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Published on: 8 July 2010

Statement No: 834

**STATEMENT THAT A PROPOSAL MAY BE IMPLEMENTED
(PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1986)**

OREBODY 24/25 UPGRADE PROJECT

Proposal: BHP Billiton Iron Ore is proposing to develop the Orebody 24 (OB24) deposit located north of Orebody 25 (OB25) Mine, and approximately 10 km north-east of the town of Newman in the Pilbara Region. New and existing OB25 infrastructure would be utilised.

Proponent: BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd

Proponent Address: St Georges Square, 225 St Georges Tce, Perth WA 6000

Assessment Number: 1833

Previous Statement Numbers: Nil

Previous Related Statement Numbers: 712

Report of the Environmental Protection Authority: 1356

Previous Related Report of the Environmental Protection Authority: 1210

The proposal referred to in report 1356 of the Environmental Protection Authority may be implemented. The implementation of that proposal is subject to the following conditions and procedures:

1 Proposal Implementation

1-1 The proponent shall implement the proposal as documented and described in schedule 1 of this statement subject to the conditions and procedures of this statement.

2 Proponent Nomination and Contact Details

- 2-1 The proponent for the time being nominated by the Minister for Environment under sections 38(6) or 38(7) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* is responsible for the implementation of the proposal.
- 2-2 The proponent shall notify the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority of any change of the name and address of the proponent for the serving of notices or other correspondence within 30 days of such change.

3 Time Limit of Authorisation

- 3-1 The authorisation to implement the proposal provided for in this statement shall lapse and be void five years after the date of this statement if the proposal to which this statement relates is not substantially commenced.
- 3-2 The proponent shall provide the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority with written evidence which demonstrates that the proposal has substantially commenced on or before the expiration of five years from the date of this statement.

4 Compliance Reporting

- 4-1 The proponent shall prepare and maintain a compliance assessment plan to the satisfaction of the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority.
- 4-2 The proponent shall submit to the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority the compliance assessment plan required by condition 4-1 at least six months prior to the first compliance report required by condition 4-6, or prior to implementation, whichever is sooner.

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 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 Chief Executive Officer of the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority.
- 4-5 The proponent shall advise the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority of any potential non-compliance within seven days of that non-compliance being known.
- 4-6 The proponent shall submit to the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority the first compliance assessment report fifteen months from the date of issue of this Statement addressing the twelve month period from the date of issue of this Statement and then annually from the date of submission of the first compliance assessment report.

The compliance assessment report shall:

- 1 be endorsed by the proponent's Managing Director or a person delegated to sign on the Managing Director'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 Environmental Management Plan

- 5-1 The proponent shall implement the proposal in accordance with the Environmental Management Plan provided as Appendix A of *Orebody 24/25 Upgrade Project, Environmental Protection Statement (March 2010)* or subsequent revisions.
- 5-2 The proponent shall review and revise the Environmental Management Plan required by condition 5-1 at intervals not exceeding five years.
- 5-3 The proponent shall make the Environmental Management Plan required by condition 5-1 publicly available.

6 Conservation of Significant Flora and Fauna

- 6-1 The proponent shall implement the proposal in accordance with the Significant Species Management Plan provided as Appendix C of *Orebody 24/25 Upgrade Project, Environmental Protection Statement (March 2010)* or subsequent revisions.
- 6-2 The proponent shall review and revise the Significant Species Management Plan required by condition 6-1 at intervals not exceeding five years.
- 6-3 The proponent shall make the Significant Species Management Plan required by condition 6-1 publicly available.

7 Weeds

- 7-1 The proponent shall implement the proposal in accordance with the Weed Management Plan provided as Appendix D of *Orebody 24/25 Upgrade Project, Environmental Protection Statement (March 2010)* or subsequent revisions.
- 7-2 The proponent shall review and revise the Weed Management Plan required by condition 7-1 at intervals not exceeding five years.

8 Acid and Metalliferous Drainage

- 8-1 Prior to ground-disturbing activities, the proponent shall provide a report with a detailed risk assessment, using national and international standards (as noted below), for any potential Acid and Metalliferous Drainage (as defined in Section 2.1 of the Managing Acid and Metalliferous Drainage, February 2007 developed by the Australian Government) within the area of the Proposal as defined in Figure 2 to identify:
 - 1. the extent of the potential acidity and metal contamination hazard associated from related mining activities in the area of the proposal; and
 - 2. the potential environmental receptors that could be impacted on exposure to this hazard.
- 8-2 Prior to the mining of any material with the potential to generate Acid Metalliferous Drainage, the proponent shall have in place long-term prevention, monitoring, contingency and remediation strategies for the management of any potential Acid and Metalliferous Drainage to the satisfaction of the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority on advice of the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Department of Mines and Petroleum.
- 8-3 The proponent shall undertake static and kinetic geochemical testing for potential Acid and Metalliferous Drainage as part of the long-term monitoring strategies required by condition 8-2 using national and

international standards to the satisfaction of the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority.

- 8-4 The proponent shall report the results and assessment of efficacy of the long-term prevention, monitoring, contingency and remediation strategies required by condition 8-2 as part of the compliance assessment report required by condition 4-6 to the satisfaction of the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority.

Note: the national and international standards are the *Managing Acid and Metalliferous Drainage*, February 2007 developed by the Australian Government, Department of Industry Tourism and Resources, and the *Global Acid and Metalliferous Drainage (GARD) Guide*, December 2008, developed by the International Network for Acid Prevention (INAP).

9 Decommissioning and Rehabilitation

- 9-1 The proponent shall implement the proposal in accordance with the Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plan provided as Appendix B of *Orebody 24/25 Upgrade Project, Environmental Protection Statement (March 2010)* or subsequent revisions.
- 9-2 The proponent shall review and revise the Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plan required by condition 9-1 at intervals not exceeding 5 years until condition 9-5 is have been met to the requirements of the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority on advice of the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Department of Mines and Petroleum.
- 9-3 The proponent shall ensure that decommissioning and rehabilitation completion criteria are developed during implementation of the proposal, included in the Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plan required by condition 9-1 and updated as required by condition 9-2.
- 9-4 The proponent shall ensure that rehabilitation required by condition 9-1 achieves the following outcomes within 5 years following the cessation of productive mining in the area of the proposal:
1. the project area shall be non-polluting and shall be constructed so that its final shape, stability, surface drainage, resistance to erosion and ability to support local native vegetation are comparable to non-disturbed natural landforms within 100 km of the proposal.
 2. native vegetation areas disturbed through implementation of the proposal, shall be progressively rehabilitated with vegetation composed of native plant species of local provenance (defined as seed or plant material collected within 100 kilometres of the proposal).

3. areas not currently supporting native vegetation shall be revegetated to the original land use or a use approved by the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority.
 4. The percentage cover of living vegetation in all rehabilitation areas shall be comparable to non-disturbed natural vegetation within 100 km of the proposal.
 5. no new species of weeds (including both declared weeds and environmental weeds) shall be introduced into the area as a result of the implementation of the proposal.
 6. The coverage of weeds (including both declared weeds and environmental weeds) within the rehabilitation areas shall be no greater than the average of three suitable reference sites on nearby land, with reference sites to be chosen in consultation with the Department of Environment and Conservation.
- 9-5 Rehabilitation activities shall continue until such time as the requirements of conditions 9-1 and 9-2 are demonstrated by inspections and reports to have been met for a minimum of five years, to the satisfaction of the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority on advice of the Department of Environment and Conservation and of the Department of Mines and Petroleum.

Procedures

1. Where a condition states “on advice of the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority”, the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority will provide that advice to the proponent.
2. The Minister for Environment will determine any dispute between the proponent and the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority over the fulfilment of the requirements of the conditions.
3. The proponent is required to apply for a Works Approval and Licence for this project under the provisions of Part V of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*

Hon Donna Faragher JP MLC
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT; YOUTH

Schedule 1
The Proposal (Assessment No. 1833)

The proposal to develop the OB24 deposit to provide crushed ore feed for the existing ore processing facilities at the OB25 mine until 2028 involves:

- a land disturbance of 750 ha within a maximum proposal footprint of 1,310 ha;
- using conventional open pit hard rock selective mining methods;
- hauling mined overburden to mined-out voids for use as infill, or placed in out-of-pit OSAs;
- the transport of ore from the OB24 deposit pits to the existing OB25 processing facilities either conveyor or haul trucks;
- the construction and operation of a new primary and secondary ore crushing facility either at the OB24 deposit if conveyor ore transport options is used, or the OB25 mine if haul road ore transport option is used;
- Construction and use of Run-of-Mine ore stockpiles and low-grade ore stockpiles.
- Construction and use of water supply pipelines and pumps to connect the OB24 mine operations with existing water supply and reticulation network used in the OB25 mine;
- Construction and use of approximately 1.6 kilometres (km) of 66 kilovolt (kV) overhead spur line;
- Use of existing rail facilities and loading of up to five trains per day (trains to consist of two or three rakes, with each rake consisting of approximately 106 ore cars); and
- Construction and use of new administration and crib room facilities.
- Construction and use of new refuelling and hydrocarbon storage facilities.
- Installation and operation of new sewage treatment unit.

The location of the various project components is shown in Figures 1, 2 and 3. The main characteristics of the proposal are summarised in Table 1 below. A detailed description of the proposal is provided in the project referral document, *Orebody 24/25 Upgrade Project Referral*, prepared by BHP Iron Ore Pty Ltd, Perth, Western Australia (March 2010).

Table 1: Summary of Key Proposal Characteristics

Element	Description
Project Life	Approximately 20 years
Ore Processing Rate	Up to 15 million tonnes per annum.
Land Disturbance Area	No more than 750 hectares within a maximum disturbance boundary of 1310 hectares.

Element	Description
Area of Pits	No more than 320 hectares.
Water Supply	Water sourced from existing approved mine dewatering at OB23 and OB25.
Water Consumption	Up to 8.1 mega litres per day.
Power	15 mega Watt hours per annum.

Figures

Figure 1 Regional Location of the OB24 deposit.

Figure 2 Location of the OB24 deposit in relation to the OB25 mine.

Figure 3 Indicative General Arrangement for the development of the OB24 deposit.

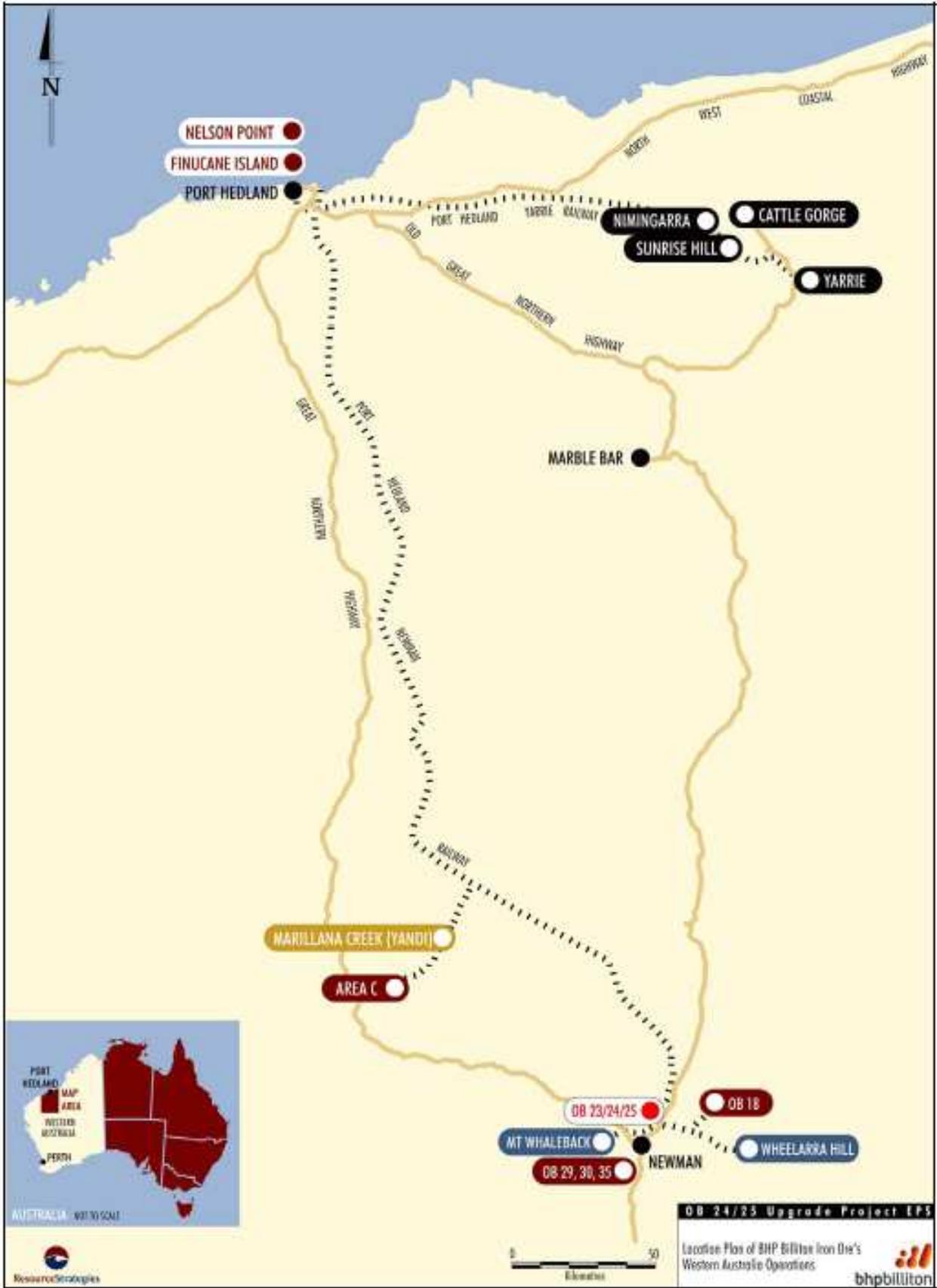


Figure 1 Regional Location of the OB24 deposit.

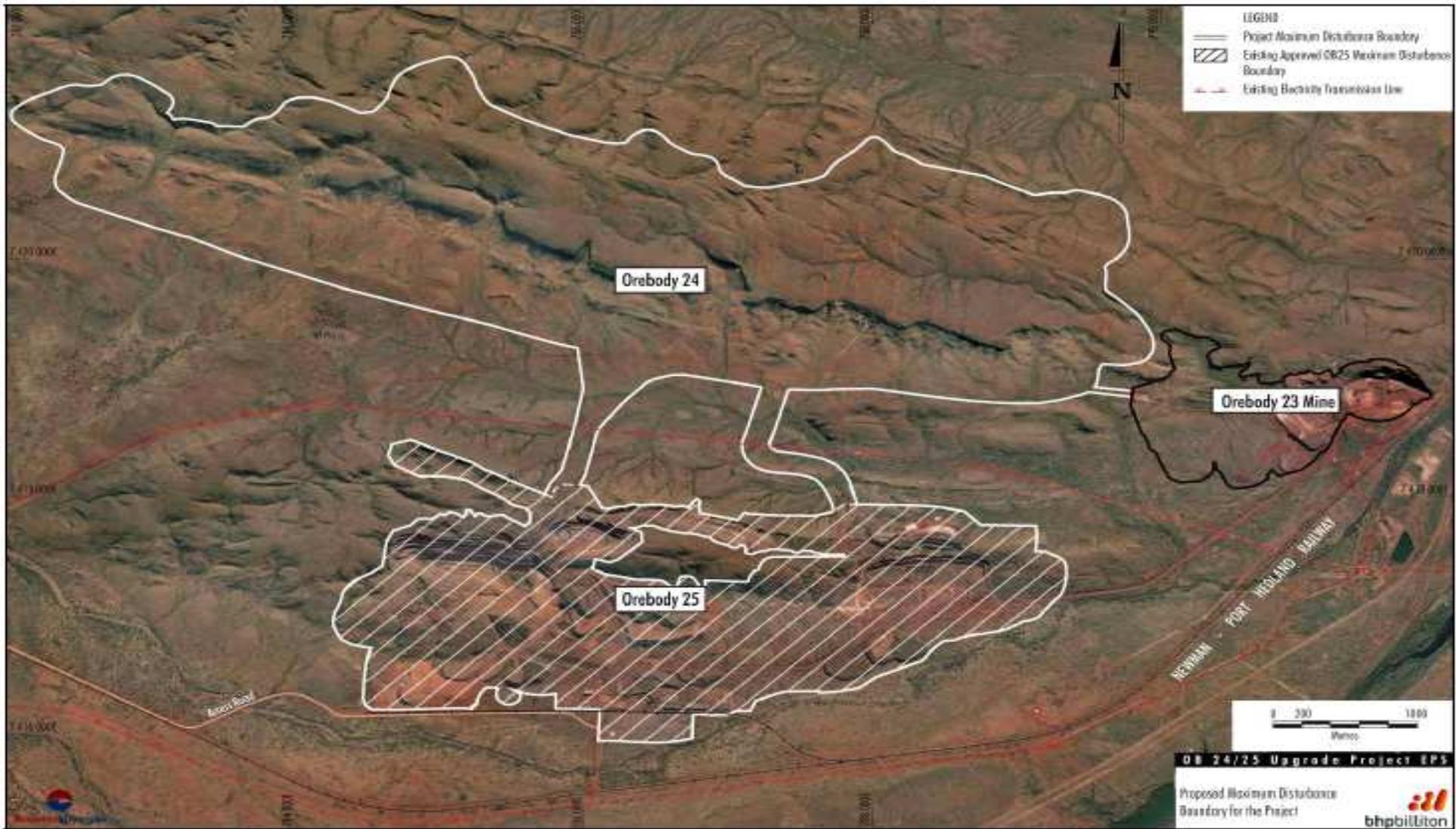


Figure 2 Location of the OB24 deposit in relation to the OB25 mine.

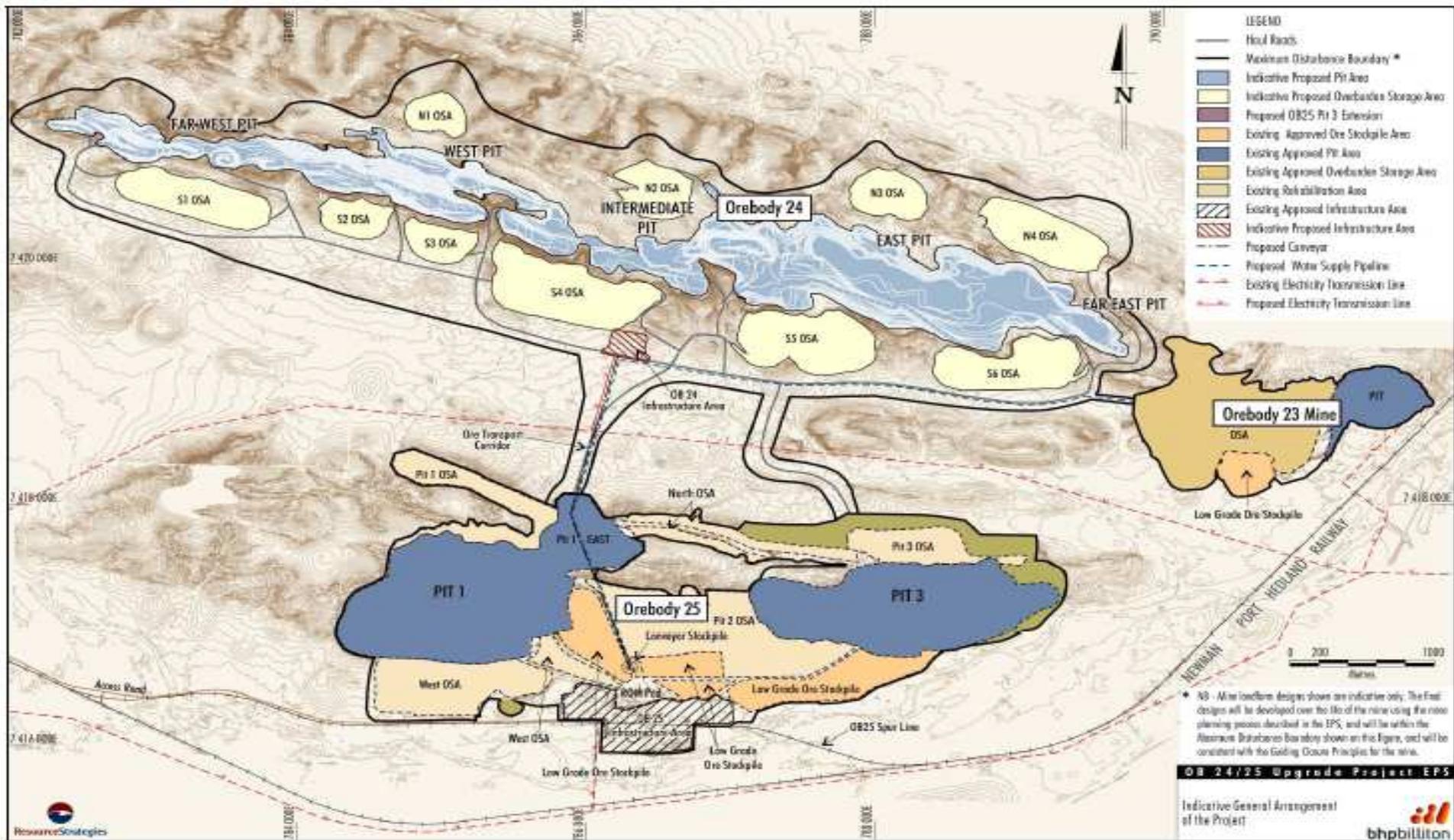


Figure 3 Indicative General Arrangement for the development of the OB24 deposit.

Attachment 1 to Ministerial Statement 834

Change to Proposal

Proposal: OREBODY 24/25 UPGRADE PROJECT

Proponent: BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd

Change: The disturbance area and ore processing rate are changed to enable a rail spur, train load-out facility, and on-site ore handling plant (approved in the original proposal) to be constructed and used at the Orebody 24 Mine.

Key Characteristics Table:

Element	Description of proposal	Description of approved change to proposal
Project Life	Approximately 20 years	Approximately 20 years
Ore processing rate	Up to 15 Mtpa	Up to 18 Mtpa
Land disturbance Area	No more than 750 ha within a Maximum Disturbance Area of 1,310 ha	No more than 1,110 ha within a Maximum Disturbance Area of 2,290 ha
Area of Pits	No more than 320 ha	No more than 320 ha
Water Supply	Water sourced from existing approved mine dewatering at OB23 and OB25.	Water sourced from existing approved mine dewatering at OB23 and OB25.
Water Consumption	Up to 8.1 ML per day.	Up to 8.1 ML per day.
Power	15 megawatt hours per annum.	Removed as not environmentally relevant

List of Figure:

Figure 4 Orebody 24 Modifications – Indicative General Arrangement for the Development of the OB 24 Deposit.

Dr Paul Vogel
CHAIRMAN
Environmental Protection Authority
under delegated authority

Approval date: 16 November 2011

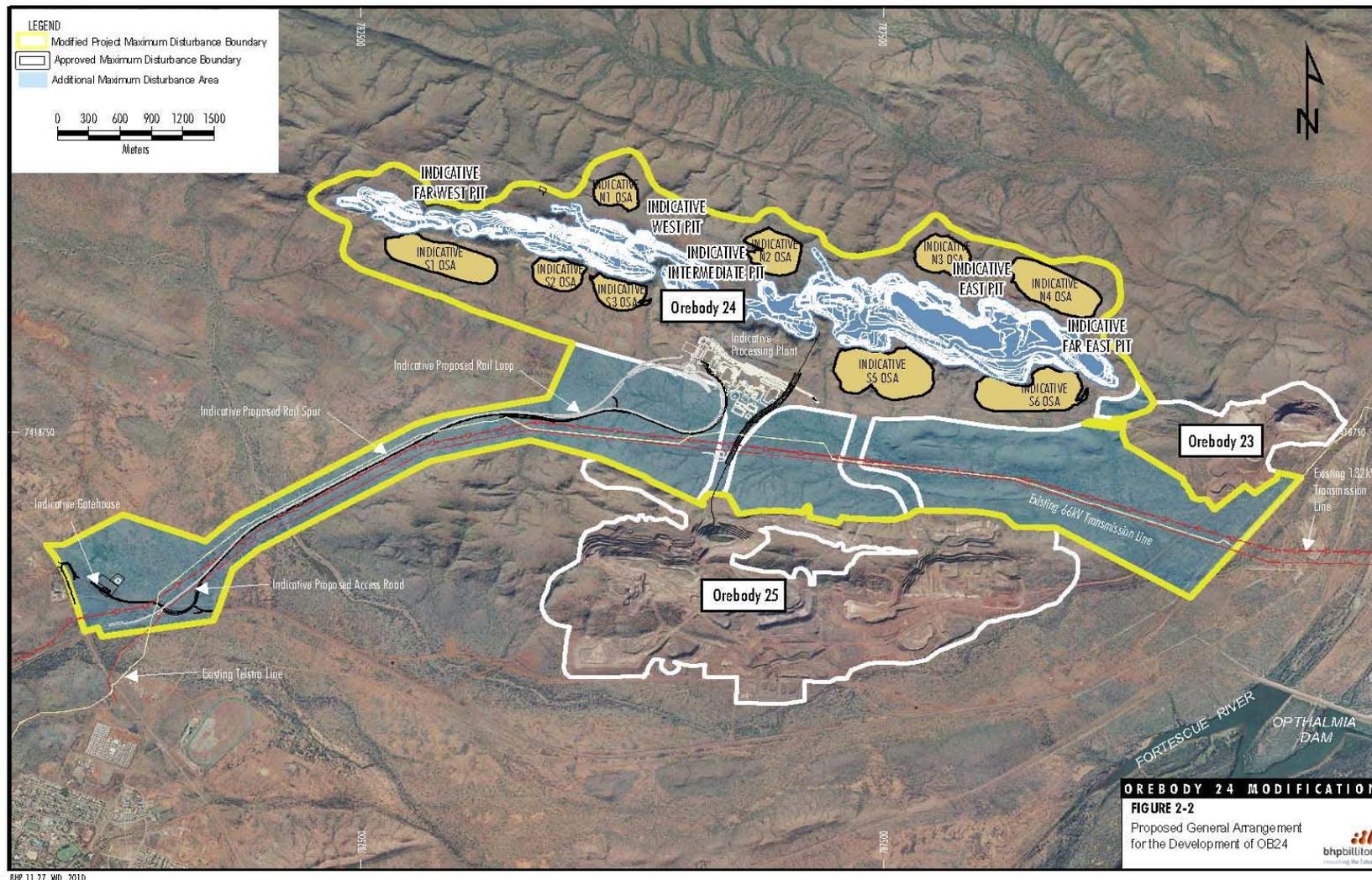


Figure 4 Orebody 24 Modifications – Indicative General Arrangement for the Development of the OB 24 Deposit.