

Environmental Protection Act 1986

Section 43A

**NOTICE OF DECISION TO CONSENT TO AMEND A REFERRED PROPOSAL
DURING ASSESSMENT**

PERSON TO WHOM THIS NOTICE IS GIVEN

(a) Hamersley HMS Pty Limited (ACN: 115 004 129)
Level 18, Central Park
152-158 St Georges Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

PROPOSAL TO WHICH THIS NOTICE RELATES

Proposal Title Hope Downs 2
Assessment No. 2316

DECISION

Pursuant to s. 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:

- A reduction in the total area of the development envelope (DE) by 1,675.5 hectares (ha) to 12,409.5 ha (12% reduction).
- Revised and increased conceptual footprint with an additional 200 ha of clearing proposed increasing the disturbance area to 4,900 ha (4% increase).
- Addition of renewable energy to the proposal description, including renewable energy generation, energy storage, and associated ancillary infrastructure.
- Addition of three mining exclusion zones (MEZs) within the DE.

The amended proposal content document and figures are attached.

SUMMARY OF REASONS

- This amendment proposal is in response to proponent consultation with the Niyaparli, Banjima and Ngarlawangga people.
- The change in development envelope is likely to decrease impacts to flora and vegetation, terrestrial fauna, inland waters and social surroundings.

- The change in conceptual footprint is likely to decrease impacts to some terrestrial fauna, subterranean fauna, social surroundings and some inland waters. There is likely to be an increase in impacts to flora and vegetation and some terrestrial fauna habitat, and there are unknown impacts to some inland waters, but these increased and unknown impacts will be assessed as part of the Environmental Review Document process.
- The addition of renewable energy generation, storage and associated ancillary infrastructure is likely to decrease GHG emissions.
- The addition of mining exclusion zones is likely to decrease impacts to flora and vegetation, terrestrial fauna and social surroundings.
- There are no new environmental factors likely to be significantly affected as a result of the amendments, and no additional EPA functions need to be performed to assess the amended proposal.
- The amendment would not, if the proposal were already approved, be a significant amendment. In considering this, the effects of the amendment on its own, the effect of the amendment in the context of the existing referred proposal, cumulative and holistic impacts have been considered.
- The amended proposal will be substantially the same character as the existing referred proposal.

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 s. 38 of the EP Act.

RIGHTS OF APPEAL:

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



Ms Lee McIntosh
Delegate of the Environmental Protection Authority
DEPUTY CHAIR

17 January 2023

Attachment 1- Amended proposal content document and figure/s showing the new approved proposal



APPENDIX A: PROPOSAL CONTENT DOCUMENT

Proposal Content Document

Table 1: Summary of the Proposal

Component	Referred Description	Proposed Amendment Description
Proposal title	Hope Downs 2 Proposal	No change
Proponent name	Hammersley HMS Pty Ltd	No change
Short description	<p>The Proposal is to develop and operate an above water table (AWT) iron ore mine and associated infrastructure approximately 80 km north-west of Newman in the Pilbara region of Western Australia. The Proposal is on the traditional lands of the Nyiyaparli, Ngarlawangga and Banjima people.</p> <p>The Proposal includes, but is not limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and operation of AWT iron ore deposits: BHT and HD2. • Activities required to facilitate mining which may include, but are not limited to, the following: • Mineral waste management infrastructure: includes waste rock landforms, landbridges, low grade ore dumps, and topsoil and sub-soil stockpiles. • New processing infrastructure: including dry processing facilities at HD2 and/or BHT deposits. • Support facilities: including workshops, hydrocarbon storage areas, ANFO facilities, laydown areas, turkeys nests, transfer pads and offices. • Linear infrastructure: including heavy and light vehicle access roads, railway crossing, conveyors, pipelines, power distribution network (including sub-stations), communications distribution network and associated communications infrastructure. • Realignment of approximately 6 km of the Great Northern Highway. • Infrastructure for surface water management: including Pebble Mouse Creek crossings, diversion drains, levees and culverts. • Infrastructure for water supply: including abstraction of groundwater and/ or use of surplus water from local sources and adjacent operations. • Accommodation: including installation of a new construction camp may be required to support the implementation of the HD2 Proposal. 	<p>The Proposal is to develop and operate an above water table (AWT) iron ore mine and associated infrastructure approximately 80 km north-west of Newman in the Pilbara region of Western Australia. The Proposal is on the traditional lands of the Nyiyaparli, Ngarlawangga and Banjima people.</p> <p>The Hope Downs 2 Proposal (the Proposal) includes but is not limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and operation of two AWT iron ore deposits: HD2 and BHT. • Mineral waste management infrastructure: including waste rock landforms, landbridges, low grade ore stockpiles, and topsoil and sub-soil stockpiles. • New processing infrastructure: including dry processing facilities at HD2 and/or BHT deposits. • Support facilities: including workshops, hydrocarbon storage areas, Ammonium Nitrate Fuel Oil (ANFO) facilities, laydown areas, turkey's nests, transfer pads and offices. • Linear infrastructure: including heavy and light vehicle access roads, railway crossing, conveyors, pipelines, power distribution network (including sub-stations), communications distribution network and associated communications infrastructure. • Renewable energy: including renewable energy generation, energy storage, and associated ancillary infrastructure. • Realignment of up to 6 km of the Great Northern Highway. • Infrastructure for surface water management: including Pebble Mouse Creek crossings, diversion drains, levees and culverts. • Infrastructure for water supply: including abstraction of groundwater and/ or use of surplus water from local sources and adjacent operations. • Accommodation: including installation of an upgrade of existing accommodation and/or new construction camp.

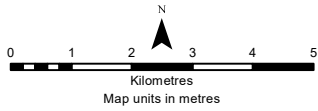
Table 2: Proposal key characteristics

Element	Location	HD2 Referred Proposal Extent	Proposed Amendment	HD2 Proposal Amendment Extent
Physical Elements				
Mine and associated infrastructure	Figure A-1	Clearing of up to approximately 4,700 ha within a Development Envelope of approximately 14,085 ha.	Reduction by 1,675.5 ha to the Development Envelope and increase in clearing by 200 ha.	Clearing of up to 4,900 ha within a 12,409.5 ha Development Envelope.
Mining Exclusion Zones	Figure A-1	-	Introduction of Mining Exclusion Zones ¹ 1, 2 and 3	Mining Exclusion Zones ¹ 1, 2 and 3.
Operational Elements				
Water supply		Abstraction of up to 3 GL per annum or use of surplus water from adjacent operations	No change from Referred Proposal	Abstraction of up to 3 GL per annum or use of surplus water from adjacent operations
Proposal Elements with Greenhouse Gas Emissions				
Scope 1 ²	Diesel and land clearing – no more than 200,518 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO ₂ -e) per annum			
Scope 2 ²	Electricity generation – no more than 6,330 tCO ₂ -e per annum			
Scope 3 ³	382 Mt CO ₂ -e			
Rehabilitation and Closure				
The key closure outcome of this Proposal will be a safe, stable and non-polluting landscape consistent with the post-mining land use and consider environmental and cultural heritage values.				
Other Elements that affect extent of effects on environment				
Proposal time	Maximum operational project life		Estimated 15 years	

¹ Mining Exclusion Zone (MEZ): Refers to an area within the Development Envelope where no mining excavation will occur, and only low impact activities associated with environmental and cultural heritage monitoring and management may be implemented. MEZ1 contains existing communications infrastructure that is to be maintained. No more than 5% of the total area covered by the MEZ can be cleared for low impact activities. There is to be no clearing of critical MNES habitat (Gorge/gully and Breakaway types), no impact to Ghost Bat caves and no clearing of P2 flora within MEZ.

² Predicted peak annual emissions include forecast existing operations and new activities associated with the Amended Proposal

³ Attributable to this Proposal



Drawn: D von Holdt
Plan: RTIO-0953108v2
Date: December 2022

Proj: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 50
Scale: 1:125,000 @ A4
gis.team@riotinto.com

Disclaimer: This document has been prepared to the highest level of accuracy possible, for the purposes of Rio Tinto's iron ore business. Reproduction of this document in whole or in part by any means is strictly prohibited without the express approval of Rio Tinto. Further, this document may not be referred to, quoted or relied upon for any purpose whatsoever without the written approval of Rio Tinto. Rio Tinto will not be liable to a third party for any loss, damage, liability or claim arising out of or incidental to a third party using or relying on the content contained in this document. Rio Tinto disclaims all risk and the third party assumes all risk and releases and indemnifies and agrees to keep indemnified Rio Tinto from any loss, damage, claim or liability arising directly or indirectly from the use or reliance on this document.

