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Published on: 20 May 2020

Statement No. 1134

STATEMENT THAT A PROPOSAL MAY BE IMPLEMENTED
(*Environmental Protection Act 1986*)

SULPHUR SPRINGS ZINC-COPPER PROJECT

Proposal: Develop and operate a zinc-copper mine and processing plant in the Sulphur Springs area located 57 km west of Marble Bar and 112 km south-east of Port Hedland in the Pilbara region of Western Australia.

Proponent: Venturex Resources Limited
Australian Company Number 122 180 205

Proponent Address: Level 2, 91 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Assessment Number: 2120

Report of the Environmental Protection Authority: 1671

Pursuant to section 45 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, it has been agreed that the proposal described and documented in Table 1 of Schedule 1 may be implemented and that the implementation of the proposal is subject to the following 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 Table 2 of Schedule 1, unless amendments to the proposal and the authorised extent of the proposal have 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 twenty-eight (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 five (5) years from the date of this Statement, and any commencement, prior to this date, must be substantial.
- 3-2 Any commencement of implementation of the proposal, on or before five (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 five (5) years from the date of this Statement.

4 Compliance Reporting

- 4-1 The proponent shall prepare, and maintain a Compliance Assessment Plan which is submitted to the CEO at least six (6) months prior to the first Compliance Assessment Report required by condition 4-6, or prior to implementation of the proposal, whichever is sooner.
- 4-2 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 After receiving notice in writing from the CEO that the Compliance Assessment Plan satisfies the requirements of condition 4-2, 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 (7) days of that non-compliance being known.
- 4-6 The proponent shall submit to the CEO the first Compliance Assessment Report fifteen (15) months from the date of issue of this Statement addressing the twelve (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, or as otherwise agreed in writing by the CEO.

The Compliance Assessment Report shall:

- (1) be endorsed by the proponent's Chief Executive Officer or a person delegated to sign on the Chief Executive Officer'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)), management plans and reports relevant to the assessment of this proposal and implementation of this Statement.

5-2 If any data referred to in condition 5-1 contain 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 these 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 Flora and Vegetation

6-1 The proponent shall manage the implementation of the proposal to meet the following environmental outcome:

- (1) The proponent shall ensure that there are no impacts, as a result of the proposal, to *Pityrodia* sp. Marble Bar (G. Woodman & D. Coultas GWDC Opp 4) as delineated in Figure 3 and by the coordinates in Schedule 2.

7 Offsets

- 7-1 In view of the significant residual impacts and risks as a result of implementation of the proposal, the proponent shall contribute funds to the **Pilbara Environmental Offsets Fund** calculated pursuant to condition 7-2, to achieve the objective of counterbalancing the significant residual impacts to 'Good' to 'Excellent' condition native vegetation, including riparian vegetation described as vegetation units 1a and 2a.
- 7-2 The proponent's contribution to the **Pilbara Environmental Offsets Fund** shall be paid biennially, with the amount to be contributed calculated based on the clearing undertaken in each year of the biennial reporting period in accordance with the rates in condition 7-3. The first biennial reporting period shall commence from ground disturbing activities of the environmental values identified in condition 7-3.
- 7-3 Calculated on the 2018-2019 financial year, the contribution rates are:
- (1) \$771 AUD (excluding GST) per hectare of 'Good' to 'Excellent' condition native vegetation cleared within the development envelope within the Chichester **IBRA** subregion.
 - (2) \$1,542 AUD (excluding GST) per hectare of vegetation units 1a and 2a cleared within the development envelope within the Chichester **IBRA** subregion.
- 7-4 From the commencement of the 2018–2019 financial year, the rates in condition 7-3 will be adjusted annually each subsequent financial year in accordance with the percentage change in the **CPI** applicable to that financial year.
- 7-5 Prior to ground disturbing activities within the development envelope, the proponent shall prepare and submit an Impact Reconciliation Procedure to the CEO.
- 7-6 The Impact Reconciliation Procedure required pursuant to condition 7-5 shall:
- (1) state that clearing calculation for the first biennial reporting period will commence from ground disturbing activities in accordance with condition 7-2 and end on the second 30 June following commencement of ground disturbing activities;
 - (2) state that clearing calculations for each subsequent biennial reporting period will commence on 1 July of the required reporting period, unless otherwise agreed by the CEO;
 - (3) include a methodology to calculate the amount of clearing undertaken during each year of the biennial reporting period for each of the environmental values identified in condition 7-3;

- (4) indicate the timing and content of the Impact Reconciliation Reports; and
 - (5) be prepared in accordance with *Instructions on how to prepare Environmental Protection Act 1986 Part IV Impact Reconciliation Procedures and Impact Reconciliation Reports* (or any subsequent revisions).
- 7-7 The proponent shall not commence ground disturbing activities within the development envelope, unless otherwise agreed by the CEO, until the CEO has confirmed in writing that the Impact Reconciliation Procedure satisfies the requirements of condition 7-6.
- 7-8 The proponent shall submit an Impact Reconciliation Report in accordance with the Impact Reconciliation Procedure approved in condition 7-7.
- 7-9 The Impact Reconciliation Report required pursuant to condition 7-8 shall provide the location and spatial extent of the clearing undertaken within the development envelope during each year of each biennial reporting period.

[signed on 20 May 2020]

Hon Stephen Dawson MLC
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT

Table 1: Summary of the proposal

Proposal Title	Sulphur Springs Zinc-Copper Project
Short Description	Develop and operate a zinc-copper mine and processing plant in the Sulphur Springs area located 57 km west of Marble Bar and 112 km south-east of Port Hedland in the Pilbara region of Western Australia (Figure 1).

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

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Element	Location	Proposed extent
<i>Physical elements</i>		
Mine and associated infrastructure	Figure 2	Clearing of no more than 313.6 ha within the 889.2 ha development envelope.
<i>Operational elements</i>		
Tailings storage facility (TSF)	Figure 2	A 42 ha conventional valley fill TSF to dispose of no more than 8.8 Mtpa of tailings.
Processing plant	Figure 2	A processing plant (up to 1.5 Mtpa) and associated facilities covering an area of 71 ha. Area includes the footprint of a HDPE lined storage/evaporation pond (south pond).
Waste rock dump (WRD)	Figure 2	One 78.6 ha permanent WRD with no more than 17.5 million loose cubic metres in the WRD.
Water supply / dewatering	-	Total groundwater abstraction / mine dewatering within the development envelope up to 0.94 GL/a (no water to be discharged).
Open pit and supporting infrastructure	Figure 2	Includes open pit, accommodation camp, borrow pits, topsoil stockpiles, abandonment bund, sediment pond, water management infrastructure, access roads, haul roads, communications, pipelines and powerlines covering an area of 122 ha. Includes a HDPE lined storage/evaporation pond (north pond).

Table 3: Abbreviations and Definitions

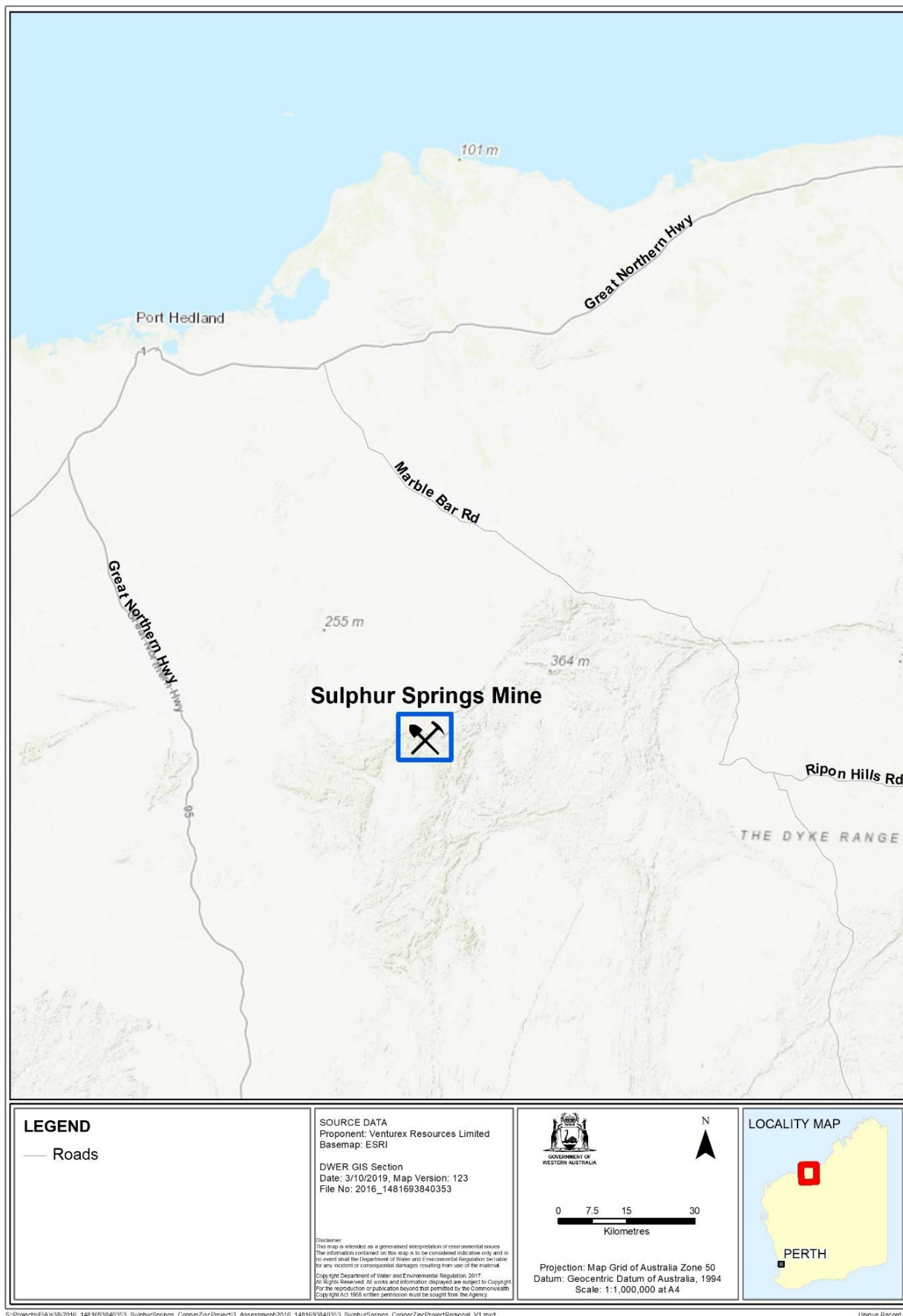
Acronym, Abbreviation or Term	Definition or Term
CEO	The Chief Executive Officer of the Department of the Public Service of the State responsible for the administration of section 48 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> , or his delegate.
CPI	The All Groups Consumer Price Index numbers for Perth compiled and published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.
Development envelope	Delineated in Figure 2 and by the coordinates in Schedule 2.
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority
EP Act	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i>
GL/a	Gigalitres per annum
Ground disturbing activity	Activities that are associated with the substantial implementation of a proposal including but not limited to, digging (with mechanised equipment), blasting, earthmoving, vegetation clearance, grading, gravel extraction, construction of new or widening of existing roads and tracks.
ha	Hectare
HDPE	High density polyethylene
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
km	Kilometre
Mtpa	Million tonnes per annum
Pilbara Environmental Offsets Fund	The special purpose account that has been created pursuant to section 16(1)(d) of the <i>Financial Management Act 2006</i> by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation.

Figures (attached)

Figure 1: Regional location

Figure 2: Development envelope and indicative disturbance footprint

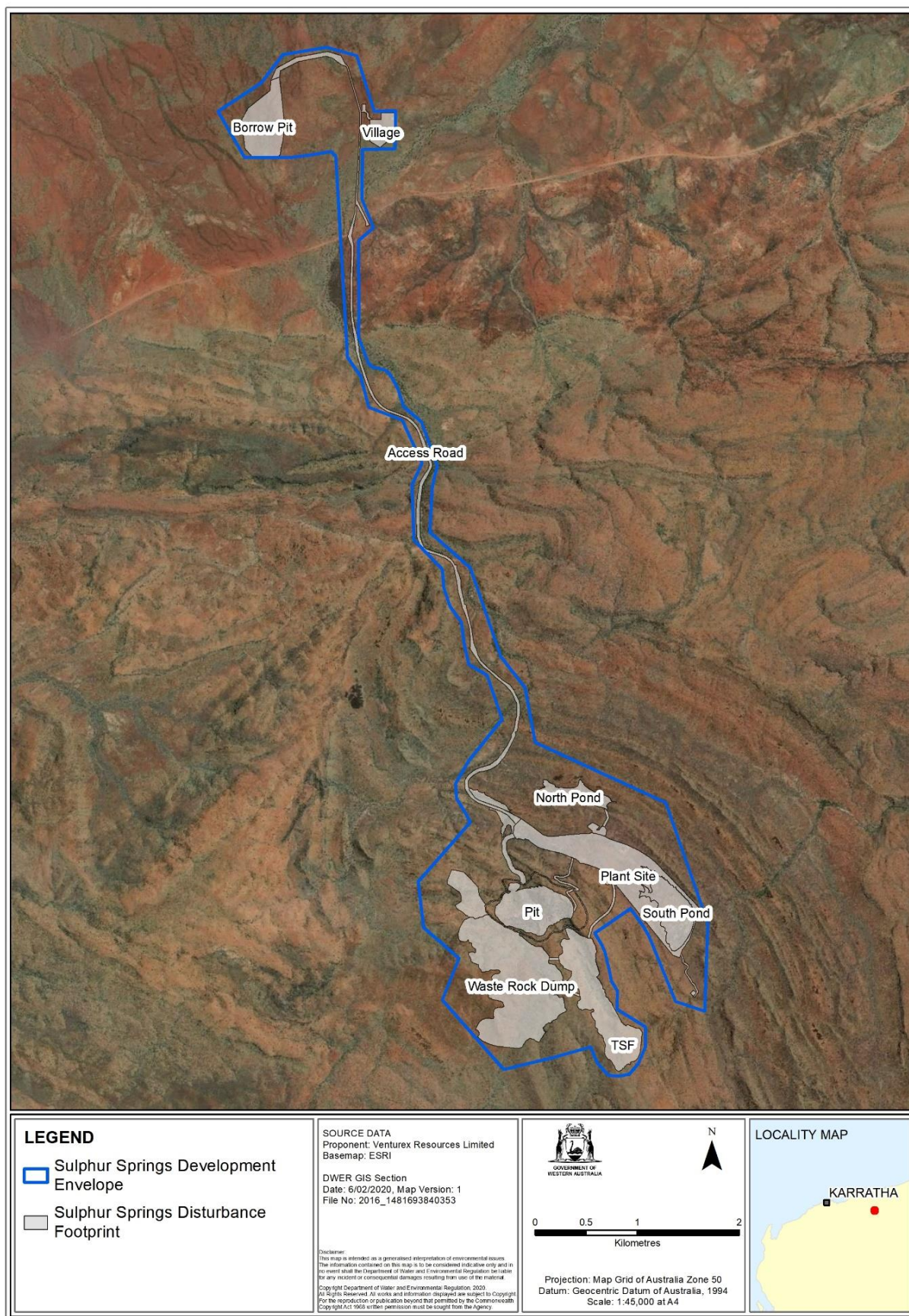
Figure 3: Locations of *Pityrodia* sp. Marble Bar (G. Woodman & D. Coultas GWDC Opp 4) within and in proximity of the development envelope



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Figure 1: Regional location



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Figure 2: Development envelope and indicative disturbance footprint



Figure 3: Locations of *Pityrodia* sp. Marble Bar (G. Woodman & D. Coultas GWDC Opp 4) within and in proximity of the development envelope

Geographical spatial data

Spatial data of the following are held by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation under the following reference numbers:

1. Development envelope and disturbance footprint - DWERDT248976.
2. Coordinates depicting the location of *Pityrodia* sp. Marble Bar (G. Woodman & D. Coultas GWDC Opp 4) - DWERDT254300.