



## Notification of variation of proposed to take action under section 156A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act)

### Mulga Downs Iron Ore Mine, Western Australia (EPBC 2022/09255)

The delegate of the Minister has accepted the variation to the proposal in accordance with section 156B of the EPBC Act.

#### Proposed action

<b>designated proponent</b>	Hancock Prospecting Pty Ltd ABN: 69 008 676 417
<b>original proposed action</b>	To construct and operate a new iron ore mine (above and below water table) and associated works, including vegetation clearing, and excluding the Mulga West bore field, 210 km south of Port Hedland and 180 km north-west of Newman in the Pilbara Region, Western Australia (see EPBC Act referral 2022/09255).
<b>varied proposed action</b>	To construct and operate a new iron ore mine (above and below water table) and associated works, including vegetation clearing of up to 4,733.66 ha, and excluding the Mulga West bore field, 210 km south of Port Hedland and 180 km north-west of Newman in the Pilbara Region, Western Australia (see EPBC Act referral 2022/09255).
<b>variation</b>	<p>To decrease the extent of the proposed action area from 25,583.8 ha to 16,848.53 ha and extent of the disturbance footprint from 9,369.10 ha to 4,733.66 ha. This includes excising an additional 572.31 ha from the proposed action area to be protected as part of a Fauna Habitat Exclusion Zone (total area of the Fauna Habitat Exclusion Zone is 1,320.82 ha).</p> <p>Refine project elements to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the number of pits from nine to seven by removing 'Anticline South' and 'Horseshoe South' pits</li> <li>• Remove the Malay Well tenement (and bore field) from the Proposed Action Area (E47/2117 and western section of R47/12).</li> <li>• Remove the southern mine access road referred to as 'Fenceline Road' and include an alternate haul road alignment from the Mulga Downs Iron Ore Mine to Great Northern Highway (Northern Haul Road Access).</li> <li>• Decrease waste rock volume from 800 Mt to 160 Mt</li> <li>• Undertake dry ore crushing and screening only (no wet processing) of up to 12 Mtpa.</li> </ul>

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- Reduce peak groundwater abstraction rate from 36.5 Gigalitres per annum (GL/a) to 12 GL/a for water supply and mine dewatering, with up to 11 GL/a of mine dewater to be disposed of through MAR and/or pit infiltration within the Proposed Action Area.
  - Remove the requirement for in pit or ex pit Tailings Storage Facilities.
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**Variation decision:****Person authorised to make decision**

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<b>name and position</b>	Kylie Calhoun Branch Head Environment Assessments West Branch
<b>signature</b>	
<b>date of decision</b>	7 November 2024

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