proposed amendments will result in an overall increase to development envelope(s) by 445 hectares for the purpose of construction and operation of a hybrid renewable energy (HRE) system consisting of a solar farm, wind turbines, battery storage system and associated infrastructure.
- The proposed amendment will result in up to 188 ha of additional clearing of native vegetation.

- The amendment will impact vegetation which occurs extensively across the Murchison IBRA region, covering approximately 12 million ha across the state. Additional clearing representing less than 0.01% is not considered cumulatively significant.
- The proponent has applied the mitigation hierarchy and avoided conservation significant flora and vegetation in accordance with proponent commitment 4 under MS 506.
- The EPA noted no records of conservation significant mallee fowl and night parrot or suitable habitats for these species exist within the development envelopes that require detailed assessment.
- The development envelopes contain unfavourable breeding and foraging habitats for the specially protected peregrine falcon and vulnerable grey falcon (*Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*). Limited habitat value and infrequent visitation by these species will not result in a significant impact to their biological diversity and ecological integrity.
- A low flying bird species, the southern whiteface, which is listed as vulnerable (*Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*) is unlikely to interact with wind turbine infrastructure. The presence of extensive supporting habitat within and outside the development envelope ensures impacts to habitat is not significant to the persistence of the species.
- The proponent will implement a Bird and Bat Adaptive Management Plan to mitigate ongoing operational risks to birds and bats. An additional proponent commitment is added to Schedule 2 to accommodate the management plan implementation in accordance with Condition 2.
- The amended proponent commitments required by conditions will not result in a significant detrimental effect on the environment in addition to, or different from, the effect of the proposal's implementation under the existing implementation conditions.
- The amendment will lower greenhouse gas emissions and reflect condition 7 of MS 506 to minimise greenhouse gas emissions.
- There are no new environmental factors likely to be significantly affected because of the amendments.
- The proposed amendments to the development envelope will not result in a significant change to the extent or nature of impacts of the approved proposal.
- The proposed amendments are unlikely to have significant effects, on their own, and in the context of the existing approved proposal, on the environment.

- Cumulative impacts, and holistic impacts have been considered and the amendments do not represent a material increase in the effects on the environment
- The environmental outcomes are unlikely to change, and the EPA factor objectives are likely to be met for all relevant factors.
- The intent of conditions and Schedule 1 set out in MS 506 issued 31 May 1999 and last amended 24 April 2024, have been retained.
- The amended proposal will be substantially the same character as the existing referred proposal.

Other Advice

- The EPA notes that the development of large-scale renewable energy infrastructure can often have broad scopes and considerations regarding impacts to environmental values, consistency with the EPA objectives and whether a project is likely to be considered a significant proposal. The EPA encourages proponents to continue to engage with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation to seek case by case advice for individual projects when determining if formal referral under s.38 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* is advised.

EFFECT OF THIS NOTICE:

1. The proposal as amended in accordance with this notice is taken to be able to be implemented under s. 45 of the EP Act.

RIGHTS OF APPEAL:

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



Mr Darren Walsh
Delegate of the Environmental Protection Authority
CHAIR

08 October 2025

ATTACHMENT 1 - Attachment 9 to Ministerial Statement 506