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Published on: 14 December 2021

Statement No. 1178

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

**CERVANTES-01 CONVENTIONAL WELL DRILLING PROPOSAL**

**Proposal:** The proposal is to drill one conventional oil exploration well to determine if there is oil in the prospect, located 11 kilometres south of Dongara / Port Denison in the onshore Perth Basin, within the Beekeepers Nature Reserve. The proposal includes all activities associated with drilling a conventional oil exploration well including site preparation, equipment mobilisation, drill, case and cement, decommissioning, demobilisation, site restoration and rehabilitation. The anticipated life of the proposal is three to six months.

**Proponent:** RCMA Australia Pty Ltd  
Australian Company Number 612 244 827

**Proponent Address:** 3/49 Ord Street West Perth 6005 WA

**Assessment Number:** 2283

**Report of the Environmental Protection Authority:** 1702

Pursuant to section 45 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, it has been agreed that the proposal described in sections 3 and 4 of the proponent's referral supporting documentation (9 July 2020), may be implemented and that the implementation of the proposal is subject to the following implementation conditions and procedures:

### **1 Limitations and Extent of Proposal**

When implementing the proposal, the proponent shall ensure the proposal does not exceed the following extents:

<b>Physical element</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Limitation or maximum extent</b>
Development envelope	Figure 2	36.5 hectares
Disturbance footprint	Figure 2	Up to 7 hectares

Physical element	Location	Limitation or maximum extent
Direct disturbance of native vegetation	Figure 2	Up to 5.3 hectares
Direct disturbance of priority 1 'Coastal sands dominated by <i>Acacia rostellifera</i> , <i>Eucalyptus oraria</i> and <i>Eucalyptus obtusiflora</i> ' Priority Ecological Community ( <b>PEC</b> )	Figure 2	Up to 0.99 hectares
Operational elements		
Extraction method		Conventional
Rehabilitation		Rehabilitation consistent with an approved Rehabilitation plan
Decommissioning		Removal of all drilling and exploration related infrastructure and equipment not required to remain under the <i>Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources Act 1967</i>
Timing elements		
Site preparation and drilling activities		Up to six (6) months from substantial commencement
Rehabilitation		Up to three (3) years from plugging of the well

## 2 Time Limit Authorisation

- 2-1 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.
- 2-2 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.

## 3 Flora and Vegetation Outcomes

- 3-1 The proponent shall ensure the following outcomes are achieved:
- (1) no more than 0.99 ha direct disturbance to Coastal sands dominated by *Acacia rostellifera*, *Eucalyptus oraria* and *Eucalyptus obtusiflora* **PEC**; and

- (2) avoid impacts from the implementation of the proposal to flora and vegetation from changes to fire regime, dieback (*Phytophthora spp*) and weeds.

#### **4 Terrestrial Fauna Outcomes**

4-1 The proponent shall ensure the following outcome is achieved:

- (1) avoid impacts from the implementation of the proposal to terrestrial fauna from changes to fire regime, introduction of feral animals, spread of dieback and weeds, vehicle strikes, entrapment in excavation and artificial water bodies, light pollution, noise and dust.

#### **5 Rehabilitation Plan**

5-1 The proponent shall update and implement the Rehabilitation Management Plan (29 April 2021) for approval by the CEO, on advice from **DBCA**. The Rehabilitation Management Plan shall contain provisions for update and review.

5-2 The proponent must not commence ground disturbing works until the CEO has endorsed the latest version of the Rehabilitation Management Plan (29 April 2021) in writing.

5-3 The proponent shall implement the Rehabilitation Management Plan referred to in condition 5-1 until such time as the CEO agrees that the proponent's rehabilitation completion criteria have been fulfilled.

#### **6 Rehabilitation Performance Bond**

6-1 As security for the due and punctual observance and performance by the proponent of the requirements of condition 5 to be observed, conformed and complied with, the proponent shall lodge with the CEO prior to commencement of site preparation activities, an irrevocable Performance Bond as nominated and approved by the CEO in his/her sole unfettered discretion to a cash value and in a form acceptable to the CEO ("the Security") which Security at the date hereof being \$324,500.

6-2 If the proponent encounters hydrocarbons that have the potential to lead to a commercial field development, as security for the due and punctual observance and performance by the proponent of the requirements of condition 5 to be observed, conformed and complied with, the proponent shall lodge with the CEO on demand within three (3) months of the casing and suspension of the proposal, an irrevocable Performance Bond as nominated and approved by the CEO in his/her sole unfettered discretion to a cash value and in a form acceptable to the CEO ("the Security") which Security at the date hereof being \$275,000.

- 6-3 Upon completion of appropriate decommissioning and rehabilitation works at the site as agreed by the CEO, the Performance Bond referred in condition 6-1 can be reduced to \$93,000 as a contingency Performance Bond. Additional works would be required if completion criteria have not been achieved in a period of three (3) years following completion of decommissioning and rehabilitation works as determined by the CEO, on advice of **DBCA**.
- 6-4 Security required by conditions 6-1, 6-2 and 6-3 may be reviewed at any time under Part VA 'Financial assurances' of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.

Note: In the preparation of advice to the CEO in relation to conditions 6-1, 6-2 and 6-3, the **EPA** expects that the advice of the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety and **DBCA** will be obtained.

## **7 Offsets**

- 7-1 If completion criteria have not been fulfilled after decommissioning and rehabilitation, and a further three (3) years following additional works, resulting in significant residual impacts on Beekeepers Nature Reserve, then the proponent shall implement offsets to counter-balance any residual impacts on the nature reserve as determined by the CEO, on advice of **DBCA**.

## **8 Environmental Management Plan(s): Monitoring and Adaptive Management Program**

- 8-1 Prior to ground disturbance and for approval, the proponent must prepare and submit to the CEO Environmental Management Plan(s) to substantiate that the outcomes of conditions 3, 4 and 5 will be met. The Plans must include:
- (1) threshold criteria that provide a limit beyond which the environmental outcomes are not achieved;
  - (2) trigger criteria that will provide an early warning that the environmental outcomes are not likely to be met;
  - (3) monitoring parameters, sites, control/reference sites, methodology, timing and frequencies which will be used to measure threshold and trigger criteria. Include methodology for determining alternate monitoring sites as a contingency if proposed sites are not suitable in the future;
  - (4) baseline data;
  - (5) data collection and analysis methodologies;
  - (6) adaptive management methodology; and
  - (7) contingency measures which will be implemented if threshold or trigger criteria are met.

- 8-2 The exceedance of a threshold criteria (regardless of whether threshold contingency measures have been or are being implemented), and / or failure to comply with the requirements of the Environmental Management Plan represents a non-compliance with these conditions.
- 8-3 The proponent must not commence operations until the CEO, on advice from **DBCA**, has confirmed in writing that the Environmental Management Plan(s) satisfies the requirements of this condition.

## **9 Environmental Management Plan(s): General Provisions**

- 9-1 After receiving notice in writing from the CEO that the management plan(s) for conditions 3, 4 and 5 of this Statement satisfy the requirements of condition 8 respectively, the proponent shall:
- (1) implement the proposal in accordance with the management plans; and
  - (2) continue to implement the approved plans and programs until the CEO has confirmed by notice in writing that it has been demonstrated that the condition requirements have been met and therefore the implementation of the actions is no longer required.
- 9-2 The proponent may review and revise the management plan(s).
- 9-3 The proponent shall review and revise the management plan(s) as and when directed by the CEO.
- 9-4 The proponent shall implement the latest version of the management plan(s), which the CEO has confirmed by notice in writing, satisfies the requirements of conditions 3, 4, 5 and 8 respectively.
- 9-5 Despite condition 9-4, but subject to conditions 9-6 and 9-7, the proponent may implement minor revisions to a management plan(s) if the revisions will not result in any new or increased adverse impacts to the environment or result in a risk to the achievement of the management plan(s) limits, outcomes or objectives.
- 9-6 If the proponent is to implement minor revisions to a management plan(s) under condition 9-5, the proponent must provide the CEO with the following at least twenty (20) business days before it implements the revisions:
- (1) revised management plan(s) clearly showing the minor revisions;
  - (2) explanation of reasons for the minor revisions; and
  - (3) explanation of why the minor revisions will not result in a new or increased adverse impacts to the environment or result in a risk to the achievement of the management plan limits, outcomes or objectives.

9-7 The proponent must cease to implement any revisions which the CEO notifies the proponent in writing may not be implemented.

9-8 Management Plans must be provided in electronic form suitable for publication on the EPA website within ten (10) business days of endorsement, and also be provided on the proponent's website.

## **10 Contact Details**

10-1 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.

## **11 Compliance and Exceedance Reporting**

11-1 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 11-5, or prior to implementation of the proposal, whichever is sooner.

11-2 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.

11-3 After receiving notice in writing from the CEO that the Compliance Assessment Plan satisfies the requirements of condition 11-2, the proponent shall assess compliance with conditions in accordance with the Compliance Assessment Plan required by condition 11-1.

11-4 The proponent must provide an annual Compliance Assessment Report to the CEO for the purpose of determining whether the implementation conditions are being complied with.

- 11-5 The first annual Compliance Assessment Report must be submitted within twelve months of the issuing of this statement commencing on the first 31 March after the date of this Statement, and subsequent Compliance Assessment Reports must be submitted annually from that date, unless a different date is approved by the CEO.
- 11-6 Each annual Compliance Assessment Report must be endorsed by the proponent's Chief Executive Officer and must:
- (1) state whether each condition of this Statement has been complied with;
  - (2) provide evidence to substantiate statements of compliance, or details of where there has been a non-compliance and describe corrective and preventative actions taken; and
  - (3) be provided in a form suitable for publication on the EPA website.
- 11-7 If the proponent becomes aware a limit, outcome or threshold criteria contained in these conditions, or a management plan required in these conditions, has, or is likely to be exceeded, the proponent must:
- (1) report this to the CEO within seven (7) days;
  - (2) implement contingency measures;
  - (3) investigate the cause of the exceedance;
  - (4) investigate environmental impacts of the exceedance;
  - (5) propose rectification measures;
  - (6) propose measures to ensure no further impact as a result of the exceedance; and
  - (7) provide a further report to the CEO within twenty-one (21) days of the original report, detailing the measures required under this condition.

## **12 Public Availability of Data**

- 12-1 Subject to condition 12-2, 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.
- 12-2 If any data referred to in condition 12-1 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 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.

[signed on 14 December 2021]

HON AMBER-JADE SANDERSON MLA  
**MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT; CLIMATE ACTION**

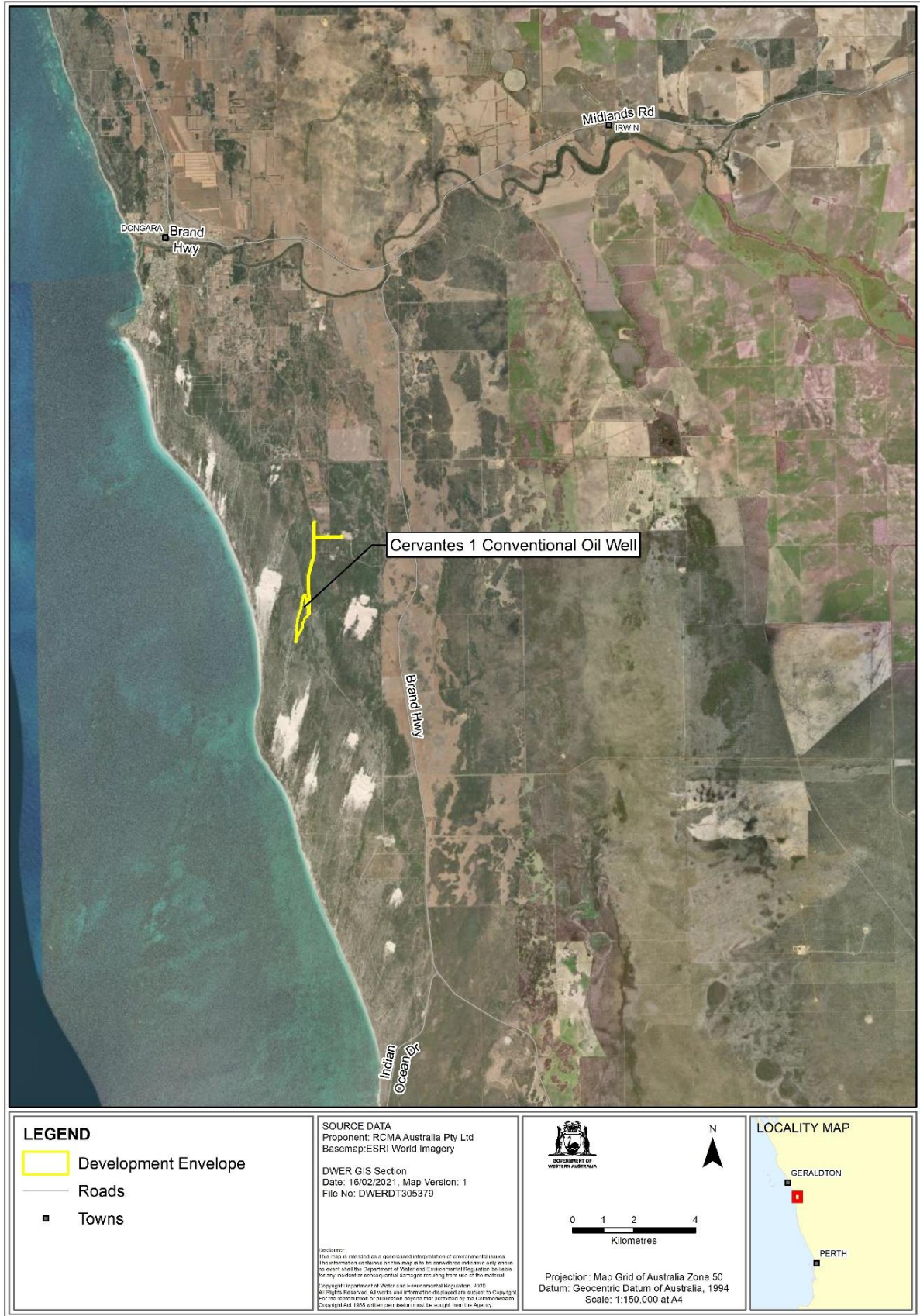
<b>Key decision-making authorities consulted under section 45(2):</b>
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Minister for Water Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Minister for Mines and Petroleum
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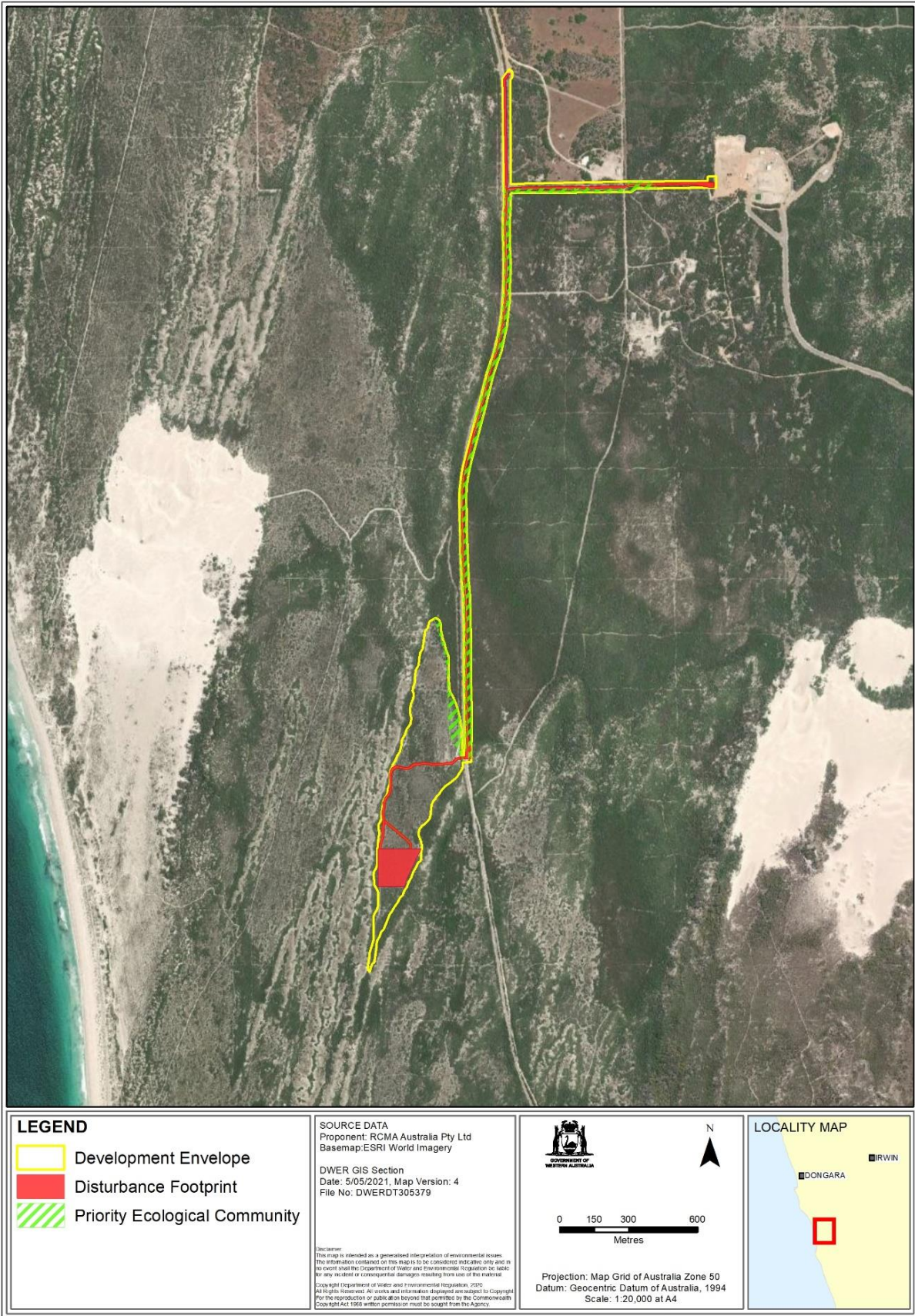


**Table 1: Abbreviations and definitions**

<b>Acronym or abbreviation</b>	<b>Definition or term</b>
<b>CEO</b>	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/her delegate.
<b>DBCA</b>	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
<b>EPA</b>	Environmental Protection Authority
<b>EP Act</b>	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i>
<b>PEC</b>	Priority Ecological Community as defined under the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i>



**Figure 1: Regional location**



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**Figure 2: Development envelope and disturbance footprint**

## **Schedule 1**

Coordinates defining the areas shown in Figures 1 and 2 are held by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, under reference numbers DWERDT428176. All coordinates are in metres, listed in Map Grid of Australia Zone 50 (MGA Zone 50), datum of Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994 (GDA94).