

## ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING DOCUMENT

**PROPOSAL NAME:** EXPLORATION DRILLING E70/2227 FERAL PROSPECT

**ASSESSMENT NUMBER:** 2016

**LOCATION:** APPROXIMATELY 9 KM NORTH-EAST OF THE TOWN OF PERENJORI, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** SHIRE OF PERENJORI

**PROPONENT:** HERMITAGE HOLDINGS PTY LTD

**PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD:** 4 WEEKS

### 1. Introduction

The above proposal is being assessed by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) under Part IV of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) at the level of Public Environmental Review (PER). This Environmental Scoping Document (ESD) sets out the requirements for the environmental review of the proposal. The purpose of an ESD is to:

- provide proposal-specific guidelines to direct the proponent on the preliminary key environmental factors or issues that are to be addressed during the environmental review and preparation of the environmental review report; and
- identify the required work that needs to be carried out.

The proponent must conduct the environmental review in accordance with this ESD and then report to the EPA in an environmental review report (PER document). As well as the proposal-specific requirements for the environmental review identified in this ESD, the PER document must also address the generic information requirements listed in section 10.2.4 of the EPA's *Environmental Impact Assessment (Part IV Divisions 1 and 2) Administrative Procedures 2012* (Administrative Procedures). When the EPA is satisfied that the PER document adequately addresses both of these requirements, the proponent will be required to release the document for a public review period of 4 weeks.

This ESD has been prepared by the EPA in consultation with the proponent, decision-making authorities and interested agencies consistent with EPA Environmental Assessment Guideline (EAG) 10 – *Scoping a proposal*. ESDs

prepared by the EPA are not subject to public review. The ESD will be available on the EPA website ([www.epa.wa.gov.au](http://www.epa.wa.gov.au)) upon endorsement and must be appended to the PER document.

## 2. The proposal

The subject of this ESD is Hermitage Holdings Pty Ltd (Hermitage), proposed Exploration Drilling E70/2227 (Feral Deposit). The proposed exploration program is located approximately 9 kilometres (km) north-east of the Perenjori townsite in the Midwest Region, and on the Banded Ironstone Formation (BIF) landforms of the Perenjori Hills and within the plant assemblages of the Koolanooka System Threatened Ecological Community (Koolanooka TEC) (ranked Vulnerable). The regional location of the proposal is shown in Figure 1.

The *Strategic Review of the Conservation and Resource Values of the Banded Iron Formation of the Yilgarn Craton (2007)* (BIF Review) was produced by the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Department of Industry and Resources in 2007. While some of the information within this document is now dated, it should be noted that information on the biodiversity of BIF ranges released since 2007 largely reinforces the basic understanding of the distribution of key BIF range values reported in the BIF Review.

A more recent synthesis of scientific data from surveys of BIF ranges in the Yilgarn Craton (Gibson *et al.* 2012) confirmed the Mungada/Karara/Koolanooka region as one of two major hotspots for significant conservation values in the Yilgarn Craton (the other being the highly important Mount Manning region).

The Koolanooka System (made up of the Koolanooka Hills and the Perenjori Hills), Blue Hills Range (including Mungada Ridge and Mt Karara) and Mt Gibson Range are considered to support the highest flora and landscape values of this region. These ranges support a significant number of plant species that only occur on BIF ranges, BIF endemic species that only occur on one range and a number of Threatened and Priority listed plant species.

The proposed exploration activities include 23 reverse circulation and 2 diamond drill holes, 25 associated drill pads (18 x 18 metres (m)) and clearing for access tracks (1670 m x 8 m). Total clearing is estimated at 3.24 hectares (ha). The proposed drill program would be situated in the valley between the Perenjori Hills.

Parts of the development envelope were subject to a previous drill program on the outer eastern BIF range, and neighbouring field. Existing drill pads and access tracks would be used where possible. Existing access tracks in the development envelope are in variable condition, with several requiring widening for rig access. A main access track traverses the eastern BIF ridge toward the southern end; where drill holes and pad construction are also proposed. There is also some minor disturbance at the northern end of the development envelope from development of stock watering dams and in-flow channels.

The current proposal focuses on a segment 3.4 km long of one ridge, which is partially cleared. The Core BIF Zone has eight previous drill holes. These were drilled on existing access tracks and fence lines and were all drilled down dip through the footwall. This has been inadequate for mineral resource definition as the holes mostly failed to quantify a mineral resource. The proposed exploration drilling would be into the side of the eastern BIF ridge of the Perenjori Hills. Cut and fill is not required for pad construction. A jack-mounted drill rig which can operate on angles up to 18 degrees would be used.

For the 23 reverse circulation holes, a track-mounted Schramm 450 rig would be contracted. This moves on its own tracks (like a small bulldozer), and tows its own compressor. For the two diamond core holes, a Desco 5500 would be contracted. This is also a tracked unit but does require a supporting drill-rod truck. A rubber-tracked mulcher would be used for track clearing. The mulch would be stored in local piles and then re-spread over the established access routes as soon as access is completed and where possible within the immediate area. The sites do not require cut-and-fill pads.

Any activities undertaken in the development envelope would require rehabilitation. Rehabilitation would include:

- drill holes secured immediately after drilling (capped/plugged);
- drill sample piles rehabilitated or buried;
- sample bags removed within six months of drilling; and
- excavations backfilled and respread with topsoil and cleared vegetation.

The project would involve:

- 23 reverse circulation and 2 diamond drill holes;
- 25 associated drill pads (18 x 18 m);
- Up to a 4 week timeframe; and
- Clearing of 3.24 ha.

The key characteristics of the proposal are set out in Table 1, in accordance with EAG 1 – *Defining the key characteristics of a proposal*. The development envelope encompassing the physical elements of the proposal is delineated in Figure 2.

The Koolanooka TEC is ranked Vulnerable and is shown in Figure 3.

It is important to recognise that only the impacts of the exploration can be considered for this proposal, and not the potential impacts of mining. A mining proposal does not form part of the EPA's assessment of this exploration proposal and would have to be considered separately.

It should be noted that the key proposal characteristics may change as a result of implementation of the mitigation hierarchy by the proponent on account of the findings of studies and investigations conducted as part of the environmental review.

**Table 1 Key Proposal Characteristics**

Summary of the proposal		
Proposal Title	Exploration Drilling on E70/2227 (Feral Prospect)	
Proponent Name	Hermitage Holdings Pty Ltd	
Short Description	<p>The proposal is for an exploration drilling program on Exploration Lease E70/2227. The purpose of the exploration program is for resource (iron ore) definition.</p> <p>The project area is located approximately 9 km north-east of the town of Perenjori in the Midwest region, and is on the BIF landforms of the Perenjori Hills and within plant assemblages of the Koolanooka TEC (ranked Vulnerable).</p> <p>The project would involve reverse circulation and diamond drilling. Hermitage has indicated that it would use existing drill pads and access tracks where possible. Existing access tracks in the development envelope are in variable conditions, with several requiring widening for rig access.</p> <p>The project involves approximately 3.24 ha of direct clearing for the development of the proposal including access tracks. The proponent has indicated that there will be no cut and fill for track or pad construction.</p>	
Physical Elements		
Element	Location	Proposed Extent
Drill holes and drill pads	Within the proposed Development Envelope (Figure 2)	Disturbance of up to 3.24 ha of native vegetation listed as a Threatened Ecological Community.
Native vegetation disturbance	Within the proposed Development Envelope (Figure 2)	No more than 3.24 ha direct clearing (track widening, new tracks and drill pads).
Operational Elements		
Element	Location	Proposed Extent
Rehabilitation	All proposed disturbed area.	

### 3. Preliminary key environmental factors and scope of work

The key proposal characteristics in Table 1 have informed the identification of the preliminary key environmental factors for the proposal, in accordance with EAG 8 – *Environmental factors and objectives*. The preliminary key environmental factors for this proposal and the EPA's objective for each of those factors are identified in Table 2.

To provide context to the preliminary key environmental factors, Table 2 also identifies the aspects of the proposal that cause the factors to be key factors, and the potential impacts and risks likely to be relevant to the assessment. All of this in turn has informed the work required to be conducted in the environmental review.

Finally, Table 2 identifies the policy documents that establish how the EPA expects the environmental factors to be addressed in the environmental review and the PER document that follows. Impacts associated with proposals are to be considered at a local and regional scale, including evaluation of cumulative impacts, and provide details of proposed management/mitigation measures. This includes whether environmental offsets are required by application of the mitigation hierarchy, consistent with the WA Environmental Offsets Guidelines.

**Table 2 Preliminary key environmental factors and required work**

Flora and Vegetation	
<b>EPA objective</b>	To maintain representation, diversity, viability and ecological function at the species, population and community level.
<b>Relevant aspects</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land and vegetation clearing; and</li> <li>• Construction of access tracks.</li> </ul>
<b>Potential impacts and risks</b>	<p>The proposal involves the clearing of up to 3.24 ha of native vegetation. The proposal occurs on BIF landforms associated with the Perenjori Hills and within the plant assemblages of the Koolanooka TEC.</p> <p>The condition of the flora and vegetation in the development envelope has been identified as Very Good – Excellent, and is known to contain several Priority flora species. There is the possibility of Declared Rare, other conservation significant and BIF specialist flora species to occur within the development envelope.</p> <p>The potential impacts include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clearing of 3.24 ha of vegetation associated with the Koolanooka TEC;</li> <li>• Further fragmentation of already regionally restricted vegetation communities (i.e. Koolanooka TEC and component vegetation units);</li> <li>• Impact to habitat of restricted flora species;</li> <li>• Impact on conservation significant flora species; and</li> <li>• Spread of weed species throughout the development envelope.</li> </ul>
<b>Required work</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Detailed description of the proposed clearing associated with the proposal. Discussion of the potential for direct and indirect impacts to flora and vegetation as a result of the proposal.</li> <li>2. A Level 2 flora and vegetation survey of the development envelope is to be undertaken in accordance with EPA Guidance Statement 51. In areas not already surveyed or where survey information is not of acceptable quality (such as incorrect survey season) or standard, surveys must be undertaken in</li> </ol>



accordance with EPA Guidance Statement 51 and the Department of Environment and Conservation's (now the Department of Parks and Wildlife) *Recommended interim protocol for flora surveys of banded ironstone formations (BIF) of the Yilgarn Craton*. If the proponent intends to rely on results from previous surveys a literature review and justification will be required to ensure those surveys are relevant, representative of the development envelope, and were carried out using methods consistent with current best practice.

3. Identification and mapping of vegetation units (comprising sub-units of the plant assemblages of the Koolanooka TEC) and Declared Rare, Priority or conservation significant flora species and their habitats to be cleared or indirectly impacted as defined in EPA Guidance Statement 51.

Conservation significant species as defined in Guidance Statement 51 includes taxa other than those that are listed at the State or national level as threatened, Priority and specially protected (e.g. endemic or restricted taxa, new taxa or affinities, taxa at the limits of their range, etc).

4. Figure(s) showing the extent of clearing or predicted extent of loss of vegetation from both direct and indirect impacts (including altered surface and groundwater hydrology or dust) and the extent to which vegetation is expected to recover.
5. A quantitative analysis of the conservation status of vegetation units (comprising sub-units of the plant assemblages of the Koolanooka TEC), and conservation significant flora species and their known or inferred habitats to be cleared or indirectly impacted by the proposal. Specific details of the methodology used in the identification of vegetation mapping units are to be provided. The analysis is to include identification and mapping of the known regional distribution of floristic vegetation units including the conservation status of vegetation and percentages of vegetation communities (including but not limited to, threatened and priority ecological communities and component vegetation units) and conservation significant species affected in the determination of the significance of impacts.
6. Assessment of impacts on conservation significant flora species (including BIF endemic and BIF specialist species) to include the number of plants in the affected populations, the percentage of plants in the affected populations, the number of plants to be impacted (directly and indirectly) in a 'worst case scenario' and the number of plants known to occur outside the disturbance footprint at both a local and regional scale. The assessment should also include an evaluation of the impact of activities on the area of potential habitat for each conservation significant species. Targeted flora surveys should be undertaken and all surveys are to be conducted in the correct season as per EPA Guidance Statement 51.
7. Provide information on the representation of impacted communities/species in secure conservation tenure.
8. Discussion that fully addresses the cumulative impacts on the Perenjori Hills component of the Koolanooka System and the specific flora and vegetation units therein utilising quantitative data from appropriate local and regional surveys.
9. Discussion of the proposed management, monitoring and mitigation methods to be implemented demonstrating that the design of the proposal has addressed the mitigation hierarchy in relation to impacts on flora and vegetation.
10. Management measures, outcomes/objectives sought to ensure residual impacts (direct and indirect) are not greater than predicted (e.g. conditions and potential offsets).
11. Completion of the EPA Checklist for documents submitted for EIA on

	terrestrial biodiversity.
<b>Relevant policy</b>	<p>EPA (2000) <i>Position Statement 2: Environmental Protection of Native Vegetation in Western Australia</i>. Perth, Western Australia.</p> <p>EPA (2003) <i>Position Statement 3: Terrestrial Biological Surveys as an Element of Biodiversity Protection</i>. Perth, Western Australia.</p> <p>EPA (2004) <i>Guidance Statement No. 51: Terrestrial Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Australia</i>. Perth Western Australia.</p> <p>DEC (2006) <i>Recommended Interim Protocol for Flora Surveys of Banded Ironstone Formation of the Yilgarn Craton</i>. Department of Environment and Conservation, unpublished.</p> <p>EPA Checklist for documents submitted for EIA on marine and terrestrial biodiversity.</p>
<b>Terrestrial Fauna</b>	
<b>EPA objective</b>	To maintain representation, diversity, viability and ecological function at the species, population and assemblage level.
<b>Relevant aspects</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land and vegetation clearing;</li> <li>• Drilling activities; and</li> <li>• Construction of access tracks.</li> </ul>
<b>Potential impacts and risks</b>	<p>The proposal is located in remnant vegetation, surrounded by a highly modified (i.e. cleared) environment, thereby providing a refuge for native fauna. Clearing of vegetation may result in the loss or fragmentation of fauna habitat, and consequential displacement or death of fauna species.</p> <p>Malleefowl (<i>Leipoa ocellata</i>), listed as Vulnerable under the <i>Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (EPBC Act), and Threatened under the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i> (WC Act) active mounds were identified near to a track. Carnaby's Cockatoos (<i>Calyptorhynchus latirostris</i>) listed as Endangered under the EPBC Act and Threatened under the WC Act were observed in and around the development envelope. A further nine conservation significant fauna species are known to the region and have the potential to occur within the development envelope.</p> <p>The potential impacts include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clearing of vegetation impacting fauna habitat and individual fauna species within the development envelope;</li> <li>• Vehicle strikes causing injury and death of fauna species; and</li> <li>• Potential impact to EPBC listed fauna species within the development envelope.</li> </ul>
<b>Required work</b>	<p>12. A detailed description of expected direct and indirect impacts to fauna from the proposal.</p> <p>13. A level 1 fauna survey including comprehensive mapping of habitats (including rare or unusual habitat types) and a comprehensive listing of fauna species likely to occur in habitats within the areas to be clearly or indirectly impacted should be conducted in accordance with EPA Guidance Statement 56 and the EPA/DEC Technical Guide - Terrestrial Vertebrate Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment. Figure(s) showing the likely extent of loss or the habitat types and the extent of areas where vegetation is expected to recover, from both direct and indirect impacts.</p> <p>14. Analysis of the likely loss of habitat, including percentages of habitat types to</p>

	<p>be impacted, to assist in determination of significance of impacts to fauna.</p> <p>15. Conduct targeted Level 2 surveys within the development envelope and immediate surrounds, to identify potential impacts to conservation significant vertebrate fauna species and other fauna listed as specially protected under the WC Act or the EPBC Act.</p> <p>16. All surveys are to be conducted in the correct season as per relevant EPA Guidance Statements.</p> <p>17. If the proponent intends to rely on results from previous surveys, justification will be required that those surveys are relevant, representative of the development envelope, and were carried out using methods consistent with best practice.</p> <p>18. Discussion of the proposed management, monitoring and mitigations methods to be implemented.</p>
<b>Relevant policy</b>	<p>EPA (2000) <i>Position Statement 3: Terrestrial Biological Surveys as an Element of Biodiversity Protection</i>. Perth, Western Australia.</p> <p>EPA (2004) <i>Guidance Statement No. 56: Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Australia</i>. Perth, Western Australia.</p> <p>EPA Checklist for documents submitted for EIA on marine and terrestrial biodiversity.</p> <p>EPA and DEC (2010) <i>Technical Guide - Terrestrial Vertebrate Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment</i>. Technical report of the Environmental Protection Authority and the Department of Environment and Conservation.</p>
<b>Landforms</b>	
<b>EPA objective</b>	To maintain the variety, integrity, ecological functions and environmental values of landforms and soils.
<b>Relevant aspects</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drilling activities; and</li> <li>• Pad construction activities.</li> </ul>
<b>Potential impacts and risks</b>	<p>Drilling activities have the potential to alter significant BIF landforms and soils, both permanently and temporarily. The potential impact to the integrity or 'intactness' of BIF landform features associated with the Perenjori Hills, and the values it supports (including habitat) requires further assessment.</p> <p>The potential impacts include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential impact(s) to the values and integrity or 'intactness' of BIF landform features associated with the Perenjori Hills, either permanently or temporarily; and</li> <li>• Alteration of landform and soils supporting habitat for rare, endemic and conservation significant flora and fauna species.</li> </ul>
<b>Required work</b>	<p>19. Provide information to allow assessment of the significance of the landforms to be impacted in terms of uniqueness or regional significance having regard to ecological function including: restricted soil types, geodiversity values and habitat for BIF specialist species.</p> <p>20. Identify landforms likely to be affected or altered by exploration or earthworks. Identify and describe areas that will be altered, both temporarily and permanently, those that will remain as a visual or structural scar on the</p>



	landform, and those that are proposed to be restored or vegetated. 21. Identify and describe the environmental values associated with the landform (e.g. landform integrity, geodiversity values, ecological function, habitat etc.) that will be temporarily altered, or permanently lost.
<b>Relevant policy</b>	EPA (2008) <i>Guidance Statement 33 – Environmental Guidance for Planning and Development</i> . Perth, Western Australia.  WAPC (2007) <i>Visual Landscape Planning in Western Australia: a manual for evaluation, assessment, siting and design</i> . Western Australian Planning Commission.
<b>Rehabilitation and Closure</b>	
<b>EPA objective</b>	To ensure that premises are closed, decommissioned and rehabilitated in an ecologically sustainable manner, consistent with agreed outcomes and land uses, and without unacceptable liability to the State.
<b>Relevant aspects</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land and vegetation clearing;</li> <li>• Drilling activities and pad construction; and</li> <li>• Construction of access tracks.</li> </ul>
<b>Potential impacts and risks</b>	<p>The re-opening of tracks, in addition to clearing of additional areas, further fragments the development envelope and adversely impacts the integrity and 'intactness' of BIF landforms and regionally restricted flora and vegetation (i.e. the Perenjori Hills and the Koolanooka TEC).</p> <p>The development envelope is also surrounded by agricultural activities and may be impacted by grazing/trampling by livestock and increased fire risk.</p> <p>It has yet to be established that impacts to landforms, their ecological function, and environmental values are not adversely or permanently impacted by exploration activities. It is also yet to be determined whether the rehabilitation outcomes can restore the values of the Perenjori Hills (including the Koolanooka TEC) that are proposed to be impacted.</p> <p>The potential impacts include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unsuccessful restoration of flora and vegetation in cleared/developed areas;</li> <li>• Impact to soils from compaction and erosion;</li> <li>• Impediment of rehabilitation success due to the spread of feral species; and</li> <li>• Other threatening processes (i.e. grazing/trampling by livestock, increased risk of fire) impeding rehabilitation success.</li> </ul>
<b>Required work</b>	<p>22. Prepare a Rehabilitation and Closure Plan.</p> <p>23. Demonstrate that the mitigation hierarchy has been addressed including placing infrastructure offsite and demonstrating any access and infrastructure within vegetated areas has had regard to utilising existing areas of disturbance.</p> <p>24. Collection of baseline data on existing geochemical and geographical properties of soil (including nutrients, pH, EC, particle size distribution, soil strength and bulk density), landforms and root distribution in soil profiles.</p> <p>25. Literature review of successful best practice exploration rehabilitation procedures, including review of learnings from rehabilitation at other BIF environments.</p> <p>26. Describe the techniques of rehabilitation proposed including, ensuring clearing is limited to predictions or better, topsoil management, retention or</p>

	<p>reuse of vegetative material, landform reconstruction and return of species and communities consistent with the pre-existing composition of the Koolanooka TEC in the affected area and the standards that will apply.</p> <p>27. Identification of completion criteria, including criteria for reconstructed soils and soil profiles (identification and profile reconstruction), landforms and species and communities.</p> <p>28. A census of species and vegetation units proposed to be disturbed for rehabilitation planning including a table and discussion.</p> <p>29. Characterise the environment (e.g. identify environmental values, type of surveys, baseline data collection etc.)</p> <p>30. Identify elements of the proposal which affect the environment (e.g. permanent, temporary construction versus operational threats, impact/pressures from the development both direct and indirect, cumulative impacts etc.)</p> <p>31. Predict residual impacts after considering the mitigation hierarchy.</p> <p>32. Management measures, outcomes/objectives sought to ensure residual impacts are not greater than predicted (e.g. conditions and potentially offsets).</p>
<b>Relevant policy</b>	<p>DMP and EPA (2011) <i>Guidelines for Preparing Mine Closure Plans</i>. Department of Mines and Petroleum and Environmental Protection Authority.</p> <p>EPA (2006) <i>Guidance Statement No. 6: Rehabilitation of Terrestrial Ecosystems</i>. Perth, Western Australia.</p>
<b>Offsets</b>	
<b>EPA objective</b>	To counterbalance any significant residual environmental impacts or uncertainty through the application of offsets.
<b>Relevant aspects</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land and vegetation clearing;</li> <li>• Drilling activities and pad construction; and</li> <li>• Construction of access tracks.</li> </ul>
<b>Potential impacts and risks</b>	<p>Potential significant residual impact on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regionally restricted flora and vegetation associated with the Koolanooka TEC;</li> <li>• EPBC listed and other conservation significant fauna species and habitat;</li> <li>• Significant BIF landforms associated with the Perenjori Hills; and</li> <li>• Unsuccessful rehabilitation outcomes.</li> </ul>
<b>Required work</b>	<p>33. Examination of residual impacts and, if required, development of draft program of environmental offsets.</p> <p>34. Inclusion in the PER of the information required by <i>Environmental Protection Bulletin No. 1</i>.</p>
<b>Relevant policy</b>	<p>WA Environmental Offsets Policy, September 2011, Perth, Western Australia.</p> <p>WA Environmental Offsets Guidelines, August 2014, Perth, Western Australia.</p> <p>EPA (2014) <i>Environmental Protection Bulletin No. 1: Environmental offsets</i>. Perth, Western Australia.</p>

#### 4. Stakeholder consultation

The EPA expects that the proponent will consult with stakeholders who are interested in, or affected by, the proposal. This includes decision-making authorities (DMAs), other relevant State government departments and local government authorities, environmental non-government organisations and the local community.

The proponent must document the stakeholder consultation undertaken and the outcomes, including any adjustments to the proposal and any future plans for consultation. This is to be addressed in a specific section of the PER document and, in addition, key outcomes of consultation are to be reported against the preliminary key environmental factors as relevant.

It is expected that as a part of the consultation with DMA's there will be discussion around each agency's specific regulatory approvals, and a demonstration that other factors can be managed by another regulatory body.

## **5. Other factors or matters**

During assessment of proposals, other factors or matters will be identified as relevant to the proposal, but not of significance to warrant further assessment by the EPA, or impacts can be regulated by other statutory processes to meet the EPA's objectives.

These factors do not require further work as part of the environmental review, or detailed discussion and evaluation in the PER document, although they must be included in the PER document in a summarised, tabular format noting that the PER document will be subject to public review.

In some circumstances other factors, while not being considered as preliminary key environmental factors, may require greater emphasis in the PER document. This may be due to high public interest or at the request of another stakeholder, so that the potential impacts and management measures associated with the other factor are sufficiently articulated for the public review. For this assessment, the other factor of Heritage needs to be concisely described and discussed in the PER document.

### *Heritage*

The proponent should be aware of its obligations under *EPA Guidance Statement 41: Assessment of Aboriginal Heritage*, the EP Act, the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and the Department of Premier and Cabinet *Aboriginal Heritage Due Diligence Guidelines* and the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*.

It is also important that the proponent be aware that other factors or matters may be identified during the course of the environmental review that were not apparent at the time that this ESD was prepared. If this situation arises, the proponent must consult with the EPA to determine whether these factors and/or matters are to be addressed in the PER document, and if so, to what extent.

## **6. Agreed assessment timeline**

Table 4 sets out the timeline for the assessment of the proposal agreed between the EPA and the proponent. Proponents are expected to meet the agreed timeline, and in doing so, provide adequate, quality information to inform the assessment.

**Table 4 Assessment Timeline**

Key Stages of Assessment	Agreed Completion Date
EPA approval of ESD	25 August 2014
Proponent submits first adequate draft PER document	4 September 2014
Office of the Environmental Protection Authority (OEPA) provides comment on first adequate draft PER document	16 October 2014 (6 weeks)
Proponent submits adequate revised draft PER document	30 October 2014
EPA authorises release of PER document for public review	13 November 2014 (2 weeks)
Proponent releases authorised PER document for public review	27 November 2014
Public review of PER document	Ends 24 December 2014
EPA provides Summary of Submissions	28 January (3 weeks plus 2 weeks) *
Proponent provides Response to Submissions	25 February 2015
OEPA reviews the Response to Submissions	25 March 2015 (4 weeks)
OEPA assesses proposal for consideration by EPA	13 May 2015 (7 weeks)
Preparation and finalisation of EPA assessment report (including two weeks consultation on draft conditions with proponent and key Government agencies)	17 June 2015 (5 weeks)

\*An addition of two weeks is added to take into consideration the Christmas period

If any stage in the agreed timeline is not met or inadequate information is submitted by the proponent, the timing for the completion of subsequent stages of the process will be revised. Equally, where the EPA is unable to meet an agreed completion date in the timeline, the proponent will be advised and the timeline revised.

The proponent should refer to EPA's EAG 6 – *Timelines for environmental assessment of proposals* for information regarding the responsibilities of proponents and the EPA for achieving timely and effective assessment of proposals.

## 7. Decision-making authorities



At this stage, the EPA has identified the authorities listed in Table 5 as DMAs for the proposal. Additional DMAs may be identified during the course of the assessment.

**Table 5 Decision-making authorities**

Decision-making authority	Relevant legislation
Minister for Environment	<i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i>
Environmental Officer in Environment Division in Department of Mines and Petroleum	<i>Approval of the programme of work under s.63 (aa)(ii)</i>

## **8. Parallel processing**

The EP Act constrains DMAs from making any decision that could have the effect of causing or allowing the proposal to be implemented. However, the proponent is encouraged to pursue other approvals in parallel with the EPA's assessment noting that the constraint only relates to making an approval decision.

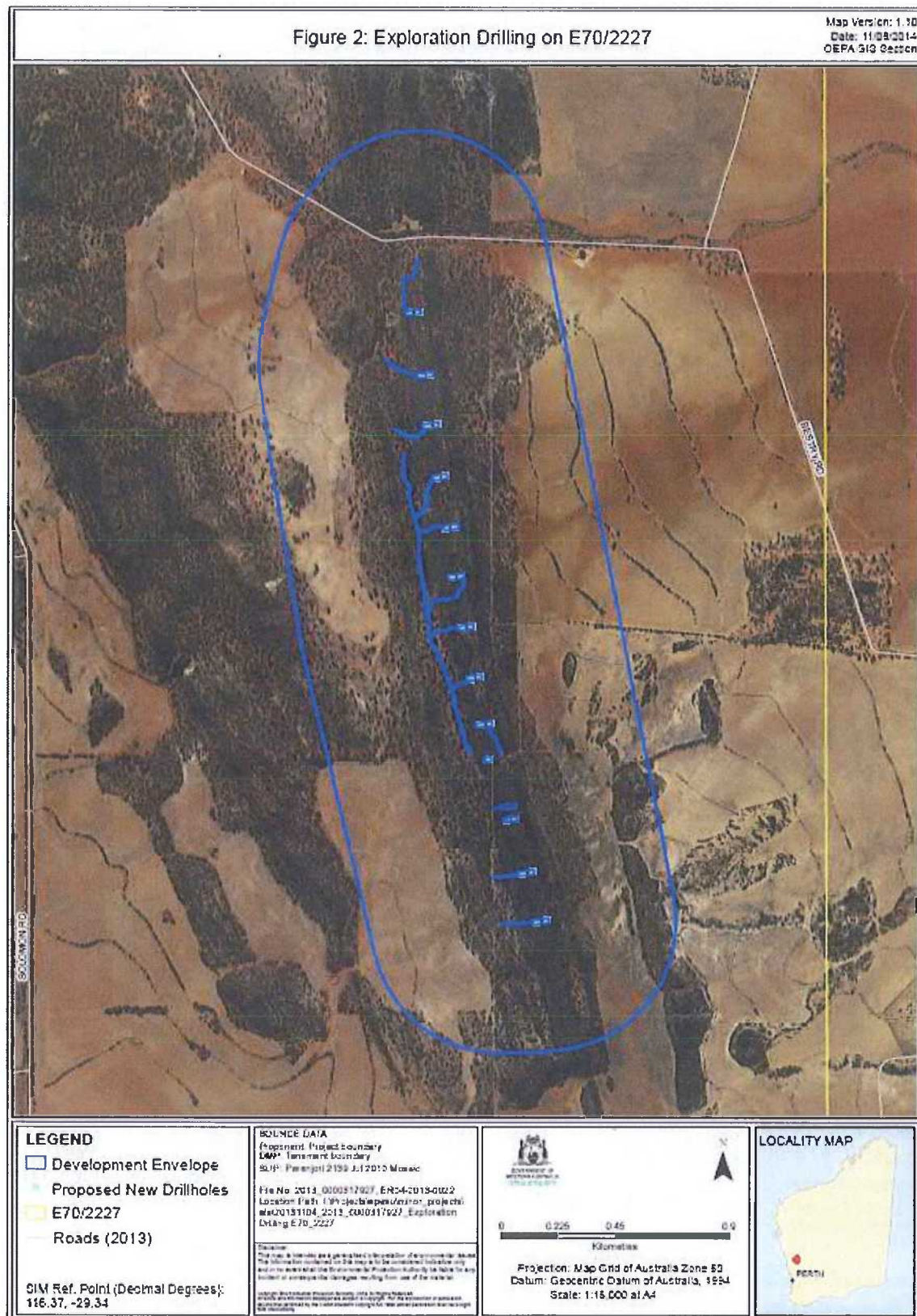
## **9. PER document**

When the EPA is satisfied with the standard of the PER document (refer to section 4.4 of EAG 6) it will provide written authorisation for the release of the document for public review. The proponent must not release the PER document for public review until this authorisation is provided.

The proponent is responsible for advertising the release and availability of the PER document in accordance with instructions that will be issued to the proponent by the EPA. The EPA must be consulted on the timing and details for advertising.

[illegible]

Figure 2 – Development Envelope





**Figure 3 - Koolanooka System Threatened Ecological Community**