

Environmental Protection Act 1986

Section 43A

**NOTICE OF DECISION TO APPROVE AMENDMENTS TO
PROPOSAL DURING ASSESSMENT**

PERSON TO WHOM THIS NOTICE IS GIVEN

Mr Brian Howarth
Manager, Renewable Development & Projects
HESQ & Operations
Yara Pilbara Fertilisers Pty Ltd (ACN: 095 441 151)
Level 5, 182 St Georges Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

PROPOSAL TO WHICH THIS NOTICE RELATES:

Ammonia Plant, Murujuga (Burrup Peninsula) – Renewable Hydrogen Project
Assessment No. 2274

Pursuant to Section 43A of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act), the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) gives approval to the assessment of the proposal being completed in respect of the proposal as amended in accordance with the proponent's request being:

See the attached Amended proposal content document and Figure 1.

EFFECT OF THIS NOTICE:

1. The assessment of the proposal is to be completed in respect of the proposal as amended in accordance with the decision set out in this notice.
2. The proposal as amended in accordance with this notice is taken to have been referred to the EPA under Section 38 of the EP Act.

RIGHTS OF APPEAL:

There are no rights of appeal under the EP Act in respect of this decision.



Professor Matthew Tonts
CHAIRMAN
Delegate of the Environmental Protection Authority

20 April 2022

Summary of reasons for decision – request to amend a referred proposal under s43A of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*

Proposal Title: Ammonia Plant, Murujuga (Burrup Peninsula) – Renewable Hydrogen Project.

Environment Online Reference Number: N/A

Date request to amend referred proposal under section 43A received: 14 April 2022.

Proponent: Yara Pilbara Fertilisers Pty Ltd.

Proposal referral date: 28 July 2020.

Existing referred proposal: The Ammonia Plant, Murujuga (Burrup Peninsula) – Renewable Hydrogen Project (the proposal) is a significant amendment to the existing proposal (existing Ammonia Plant) located approximately 11 km north-west of Karratha, in the Pilbara region of Western Australia. The proposal includes an electrolysis plant and a dedicated solar photovoltaic (PV) farm. Energy from the PV farm will be used in the electrolysis plant to split water into hydrogen and oxygen. The hydrogen will be piped to the adjacent Ammonia Plant. The proposal will produce about 640 tonnes of ‘green hydrogen’ per annum for use in the Ammonia Plant (refer to Figure 1 in Attachment 2).

Short description of amendment(s) sought:

- Reduce the proposal’s disturbance footprint by:
 - excluding three Aboriginal heritage sites from the disturbance footprint
 - establishing a 50 m buffer zone between the northern boundary of the disturbance footprint and exposed granophyre boulders that are likely to feature engravings
- Establish a 50 m buffer zone around a men-only site located 20 m outside of the disturbance footprint
- Construct and maintain an access track between Sites 20897 and 9838

The configuration of the development envelope and disturbance footprint for the amended proposal is shown in Figure 1 in Attachment 2.

Decision:

Amendment(s) to the proposal as set out in Attachment 1 and Attachment 2 are approved.

Environmental factors relevant to amendment(s):

- Social surroundings key values: potential loss of Aboriginal heritage sites and intangible heritage values and traditional owner and custodian access and connection to the Aboriginal heritage sites, impacts to a portion of the Dampier Archipelago (including Burrup Peninsula) National Heritage Listed Area and the tentative World Heritage listing, and visual amenity.
- Terrestrial flora and vegetation key values: loss of potential fauna habitat for conservation significant fauna species.
- Terrestrial fauna key values: conservation significant terrestrial fauna species.

Summary of likely changes to environmental impacts from proposed amendment(s)

Amendment sought	Changes to environmental impacts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the proposal’s disturbance footprint by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - excluding three Aboriginal heritage sites from the disturbance footprint - establishing a 50 m buffer zone between the northern boundary of the disturbance footprint and exposed granophyre boulders that are likely to feature engravings • Establish a 50 m buffer zone around a men-only site located 20 m outside of the disturbance footprint • Construct and maintain an access track between Sites 20897 and 9838. 	<p>The amended proposal will reduce the size of the disturbance footprint from 24.77 ha to 22.94 ha. Clearing of vegetation will reduce from 23.03 ha to 21.23 ha.</p> <p>Therefore, there will be decreased impacts to flora and vegetation, terrestrial fauna habitat, and Aboriginal heritage sites and cultural values.</p> <p>The amended proposal is likely to be consistent with the relevant EPA environmental factor objectives.</p>

Summary of consultation

The proponent has consulted with the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation (MAC) in regard to minimising the impacts of the proposal on Aboriginal heritage sites and cultural values. An outcome of those discussions was that additional archaeological and ethnographic surveys were undertaken. The proposed amendments to the proposal are a result of the recommendations that resulted from these surveys.

This consultation by the proponent is considered to be acceptable.

Summary of consideration of amendment

The EPA has considered whether, if the proposal were already approved, the amendment would be a significant amendment. This has included considering the likely significance of:

- effects of the proposed amendment on its own
- effects of the proposed amendment in the context of the existing referred proposal
- cumulative environmental impacts
- holistic impacts.

The EPA has considered whether it has sufficient information about the proposed amendment to be able to reasonably proceed with assessment of the amended proposal with or without performing any additional functions at this stage.

The EPA has considered whether the amended proposal will still be substantially the same character as the existing referred proposal.

Approval – not a significant amendment

The EPA considers the amended proposal to be substantially the same character as the existing referred proposal and does not consider that the amendment would be a significant amendment if the proposal were already approved. The EPA considers it has enough information to reasonably proceed with assessment of the amended proposal without performing any additional functions at this stage.

Attachments

Attachment 1 Amended proposal content document

Attachment 2 Figure1: Amended proposal – development envelope and disturbance footprint.

Appeals: Decision not appealable.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'MAT TONTS', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Professor Matthew Tonts

CHAIR

Delegate of the Environmental Protection Authority

Date: 20 April 2022

Attachment 1

Amended proposal content document

Table 1: General proposal content description

Proposal title	Ammonia Plant, Murujuga (Burrup Peninsula)
Proponent name	Yara Pilbara Fertilisers Pty Ltd (YPF)
Short description	<p>The Proposal is to modify the Yara Pilbara Fertilisers ammonia plant to include the development of a renewable hydrogen plant. The Proposal is in the Burrup Strategic Industrial Area on Murujuga (Burrup Peninsula), approximately 11 km north-west of Karratha in the Pilbara region of Western Australia.</p> <p>The proposal includes the construction and operation of a renewable hydrogen plant, dedicated solar PV plant and associated infrastructure to provide renewable hydrogen in addition to the use of natural gas to feed the existing ammonia plant.</p>

Table 2: Proposal content elements

Proposal element	Location / description	Existing Proposal extent, capacity or range	Proposed amendment	Combined extent, capacity or range
Physical elements				
Ammonia plant	Figure 1	Clearing of no more than 29 ha within 73 ha Development Envelope	Increase in disturbance of 22.94 ha for a Renewable Hydrogen Plant	Clearing of no more than 51.94 ha within 73 ha Development Envelope
Desalination plant				
Access road and product pipeline to plant				
PV solar farm, hydrogen production plant, site tracks, and associate infrastructure				
Construction elements				
PV solar farm, hydrogen production plant, site tracks, and associate infrastructure	Figure 1	N/A	Clearing of no more than 22.94 ha	N/A

Proposal element	Location / description	Existing Proposal extent, capacity or range	Proposed amendment	Combined extent, capacity or range
Operational elements				
Ammonia plant capacity		Up to 2,600 t/day of ammonia	No change	Up to 2,600 t/day of ammonia
Oxygen emissions (hydrogen production plant)		N/A	Approximately 14,400 kg/day	Approximately 14,400 kg/day
Proposal elements with greenhouse gas emissions				
Construction elements:				
N/A	Scope 1			
N/A	Scope 2			
N/A	Scope 3			
Operation elements:				
To be defined in accordance with Section 46 Inquiry into Change existing Condition 7 of Ministerial Statement 586 so that it is adequate with respect to avoiding, reducing, and offsetting greenhouse gas emissions	Scope 1			
	Scope 2			
	Scope 3			
Rehabilitation				
In accordance with existing Preliminary Closure Plan and Final Closure Plan to be prepared at least six months prior to the anticipated date of closure.				
Commissioning				
Not applicable.				
Decommissioning				
In accordance with existing Preliminary Closure Plan and Final Closure Plan to be prepared at least six months prior to the anticipated date of closure.				

Proposal element	Location / description	Existing Proposal extent, capacity or range	Proposed amendment	Combined extent, capacity or range
Other elements which affect extent of effects on the environment				
Proposal time	Maximum project life	20 years	No change	20 years
	Construction phase		2 years	2 years
	Operations phase	20 years	No change	20 years
	Decommissioning phase	5 years	No change	5 years

Attachment 2



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Unique Record ID:

Figure 1: Amended proposal – Development envelope and disturbance footprint