Government of Western Australia
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

Decision Report

Application for Works Approval

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

Works Approval Number	W2873/2025/1
Applicant	Norton Gold Fields Pty Limited
ACN	112 287 797
File number	APP-0026154
Premises	Binduli Operations Legal description - Part of mining tenements M 26/447 BINDULI WA 6430 As defined by the premises map in Schedule 1 and the coordinates outlined in Schedule 2 of the works approval.
Date of report	06/03/2025
Decision	Works approval granted

Table of Contents

1. Decision summary

This decision report documents the assessment of potential risks to the environment and public health from emissions and discharges during the construction and operation of the premises. As a result of this assessment, works approval W2873/2025/1 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 7 October 2024, Norton Gold Fields Pty Limited (the 'applicant') submitted an application for a works approval to the department under section 54 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act).

The application is to undertake construction works relating to installation of category 5 screening infrastructure and time limited operation of the ore crushing, screening and agglomeration plant at the premises. The premises is approximately 4.5 km west of Kalgoorlie. The premises map and location of screening infrastructure is shown below in Figure 2 and a more detailed site layout with coordinates is shown in Figure 3.

The premises relates to the category 5 and assessed design capacity under Schedule 1 of the *Environmental Protection Regulations 1987* (EP Regulations) which are defined in works approval W2873/2025/1. 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 works approval W2873/2025/1.

The proposed Prescribed Premises boundary for this Works Approval is located within the approved Binduli North Minesite Licence L9362/2022/1 Prescribed Premise boundary. The purpose of adding a screen is to separate oversize material to increase the permeability of the heap leach and to increase the plant utilization rate during maintenance of the Agglomerator.

2.3 Description of proposed activities

2.3.1 Category 5: Ore Processing – Crushing and Screening Plant

Infrastructure will consist of a Landsky Flip-flow Screen, model 2LKFS3085 or equivalent (NGF,2024). The infrastructure will be located in the south pocket (Figure 2) of the Premises boundary. The auxiliary plant will also be utilised for the operation, including conveyors, water carts, excavators and loaders. All screening activities will occur within the Premise boundary.

A fixed conveyor will be moved the final crushed ore from the current high-pressure grinding rollers (HPGR) and feed it into an agglomerator feed head chute. The proposed screening circuit line will be received 50% of the ore that is fed into the agglomerator bin and 50% that is diverted to the agglomerator bypass conveyor (NGF, 2024).

Screened, undersize (<3mm) ore material will be diverted to a 20,000 tonnes stockpile for processing purposes at the Paddington Mill. Road trains transporting undersize ore material will be covered to ensure dust is contained.

An overland conveyor will drop oversized (>3mm) ore material onto the Binduli North Heap Leach to increase the landform's permeability and the output of mineral production.

A grasshopper and radial stacker will be used to redirect all ore from the agglomerator feed head chute to a 60,000 tonnes emergency bypass stockpile while the agglomerator is being maintained. A transfer conveyor that feeds straight onto the overland conveyor will handle and move the ore from this stockpile to the heap leach pad.

The processing flow chart is shown in Figure 1 and outlines the proposed screening infrastructure within the existing processing circuit.

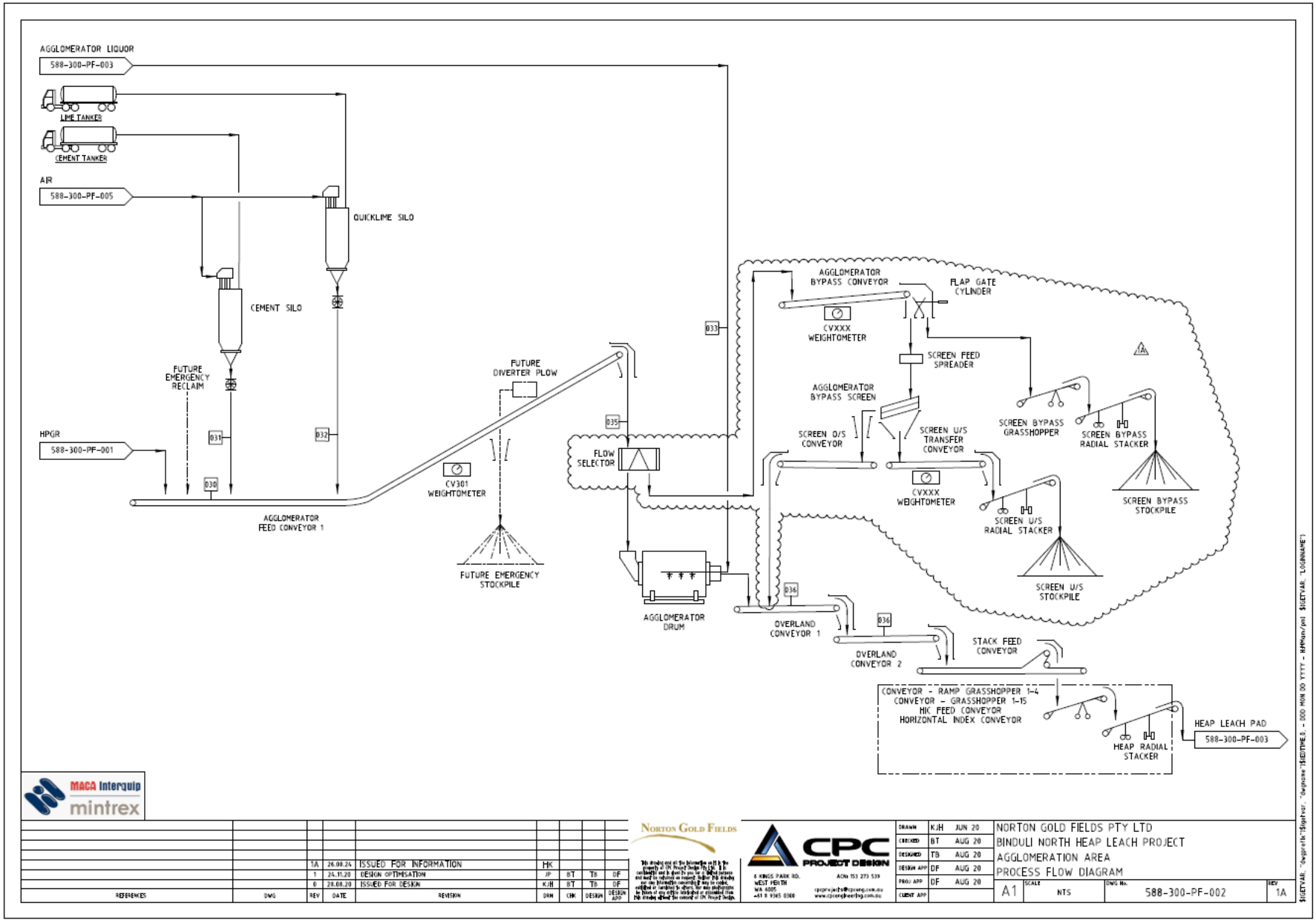


Figure 1: Agglomerator and Screening Processing Flow Chart

Works Approval: W2873/2025/1

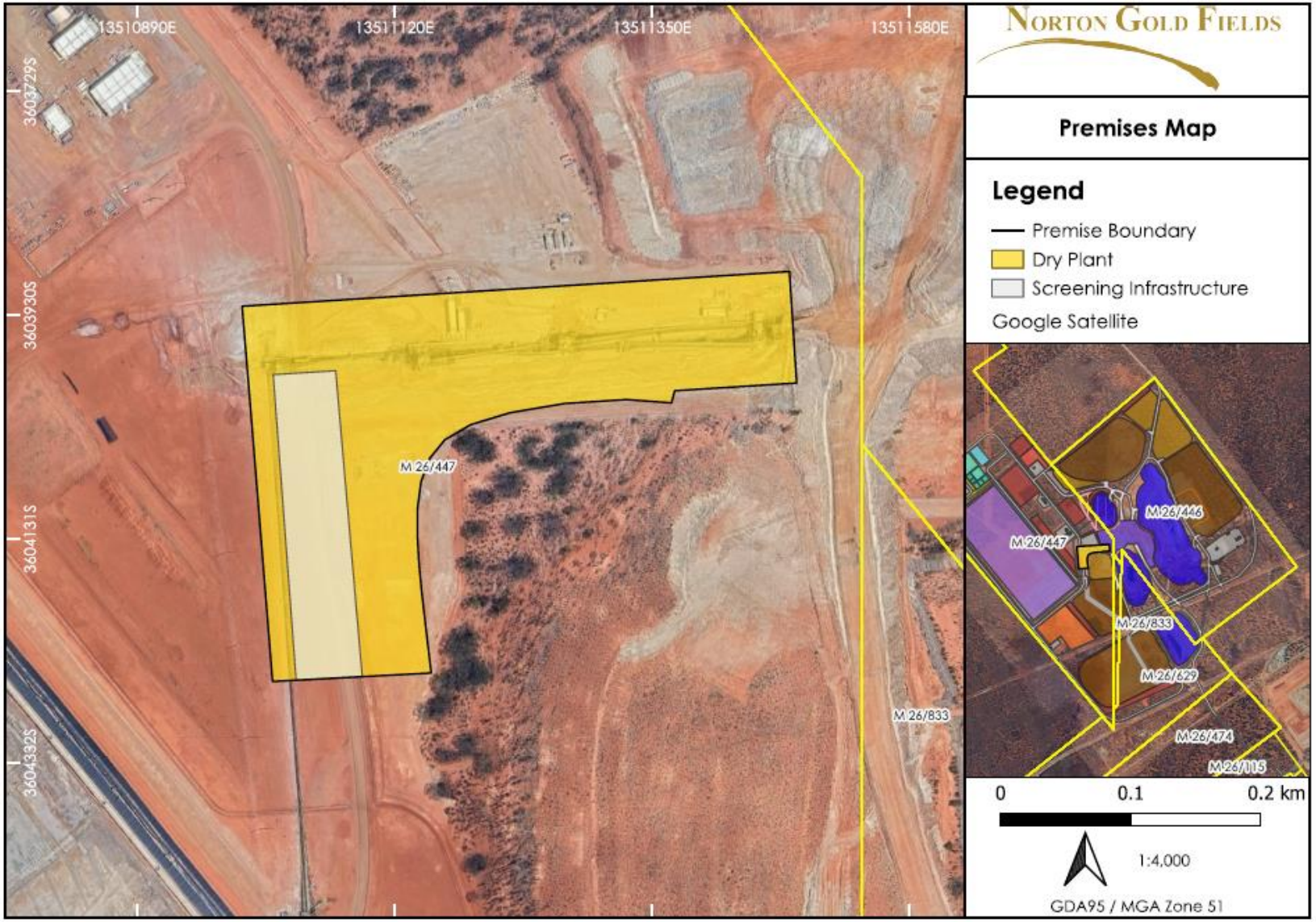
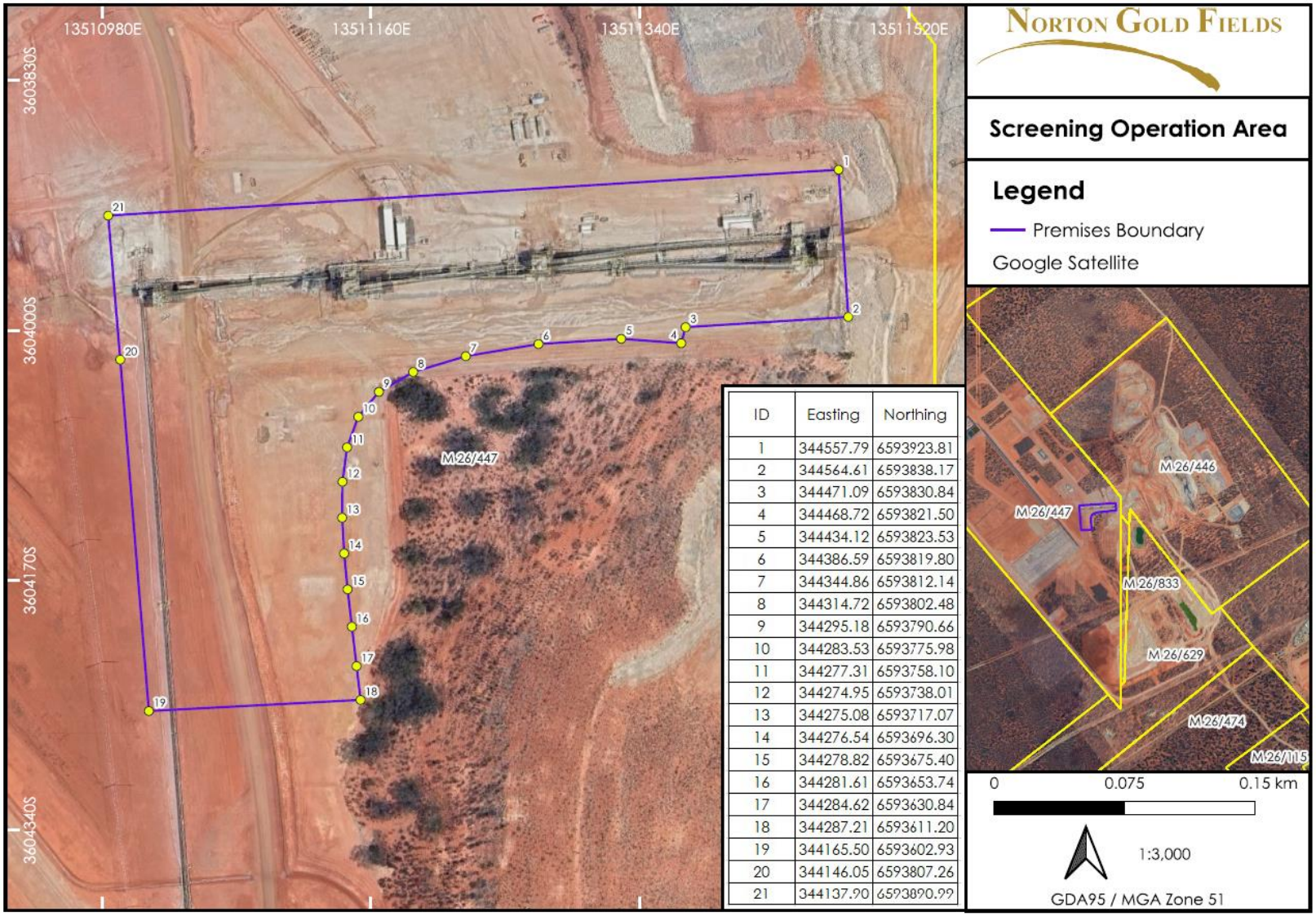


Figure 2: Premises map and the location of new screening infrastructure



ID	Easting	Northing
1	344557.79	6593923.81
2	344564.61	6593838.17
3	344471.09	6593830.84
4	344468.72	6593821.50
5	344434.12	6593823.53
6	344386.59	6593819.80
7	344344.86	6593812.14
8	344314.72	6593802.48
9	344295.18	6593790.66
10	344283.53	6593775.98
11	344277.31	6593758.10
12	344274.95	6593738.01
13	344275.08	6593717.07
14	344276.54	6593696.30
15	344278.82	6593675.40
16	344281.61	6593653.74
17	344284.62	6593630.84
18	344287.21	6593611.20
19	344165.50	6593602.93
20	344146.05	6593807.26
21	344137.90	6593890.99

Figure 3: The operational area for the screening activities

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 construction/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
Construction			
Dust	Crushing of material, vehicle movements, lift-off from stockpiles and/or stored product, earthworks etc.	Air / windborne pathway	• Fog cannons on stockpiles. • Water carts in the event that high levels of dust are observed. • Daily visual monitoring of dust; and • Water sprays on machinery when visible dust is detected.
Noise	Crushing and screening of material for construction, and general construction activities.	Air / windborne pathway	• Regular plant maintenance and the planning of routes and travel paths to utilise existing features to shield noise. • Complaints register.
Operation			
Dust	Crushing and screening of ore, vehicle movements, lift-off from stockpiles and/or stored product.	Air / windborne pathway	• Fog cannons on stockpiles. • Water carts in the event that high levels of dust are observed. • Daily visual monitoring of dust; and • Water sprays on machinery when visible dust is detected.
Noise	Ore crushing and screening circuit.	Air / windborne pathway	• Regular plant maintenance and the planning of routes and travel paths to utilise existing features to shield noise. • Complaints register.

Emission	Sources	Potential pathways	Proposed controls
Sedimentation runoff	Rainfall events causing sedimentation runoff into local water bodies.	Direct discharge to land	• Bunds both from historical mining activity and construction. • Diversion channels to the west and east of the proposed screening plant will be constructed to tie into the existing diversion channel which drains to the storm water pond.

3.1.2 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.

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

Environmental receptors	Distance from prescribed activity
Native vegetation	The nearest vegetation is located less than 100 m south and east of the screening infrastructure

3.2 Risk ratings

Risk ratings have been assessed in accordance with the *Guideline: Risk Assessments* (DWER 2020) for each identified emission source and considers potential source-pathway and receptor linkages as identified in Section 3.1. 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 3.1), 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 works approval 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.

Works approval W2873/2025/1 that accompanies this decision report authorises construction and time-limited operations. The conditions in the issued works approval, as outlined in Table 3 have been determined in accordance with *Guidance Statement: Setting Conditions* (DER 2015).

A licence is required following the time-limited operational phase authorised under the works approval to authorise emissions associated with the ongoing operation of the premises i.e. category 5 activities. A risk assessment for the operational phase has been included in this decision report, however licence conditions will not be finalised until the department assesses the licence application.

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

Risk events					Risk rating [1] C = consequence L = likelihood	Applicant controls sufficient?	Conditions [2] of works approval	Justification for additional regulatory controls
Sources / activities	**Potential emission**	**Potential pathways and impact**	**Receptors**	**Applicant controls**				
Construction								
Movement of vehicles on roadways and installation of screening infrastructure	Dust	**Pathway:** Air/windborne pathway **Impact:** Health and amenity	Native vegetation	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Slight L = Unlikely **Low Risk**	Y	Condition 1, table 1, Design and installation requirements	N/A
Operation (including time-limited-operations operations)								
Screening, crushing, unloading, loading and storage of material Vehicle movements	Dust	**Pathway:** Air/windborne pathway **Impact:** Health and amenity	Native vegetation	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Slight L = Unlikely **Low Risk**	Y	Condition 6, table 2, Infrastructure and equipment requirements during time limited operations	N/A
	Sediment laden stormwater	**Pathway:** Overland runoff **Impact:** ecosystem disturbance or impacting surface water quality	Native vegetation	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Slight L = Unlikely **Low Risk**	No controls proposed	Condition 6, table 2, Infrastructure and equipment requirements during time limited operations	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.

4. 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 17 January 2025.	None received	N/A
Application advertised on the West Australian newspaper on 20 January 2025.	None received	N/A
Applicant was provided with draft documents on 4 March 2025.	Applicant had no comments and waived the comment period on 4 March 2025.	Noted

5. Conclusion

Based on the assessment in this decision report, the Delegated Officer has determined that a works approval 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. Norton Gold Fields (NGF) 2024, *Binduli operations works approval application supporting document*, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia.