



Application for Licence

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

Licence Number	L9437/2024/1
Applicant	IB Operations Pty Ltd
ACN	165 513 557
File number	DER2024/000152
Premises	North Star Magnetite Project Marble Bar WA 6760 Mining tenements: L45/272, L45/289, L45/291, L45/292, L45/320, L45/331, L45/486, L45/487, L45/546 and L45/547 As defined by the premises maps attached to the issued licence
Date of report	18 July 2024
Decision	Licence granted

Lauren Edmands
A/SENIOR MANAGER, RESOURCE INDUSTRIES
Delegated Officer
under section 20 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*

Table of Contents

1. Decision summary	1
2. Scope of assessment	1
2.1 Regulatory framework	1
2.2 Application summary and overview of premises	1
3. Legislative context	1
3.1 Part IV of the EP Act	1
4. Risk assessment	2
4.1 Source-pathways and receptors	2
4.1.1 Emissions and controls	2
4.1.2 Receptors	3
4.2 Risk ratings	5
5. Consultation	7
6. Conclusion	7
References	7
Appendix 1: Summary of applicant’s comments on risk assessment and draft conditions	8
Table 1: Proposed applicant controls	2
Table 2: Sensitive human and environmental receptors and distance from prescribed activity	3
Table 3: Risk assessment of potential emissions and discharges from the premises during operation	6
Table 4: Consultation	7
Figure 1: Distance to sensitive receptors	4

1. Decision summary

This decision report documents the assessment of potential risks to the environment and public health from emissions and discharges during the operation of the premises. As a result of this assessment, licence L9437/2024/1 has been granted.

2. Scope of assessment

2.1 Regulatory framework

In completing the assessment documented in this decision report, the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (the department; DWER) 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 and overview of premises

On 12 April 2024, IB Operations Pty Ltd (the applicant) submitted an application for a licence to the department under section 57 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act).

The application is to seek a licence relating to crushing and screening at the premises. The premises boundary aligns with a 240 km raw water pipeline corridor defined by Ministerial Statement 993 (see section 3.1), approximately 110 km south of Port Hedland. This pipeline runs from the Canning Basin bores fields to the Iron Bridge Magnetite Project, which includes two magnetite ore bodies and is authorised under Part V licence L8845/2014/1.

The Iron Bridge Magnetite Project will mine approximately 100 million tonnes per year of magnetite ore, which will be processed into a concentrate on site and transported via pipeline to Port Hedland for export. The pipeline will heavily enhance the reliability of the water delivery system in areas where access may be compromised during the wet season.

To meet the ongoing operational requirement of the Iron Bridge Magnetite Project, a raw water pipeline requires duplication in sections of the existing pipeline project area to ensure the continued operating capacity can be maintained. W6530/2021/1 was issued to IBO in July 2021 for the construction and time limited operations of a mobile crushing and screening plant, which will operate along the raw water pipeline corridor to supply padding material for the construction of underground pipelines. This licence application follows on from the works approval, after compliance was demonstrated to the department.

The premises relates to the category 12 and assessed production capacity under Schedule 1 of the *Environmental Protection Regulations 1987* (EP Regulations) which are defined in licence L9437/2024/1. The infrastructure and equipment relating to the premises category and any associated activities which the department has considered in line with *Guideline: Risk Assessments* (DWER 2020) are outlined in licence L9437/2024/1.

The precise location of the mobile crushing and screening facility (MCSF) within the prescribed boundary will vary as the material is processed. All MCSF infrastructure will remain within the boundary.

3. Legislative context

3.1 Part IV of the EP Act

The Iron Bridge Magnetite Project and its associated infrastructure corridors have been assessed under Part IV of the EP Act as EPA report number 1514. Ministerial Statement (MS) 993 was published on 5 January 2015 in relation to the applicant's proposal to develop an open cut iron ore mine and associated infrastructure.

The assessment defined an approved water corridor envelope and considered impacts to flora and fauna from ground disturbance and clearing during construction.

4. 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.

4.1 Source-pathways and receptors

4.1.1 Emissions and controls

The key emissions and associated actual or likely pathway during premises operation which have been considered in this decision report are detailed in Table 1 below. Table 1 also details the control measures the applicant has proposed to assist in controlling these emissions, where necessary.

Table 1: Proposed applicant controls

Emission	Sources	Potential pathways	Proposed controls
Operation			
Dust	Mobile screening plant operation and operational vehicle movements	Air/windborne pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage in accordance with the Mine and Rail Dust Management Plan Enforce speed limits in work areas Ongoing visual assessment based on atmospheric conditions Utilise water carts where possible Water for dust suppression to be sourced from groundwater bores under licences GWL204162, GWL204174, GWL204473 and GWL204160(2)
Sediment laden stormwater	Mobile screening plant operation	Overland runoff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screening plants to be located away from watercourses where practicable Work near major watercourses to be undertaken during dry conditions Waste rock to be managed onsite and contoured to ensure there is no impact to surface water
Contaminated runoff	Mobile screening plant operation. Operational vehicle movements	Overland runoff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Store hydrocarbons, lubricants and greases in bunding in accordance with AS 1940-2004 and Chemical and Hydrocarbon Storage Procedure. Position spill kits near areas with hydrocarbon spill potential. Utilise spill trays and other containment mechanisms during maintenance.

4.1.2 Receptors

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

Figure 1 and Table 2 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 2: Sensitive human and environmental receptors and distance from prescribed activity

Human receptors	Distance from prescribed activity
No human receptors	>15 km from the prescribed boundary (including Warralong Aboriginal Community). Human receptors have therefore been screened out of this assessment.
Environmental receptors	Distance from prescribed activity
<u>Proclaimed Pilbara Surface water regions - Shaw River, Coongan River and Talyirina Pool</u> The watercourses are not permanent, however there are several permanent and semi-permanent pools that are proximal.	Intersects premises boundary. The pipeline has been proposed to cross underneath the riverbed.
<u>De Grey River – Environmentally Sensitive Area</u> This river is not a permanent watercourse. Clearing and ground disturbance in this area is managed under MS 993.	Intersects premises boundary. The pipeline has been proposed to cross underneath the riverbed.
Proclaimed Pilbara Groundwater	Construction activities lie upon Proclaimed Pilbara Groundwater Zone.
Native vegetation	Surrounding the premises

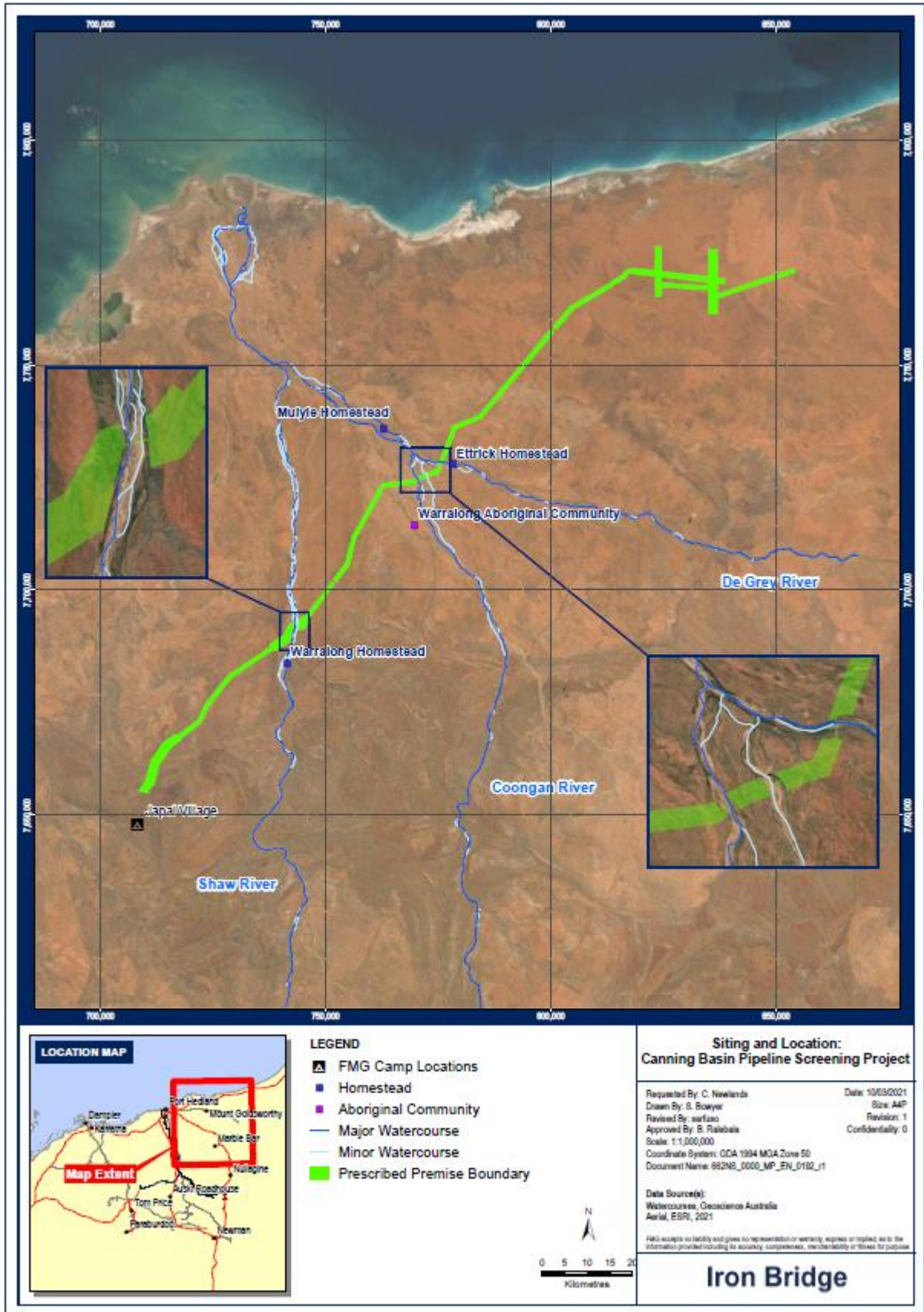


Figure 1: Distance to sensitive receptors

4.2 Risk ratings

Risk ratings have been assessed in accordance with the *Guideline: Risk Assessments* (DWER 2020) for each identified emission source and takes into account potential source-pathway and receptor linkages as identified in Section 4.1. Where linkages are in-complete they have not been considered further in the risk assessment.

Where the applicant has proposed mitigation measures/controls (as detailed in Section 4.1), these have been considered when determining the final risk rating. Where the delegated officer considers the applicant'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 applicant's controls are not deemed sufficient. Where this is the case the need for additional controls will be documented and justified in Table 3.

Licence L9437/2024/1 that accompanies this decision report authorises emissions associated with the operation of the premises i.e. crushing and screening activities.

The conditions in the issued licence, as outlined in Table 3 have been determined in accordance with *Guidance Statement: Setting Conditions* (DER 2015).

Table 3: Risk assessment of potential emissions and discharges from the premises during operation

Risk events					Risk rating ¹ C = consequence L = likelihood	Applicant controls sufficient?	Conditions ² of licence	Justification for additional regulatory controls
Sources / activities	Potential emission	Potential pathways and impact	Receptors	Applicant controls				
Operation								
Mobile screening plant and excavator with screening bucket operation and operational vehicle movements	Dust	Air / windborne pathway causing impacts to health and amenity	Shaw and De Grey Rivers, Coongan River and Talyirina Pool Native vegetation	Refer to Section 4.1	C = Minor L = Unlikely Medium Risk	Y	Condition 1 – Infrastructure and equipment requirements	N/A
Storage and use of hydrocarbons, lubricants and greases	Sediment-laden or contaminated stormwater runoff	Overland runoff potentially causing ecosystem disturbance or impacting surface water quality	Shaw and De Grey Rivers, Coongan River and Talyirina Pool,	Refer to Section 4.1	C = Minor L = Rare Low Risk	Y	Condition 1 – Infrastructure and equipment requirements	N/A

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

Note 2: Proposed applicant controls are depicted by standard text. **bold and underline text** depicts additional regulatory controls imposed by department.

5. Consultation

Table 4 provides a summary of the consultation undertaken by the department.

Table 4: Consultation

Consultation method	Comments received	Department response
Application advertised on the department's website on 3 June 2025	None received	N/A
Applicant was provided with draft documents on 5 July 2024	Refer to Appendix 1	Refer to Appendix 1

6. Conclusion

Based on the assessment in this decision report, the Delegated Officer has determined that the application to renew licence L9437/2024/1 will be granted, subject to conditions commensurate with the determined controls and necessary for administration and reporting requirements.

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. Fortescue 2024, *Supporting Document for Licence Amendment Application Canning Pipeline Crushing and Screening*, Perth, Western Australia.

Appendix 1: Summary of applicant's comments on risk assessment and draft conditions

Condition	Summary of applicant's comment	Department's response
Definitions	The applicant has requested the 'annual period' be defined as a 12-month period commencing from 1 January until 31 December of the same year.	Noted and accepted.
Condition 3	The applicant has requested the annual reporting period and report due date to align with other Fortescue operational licenses.	Noted and accepted
General	<p>The applicant has requested DWER please confirms that demobilisation and remobilisation of equipment is approved as per application document section 3. They have suggested the addition of the following condition:</p> <p><i>The licence holder must notify the CEO within 60 days of the reinstalment of the site infrastructure and equipment listed in Table 1.</i></p>	<p>DWER confirms that demobilisation and remobilisation of the equipment is approved. Due to the distance to sensitive receptors, there is no change in risk rating as a result of the demobilisation and remobilisation of the equipment within the premises boundary.</p> <p>The suggested condition has been approved and added as condition 2.</p>