

Environmental Protection Authority

Environmental Protection Act 1986

Section 41A(3)

NOTICE OF DECISION TO CONSENT TO MINOR OR PRELIMINARY WORKS

PERSON TO WHOM THIS NOTICE IS GIVEN:

(a) Proponent:

Karara Mining Limited (ACN: 070 871 831)
Level 2 London House
216 St Georges Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

(b) Relevant Decision-Making Authorities, see Attachment 1

PROPOSAL TO WHICH THIS NOTICE RELATES:

Karara Iron Ore Project – Mine Life Extension (significant amendment to the Karara Iron Ore Project)
Assessment No. APP-0000405

Pursuant to section 41A(3) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act), the Environmental Protection Authority consents to the proponent undertaking the minor or preliminary works detailed in Schedule 1.

EFFECT OF THIS NOTICE:

1. The prohibition provided by sections 41(2), 41(3) and 41A(1) of the EP Act do not apply to implementing the minor or preliminary works consented to in this Notice.
2. It is an offence under s41A(1) of the EP Act, with a maximum penalty of \$125,000 for a body corporate and \$62,500 for an individual, to do anything to implement the proposal other than the minor or preliminary works consented to in this Notice.
3. Relevant decision-making authorities may make decisions that would cause or allow the doing of the minor or preliminary works listed in Schedule 1 of this Notice.

RIGHTS OF APPEAL:

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darren Walsh', with a large loop at the end.

Darren Walsh
Delegate of the Environmental Protection Authority
CHAIR

04 August 2025

Schedule 1

Authorised Minor or Preliminary Implementation Work (s)

Authorised Work(s)	Location	Authorised extent
<p>The following works are authorised in their entirety:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clearing in the Disturbance Footprint of the TSF, associated with the implementation of the proposal. This clearing is for undertaking boreholes, test pits and tracks to access the work pad locations. The works will allow for the refinement of the conceptual design of the proposed dry-stack TSF extension, <p>up until such time as the later of one of the following occurs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. notice issued under s 45(13) of the EP Act; or b. statement issued under s45(8) of the EP Act is final (that is, after period in which to lodge an appeal under s 100(3) has expired, or appeal decision under s109(3), in respect of an appeal lodged under s 100(3), is published), <p>and</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. rehabilitation of the areas identified in Figure 1 in accordance with EPA <i>Guidance Statement 6 Rehabilitation of Terrestrial Ecosystems</i> (as updated or replaced), or if an implementation statement is issued for the Proposal, in accordance with any implementation conditions relating to rehabilitation. 	Figure 1	Disturbance footprint of up to 6.78 ha will consist of pads and tracks as shown in Figure 1.

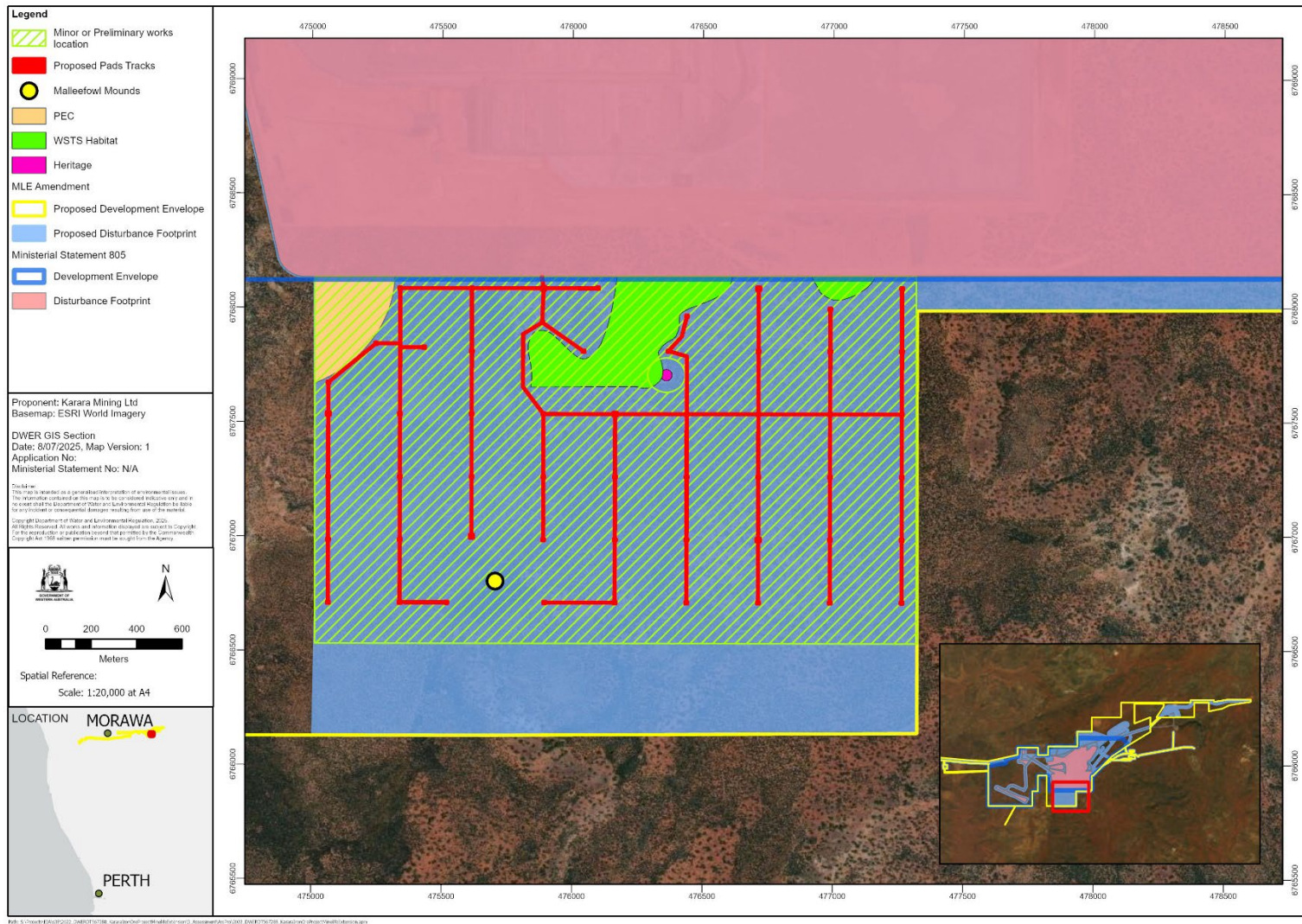


Figure 1 Location and layout of Minor or Preliminary Works

Attachment 1

Relevant Decision Making Authorities

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

Minister for Environment

Minister for Mines and Petroleum

Minister for Water

Chief Executive Officer, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

Executive Director Resource and Environmental Compliance, Department of Mines,
Petroleum and Exploration

Chief Executive Officer, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Perenjori

Environmental Protection Authority

Summary of reasons for decision – request to undertake minor or preliminary works under s. 41A(3) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*

Proposal: Karara Iron Ore Project – Mine Life Extension (significant amendment to the Karara Iron Ore Project)

Ref No: APP-0000405

Date request to amend referred proposal under s.41A(3) received: 17 June 2025

Proponent: Karara Mining Limited

Level of assessment: Referral information with additional information and public review (4 weeks)

Referral received: 21 February 2022

Referred proposal:

Karara Mining Limited (KML) proposes to revise its approved Karara Iron Ore Project (KIOP) to support a mine life extension (MLE). The KIOP is a magnetite mining and processing operation located approximately 225 kilometres east-southeast of Geraldton, in the Midwest region of Western Australia. It is subject to Ministerial Statement (MS) 805 (published 8 September 2009; Report 1321). The MLE Proposal includes additional ground disturbance to support the revised Life of Mine strategy, a revised development envelope, extension of the tailings storage facility (TSF) and waste rock landform, and incorporation of infrastructure previously approved under other approvals, which are now utilised for the ongoing operations at Karara.

The total disturbance area is proposed to increase to 5,040 ha within a 13,557 ha development envelope. The increase in disturbance area is a combination of the new disturbance areas to support the revised Life of Mine strategy (1,522 ha) and the incorporation of areas from KML's neighbouring Mungada Iron Ore Project (MIOP). The MIOP areas to be incorporated are mostly already disturbed and include a mine pit, WRD/ROM pad and mine supporting infrastructure areas required for ongoing operations at the KIOP. The MIOP is subject to MS 806 and is currently in closure. In the event the MLE is approved, MS 806 is proposed to be superseded, amended or withdrawn.

Description of the minor or preliminary works sought:

The proposed minor or preliminary work is necessary for the refinement of the conceptual design of the proposed dry-stack TSF extension directly to the south of the development envelope authorised under MS 805. The refinement of the conceptual design includes ground disturbance which require clearing of a total of 6.78 ha. The proposed work involves drilling of six (6) boreholes and 48 test pits within the proposed TSF expansion area. The boreholes will be diamond drilled with a depth of up to 25m below ground level within a pad of 15m x 15m for each borehole. A small sump will also be required for the drilling at each pad. The test pit (with a size of 4-5m in length and approx. 1m in width) will be excavated to a depth of up to 5m below ground level within a pad of 10m x 10m for each test pit for geotechnical assessment. A total length of 14km of access tracks with a width of 4.5m will also be constructed to access the proposed work pad locations.

Decision

Application to undertake minor or preliminary works in Attachment 1 is approved.

For the reasons outlined below, I, as a delegate of the EPA, have determined to consent to the minor or preliminary works outlined in Schedule 1 attached to this Summary of Reasons.

Environmental factors relevant to amendment:

1. Flora and Vegetation

The proposed work will disturb approximately 6.78 ha of area which is equivalent to 0.45% of the new disturbance (1,522 ha) proposed for the mine life extension. There are no threatened or priority flora species recorded within the proposed disturbance footprint.

There are four known Priority Ecological Communities (PECs) from the surrounding area, of which only one, the Blue Hills Priority Ecological Communities (PECs) (Priority 1), which are associated with the Karara ridge being mined, has been mapped within the proposed dry-stack TSF southern extension area. Based on updated survey information, the PEC will not be directly impacted by the proposed disturbance. The surveys indicate that the proposed dry-stack TSF southern extension area does not intersect the actual Blue Hills PEC but falls within the 500m buffer applied by DBCA. There are no Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) known from the immediate area.

Given the avoidance measures applied and the small scale of the proposed work, it is unlikely to have a significant impact on the flora and vegetation values of the area.

2. Terrestrial Fauna

There are no threatened or priority fauna species which will be directly impacted by the proposed disturbance. Malleefowl and the Western spiny-tailed skink (WStS) are known to occur within the vicinity of the proposed works but a 200m buffer has been implemented around the active malleefowl mound located within the proposed dry-stack TSF southern extension area. Areas identified as WStS prospective habitat have also been avoided.

Given the avoidance measures applied and the small scale of the proposed work, it is unlikely to have a significant impact on terrestrial fauna.

3. Social Surroundings

Aboriginal Heritage

The proposed minor and preliminary work disturbance footprint does not intersect with the boundaries of Registered Aboriginal Heritage Sites. A culturally modified tree has been identified by surveys and excluded from the proposed works area.

Given the avoidance measures applied and the small scale of the proposed work, it is unlikely to have a significant impact on social surroundings.

Materials considered in making this decision

In considering whether to consent to the minor or preliminary works I have considered the following:

1. Is the work associated with the implementation of the proposal?

Yes, the proposed works are associated with the implementation of the proposal and are unlikely to have a significant impact on the environment. All proposed minor or preliminary works would be undertaken within the revised development envelope proposed for the mine life extension.

2. Is the work minor or preliminary? Does it constitute substantial implementation of the proposal?

The proposed geotechnical work for the extension of the dry-stack TSF does not involve any commencement of construction of the TSF but is required for the implementation of the TSF with detailed design and construction to ensure the waste structure is physically stable and geotechnically as required under the *Mining Act 1978* (Mining Act), if ultimately approved. The proposed geotechnical studies/assessment are of a sufficiently small scale to constitute minor or preliminary works. The small-scale nature of this type of works would result in a small impact of 6.78 ha when compared to the proposed area of the new disturbance (1,522 ha) proposed for the mine life extension through the significant amendment. The proposed works represent 0.45% of the additional disturbance.

Considering the small scale of the works, the activities do not constitute substantial implementation of the proposal.

3. Are potential environmental impacts likely to be caused by the work unlikely to be significant?

The proposed works areas have been selected to avoid conservation significant flora or vegetation and do not occur in areas that contain critical habitat for significant fauna. There would be no impacts to heritage sites. In addition, rehabilitation of the disturbance associated with the proposed work will be completed within 12 months after completion of the proposed work. The requirements for the *Mining Act 1978* are applicable to the proposal and a Programme of Work (PoW) approval by Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration (DMPE) is required. As such the proponent has initiated discussions with DMPE and has submitted a PoW application (RegID 201980).

The works are unlikely to have significant impacts on environmental values.

4. Can the impact be reversed? What decommissioning or rehabilitation work will be carried out should the proposal not be approved for implementation?

Yes, the proposed work is reversible. Rehabilitation of the disturbance associated with the proposed work will be completed within 12 months after completion of the proposed work. Should the significant amendment not be approved, the disturbed areas will have been rehabilitated.

5. Is there an environmental justification for the work?

Yes, the geotechnical studies/assessment is required to refine the conceptual design of the extension of the dry-stack TSF to ensure it is geotechnically safe and stable. This would prevent potential failures of the landform that may result in significant environmental damage whilst also informing any possible amendments that could be made to reduce other environmental impacts.

6. Are the works and their effects of a scale or significance that would compromise the EPA's assessment or the Minister's future decisions?

No. Given the avoidance of significant environmental values within the proposed areas of disturbance, the proposed work will not compromise the EPA's assessment or the Minister's future decisions. In addition, the works would need to occur in accordance with other decision-making processes and are reversible.



Darren Walsh
Delegate of the Environmental Protection Authority
CHAIR

04 August 2025

Schedule 1

Authorised Minor or Preliminary Implementation Works

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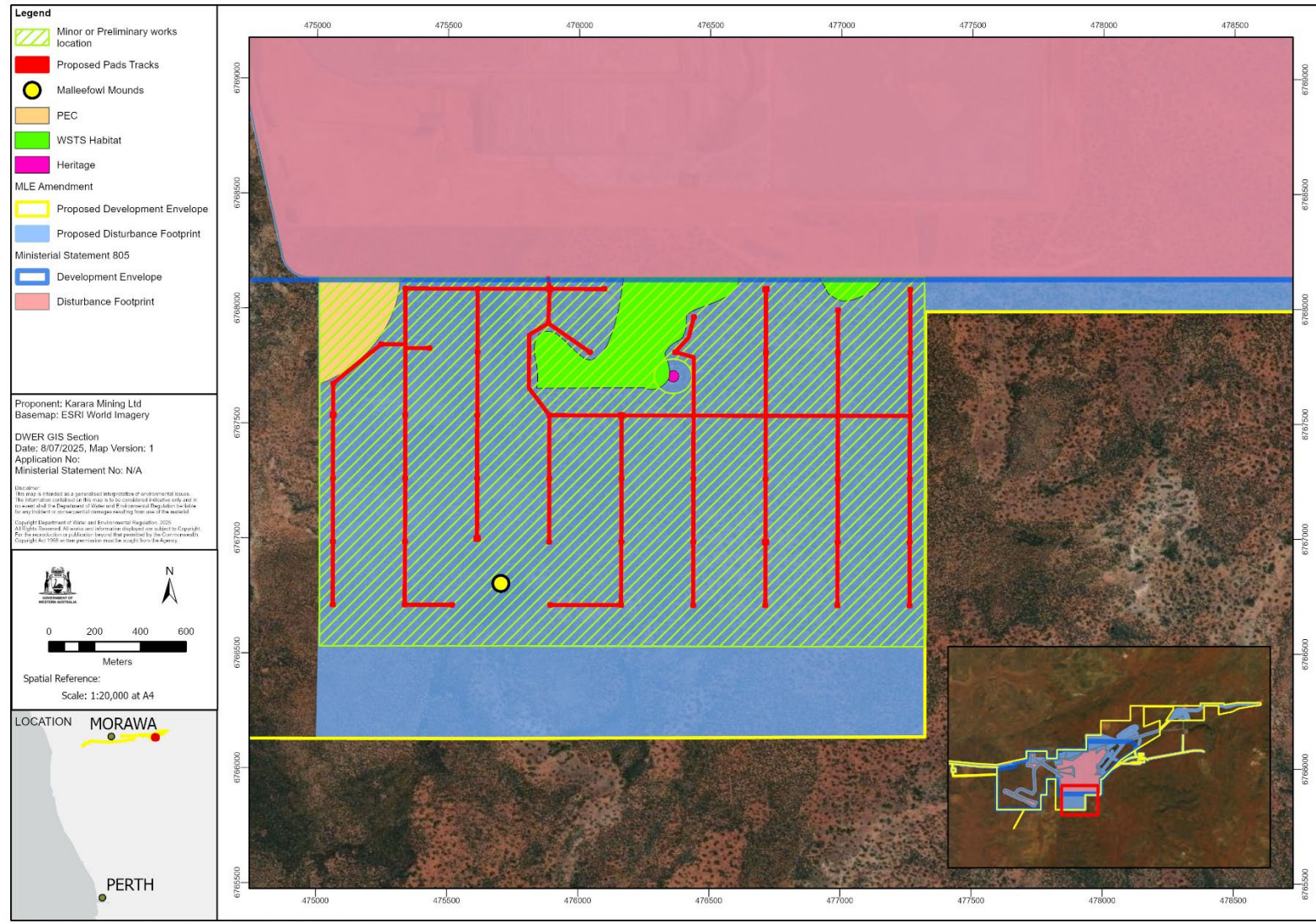


Figure 1: Location and layout of Minor or Preliminary Works