

Template

Proposal Content Document

Table 1: General proposal content description

Proposal title	Orebody 32 (OB32) Below Water Table Creek Discharge
Proponent name	BHP Iron Ore Pty Ltd
Short description	<p>The Proposal includes the construction of a creek discharge at Homestead Creek to manage up to 60 ML/d of surplus water from the OB32 Below Water Table mine (OB32 BWT).</p> <p>OB32 BWT, approved under MS1105, already includes below water table mining and the construction of a surplus water pipeline to Ophthalmia Dam. This Proposal aims to provide an alternate surplus water management strategy for OB32 BWT for when Ophthalmia Dam is nearing capacity, or the surplus water pipeline is undergoing maintenance.</p> <p>The Proposal includes a series of aeration ponds, which will be constructed, if required, to prevent the deposition of calcium carbonate precipitate on Homestead Creek sediments. It also includes the construction of a short offtake pipe from the existing OB32 BWT surplus water pipeline, and a discharge outlet to Homestead Creek.</p> <p>The creek discharge will operate for up to 9 months a year resulting in a maximum discharge of 16.2 GL/a of surplus water to Homestead Creek</p> <p>The Proposal is not seeking any other changes to the existing Orebody 32 BWT mine approved under MS1105.</p>

Table 2: Proposal content elements

Proposal element	Location / description	Maximum extent, capacity or range
Physical elements		
Development Envelope	Figure 1-3	174 ha
Indicative Footprint	Figure 1-3	50 ha
Construction elements		
Homestead Creek discharge infrastructure and aeration ponds	Figure 1-3	40 ha
Operational elements		
Management of surplus water to Homestead Creek	Figure 5-2	Continuous discharge of up to 60 ML/day to Homestead Creek for a maximum of 9 months per year (270 days). The creek discharge will cease for 3 consecutive months per year during the dry season.

Proposal element	Location / description	Maximum extent, capacity or range
		This will result in a maximum of 16.2 GL/a being discharged to Homestead Creek.
Aeration pond capacity	Figure 5-2 Appendix 10	Aeration pond capacity of 240 ML Two parallel pond systems each rated at 30 ML/day to provide a residence time of 4 days (4 days x 60 ML/day = 240 ML)
Proposal elements with greenhouse gas emissions		
Construction elements:		
Diesel consumption during civil works, earthworks and clearing of vegetation	Scope 1	
N/A	Scope 2	
N/A	Scope 3	
Operation elements:		
N/A	Scope 1	
N/A	Scope 2	
N/A	Scope 3	
Rehabilitation		
<p>Undertake progressive rehabilitation following BHP's closure principles.</p> <p>BHP aims to restore land with native vegetation that is naturally self-sustaining. The aeration ponds will be dewatered and remaining sediment will be removed and encapsulated within an overburden storage area (OSA) or interim storage area (ISA). The ponds will be backfilled using embankment material and / or material from the flood bund. The flood bund will be pushed down to reinstate natural surface water drainage lines and the remaining footprint will be profiled and rehabilitated using standard surface treatments</p> <p>The Eastern Ridge Mine Closure Plan has been revised to include the Proposal and is included with the referral.</p>		
Commissioning		
Commissioning of the Homestead Creek discharge is to be undertaken subject to operational limits of Ophthalmia Dam and dewatering activities at BHP Newman Operations including OB32 BWT.		
Decommissioning		
Following the closure of OB32 BWT, the creek discharge infrastructure will be decommissioned and removed, closure earthworks completed, and a natural and stable surface for creek health will be reinstated.		

Proposal element	Location / description	Maximum extent, capacity or range
Other elements which affect extent of effects on the environment		
Proposal time*	Maximum project life	50 years
	Construction phase	Financial Year 2027
	Operations phase	While OB32 BWT mining occurs – estimated project life of 50 years
	Decommissioning phase	Financial Year 2076

** Proponents should only provide realistic timeframes to avoid unnecessary change to proposal applications at referral (section 38C), assessment (section 43A) or post assessment (section 45C).*