

ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING DOCUMENT

HOPE DOWNS 2 PROPOSAL

1. Introduction

The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) has determined that the above Proposal is to be assessed under Part IV of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act).

The purpose of the Environmental Scoping Document (ESD) is to define the form, content, indicative timing and procedure of the environmental review, required by s. 40(3) of the Act.

Hamersley HMS Pty Limited (the Proponent) has prepared this draft ESD according to the procedures in the EPA's [Procedures Manual](#).

The EPA requires the Proponent to undertake the environmental review according to the procedures in the EPA's [Administrative Procedures](#) and [Procedures Manual](#), and the [Instructions and Template: How to prepare an Environmental Review Document](#).

Table 1: General Proposal and Proponent information

Proposal information	
Proposal name:	Hope Downs 2 Proposal
Proponent:	Hamersley HMS Pty Limited
Assessment number:	2316
Location:	The Hope Downs 2 Proposal is located approximately 80 km north-west of the township of Newman in the Pilbara region of Western Australia
Local Government Area:	Shire of East Pilbara
Public review period:	Environmental Review Document – 2 weeks
EPBC reference no:	EPBC 2021/9035

1.1. Indicative timing of the environmental review

Table 2 sets out the indicative outline of the timing of the environmental review (indicative timeline) agreed between the EPA and the Proponent.

Table 2: Indicative outline of the timing of the environmental review (indicative timeline)

Key Assessment Milestones	Completion Date
EPA approves Environmental Scoping Document	October 2022
Proponent submits first draft Environmental Review Document (ERD)	November 2022
EPA provides comment on draft Environmental Review Document (including Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water [DCCEEW] comments) <i>(6 weeks from receipt of ERD)</i>	January 2023

Key Assessment Milestones	Completion Date
Proponent submits revised draft Environmental Review Document	March 2023
EPA authorises release of Environmental Review Document for public review <i>(2 weeks from EPA approval of ERD)</i>	April 2023
Proponent releases Environmental Review Document for public review for 2 weeks	May 2023
Close of public review period	May 2023
EPA provides Summary of Submissions <i>(3 weeks from close of public review period)</i>	June 2023
Proponent provides Response to Submissions	December 2023
EPA reviews the Response to Submissions (includes DCCEEW review) <i>(4 weeks from receipt of Response to Submissions)</i>	January 2024
EPA finalises Assessment Report (including two-week consultation on draft conditions) and gives report to Minister. Assessment Report (which includes draft Ministerial Statement) to be provided to DCCEEW <i>(6 weeks from completion of assessment)</i>	July 2024

1.2. Commonwealth Government approvals

The Proposal has been referred and was determined to be a controlled action under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* on 21 December 2021 (EPBC 2021/9035) and is being assessed under an accredited process under section 87 of that Act. The relevant Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) for this Proposal include (at time of being determined a controlled action), but are not limited to, the following listed threatened species (s18 and 18A):

- Northern Quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*);
- Night Parrot (*Pezoporus occidentalis*);
- Ghost Bat (*Macroderma gigas*);
- Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bat (*Rhinionictis aurantia* [Pilbara Form]);
- Pilbara Olive Python (*Liasis olivaceus barroni*); and
- Grey Falcon (*Falco hypoleucos*).

This draft ESD includes work required to be carried out and reported on in the Environmental Review Document in relation to MNES. The Environmental Review Document will also address the matters in Schedule 4 of the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000* and will include consideration of relevant Commonwealth standards, policy and guidance (and justification provided where this guidance is not followed)

MNES that may be impacted by the Proposal will be identified and the potential impacts on these matters addressed within each relevant preliminary environmental factor identified in Table 3. Proposed offsets to address significant residual impacts on MNES will also be discussed in the Environmental Review Document.

2. Form and content (required work)

The EPA requires that the form of the report on the environmental review required under section 40 of the EP Act is in accordance with the [Instructions and Template: How to prepare an Environmental Review Document](#).

The EPA requires that the content of the Environmental Review Document (ERD) is in accordance with the [Instructions and Template: How to prepare an Environmental Review Document](#).

The EPA also requires that the environmental review includes the Proposal specific additional content outlined in Section 2.

The work required to inform the environmental review will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of EPA Environmental Factor Guideline and Technical Guidance for each preliminary key environmental factor.

2.1. Preliminary key environmental factors

The preliminary key environmental factors to be addressed in the ERD are:

1. Flora and Vegetation
2. Terrestrial Fauna
3. Subterranean Fauna
4. Inland Waters
5. Social Surroundings
6. Greenhouse Gas Emissions

2.2. Specific additional work required for assessment of Proposal

The general form and content of the ERD will be in accordance with the [Instructions and Template: How to prepare an Environmental Review Document](#).

Table 3 outlines the Proposal specific additional work required as it relates to preliminary key environmental factors.

A Mine Closure Plan will be submitted with the ERD, which includes consideration of final landforms and rehabilitation, consistent with the *Statutory guideline for mine closure plans* (DMIRS, March 2020) and *Mine Closure Plan Guidance – How to Prepare in Accordance with Part 1 of the Statutory Guidelines* (DMIRS, March 2020).

Table 3: Proposal specific additional required work

Flora and Vegetation	
Required work	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Determine and quantify any significant residual impacts by applying the Residual Impact Significance Model and WA Environmental Offsets Guidelines (2014, or any subsequent revisions). Where significant residual impacts remain, propose an appropriate draft offsets package with due consideration to the WA Environmental Offsets Policy and Guidelines (or any subsequent revisions). 2. Where a contribution to the Pilbara Environmental Offsets Fund is proposed to offset the significant residual impacts, provide an impact reconciliation procedure prepared in accordance with the Instructions on how to prepare <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986 Part IV Impact Reconciliation Procedures and Impact Reconciliation Reports</i> and the Template for <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986 Part IV Reconciliation Procedures</i> (or any subsequent revisions).
Terrestrial Fauna	
Required work	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prepare an Environmental Management Plan, in accordance with the requirements of EPA <i>Instructions on how to prepare Environmental Protection Act 1986 Part IV Environmental Management Plans</i> (2020 or any subsequent revisions), that describes any proposed management and/or monitoring plans that will be implemented pre- and post-construction to ensure residual impacts (direct and indirect) are not greater than predicted. Where a buffer zone is proposed, discussion should include an evaluation of the appropriateness of the proposed buffer in terms of the size of the buffer and the relevant characteristics of the buffer area as it relates to significant species. 2. Determine and quantify any significant residual impacts by applying the Residual Impact Significance Model and WA Environmental Offsets Guidelines (2014, or any subsequent revisions). Where significant residual impacts remain, propose an appropriate draft offsets package with due consideration to the WA Environmental Offsets Policy and Guidelines (or any subsequent revisions). 3. Where a contribution to the Pilbara Environmental Offsets Fund is proposed to offset the significant residual impacts, provide an impact reconciliation procedure prepared in accordance with the Instructions on how to prepare <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986 Part IV Impact Reconciliation Procedures and Impact Reconciliation Reports</i> and the Template for <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986 Part IV Reconciliation Procedures</i> (or any subsequent revisions). 4. Where significant residual impacts to MNES remain and contributions to the Pilbara Environmental Offsets Fund are not proposed, include a discussion of the consideration of the <i>EPBC Environmental Offsets Policy</i>
Subterranean Fauna	
Required work	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Determine and quantify any significant residual impacts by applying the Residual Impact Significance Model and WA Environmental Offsets Guidelines (2014, or any subsequent revisions). Where significant residual impacts remain, propose an appropriate draft offsets package with due consideration to the WA Environmental Offsets Policy and Guidelines (or any subsequent revisions). 2. A consolidated report of the surveys undertaken including the integrated results of the surveys (one consolidated report for stygofauna and another for troglafauna). If previous surveys are relied on for context, justification will be provided to demonstrate they are relevant and consistent with EPA guidance. 3. Provide 2D habitat modelling. 4. If new/alternative habitat modelling techniques are used, a peer review will be undertaken and provided.
Inland Waters	
Required work	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide a detailed description of the design and location of the Proposal as it relates to potential impacts to surface or groundwater.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Provide an assessment of water supply options (including water sources external to the Proposal) to determine suitability of options. 3. Provide a hydrogeological assessment for the Proposal (including groundwater modelling) to assess potential impacts to groundwater dependent ecosystems, including Ben’s Oasis.
Social Surroundings (Aboriginal heritage and culture)	
Required work	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide evidence and details of consultation with relevant stakeholders, including outcomes of those consultation. Demonstrate how issues raised through consultation have been addressed and specify how the Proponent will minimise impacts to social, cultural and heritage values within and directly adjacent to the Development Envelope. 2. Prepare a draft Social, Cultural and Heritage Management Plan (SCHMP) for each Traditional Owner group, in consultation with each group, where potential significant impacts to cultural social values related to the environment require management. The SCHMP is to describe the social, cultural and heritage values within the relevant country and specifies the measures that will be taken to avoid and minimise impacts to social, cultural and heritage values on that land during the implementation of the Proposal. Apply the mitigation hierarchy and discuss proposed objectives/outcomes, monitoring, management and mitigation measures where necessary to be implemented to appropriately minimise impacts to social surroundings. 3. Conduct investigations, including ethnographic and archaeological surveys in consultation with the Traditional Owners, to determine the significance of potential impacts to social surroundings as a result of this Proposal.
Greenhouse Gas Emissions	
Required work	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prepare a Greenhouse Gas Management Plan which will demonstrate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Proponents’ contribution towards the State’s aspiration of net zero emissions by 2050, in relation to Scope 1 GHG emissions as outlined in the State GHG Policy and Guideline • The intended reduction in Scope 1 emissions, via interim and long-term targets that reflect an incremental reduction in Scope 1 emissions over the life of the Proposal • Emissions intensity benchmarking and consideration of best practice for Scope 1 GHG emissions reductions • Strategies that demonstrate that all reasonable and practicable measures have been applied to avoid, reduce and offset the Scope 1 emissions over the life of the Proposal

2.3. Cumulative impact assessment – scoping of activities, boundaries and environmental values for relevant environmental factors

For all preliminary environmental factors, a summary of the activities associated with the Proposal, boundaries (of the cumulative impact assessment) and environmental values that will be considered for the cumulative impact assessment will be provided in relation to each preliminary key environmental factor.

The ERD will include cumulative impact assessment to assess the following:

- Flora and vegetation: Describe and assess the extent of any cumulative impacts within local, regional and State contexts, as appropriate. Use the assessment to describe and quantify the potential cumulative residual impacts to identified environmental values that may occur following implementation of the Proposal after considering and applying avoidance and minimisation measures.
- Vertebrate fauna:
 - Describe and assess the cumulative impacts to terrestrial fauna and the following (but not limited to) MNES species: Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bat (*Rhinonicteris aurantia* [Pilbara Form]); Ghost Bat (*Macroderma gigas*); Pilbara Olive Python (*Liasis olivaceus barroni*); Oriental Plover (*Charadrius*

veredus) and Northern Quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*.) and the significance of associated fauna habitats.

- Describe and quantify the extent of cumulative impacts and potential cumulative residual impacts that may occur following implementation of the Proposal after considering and applying avoidance and minimisation measures.
- Subterranean fauna: Describe and quantify the extent of cumulative impacts and potential cumulative residual impacts that may occur following implementation of the Proposal after considering and applying avoidance and minimisation measures. as a result of implementation of the Proposal during both construction and operations to subterranean fauna, taking into consideration the significance of subterranean fauna and fauna habitat.
- Inland waters: describe and assess potential cumulative groundwater and surface water impacts, including changes in groundwater levels, surface water flows within the relevant catchments, and potential impacts to groundwater dependent vegetation within the Weeli Wollli Spring PEC, including Ben's Oasis. Assess the nature, extent and duration of the potential impacts.
- Social surroundings: describe and assess the potential cumulative impacts to social surroundings as a result of changes to the environment from the Proposal giving consideration to Traditional Owners and Pastoral Stations and their activities on the land.
- Greenhouse gas: the Greenhouse Gas Management Plan is to provide context and where relevant, information is provided on the entire Hope Downs 1 (including Baby Hope) and the Proposal operations, including a summary of the estimated peak, annual average and total GHG emissions from Hope Downs 1 (including Baby Hope) and the Proposal.

3. Decision-making authorities

The Proponent has identified the decision-making authorities listed in Table 4 for this Proposal. Additional decision-making authorities may be identified during the course of the assessment.

Table 4: Decision-making authorities and processes

Decision-making authority	Legislation or Agreement regulating the activity	Approval required (and specify which Proposal element the approval is related to)	Whether and how statutory decision-making process can mitigate impacts on the environment? (Yes/No and summary of reasons)
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs	<i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972</i>	Disturbance of sites of Aboriginal heritage significance: s.16 authorisation to enter, excavate, examine or remove anything on an Aboriginal site. s.18 consent for impact on an Aboriginal site. Relates to the potential for the Proposal to impact on the Social Surroundings environmental factor.	Yes – this process is for assessing and authorising impacts on sites of Aboriginal heritage significance.
Minister for State Development	<i>Iron Ore (Hope Downs) Agreement Act 1992</i>	State Agreement Proposal for approval under the <i>Iron Ore (Hope Downs) Agreement Act 1992</i> .	No – not a process that manages environmental impacts.
Minister for Water	<i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i>	Abstraction of groundwater for use during construction and operation: - Section 5C licence to take water. - Section 26D licence to construct or alter a well. Relates to the potential for the Proposal to impact on the Inland Waters environmental factor.	Yes – licences manage the location and volume of groundwater abstracted for water supply. Requires monitoring and reporting against licence requirements.
Minister for Environment	<i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (BC Act)</i>	Impacts to threatened flora and fauna species are managed under the BC Act: - Authorisations to take threatened flora species - Authorisations to take or disturb threatened fauna species	Yes - this process is for assessing impacts to threatened flora and fauna species and provides authorisations to take threatened flora and fauna species.
Minister for Transport, Planning, Ports	<i>Main Roads Act 1930</i>	Relates to the Great Northern Highway re-alignment aspects of the Proposal.	Unlikely – process unlikely to manage environmental impacts.
Chief Executive Officer, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986 – Part V</i>	Licence to operate. Relates to the emissions aspects of the Proposal (to air, land and water).	Yes – licences manage emissions to air, land and water, including water quality and volume, emissions released to the environment. Requires monitoring and reporting against licence requirements.
Minister for Mines and Petroleum	<i>Mining Act 1978</i>	Mine Closure Plan (MCP). Mine closure and rehabilitation	Yes - responsibility for assessing Mine Closure Plans (MCP) which specify closure and rehabilitation actions and outcomes. A MCP will be submitted with the ERD.