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Published on: 20 December 2023

Statement No.1216

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

**MT WELD RARE EARTHS PROJECT – LIFE OF MINE PROPOSAL**

**Proposal:** The proposal is a significant amendment to the existing Mt Weld Rare Earths Project, proposed for the mining and beneficiation, and processing of a rare earths deposit at Mt Weld to its life of mine extent. The proposal includes the expansion of the development envelope to allow the extension of mining activities and supporting infrastructure.

**Proponent:** Mt Weld Mining Pty Ltd  
Australian Company Number 053 160 400

**Proponent address:** Level 4, 1 Howard St  
PERTH WA 6000

**Assessment number:** 2350

**Report of the Environmental Protection Authority:** 1752

**Introduction:** The Proposal is a significant amendment to the existing Mt Weld Rare Earths Project which was agreed to be implemented under Ministerial Statement 476. The EPA's Report for the existing Mt Weld Rare Earths Project is Report 884, EPA Assessment Number 1194.

Pursuant to section 45 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, it is now agreed that:

1. the significant amendment proposal described and documented in the proponent's Proposal Content Document (25 August 2022), may be implemented;
2. Ministerial Statement 476 for the existing Mt Weld Rare Earths Project proposal is superseded under section 40AA (6) (b) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*; and
3. the implementation of the significantly amended proposal (being the existing approved proposal as amended by the significant amendment proposal) is subject to the following implementation conditions and procedures.

**Conditions and procedures**

**Part A: Proposal extent**

**Part B: Environmental outcomes, prescriptions and objectives**

**Part C: Environmental management plans and monitoring**

**Part D: Compliance and other conditions**

## PART A: PROPOSAL EXTENT

### A1 Limitations and Extent of Proposal

A1-1 The proponent must ensure that the proposal is implemented in such a manner that the following limitations or maximum extents / capacities / ranges are not exceeded:

Proposal element	Location	Maximum extent
Physical elements		
Development envelope comprising of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mine pit</li> <li>• Beneficiation plant</li> <li>• Evaporation ponds</li> <li>• Waste/low grade ore stockpiles</li> <li>• Waste rock and by-product landforms</li> <li>• Hybrid power station</li> <li>• Extended borefield network</li> <li>• Accommodation village</li> <li>• Associated infrastructures (water supply, roads, etc)</li> </ul>	Figure 1	No more than <b>2,241.6 ha</b> within the development envelope of <b>2,802 ha</b> .
Tailings dam area	Figure 1	No more than <b>170 ha</b> within the development envelope of <b>2,802 ha</b> .
Direct <b>disturbance</b> of native vegetation	Figure 1	No more than <b>2,241.6 ha</b> within the development envelope of <b>2,802 ha</b> .
Direct <b>disturbance</b> of <b>long-tailed dunnart (<i>Sminthopsis longicaudata</i>) habitat</b>		No more than <b>39.38 ha</b> of <b>'stony rise'</b> habitat type within the development envelope of <b>2,802 ha</b> .
Direct <b>disturbance</b> of <b>long-tailed dunnart (<i>Sminthopsis longicaudata</i>) habitat</b>		No more than <b>1.85 ha</b> of <b>'rocky ridge and outcropping'</b> habitat type within the development envelope of <b>2,802 ha</b> .
Greenhouse gas emissions		
Total	Scope 1	<b>81,357 t CO<sub>2</sub>-e/yr</b>

Proposal element	Location	Maximum extent
Timing elements		
Proposal time	Maximum project life	Up to thirty (30) years from the date of this statement
	Decommissioning phase	Up to two (2) years

## PART B – ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOMES, PRESCRIPTIONS AND OBJECTIVES

### B1 Terrestrial Fauna

B1-1 The proponent must implement the proposal to meet the following environmental **outcomes**:

- (1) the known populations of the long-tailed dunnart (*Sminthopsis longicaudata*) within the surrounding area of the development envelope remains viable;
- (2) directly **disturb** no more than:
  - (a) 39.38 ha of **stony rise** habitat type;
  - (b) 1.85 ha of **rocky ridge and outcropping** habitat type;
- (3) ensure that surface water flow regimes are maintained compared to pre-construction conditions and do not cause **adverse impacts** to native fauna habitats outside the development envelope; and
- (4) ensure there are no **adverse impacts** from the introduction and / or spread of **environmental weeds** compared with analogue or reference sites.

B1-2 The proponent must implement the proposal to meet the following environmental **objectives**:

- (1) **minimise the risk** of physical injury or mortality from **construction activities** on native fauna;
- (2) **minimise the risk** of **adverse impacts** including mortality, physical injury, behavioural changes and health impacts from **operations** on native fauna; and
- (3) ensure there is no long-term increase in population of feral animals as a result of implementing the proposal.

B1-3 Prior to **ground disturbing activities**, the proponent shall undertake the following actions:

- (1) within seven (7) days prior to **clearing**, using a suitably qualified or licensed **fauna spotter**, undertake **pre-clearance surveys** to detect the presence of long-tailed dunnart (*Sminthopsis longicaudata*) within:
  - (a) the **stony rise** habitat type; and
  - (b) **rocky ridge and outcropping** habitat type.

B1-4 The proponent shall undertake the following actions during **construction activities**:

- (1) ensure the presence of **fauna spotters** during **clearing** activities occurring within:
  - (a) the **stony rise** and **rocky ridge and outcropping** habitat.
- (2) cease **construction activities** in any area where the long-tailed dunnart (*Sminthopsis longicaudata*) is identified until either:
  - (a) the individual has been removed by a **fauna spotter**; or
  - (b) the individual has moved on from the area to adjoining suitable habitat.

B1-5 The proponent shall undertake the following actions during **construction activities**:

- (1) remove trapped vertebrate fauna from within open **trenches**, using a suitably trained or licenced **fauna handler**;
  - (a) at least twice daily, with the first daily **clearing** to be completed no later than three (3) hours after sunrise and the second **clearing** to be completed between the hours of 3:00 pm and 6:00 pm of that same day, unless otherwise agreed to by the **CEO**; and
  - (b) within one (1) hour prior to backfilling of **trenches**.

B1-6 During construction, the proponent shall ensure open **trench** lengths shall not exceed a length capable of being inspected and cleared by the requirements set out in condition B1-5.

B1-7 During construction, the proponent shall ensure ramps providing egress points and/or fauna refuges providing suitable shelter from the sun and predators for trapped vertebrate fauna are to be placed in the **trench** at intervals not exceeding fifty (50) metres.

B1-8 In the event of substantial rainfall and following the **clearing** of vertebrate fauna from the **trench**, pump out any pooled water in the open **trench** and discharge it to adjacent vegetated areas in a manner that does not cause erosion.

B1-9 Produce and provide a report on fauna management for construction activities that occur in known long-tailed dunnart (*Sminthopsis longicaudata*) habitat no later than sixty (60) days after the completion of **construction activities** to the **CEO**. The report shall include the following:

- (1) details of fauna inspections;

- (2) the number and type of fauna cleared from **trenches** and actions taken;
- (3) **fauna spotter**;
- (4) results of **pre-clearance survey**; and
- (5) vertebrate fauna mortalities.

B1-10 During construction vehicle and machinery speed limits shall not exceed:

- (1) 40 **km/hr** on roads within the **stony rise**, and **rocky ridge with outcropping** habitats.

B1-11 The proponent must review and update the Fauna Management Plan (MTW-EN-PLA-0014\_2, July 2023) that demonstrates how achievement of the **Terrestrial Fauna environmental outcomes** in condition B1-1, will be monitored, substantiated and satisfies the requirements of C4, how the **Terrestrial Fauna objectives** in condition B1-2 will be achieved, and satisfies the requirements of conditions C5, and submit it to the **CEO**.

## **B2 Terrestrial Fauna and Human Health**

B2-1 The proponent must implement the proposal to meet the following environmental **outcomes**:

- (1) rehabilitated landforms **do not cause environmental harm**, including do not exceed background levels of radiation;
- (2) rehabilitated vegetation is self-sustaining;
- (3) rehabilitated areas are consistent with the species diversity and abundance of native vegetation within comparative analogue or reference sites; and
- (4) demonstrate that closure planning and rehabilitation are being undertaken in a **progressive manner** consistent with achievement of the above **outcomes** during **operations**, where practicable, and as soon as practicable upon closure.

B2-2 The proponent must include the environmental **outcomes** of condition B2-1, and the ongoing results of the environment performance reporting required under condition B3, in the Mine Closure Plan required under the *Mining Act 1978*, and submitted for approval to the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety.

## **B3 Environmental Performance Reporting**

B3-1 The proponent shall submit an Environmental Performance Report to the **CEO** every five (5) years.

B3-2 The first Environmental Performance Report shall be submitted within three months after five (5) years from the date the statement is issued, or such other time as may be approved by the **CEO**.

B3-3 Each Environmental Performance Report shall report on the following:

- (1) the state of terrestrial fauna impacted by the proposal;
- (2) results of actions undertaken for progressive rehabilitation of the mine site, including research and field trials on the optimum tailings storage facility cover to attenuate radiation, research, field trials and on the ground works that better inform mine closure, and other actions or research to ensure the environmental **outcomes** in condition B2 will be met; and
- (3) the state of native vegetation, including those used in progressive rehabilitation, and those that a remnant native vegetation on the mine site.

B3-4 The Environmental Performance Report must include:

- (1) a comparison of the matters identified in condition B3-3 at the end of the five (5) year period; against the state of each matter at the beginning of the five (5) year period;
- (2) a comparison of the environmental values identified in condition B3-3(1) and B3-3(3) at the end of the five (5) year period; against the state of the environmental values identified in first Environmental Performance Report submitted in accordance with condition B3-2; and
- (3) proposed adaptive management and continuous improvement strategies.

B3-5 The Environmental Performance Report may be in whole, or part prepared in conjunction with other proponents where there are cumulative impacts from their proposals.



## **PART C – ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLANS AND MONITORING**

### **C1 Environmental Management Plans: Conditions Related to Commencement of Implementation of the Proposal**

C1-1 The proponent must:

- (1) After the completion of **construction**, not undertake **operations** associated with the **significant amendment** of the **Mt Weld Rare Earths Project – Life of Mine Proposal** until the **CEO** has confirmed in writing that the environmental management plan required by condition B1-11 meets the requirements of that condition and condition C4 and condition C5.

### **C2 Environmental Management Plans: Conditions Relating to Approval, Implementation, Review and Publication**

C2-1 Upon being required to implement an environmental management plan under Part B, or after receiving notice in writing from the **CEO** under condition C1-1 that the environmental management plan(s) required in Part B satisfies the relevant requirements, the proponent must:

- (1) implement the most recent version of the **confirmed** environmental management plan; and
- (2) continue to implement the **confirmed** environmental management plan referred to in condition C2-1(1), other than for any period which the **CEO** confirms by notice in writing that it has been demonstrated that the relevant requirements for the environmental management plan have been met, or are able to be met under another statutory decision-making process, in which case the implementation of the environmental management plan is no longer required for that period.

C2-2 The proponent:

- (1) may review and revise a **confirmed** environmental management plan provided it meets the relevant requirements of that environmental management plan, including any consultation that may be required when preparing the environmental management plan;
- (2) must review and revise a **confirmed** environmental management plan and ensure it meets the relevant requirements of that environmental management plan, including any consultation that may be required when preparing the environmental management plan, as and when directed by the **CEO**; and
- (3) must revise and submit to the **CEO** the **confirmed** Environmental Management Plan if there is a material risk that the **outcomes** or

**objectives** it is required to achieve will not be complied with, including but not limited to as a result of a change to the proposal.

C2-3 Despite condition C2-1, but subject to conditions C2-4 and C2-5, the proponent may implement minor revisions to an environmental management plan if the revisions will not result in new or increased **adverse impacts** to the environment or result in a risk to the achievement of the limits, **outcomes** or **objectives** which the environmental management plan is required to achieve.

C2-4 If the proponent is to implement minor revisions to an environmental management plan under condition C2-3, the proponent must provide the **CEO** with the following at least twenty (20) business days before it implements the revisions:

- (1) the revised environmental management plan clearly showing the minor revisions;
- (2) an explanation of and justification for the minor revisions; and
- (3) an explanation of why the minor revisions will not result in new or increased **adverse impacts** to the environment or result in a risk to the achievement of the limits, **outcomes** or **objectives** which the environmental management plan is required to achieve.

C2-5 The proponent must cease to implement any revisions which the **CEO** notifies the proponent (at any time) in writing may not be implemented.

C2-6 **Confirmed** environmental management plans, and any revised environmental management plans under condition C2-4(1), must be published on the proponent's website and provided to the **CEO** in electronic form suitable for on-line publication by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation within twenty (20) business days of being implemented, or being required to be implemented (whichever is earlier).

### **C3 Conditions Related to Monitoring**

C3-1 The proponent must undertake monitoring capable of:

- (1) substantiating whether the proposal limitations and extents in Part A are exceeded; and
- (2) detecting and substantiating whether the environmental **outcomes** identified in Part B are achieved (excluding any environmental **outcomes** in Part B where an environmental management plan is expressly required to monitor achievement of that **outcome**).

C3-2 The proponent must submit as part of the Compliance Assessment Report required by condition D2-1, a compliance monitoring report that:

- (1) outlines the monitoring that was undertaken during the implementation of the proposal;
- (2) identifies why the monitoring was capable of substantiating whether the proposal limitation and extents in Part A are exceeded;
- (3) for any environmental **outcomes** to which condition C3-1(2) applies, identifies why the monitoring was scientifically robust and capable of detecting whether the environmental **outcomes** in Part B are met;
- (4) outlines the results of the monitoring;
- (5) reports whether the proposal limitations and extents in Part A were exceeded and (for any environmental **outcomes** to which condition C3-1 (2) applies) whether the environmental **outcomes** in Part B were achieved, based on analysis of the results of the monitoring; and
- (6) reports any actions taken by the proponent to remediate any potential non-compliance.

#### **C4 Environmental Management Plans: Conditions Relating to Monitoring and Adaptive Management for Outcomes Based Conditions**

C4-1 The environmental management plan required under condition B1-11 must contain provisions which enable the substantiation of whether the relevant **outcomes** of those conditions are met, and 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 criteria** 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;
- (7) **contingency measures** which will be implemented if **threshold criteria** or **trigger criteria** are not met; and
- (8) reporting requirements.

C4-2 Without limiting condition C3-1, failure to achieve an environmental **outcome**, or the exceedance of a **threshold criteria**, regardless of whether threshold **contingency measures** have been or are being implemented, represents a non-compliance with these conditions.

**C5 Environmental Management Plans: Conditions Related to Management Actions and Targets for Objective Based Conditions**

C5-1 The environmental management plan required under condition B1-11 must contain provisions which enable the achievement of the relevant **objectives** of those conditions and substantiation of whether the **objectives** are reasonably likely to be met, and must include:

- (1) **management actions**;
- (2) **management targets**;
- (3) **contingency measures** if **management targets** are not met; and
- (4) reporting requirements.

C5-2 Without limiting condition C5-1, the failure to achieve an environmental objective, or implement a **management action**, regardless of whether **contingency measures** have been or are being implemented, represents a non-compliance with these conditions.

## **PART D – COMPLIANCE, TIME LIMITS, AUDITS AND OTHER CONDITIONS**

### **D1 Non-compliance Reporting**

D1-1 If the proponent becomes aware of a potential non-compliance, the proponent must:

- (1) report this to the **CEO** within seven (7) days;
- (2) implement **contingency measures**;
- (3) investigate the cause;
- (4) investigate environmental impacts;
- (5) advise rectification measures to be implemented;
- (6) advise any other measures to be implemented to ensure no further impact; and
- (7) provide a report to the **CEO** within twenty-one (21) days of being aware of the potential non-compliance, detailing the measures required in conditions D1-1(1) to D1-1(6) above.

D1-2 Failure to comply with the requirements of a condition, or with the content of an environmental management plan required under a condition, constitutes a non-compliance with these conditions, regardless of whether the **contingency measures**, rectification or other measures in condition D1-1 above have been or are being implemented.

### **D2 Compliance Reporting**

D2-1 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.

D2-2 Unless a different date or frequency is approved by the **CEO**, the first annual Compliance Assessment Report must be submitted within fifteen (15) months of the date of this Statement, and subsequent reports must be submitted annually from that date.

D2-3 Each annual Compliance Assessment Report must be endorsed by the proponent's Chief Executive Officer, or a person approved by proponent's Chief Executive Officer to be delegated to sign on the Chief Executive Officer's behalf.

D2-4 Each annual Compliance Assessment Report must:

- (1) state whether each condition of this Statement has been complied with, including:

- (a) exceedance of any proposal limits and extents;
  - (b) achievement of environmental **outcomes**;
  - (c) achievement of environmental **objectives**;
  - (d) requirements to implement the content of environmental management plans;
  - (e) monitoring requirements;
  - (f) implement **contingency measures**;
  - (g) requirements to implement adaptive management; and
  - (h) reporting requirements;
- (2) include the results of any monitoring (inclusive of any raw data) that has been required under Part C in order to demonstrate that the limits in Part A, and any **outcomes** or any **objectives** are being met;
  - (3) provide evidence to substantiate statements of compliance, or details of where there has been a non-compliance;
  - (4) include the corrective, remedial and preventative actions taken in response to any potential non-compliance;
  - (5) be provided in a form suitable for publication on the proponent's website and online by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation;
  - (6) be prepared and published consistent with the latest version of the Compliance Assessment Plan required by condition D2-5 which the **CEO** has confirmed by notice in writing satisfies the relevant requirements of Part C and Part D.

D2-5 The proponent must prepare 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 D2-2.

D2-6 The Compliance Assessment Plan must include:

- (1) what, when and how information will be collected and recorded to assess compliance;
- (2) the methods which will be used to assess compliance;
- (3) the methods which will be used to validate the adequacy of the compliance assessment to determine whether the implementation conditions are being complied with;

- (4) the retention of compliance assessments;
- (5) the table of contents of Compliance Assessment Reports, including audit tables; and
- (6) how and when Compliance Assessment Reports will be made publicly available, including usually being published on the proponent's website within sixty (60) days of being provided to the **CEO**.

### **D3 Contact Details**

D3-1 The proponent must 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.

### **D4 Time Limit for Proposal Implementation**

D4-1 The proposal must be substantially commenced within five (5) years from the date of this Statement.

D4-2 The proponent must provide to the **CEO** documentary evidence demonstrating that they have complied with condition D4-1 no later than fourteen (14) days after the expiration of period specified in condition D4-1.

D4-3 If the proposal has not been substantially commenced within the period specified in condition D4-1, implementation of the proposal must not be commenced or continued after the expiration of that period.

### **D5 Public Availability of Data**

D5-1 Subject to condition D5-2, within a reasonable time period approved by the **CEO** upon the issue of this Statement and for the remainder of the life of the proposal, the proponent must make publicly available, in a manner approved by the **CEO**, all validated environmental data collected before and after the date of this Statement relevant to the proposal (including sampling design, sampling methodologies, monitoring and other empirical data and derived information products (e.g. maps)), environmental management plans and reports relevant to the assessment of this proposal and implementation of this Statement.

D5-2 If:

- (1) any data referred to in condition D5-1 contains trade secrets; or
- (2) any data referred to in condition D5-1 contains particulars of confidential information (other than trade secrets) that has commercial value to a person that would be, or could reasonably be expected to be, destroyed or diminished if the confidential information were published,

the proponent may submit a request for approval from the **CEO** to not make this data publicly available and the **CEO** may agree to such a request if the **CEO** is satisfied that the data meets the above criteria.

D5-3 In making such a request the proponent must provide the **CEO** with an explanation and reasons why the data should not be made publicly available.

## **D6 Independent Audit**

D6-1 The proponent must arrange for an independent audit of compliance with the conditions of this statement, including achievement of the environmental **outcomes** and/or the environmental **objectives** and/ or environmental performance with the conditions of this statement, as and when directed by the **CEO**.

D6-2 The independent audit must be carried out by a person with appropriate qualifications who is nominated or approved by the **CEO** to undertake the audit under condition D6-1.

D6-3 The proponent must submit the independent audit report with the Compliance Assessment Report required by condition D2-1, or at any time as and when directed in writing by the **CEO**. The audit report is to be supported by credible evidence to substantiate its findings.

D6-4 The independent audit report required by condition D6-1 is to be made publicly available in the same timeframe, manner and form as a Compliance Assessment Report, or as otherwise directed by the **CEO**.

[signed on 20 December 2023]

Hon Reece Whitby MLA

**MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT; CLIMATE ACTION**

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



**Table 1: Abbreviations and definitions**

<b>Acronym or abbreviation</b>	<b>Definition or term</b>
<b>Adverse impact / adversely impacted</b>	Negative change that is neither trivial nor negligible that could result in a reduction in health, diversity or abundance of the receptor/s being impacted, or a reduction in environmental value. Adverse impacts can arise from direct or indirect impacts, or other impacts from the proposal such as (but not limited to) introduction of invasive species, altered fire regimes.
<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 the <b>CEO's</b> delegate.
<b>Cleared/Clearing</b>	Has the same meaning as in section 51A of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> .
<b>Confirmed</b>	<p>In relation to a plan required to be made and submitted to the <b>CEO</b>, means, at the relevant time, the plan that the <b>CEO</b> confirmed, by notice in writing, meets the requirements of the relevant condition.</p> <p>In relation to a plan required to be implemented without the need to be first submitted to the <b>CEO</b>, means that plan until it is revised, and then means, at the relevant time, the plan that the <b>CEO</b> confirmed, by notice in writing, meets the requirements of the relevant condition.</p>
<b>Construction activities</b>	Activities that are associated with the substantial implementation of a proposal including but not limited to, earthmoving, vegetation <b>clearing</b> , grading or construction of right of way. Construction activities do not include Geotechnical investigations (including potholing for services and the installation of piezometers) and other preconstruction activities where no <b>clearing</b> of vegetation is required.
<b>Contingency measures</b>	Planned actions for implementation if it is identified that an environmental outcome, environmental objective, threshold criteria, or management target are likely to be, or are being, exceeded. Contingency measures include changes to <b>operations</b> or reductions in <b>disturbance</b> or <b>adverse impacts</b> to reduce impacts and must be decisive actions that will quickly bring the impact to below any relevant threshold, management target and to ensure that the environmental outcome and/or objective can be met.
<b>Disturb</b>	Means directly has or materially contributes to the <b>disturbance</b> effect on health, diversity or abundance of the receptor/s being impacted or on an environmental value.

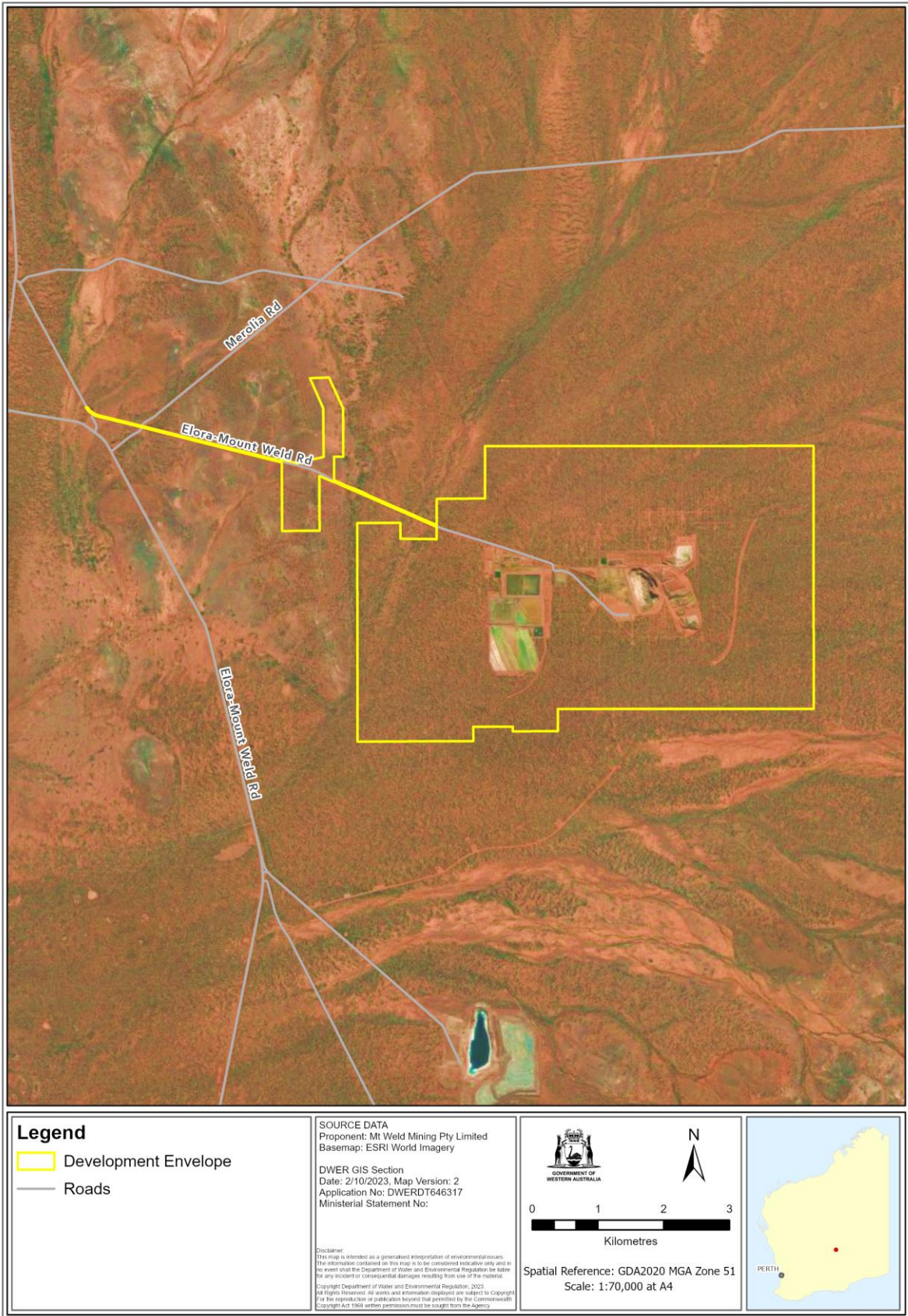
Acronym or abbreviation	Definition or term
	<p>In relation to flora, vegetation or fauna habitat, includes to result in the death, destruction, removal, severing or doing substantial damage to.</p> <p>In relation to fauna, includes to have the effect of altering the natural behaviour of fauna to its detriment.</p>
<b>Environmental weeds</b>	Any plant declared under section 22(2) of the <i>Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007</i> , any plant listed on the Weeds of National Significance List and any weeds listed on the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.
<b>Fauna handler</b>	A person who is qualified and has attained the appropriate licence/s and authorisation/s under the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> and the Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2018.
<b>Fauna Spotter</b>	A person who is suitably trained in species identification, who does not perform any handling of animals where a licence to do so is required
<b>Ground disturbing activities</b>	Any activity or activities undertaken in the implementation of the proposal, including any <b>clearing</b> , civil works or construction.
<b>Ha</b>	Hectare
<b>Indirect impacts/disturbance</b>	Any potential impacts outside the development envelope as a result of the <b>clearing</b> and <b>disturbance</b> authorised in this Statement. This includes but is not limited to: hydrological change, spread or introduction of environmental weeds, altered fire regimes, introduction or spread of disease, changes in erosion/deposition/accretion and edge effects.
<b>km/hr</b>	Kilometre per hour.
<b>Management action</b>	The identified actions implemented with the intent of to achieving the environmental objective.
<b>Management target</b>	A type of indicator to evaluate whether an environmental objective is being achieved.
<b>Minimise the risk</b>	Taking proactive measures to reduce the likelihood and magnitude of <b>adverse impacts</b> or harm to native fauna during construction or operation activities to the lowest practicable level.
<b>Mt Weld Rare Earths Project – Life of Mine Proposal</b>	The proposal which is or includes the amendment of an approved Mt Weld Rare Earths Project.
<b>Objective</b>	An objective is the proposal-specific desired state for an environmental factor/s to be achieved from the implementation of management actions.

Acronym or abbreviation	Definition or term
<b>Operations</b>	Operation of infrastructure for the proposal.
<b>Outcome</b>	A proposal-specific result to be achieved when implementing the proposal.
<b>Pre-clearance surveys</b>	Surveys designed to identify the presence or evidence of fauna prior to <b>ground disturbing activities</b> .
<b>Rocky ridge and outcropping</b>	A habitat of Long-tailed Dunnart ( <i>Sminthopsis longicaudata</i> ) as defined in the Mt Weld Rare Earths Project – Life of Mine Proposal.
<b>Significant amendment</b>	Has the same meaning as in section 3(1) of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> .
<b>Stony rise</b>	A habitat of Long-tailed Dunnart ( <i>Sminthopsis longicaudata</i> ) as defined in the Mt Weld Rare Earths Project – Life of Mine Proposal.
<b>t CO<sub>2</sub>-e/yr</b>	Tonnes Carbon dioxide equivalent per year.
<b>Trench /Trenches</b>	Any excavation that is of sufficient depth that would cause vertebrate fauna to be become trapped and unable to escape and would include, but not be limited to, <b>trenches</b> or pits for utilities, pipelines, dewatering pits or bell holes.
<b>Trigger criteria</b>	Indicators that have been selected for monitoring to provide a warning that if exceeded the environmental outcome may not be achieved. They are intended to forewarn of the approach of the threshold criteria and trigger response actions.
<b>Threshold criteria</b>	The indicators that have been selected to represent limits of impact beyond which the environmental outcome is not being met.
<b>Viable</b>	The known populations of the long-tailed dunnart remain capable of sustaining their population without immediate risk of significant decline due to the proposed Mt Weld Rare Earths Project – Life of Mine Proposal.

### Figures (attached)

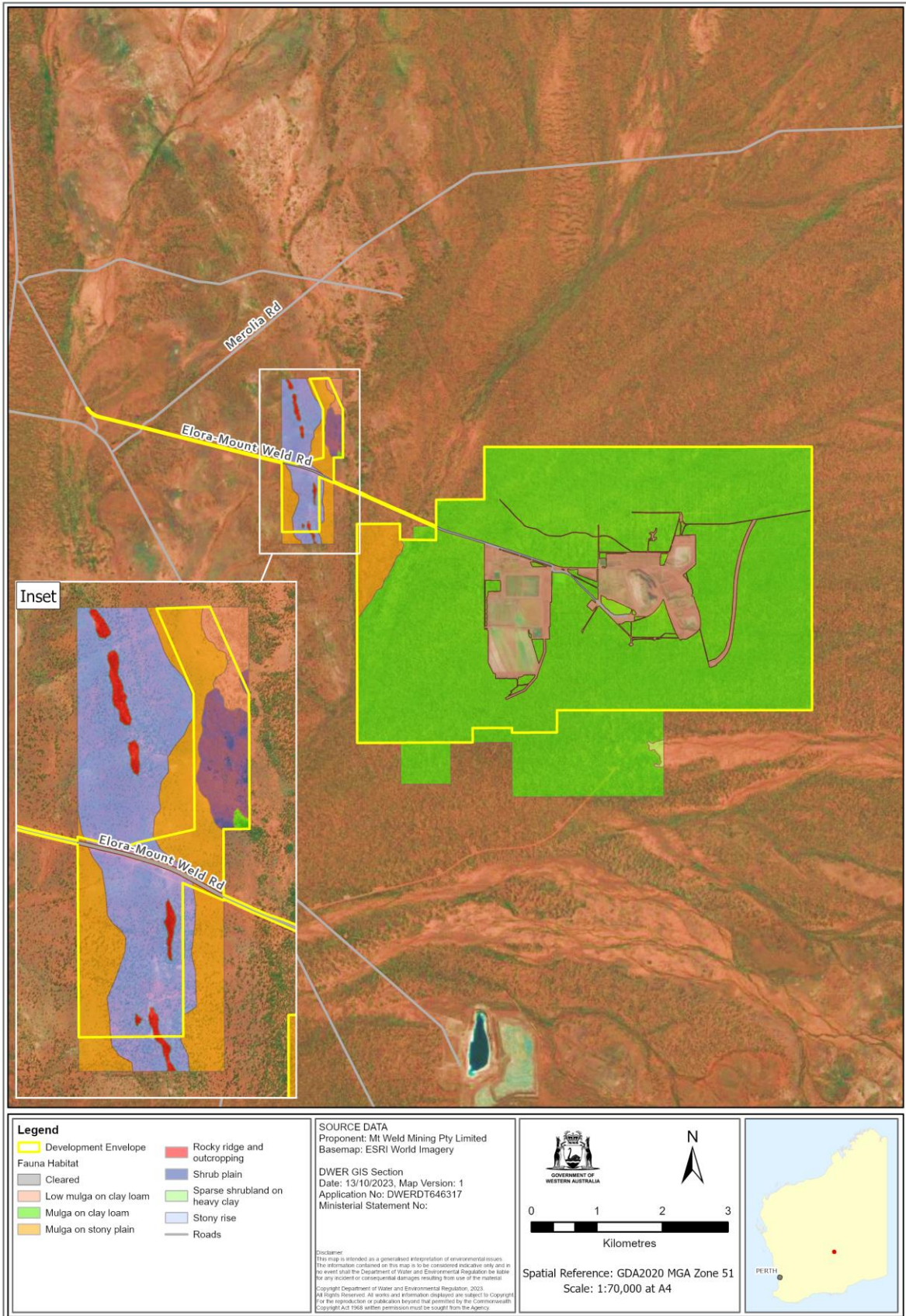
Figure 1 Development envelope (This map is a representation of the co-ordinates referenced in Schedule 1)

Figure 2 Habitat mapping within the development envelope (This map is representation of the co-ordinates referenced in Schedule 1)



**Figure 1: Development envelope**





Path: S:\Projects\EIA\38\2022\_DWERT646317\_MtWeldRareEarthLoM\3\_Assessment\ArcGIS Pro\Projects\MtWeldRareEarthLoM\MtWeldRareEarthLoM.aprx

**Figure 2. Habitat mapping within the development envelope**

## **Schedule 1**

All co-ordinates are in metres, listed in Map Grid of Australia Zone 51 (MGA Zone 51), datum of Geocentric Datum of Australia 2020 (GDA 2020).

Spatial data depicting the figures are held by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation. Record no. DWER-801164602-5379

- Figure 1: Development envelope for the proposal – DWER-801164602-104672
- Figure 2: Habitat mapping of the proposal – DWER-801164602-104673

## Attachment 1 to Ministerial Statement 1216

Amendment to proposal approved under section 45C of the  
*Environmental Protection Act 1986*


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This Attachment replaces Condition A1-1 of Ministerial Statement 1216

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**Proposal: Mt Weld Rare Earths Project – Life of Mine Proposal**

**Proponent: Mt Weld Mining Pty Ltd**

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**Changes:**

- Increase in maximum extent of tailings dam area from 170 hectares to 280 hectares.

**Table 1: Summary of the proposal**

Proposal title	Mt Weld Rare Earths Project – Life of Mine Proposal
Short description	The proposal is a significant amendment to the existing Mt Weld Rare Earths Project, proposed for the mining and beneficiation, and processing of a rare earths deposit at Mt Weld to its life of mine extent. The proposal includes the expansion of the development envelope to allow the extension of mining activities and supporting infrastructure.

**Condition A1-1 is changed.**

Condition A1-1 of Ministerial Statement 1216 is deleted and replaced with:

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

Proposal element	Location	Maximum extent
<b>Physical elements</b>		
Development envelope comprising of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mine pit</li> <li>• Beneficiation plant</li> <li>• Evaporation ponds</li> <li>• Waste/low grade ore stockpiles</li> <li>• Waste rock and by-product landforms</li> <li>• Hybrid power station</li> <li>• Extended borefield network</li> <li>• Accommodation village</li> <li>• Associated infrastructures (water supply, roads, etc)</li> </ul>	Figure 1	No more than 2,241.6 <b>ha</b> within the development envelope of 2,802 <b>ha</b> .

Proposal element	Location	Maximum extent
Tailings dam area	Figure 1	No more than 280 <b>ha</b> within the development envelope of 2,802 <b>ha</b> .
Direct disturbance of native vegetation	Figure 1	No more than 2,241.6 <b>ha</b> within the development envelope of 2,802 <b>ha</b> .
Direct disturbance of long-tailed dunnart ( <i>Sminthopsis longicaudata</i> ) habitat		No more than 39.38 <b>ha</b> of ' <b>stony rise</b> ' habitat type within the development envelope of 2,802 <b>ha</b> .
Direct disturbance of long-tailed dunnart ( <i>Sminthopsis longicaudata</i> ) habitat		No more than 1.85 <b>ha</b> of ' <b>rocky ridge and outcropping</b> ' habitat type within the development envelope of 2,802 <b>ha</b> .
<b>Greenhouse gas emissions</b>		
Total	Scope 1	81,357 <b>t CO<sub>2</sub>-e/yr</b>
<b>Timing elements</b>		
Proposal time	Maximum project life	Up to thirty (30) years from the date of this statement
	Decommissioning phase	Up to two (2) years

[Signed 26 March 2024]

**Prof. Matthew Tonts**  
 CHAIR  
 Environmental Protection Authority  
 under delegated authority