

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) FMG Iron Bridge (Aust) Pty Ltd (ABN:78 150 848 025)
 Level 2/87 Adelaide Terrace
 EAST PERTH WA 6004

PROPOSAL TO WHICH THIS NOTICE RELATES:

North Star Magnetite Project Extension Assessment No. 2353

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:

- Define "Wallal Aquifer" in schedule 1 as the location where abstraction of 20GL/a within the Water Corridor Development Envelope will take place.
- Increase the abstraction limit at the Near Mine Borefield from 2.5GL/a to 3.5GL/a.
- Near Mine Borefield to be defined as being located across all three Development Envelopes; including the Water Corridor Development Envelope (WCDE), Mine Development Envelope (MDE) and the Infrastructure Corridor Development Envelope (ICDE).

The amended proposal content document is attached.

SUMMARY OF REASONS

- The proponent has provided sufficient information about the proposed amendment to be able to decide whether to assess the proposal as amended.
- As there are no new environmental factors identified as a result of the amendments, there are no additional EPA functions that need to be performed to assess the amended proposal.
- The amended proposal will still be substantially the same character as the existing referred proposal.

• Public review (4-week period) for the proposal has not yet commenced. The amendment will be incorporated into documentation and subject to public review.

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.

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Prof. Matthew Tonts Delegate of the Environmental Protection Authority CHAIR

26 April 2024

Attachment 1- Amended proposal content document showing the new approved proposal

Proposal Content Document

Table 1 General proposal content description

Proposal title	North Star Extension Iron Ore Project	
Proponent name	FMG Iron Bridge (Aust) Pty Ltd	
Short description	The Proponent is seeking an extension to the existing North Star Magnetite Project for production of magnetite concentrate (the Proposed Amendment) (Figure 1). FMG Iron Bridge (Aust) Pty Ltd (FMGIB) operates the existing mine which is located approximately 110km southeast of Port Hedland in the Pilbara region of Western Australia (Figure 1). The Project was approved under Part IV of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> (EP Act), with the issue of Ministerial Statement (MS) 993 in 2015.	
	FMGIB is seeking to amend the Approved Proposal through an extension of the Mine Development Envelope (MDE) as outlined in Figure 2 to enable the development of new mine pits (180.7 hectares (ha)); an extension of the waste rock dump (334.5 ha); and ancillary infrastructure (91.7 ha).	
	The Proposed Amendment will result in the following increases to the Approved Proposal elements:	
	 an increase to the approved MDE by 1,425.9 ha, representine 27% increase in total area 	
	• an increase to the approved Disturbance Footprint by 606.9 ha, representing a 17% increase in the MDE disturbance footprint.	
	There would be no changes to the Water Corridor Development Envelope (Figure 3). Also, there would be no change to the Slurry Corridor Development Envelope and Infrastructure Corridor Development Envelope approved under MS 993 (Figure 4 and Figure 5).	
	The general content description is provided in Table 2. The location and extent of physical and operational elements of the Approved	



Proposal, including key changes as a result of the Proposed Amendment is provided in Table 3.

The Project is located on land predominantly used for pastoral activities, including cattle grazing, and intercepts unallocated Crown land and Wallareenya Pastoral Station. Third party tenure in proximity to the Project is outlined in (Figure 6). Road access to the site from Port Hedland is via the Great Northern Highway and local roads.



Table 2 General proposal content description

Proposal title	North Star Magnetite Project No change.
Proponent name	FMG Iron Bridge (Aust) Pty Ltd
	No change.
Short description	The proposal will involve the construction and operation of an open cut iron ore mine site and associated infrastructure (roads, administration buildings, accommodation camp, aerodrome, borefield and slurry pipeline) approximately 110 kilometres south-south-east of Port Hedland. No change.

Table 3 Proposal content elements

Element	Location	Approved Proposal Extent, Capacity or Range	Proposed Amendment	Combined extent, capacity or range
Physical Elements				
Mine Development Envelope opencut mine pits, waste rock dumps, groundwater production bores, tailing storage facility and associated infrastructure	Figure 2	Clearing of no more than 3,493 ha within the mine development envelope of 5,276 ha.	Increase in clearing by 606.9 ha and increase in Mine Development Envelope by 1,425.9 ha.	Clearing of no more than 4,099.9 ha within the mine development envelope of 6,701.9 ha.
Water Corridor Development Envelope Borefield, water supply pipeline and associated infrastructure.	Figure 3	Clearing of no more than 886 ha within the water corridor development envelope of 31,260 ha.	No change	Clearing of no more than 886 ha within the water corridor development envelope of 31,260 ha.



Slurry Corridor Development Envelope Slurry pipeline, water return pipeline, natural gas pipeline, access road and associated infrastructure.	Figure 4	Clearing of no more than 435 ha within slurry corridor development envelope of 3,314 ha.	No Change	Clearing of no more than 435 ha within slurry corridor development envelope of 3,314 ha.
Infrastructure Corridor Development Envelope Aerodrome, access roads, groundwater production bores, transmission lines, gas pipeline, slurry pipeline, water return pipeline and associated infrastructure.	Figure 5	Clearing of no more than 557 ha within the infrastructure corridor development envelope of 5,226 ha	No Change	Clearing of no more than 557 ha within the infrastructure corridor development envelope of 5,226 ha
Operational Elements				
Dewatering requirements	-	Dewatering of 5 GL/a below the water table from the mine pit(s) within the MDE to ensure that the pit is dry during operation.	No Change	Dewatering of 5 GL/a below the water table from the mine pit(s) within the MDE to ensure that the pit is dry during operation.



Water Supply	-	Groundwater production bores within MDE, WCDE and ICDE WCDE: Abstraction at a rate of 20 GL/a from the Wallal aquifer.	Abstraction from the Near Mine borefield located within the MDE, WCDE and ICDE at a rate of 3.5 GL/a	Near Mine Borefield: Abstraction at a rate of up to 3.5 GL/a from MDE, ICDE and WCDE WCDE: Abstraction at a rate of 20 GL/a from the Wallal aquifer.



Power	-	Mine area: 221 MW to be supplied by an on-site power station. Borefield and pumping stations: 9MW Power generators. Backup generators capable of supplying power during unplanned outages will be installed at the camp, workshops and administration areas.	Power supply to North Star provided largely through connection to the PEG reticulated power transmission network. Power generators with an option to use third-party power provider	Power supply to North Star provided largely through connection to the PEG reticulated power transmission network. Borefield and pumping stations: 9MW Power generators with an option to use third-party power provider Backup generators capable of supplying power during unplanned outages will be installed at the camp, workshops and administration areas. 40MW backup on-site power station ¹ .
Gas supply	-	Gas will be supplied to the power station via a buried steel pipeline at a rate of 20 TJ/day.	Removal of gas supply with the primary power supply provided largely through the PEG reticulation power transmission network.	
Overburden/ waste rock	-	Disposal of up 945 million tonnes (Mt).	No change	Disposal of up 945 Mt.
Ore processing (waste)	-	Disposal of up 540 Mt of wet tailings. Disposal of up 180 Mt of dry rejects.	Additional disposal of up to 220 Mt of wet tailings Additional disposal of up to 100 Mt of dry rejects.	Disposal of no more than 760 Mt of wet tailings into the tailings storage facility. Disposal of no more than 280 Mt of dry rejects into the dry rejects waste rock landform.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

 Operation (Proposed Amendment and Existing Approval)

 Scope 1
 263,890 t CO₂-e



Rehabilitation

Where practicable, progressive rehabilitation will be undertaken over the life of the mine.

Areas disturbed through the implementation of this proposal (excluding the pits) will be designed to be safe and non-polluting and will be constructed rehabilitated so that their final shape, size, stability, is stable and ability able to support local native vegetation are comparable to natural landforms in the area. Non-polluting pit lakes will develop in the pits post-closure.

Commissioning

Not Applicable

Decommissioning

All infrastructure will be removed, unless the ownership is transferred to an underlying third-party tenure owner.

Elements that affect extent of effects on the environment

Proposal	Time
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Maximum Project Life	~50 years
Construction phase	~5 years
Operation phase	~25 years
Decommissioning phase	~20 years

¹ A 40MW backup on-site power station is considered associated infrastructure of the Approved Proposal. It is included in this section to clearly identify this activity in the proposal content elements as per Environmental Protection Authority 2021, *Instruction and Template- How to identify the content of a Proposal*, EPA, Western Australia.

Figure 1 Proposal area



Figure 2 Mining Area Development Envelope



Figure 3 Water Corridor Development Envelope



Figure 4 Slurry Corridor Development Envelope



Figure 5 Infrastructure Development Envelope



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Figure 6: Third Party Tenure of the Project Area