



Cloudbreak Life of Mine, Pilbara – Ministerial Statement 899 and Increase in abstraction and reinjection at Cloudbreak Mine – Ministerial Statement 1010 – Change to proposal approved under section 45C of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*

Thank you for your letter of 14 June 2021, requesting approval of changes to the Cloudbreak Life of Mine, Pilbara (Ministerial Statement 899 (MS 899)) and increase in abstraction and reinjection at Cloudbreak Mine (Ministerial Statement 1010 (MS 1010)).

A section 45C request was originally submitted on 11 February 2021, then an additional request was submitted on 14 June 2021, which is prior to 23 October 2021. By operation of section 133M(6) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, I am required to deal with this proposed change as if section 45C had not been amended.

I am satisfied that there is no reasonable possibility that the requested changes to the proposal, as described in Attachment 7 to MS 899 and Attachment 1 to MS 1010, will have a significant detrimental effect on the environment in addition to, or different from, the effect of the original proposal. Approval of the changes is therefore granted under section 45C of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. This approval does not replace any responsibilities you may have for seeking approvals from other government agencies to implement the changes.

Please note implementation of the Cloudbreak Life of Mine, Pilbara proposal and increase in abstraction and reinjection at Cloudbreak Mine proposal, including the approved changes described in Attachment 7 to MS 899 and Attachment 1 to MS 1010, are subject to the conditions of MS 899 and MS 1010. The Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation may monitor the implementation of the proposal for the purpose of determining whether the implementation conditions are being complied with.

Yours sincerely



Prof. Matthew Tonts

CHAIR

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

9 February 2024

Encl. Attachment 7 of Ministerial Statement 899 and Attachment 1 to Ministerial Statement 1010

Attachment 7 to Ministerial Statement 899

Change to proposal approved under section 45C of the
Environmental Protection Act 1986

This Attachment replaces Tables 2 and 3 of Attachment 6 of Ministerial Statement 899

Proposal: Cloudbreak Life of Mine, Pilbara

Proponent: Fortescue Limited

Changes:

- Increase the existing groundwater and reinjection abstraction limit at the Cloudbreak mine from 150 GL/annum to 175 GL/annum.

Table 2: Location and authorised extent of physical and operational elements

Element	Location	Previously Authorised Extent	Authorised Extent
Location	N/A	Cloudbreak (approximately 100 km NNW of Newman)	Cloudbreak (approximately 100 km NNW of Newman)
Area Disturbed	N/A	Up to 13, 633 ha within a 37,688 ha Project Area, where 5,500 ha applies to Existing Mine and 8,133 ha applies to Expansion.	Up to 13, 633 ha within a 37,688 ha Project Area, where 5,500 ha applies to Existing Mine and 8,133 ha applies to Expansion.
Tailings Disposal	N/A	Deposition of tailings both below and above the watertable.	Deposition of tailings both below and above the watertable.
Dewatering	N/A	Groundwater abstraction up to 150 GL/a	Groundwater abstraction up to 175 GL/annum
Surplus dewater management	N/A	Groundwater reinjection up to 150 GL/a	Groundwater reinjection up to 175 GL/annum
Groundwater integration	N/A	Transfer of water between Cloudbreak and Christmas Creek mine sites permitted subject to meeting conditions in Ministerial Statement 1033.	Transfer of water between Cloudbreak and Christmas Creek mine sites permitted subject to meeting conditions in Ministerial Statement 1033.
Temporary Presence of water in Mining Pits	N/A	Temporary presence of water in mining pits for a period of 2 years	Temporary presence of water in inactive mining pits during mine operations. Water in inactive mining pits to be removed after the cessation of mining operations and backfilled to a level which will not allow the formation of permanent pit lakes.

Note: Text in **bold** in Table 2 and Table 3 indicates a change to the proposal.

Table 3: Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Term
ha	hectare
km	kilometre
GL	gigalitre
GL/a	Gigalitre per annum
NNW	North-North-West



Prof Matthew Tonts

CHAIR
Environmental Protection Authority
under delegated authority

Attachment 1 to Ministerial Statement 1010

Change to proposal approved under section 45C of the
Environmental Protection Act 1986

This Attachment replaces Schedule 1 of Ministerial Statement 1010

Proposal: Increase in abstraction and reinjection at Cloudbreak Mine

Proponent: Fortescue Limited

Changes:

- Increase the existing groundwater and reinjection abstraction limit at the Cloudbreak mine from 150 GL/annum to 175 GL/annum.

Table 1: Summary of the Proposal

Proposal Title	Increase in abstraction and reinjection at Cloudbreak Mine
Short Description	<p>Increase in the volume of groundwater abstraction from 150 Gigalitres per annum (GL/a) to 175 GL/a and reinjection from 150 GL/a to 175 GL/a at the existing Cloudbreak Life of Mine proposal (described in Ministerial Statement No. 899 and amended by Statement 962).</p> <p>The proposal will utilise all relevant infrastructure and facilities of the existing proposal including pipelines, abstraction bores, saline and brackish groundwater reinjection bores and monitoring bores.</p>

Table 2: Location and authorised extent of physical and operational elements

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Element	Location	Previously Authorised Extent	Authorised Extent
Dewatering	Figure 1 of Attachment 3 to Ministerial Statement 899	Groundwater abstraction up to 150 Gigalitres per annum	Groundwater abstraction up to 175 Gigalitres per annum
Surplus dewater management	Figure 1 of Attachment 3 to Ministerial Statement 899	Groundwater reinjection up to 150 Gigalitres per annum	Groundwater reinjection up to 175 Gigalitres per annum

Note: Text in **bold** in Table 1 and Table 2 indicates a change to the proposal.



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