

Environmental Protection Act 1986

Section 45C

**NOTICE OF DECISION TO CONSENT TO AMEND AN APPROVED PROPOSAL
AND IMPLEMENTATION CONDITIONS WITHOUT INQUIRY**

PERSON TO WHOM THIS NOTICE IS GIVEN

Northern Minerals Limited

PROPOSAL TO WHICH THIS NOTICE RELATES

Browns Range Rare Earths Project

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT and ANY APPROVED CHANGES

Ministerial Statement 986, issued 20 October 2014

Attachment 1 to Ministerial Statement 986, issued 12 April 2017

Attachment 2 to Ministerial Statement 986, issued 4 September 2020

Attachment 3 to Ministerial Statement 986, issued 26 August 2024

DECISION

Pursuant to s. 45C (1) (a) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act), and as delegate for the Minister for Environment, I give approval to the following amendments of the approved proposal:

- Alternate access road that will provide an alternative route to the proposal in the event that the existing haul road becomes inaccessible due to bushfires, wet weather and/or flooding, and will connect to Tanami Road in the Northern Territory.
- Increase the development envelope from 4,384 hectares (ha) to 4,753 ha (8.4% increase).
- Increase in the disturbance footprint from 771 ha to 841 ha (9.1% increase).

The amended proposal content document and figures are attached.

SUMMARY OF REASONS

- There are no Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC), Priority Ecological Communities (PEC), or Threatened or Priority flora species identified within the amended development envelope.
- The additional 70 ha of native vegetation clearing will directly impact habitat for conservation significant fauna species, including one Vulnerable and three Priority

4 species that have been previously recorded within the approved proposal. However, impacted fauna habitat types are well represented both locally and regionally. The extent of impacted fauna habitat types present within the amended development envelope represents less than 5% of the locally mapped extent of each fauna habitat.

- Potential impacts to conservation significant fauna will continue to be mitigated through the implementation of the Conservation Significant Fauna Management Plan (CSFMP). Existing Condition 6 of Ministerial Statement 986 (MS986) requires pre-disturbance surveys, monitoring during operations, and contingency measures to ensure that impacts to significant species of terrestrial vertebrate fauna are minimised. Consistent with conditions 6-8 and 6-9 of MS986, to incorporate these changes approved under s. 45C, the proponent will be required to review and revise the CSFMP and submit this for approval.
- The amendments will not significantly increase impacts to restricted habitat types, such as 'seasonal drainage' habitat with the potential to support short-range endemic (SRE) species. The clearing of 0.15 ha of the 'seasonal drainage' habitat type represents 0.15% of the locally mapped extent of this habitat type and is unlikely to result in a significant impact to SRE species. Other potential SRE habitats are widely available within and beyond the development envelope.
- Given that the proponent has provided adequate information about the environmental values within the proposed additional development envelope area, and for the reasons set out above, I have concluded the amendments are not likely to result in a significant impact on Flora and Vegetation and Terrestrial Fauna.
- The amendments are unlikely to result in a significant impact to Aboriginal cultural heritage (ACH). The amendment was designed to avoid and minimise impacts to ACH values located within the expanded development envelope. The proponent's obligations in respect to the protection of Aboriginal heritage matters are set out in existing Heritage Protection Agreements with the respective Native Title parties.
- There are no new environmental factors likely to be significantly affected as a result of the amendments.
- The effects of the amendments on their own, the effect of the amendments in the context of the approved proposal, cumulative impacts, and holistic impacts have been considered. The amended proposal, if implemented, is unlikely to have a significant effect on the environment and is therefore not considered a significant amendment.
- The amended proposal will be substantially the same character as the existing approved proposal.

EFFECT OF THIS NOTICE:

1. The proposal as amended in accordance with this notice is taken to be able to be implemented under s. 45C of the EP Act.

RIGHTS OF APPEAL:

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

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

Darren Walsh

CHAIR

For the Minister for Environment under Notice of Delegation under section 18 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*

24 April 2026

Attachment 1- Amended proposal content document