



Application for Works Approval Amendment

Part V Division 3 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*

Works Approval Number	W6421/2020/1
Works Approval Holder	Pilbara Iron Company (Services) Pty Ltd
ACN	107 210 248
File Number	DER2020/000296
Premises	Paraburdoo Iron Ore Mine and Eastern Range Project AML70/246, AG70/4 and AG70/14 ROCKLEA WA 6751 As defined by the Premises maps attached to the Revised Works Approval
Date of Report	19 April 2024
Decision	Revised works approval granted

**MANAGER, RESOURCE INDUSTRIES
REGULATORY SERVICES**
an officer delegated under section 20 of
the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (WA)

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1. Decision summary

The Delegated Officer has determined to make amendments to works approval W6421/2020/1. The amendments are administrative in nature therefore they do not alter the risk profile of the Premises, providing that activities, emissions and receptors as stated in existing approvals remain unchanged.

This amendment report documents the amendments made pursuant to section 59 and 59(B) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act).

The decision report for the existing works approval will remain on the department's website for future reference and will act as a record of the department's decision making.

2. Scope of assessment

2.1 Regulatory framework

In amending the works approval, the department has considered and given due regard to its Regulatory Framework and relevant policy documents which are available at <https://dwer.wa.gov.au/regulatory-documents>.

2.2 Application summary

Works approval W6421/2020/1 is held by Pilbara Iron Company (Services) Pty Ltd (works approval holder) for the Paraburdoo Iron Ore Mine and Eastern Range Project (the premises), located within mining tenements AML70/246, AG70/4, and AG70/14, Rocklea.

The premises relates to the categories and the assessed design capacity under Schedule 1 of the *Environmental Protection Regulations 1987* (EP Regulations) which are defined in existing works approval W6421/2020/1.

On 21 February 2024, the works approval holder applied to amend works approval W6421/2020/1 under section 59B of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The amendment is to extend the commissioning period of the tailings storage facility (TSF) Northern Cell lift works from 60 calendar days (Condition 6) to 270 calendar days to allow for additional time to commission decant infrastructure. This follows an earlier amendment on 30 November 2023 to extend the commissioning period.

The works approval holder has advised that they are still waiting on the arrival of the decant sensors (as of the time of making this application), and once these have been installed, there will be further delays to the commissioning of the decant infrastructure due to the following factors:

- Insufficient water volumes within the decant pond to mechanically commission the decant pumps. This has been due to:
 - Weather related high evaporation rates.
 - The dry nature of the cell means the deposited water is being absorbed at higher-than-expected rates before it reaches the decant system.
- The wet process plant has been operating intermittently for long periods of time due to site water constraints and maintenance requirements. The plant has been running dry fines due to pit operations need for higher demand for water for dust suppression. The TSF decant pond has therefore only been gradually growing in volume.

The works approval holder anticipates that the wet plant will continue to operate in such a manner in the short-term, this compounded with the dry season's extreme evaporation rates, it is expected the decant pond will not establish a sufficient volume for some months, and as a result a 120-day commissioning extension has been sought.

The extension to commissioning timeframes does not alter the risk profile of the premises.

3. Consultation

The works approval holder was provided with the draft amendment report on 3 March 2024. The works approval holder responded on 18 April 2024 requesting to waive the remaining comment period.

4. Conclusion

Based on the assessment in this amendment report, the Delegated Officer has determined that an amended works approval will be granted, subject to conditions commensurate with the determined controls and necessary for administration and reporting requirements.

4.1 Summary of amendments

Table 1 below provides a summary of the proposed amendments and will act as a record of implemented changes. All proposed changes have been incorporated into the revised works approval as part of the amendment process.

Table 1: Summary of works approval amendments

Condition no.	Proposed amendments
6, Table 2	Amending the authorised commissioning duration from 150 calendar days to 270 calendar days (ceasing on 6 June 2024).