



Application for Licence Amendment

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

Licence Number	L9430/2024/1
Licence Holder	Onslow Iron Pty Ltd
ACN	649 012 395
File Number	APP-29540
Premises	West Pilbara Iron Ore Project M08/480, M08/484, G08/88, L08/67, L08/68, L08/69 and L08/181 CANE WA 6710 As defined by the Premises maps attached to the Revised Licence
Date of Report	16 October 2025 (FINAL)
Proposed Decision	Revised licence granted

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1. Decision summary

Licence L9430/2024/1 is held by Onslow Iron Pty Ltd (Licence Holder) for the West Pilbara Iron Ore Project (the Premises), located approximately 45 km south-west of Pannawonica.

This Amendment Report documents the assessment of potential risks to the environment and public health from proposed changes to the emissions and discharges during the operation of the Premises. As a result of this assessment, Revised Licence L9430/2024/1 has been granted.

2. Scope of assessment

2.1 Regulatory framework

In completing the assessment documented in this Amendment Report, 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 Amendment summary

On 23 June 2025, the Licence Holder submitted an application (MinRes 2025) to the department to amend Licence L9430/2024/1 under section 59 and 59B of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The following amendment is being sought:

- Increase production capacity for Category 5: Processing or beneficiation of metallic or non-metallic ore from the current approved capacity of 7,000,000 tonnes (t) per annual period to 45,000,000 t per annual period.
- Authorisation of normal operation of the Central Processing Facility (CPF) infrastructure on the Licence.

Construction and time limited operation (TLO) of the CPF were authorised by works approval W6769/2023/1. TLO commenced on 30 April 2025. The Delegated Officer has considered the status of compliance in assessing the amendments requested.

Table 1 below outlines the proposed changes to throughput capacity for Category 5 as specified on the existing Licence.

Table 1: Proposed throughput capacity changes

Category	Current throughput capacity	Proposed throughput capacity	Description of proposed amendment
5	7,000,000 tonnes per annual period	45,000,000 tonnes per annual period	Increase processing by 38,000,000 tonnes per annual period. Include the recently constructed Central Processing Facility (CPF) infrastructure on the Licence.

2.3 Part IV of the EP Act

Clearing of native vegetation has been assessed under Section 40 of the EP Act as part of a proposal referred under Section 38 of Part IV of the EP Act. The Licence Holder confirms that clearing undertaken is consistent with conditions of, Ministerial Statement (MS) 1027 and MS 1203.

MS 1027 conditions 8 and 9, and MS 1203 conditions 7, 12 and 14, include the avoidance,

mitigation, management and/or monitoring of the Priority Ecological Community (PEC), surface water and significant vegetation, Ghost Bat (*Macroderma gigas*) (VU) and Aboriginal cultural heritage values, including indirect impacts.

3. Risk assessment

The department assesses the risks of emissions from prescribed premises and identifies the potential source, pathway and impact to receptors in accordance with the *Guideline: Risk assessments* (DWER 2020).

To establish a Risk Event there must be an emission, a receptor which may be exposed to that emission through an identified actual or likely pathway, and a potential adverse effect to the receptor from exposure to that emission.

3.1 Source-pathways and receptors

3.1.1 Emissions and controls

The key emissions and associated actual or likely pathway during premises operation which have been considered in this Amendment Report are detailed in Table 2 below. Table 2 also details the proposed control measures the Licence Holder has proposed to assist in controlling these emissions, where necessary.

Table 2: Licence Holder controls (MinRes 2025)

Emission	Sources	Potential pathways	Proposed controls
Dust	Operation of CPF plant C&S plant at the ROM pad Crushing and screening, material loading and unloading and stockpiles Vehicle movements	Air/windborne pathway	• Operate dust suppression systems on strategic points of CPF to manage dust as required. • Water will be added to the ROM ore to achieve the required DEM content for transport of ore to the Port of Ashburton. • Dust suppression spray systems (droplet and fogging) located at the ROM bin and transfer points throughout the crushing and screening circuit • Automated dust suppression water cannons at the stockyard area to wet the stockpiles and surrounding areas. • Skirts on conveyors. • Dust suppression water will be applied to operational areas that have the potential to generate dust (including unsealed roads). • Vehicle speed restrictions will be imposed while driving in CPF work areas. • Regulated by Part IV of the EP Act MS 1203, Condition 7-7 the proponent shall monitor impacts due to dust deposition on the <i>Triodia pisolitica</i> Priority Ecological Community (PEC) - dust deposition gauges have been established in the vicinity of the PEC and annual vegetation health surveys are undertaken.

Emission	Sources	Potential pathways	Proposed controls
			An incident reporting system will be maintained to assist in managing environmental incidents such as excessive dust emission.
Noise	Operation of CPF plant C&S plant at the ROM pad Crushing and screening, material loading and unloading and stockpiles Vehicle movements	Noise/ vibration pathway	- All equipment will be regularly maintained in accordance with manufacturer specifications to ensure optimum efficiency and minimise emissions. - Noise emissions will comply with the <i>Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997</i>. - An incident reporting system will be maintained to assist in managing environmental incidents such as noise complaints. - Monitoring and management in accordance with EPBC Fauna Management Plans and Fauna Management Plans required by MS 1203.
Sediment laden/ hydrocarbon contaminated stormwater	Operation of CPF plant C&S plant at the ROM pad Crushing and screening, material loading and unloading and stockpiles Vehicle movements	Overland runoff	- Concrete hardstand at the CPF beneath the primary and secondary crushers and conveyor transfer points. - Concrete sumps to collect wash down water from conveyors. - Flow through sedimentation ponds around CPF designed (with discharge points) to prevent stormwater with high sediment load discharging direct to the environment. - Evaporation pond levels, freeboard and contaminant concentrations managed to prevent contamination to surface water from overflow events. - Regular inspections of drainage controls (diversion drains and sedimentation ponds). - Monitoring of water from sedimentation pond for TRH and BTEX every 6 months and prior to overflow from rainfall events.

3.1.2 Receptors

In accordance with the *Guideline: Risk assessments* (DWER 2020), the Delegated Officer has excluded employees, visitors and contractors of the Licence Holder's from its assessment. Protection of these parties often involves different exposure risks and prevention strategies, and is provided for under other state legislation.

Table 3 below provides a summary of potential human and environmental receptors that may be impacted as a result of activities upon or emission and discharges from the prescribed premises (*Guideline: Environmental siting* (DWER 2020)).

Table 3: Sensitive human and environmental receptors and distance from prescribed activity

Environmental receptors	Distance from prescribed activity
Priority flora	One priority flora species, <i>Triodia pisolitica</i> (P3) has been identified within the prescribed premises boundary, however, is outside of the CPF footprint. Previous assessments of W6769/2023/1 and L9430/2024/1 note two additional species; <i>Solanum</i> sp. Red Hill (S. van Leeuwen et al. PBS 5415) (P3) and <i>Indigofera rivularis</i> (P3), however these were not identified in the proponent's application or supporting documents.
Threatened and priority fauna - Northern Quoll (<i>Dasyurus hallucatus</i>) (EN) - Pilbara Olive Python (<i>Liasis olivaceus barroni</i>) (VU) - Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bat (<i>Rhinonictis aurantia</i>) (VU) - Ghost Bat (<i>Macroderma gigas</i>) (VU) - Western Pebble-mound Mouse (<i>Pseudomys chapmani</i>) (P4)	Species within the prescribed premises boundary.
Priority Ecological Communities (PECs) <i>Triodia pisolitica</i> assemblages of mesas of the West Pilbara (P3) (Triodia PEC)	Identified within the prescribed premises boundary and the surrounds, however, is outside of the CPF footprint.
Cultural receptors	Distance from prescribed activity
Aboriginal heritage sites	Numerous heritage sites and places have been identified and recorded within and in close proximity to the Kens Bore Deposit and supporting infrastructure areas.

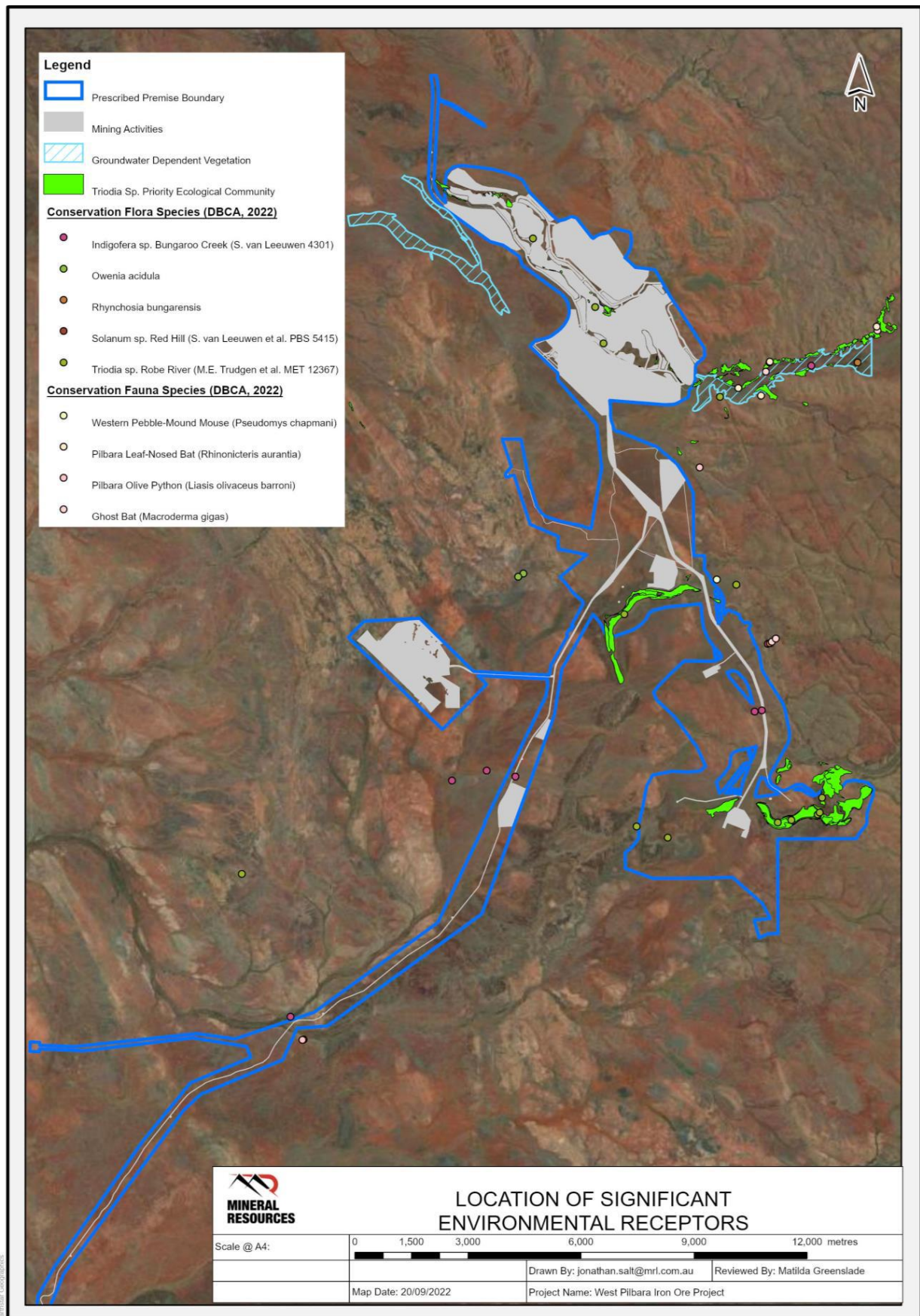


Figure 1: Distance to sensitive receptors (Onslow Iron 2022)

3.2 Risk ratings

Risk ratings have been assessed in accordance with the *Guideline: Risk Assessments* (DWER 2020) for those emission sources which are proposed to change and takes into account potential source-pathway and receptor linkages as identified in Section 3.1. Where linkages are incomplete they have not been considered further in the risk assessment.

Where the Licence Holder has proposed mitigation measures/controls (as detailed in Section 3.1), these have been considered when determining the final risk rating. Where the Delegated Officer considers the Licence Holder's proposed controls to be critical to maintaining an acceptable level of risk, these will be incorporated into the licence as regulatory controls.

Additional regulatory controls may be imposed where the Licence Holder's controls are not deemed sufficient. Where this is the case the need for additional controls will be documented and justified in Table 4.

The Revised Licence L9430/2024/1 that accompanies this Amendment Report authorises emissions associated with the operation of the Premises i.e. Category 5 activities.

The conditions in the Revised Licence have been determined in accordance with *Guidance Statement: Setting Conditions* (DER 2015).

Table 4. Risk assessment of potential emissions and discharges from the Premises during operation

Risk Event					Risk rating ¹ C = consequence L = likelihood	Licence Holder's controls sufficient?	Conditions ² of licence	Justification for additional regulatory controls / DWER comments
Source/Activities	Potential emission	Potential pathways and impact	Receptors	Licence Holder's controls				
Operation								
CPF infrastructure Category 5: Processing or beneficiation of metallic or non-metallic ore Screening, crushing, unloading, loading and storage of material.	Dust	Pathway: Air/windborne pathway Impact: Health and amenity <i>Smothering vegetation impacting photosynthesis</i>	Fauna Flora Vegetation and PEC Aboriginal heritage sites	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Moderate L = Possible Medium Risk	Y	Condition 2 – Design / construction requirements. Condition 4 – Operational requirements.	The operation of the CPF and increase in the throughput is unlikely to significantly alter the emission profile or risk, therefore the controls are considered to be adequate. The applicant has obligations under MS 1203 (Condition 7) to monitor impacts of dust on the <i>Triodia pisoliticola</i> PEC. The applicant also has obligations under EPBC Act Decision Notice 2009/4706 (Condition 4) requiring Fauna Management Plans.
	Noise	Pathway: Noise/vibration Impact: Health and amenity	Fauna	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Slight L = Unlikely Low Risk	Y	N/A	The operation of the CPF and increase in the throughput is unlikely to significantly alter the emission profile or risk, therefore the controls are considered to be adequate. <i>Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997</i> apply. The applicant has obligations under MS 1203 (Condition 12-3) for noise level limits to protect ghost

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Risk Event					Risk rating ¹ C = consequence L = likelihood	Licence Holder's controls sufficient?	Conditions ² of licence	Justification for additional regulatory controls / DWER comments
Source/Activities	Potential emission	Potential pathways and impact	Receptors	Licence Holder's controls				
								bat roost sites. The applicant also has obligations under EPBC Act Decision Notice 2009/4706 (Condition 4) requiring Fauna Management Plans
	Sediment laden/ hydrocarbon contaminated stormwater	Pathway: Overland runoff Impact: Ecosystem disturbance or impact to surface water quality	Surface water bodies, Cane River and Red Hill Creek Soil and vegetation along flow path	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Minor L = Possible Medium Risk	Y	Condition 2 - Design / construction requirements. Condition 4 – Operational requirements.	The operation of the CPF and increase in the throughput is unlikely to significantly alter the emission profile or risk, therefore the controls are considered to be adequate. <i>Environmental Protection (Unauthorised Discharges) Regulations 2004</i> also apply.

Note 1: Consequence ratings, likelihood ratings and risk descriptions are detailed in the *Guideline: Risk assessments* (DWER 2020).

Note 2: Proposed Licence Holder's controls are depicted by standard text. **Bold and underline text** depicts additional regulatory controls imposed by department.

4. Consultation

Table 5 provides a summary of the consultation undertaken by the department.

Table 5: Consultation

Consultation method	Comments received	Department response
Local Government Authority (Shire of Ashburton) advised of proposal (27 August 2025)	None received	N/A
Robe River Kuruma advised of proposal (27 August 2025)	None received	N/A
Licence Holder was provided with draft amendment on 25 September 2025. Comments provided on 15 October 2025.	Condition 4 (Table 3). The licence amendment application identified achieving a DEM of approximately 5-7% for product transport (Table 3). Ongoing DEM sampling has reported a range of DEM levels dependent on the type of material being processed. Ore is sourced from different areas of the pit and multiple deposits leading to a fines product that varies in resultant moisture content following processing. More recently and since the Licence Amendment Application was submitted, this moisture content has shown to range between approximately 5 to 8%. As such, the applicant seeks to reword the DEM condition to either: <i>Water added to the ROM ore to achieve the required DEM for product transport.</i> OR <i>Water added to the ROM ore to achieve Dust Extinction Moisture (DEM) content (approximately 5-8% for product transport).</i>	DWER is supportive of the proposed changes and has updated the related provision to: <i>'Water added to the ROM ore to achieve Dust Extinction Moisture (DEM) content for product transport (approximately 5-8%).'</i>

5. Conclusion

Based on the assessment in this Amendment Report, the Delegated Officer has determined that a Revised Licence will be granted, subject to conditions commensurate with the determined controls and necessary for administration and reporting requirements.

5.1 Summary of amendments

Table 6 provides a summary of the proposed amendments and will act as record of implemented

changes. All proposed changes have been incorporated into the Revised Licence as part of the amendment process.

Table 6: Summary of licence amendments

Condition no.	Proposed amendments
Prescribed premises category description	Category 5 production capacity increased
New Condition 1	Addition of prescribed premises throughput specifications
Condition 4, Table 3 (previously Condition 3, Table 2)	Addition of CPF Category 5 production capacity increased from 7,000,000 tonnes (t) per annual period to 45,000,000 t per annual period
Definitions	Addition of DEM definition
Schedule 1: Maps	Updated Figure 3 to include Category 5 activities (ie. CPF)

References

1. Department of Environment Regulation (DER) 2015, *Guidance Statement: Setting Conditions*, Perth, Western Australia.
2. Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) 2020, *Guideline: Environmental Siting*, Perth, Western Australia.
3. DWER 2020, *Guideline: Risk Assessments*, Perth, Western Australia.
4. Mineral Resources Limited (MinRes) 2025, Supporting Document Licence Amendment Application L9430/2024/1 West Pilbara Iron Ore Project, Version Rev0, 18/06/2025.
5. Onslow Iron Pty Ltd (Onslow Iron) 2022, *West Pilbara Iron Ore Project – Kens Bore Categories: 5, 12, 52, 54, 57, 64, 73 and 77 Supporting Document Works Approval Application Part V Environmental Protection Act 1986 (Report Reference: ENV-TS-RP-0433 Rev 0)*, 11 November 2022.