



Application for Works Approval

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

Works Approval Number W2988/2025/1

Applicant MLG Oz Limited

ACN 102 642 366

File number APP-0029141

Premises 16 Mile Well Project

Legal description

Mining tenement M36/697

As defined by the premises map attached to the issued works approval

Date of report 5 September 2025

Decision Works approval granted

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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 / installation and operation of the premises. As a result of this assessment, works approval W2988/2025/1 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 20 May 2025, 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 crushing and screening at the premises. The premises is approximately 13 km southeast of Leinster.

The application is to undertake construction / installation of a category 70 mobile screening plant for the screening of sand and gravel materials. The proposed maximum throughput capacity is 50,000 tonnes per annum.

The premises relates to the category 70 and assessed production capacity under Schedule 1 of the *Environmental Protection Regulations 1987* (EP Regulations) which are defined in works approval W2988/2025/1. 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 W2988/2025/1.

2.3 Other approvals

The applicant has applied for a native vegetation clearing permit (CPS 11098/1), and submitted an application to the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DEMIRS), now Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration (DMPE) on 20 May 2025. The application is to clear approximately 114.5 hectares on the premises.

The Delegated Officer notes that the onus rests with the applicant to ensure compliance with all relevant regulatory bodies and decision-making authorities.

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 / installation and 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	Placement of screening plant and associated equipment Vehicle movements	Air / windborne pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A water truck will be available at all times on the premises to suppress dust generated via earthworks, and installation of the screening plant and vehicle movements.• Vehicles will travel at low speeds within the premises to reduce dust.
Noise			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vehicles will travel at low speeds within the premises to reduce noise.• All vehicles and machinery will be regularly maintained to ensure they are operating optimally and not producing excess noise emissions.
Operation			
Dust	Screening, crushing, unloading, loading and storage of material	Air / windborne pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A water truck will be available at all times on the premises to suppress dust generated via operation of the screening plant and vehicle movements.• Vehicles will travel at low speeds within the premises to reduce dust.• Screening activities will not be undertaken during periods of strong wind.
Noise	Vehicle movements		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vehicles will travel at low speeds within the premises to reduce noise.• All vehicles and machinery will be regularly maintained to ensure they are operating optimally and not producing excess noise emissions.

Emission	Sources	Potential pathways	Proposed controls
Sediment laden stormwater		Overland runoff potentially causing ecosystem disturbance	Applicant has not proposed controls.
Hydrocarbon discharge	Fuel transfer, breakdowns, vehicle movements or malfunctions from mobile equipment and vehicles.	Spillage to soil, surrounding vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No hydrocarbons are stored onsite, and fuel for the mobile plant is provided by a fuel cart. • Regular inspection (start and end of shift) of operating equipment will be undertaken to identify if leaks are occurring. • Transfer of diesel to occur at designated transfer points with spill protection and containment available. • Use of drip trays in the event that a leak is detected. If a drip tray cannot adequately contain a minor leak, the operation of the machinery will cease until it can be repaired. • All vehicle and other equipment will be regularly maintained and will be stocked with appropriate spill kit equipment. • Any contaminated material (e.g. hydrocarbon contaminated soil) will be removed and disposed of at licensed facilities.

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 and Figure 1 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
Leinster Downs Pastoral Station Homestead	<p>The premises is located within the Leinster Downs Pastoral Lease. The Leinster Downs Homestead is located 25 km north west of the prescribed premises boundary (Figure 1).</p> <p>This receptor has been screened out due to distance.</p>
Environmental receptors	Distance from prescribed activity
Native vegetation	Throughout and surrounding the prescribed premises.
Priority flora (<i>Bossiaea eremaea</i> and <i>Thryptomene</i> sp. <i>Leinster</i>)	<p>Goldfields Landcare Services surveyed the site at the 16 Mile Well Project in 2021. A total of 42 species of conservation significance were found to have the potential to occur in the area (GLS 2021).</p> <p>Two species recorded in the field survey were identified as Priority flora taxa by the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) <i>Bossiaea eremaea</i> and <i>Thryptomene</i> sp. <i>Leinster</i>.</p> <p>One sterile specimen of <i>Seringia</i> species, potentially <i>Seringia exastia</i> was also collected. This species is currently listed as Critically Endangered under the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act</i> and <i>Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act</i> (Figure 2).</p> <p>The proposed site layout has been designed to avoid all identified Conservation Significant Flora Species and Sandplain Spinifex Hummock Grassland within the Bullimore Land System (Figure 3).</p>
Minor surface water lines	<p>Several minor surface water lines ranging from approximately 900 m to 2.2 km from the prescribed premises boundary. Located to the east, southeast and west of the boundary.</p> <p>Regionally, drainage occurs largely by sheetwash into poorly defined ephemeral drainage lines, which either disappear into extensive flats, or flow after significant storm events into the adjoining, internally draining, Lake Carey paleodrainage system.</p>
Priority fauna - Malleefowl (<i>Leipoa ocellata</i>) Brush-tailed Mulgara (<i>Dasycercus blythi</i>) Striated Grasswren (<i>Amytornis striatus</i>)	<p>Western Wildlife undertook a Basic Vertebrate Fauna Survey in August 2021 (Western Wildlife 2021). The survey identified 14 vertebrate species of conservation significance that may occur in the survey area. Of the 14, three species were recorded as known to occur or likely to occur; Malleefowl (<i>Leipoa ocellata</i>) Brush-tailed Mulgara (<i>Dasycercus blythi</i>) Striated Grasswren (<i>Amytornis striatus</i>). (Figure 4)</p> <p>The survey concluded that vegetation habitats of the study area are common and widespread in the semi-arid regions of Western Australia and are unlikely to provide ecological linkages or refugia. The project is unlikely to affect the Priority habitats as the main focus of the operation is on sand and gravel from the sand dune habitat and the layout is designed to limit disturbance (Western Wildlife 2021).</p>

Groundwater	<p>The premises is situated over fractured and deeply weathered rock, which typically forms localised, minor aquifers and groundwater resources, although locally large supplies from fracture zones and permeable horizons may be present.</p> <p>Local groundwater levels are estimated to be in excess of 30 mbgl and have varying salinities ranging from brackish to saline.</p> <p>This receptor has been screened out due to distance.</p>
Cultural receptors	Distance from prescribed activity
Aboriginal heritage site – Parra Hill (artefacts / scatter; Quarry)	<p>1.3 km north of the prescribed premises boundary.</p> <p>This receptor has been screened out due to distance.</p>
Aboriginal heritage site – Artefacts / scatter	<p>1.9 km southeast of the prescribed premises boundary.</p> <p>This receptor has been screened out due to distance.</p>
Aboriginal Heritage site: Place ID: 29086 Weebo Site – Rock Hole	<p>500 m east of the prescribed premises boundary.</p> <p>There are several sites of cultural significance near the survey area. These sites are ethnographic in nature and are associated with breakaways and rocky outcrops (Figure 5).</p> <p>An important and well-known rock-hole site that holds domestic and religious significance in Western Desert tradition is located just outside of the mining lease area (Place ID: 29086).</p>

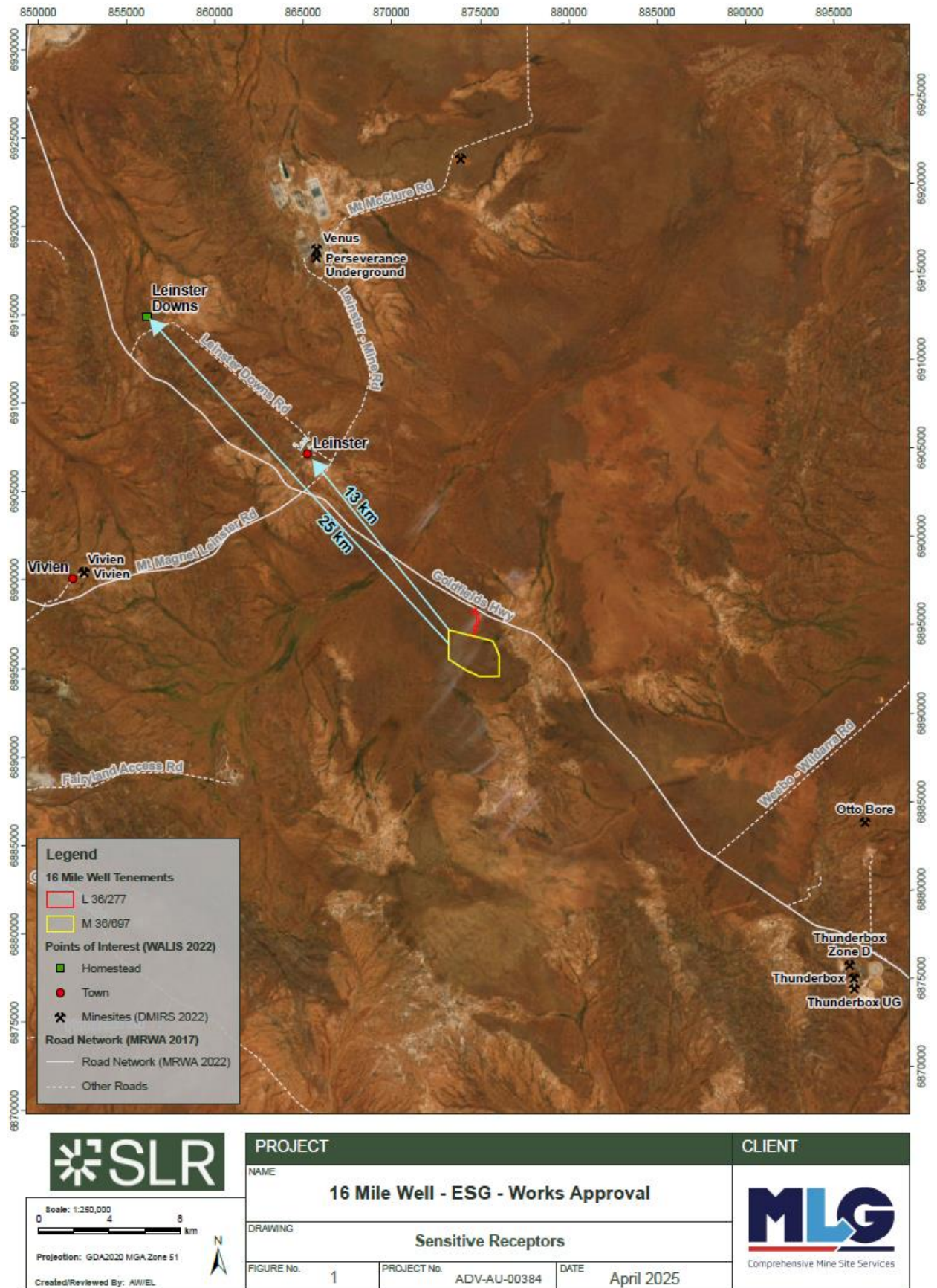
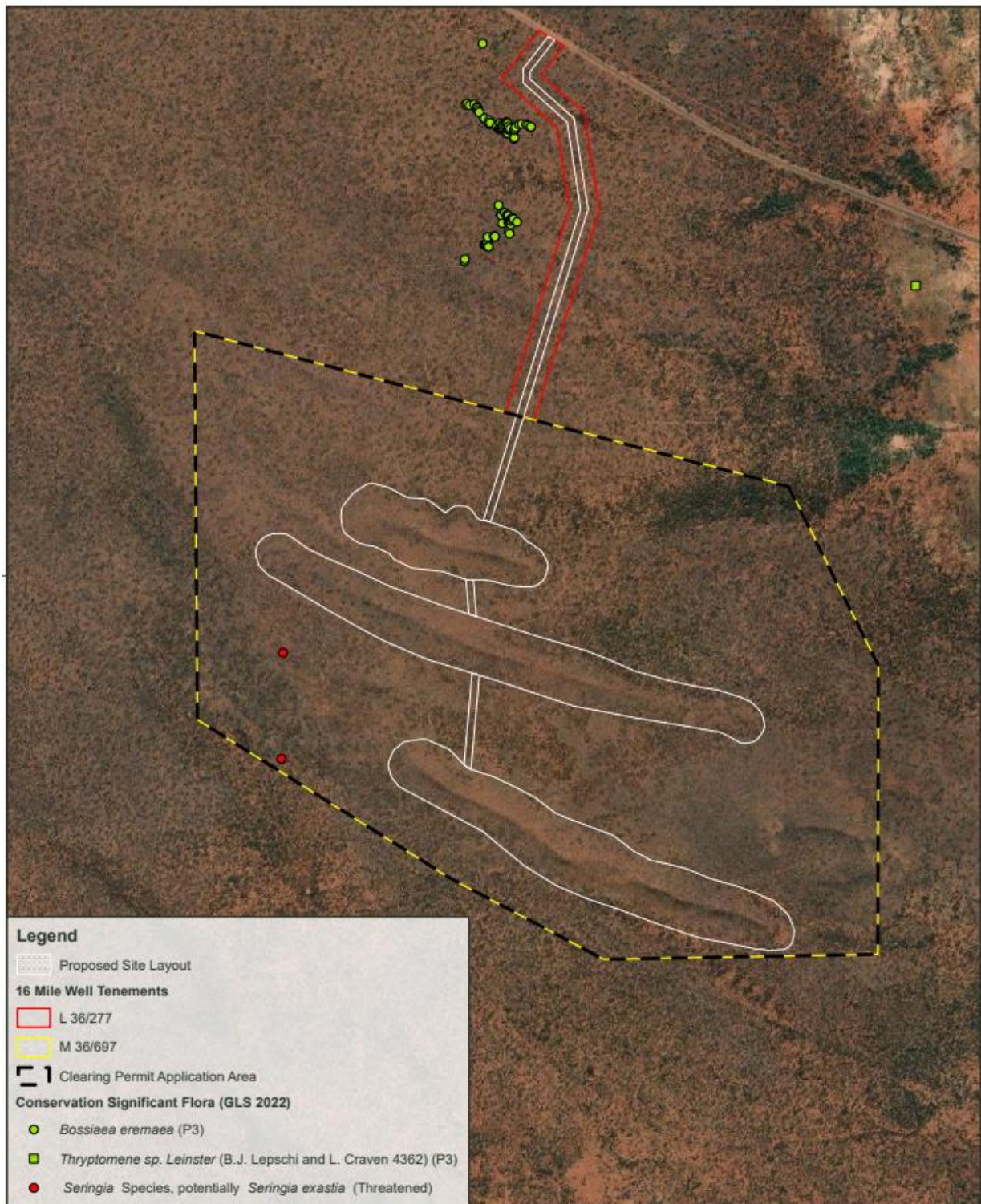


Figure 1: Sensitive human receptors



 <p>Scale: 1:20,000 0 250 500 m</p> <p>Projection: GDA2020 MGA Zone 51</p> <p>Created/Reviewed By: AWEL</p>	PROJECT NAME 16 Mile Well - ESG - Works Approval		CLIENT  Comprehensive Mine Site Services
	DRAWING Conservation Significant Flora		
	FIGURE No. 4	PROJECT No. ADV-AU-00384	DATE April 2025

Figure 2: Sensitive Receptors – Conservation Significant Flora

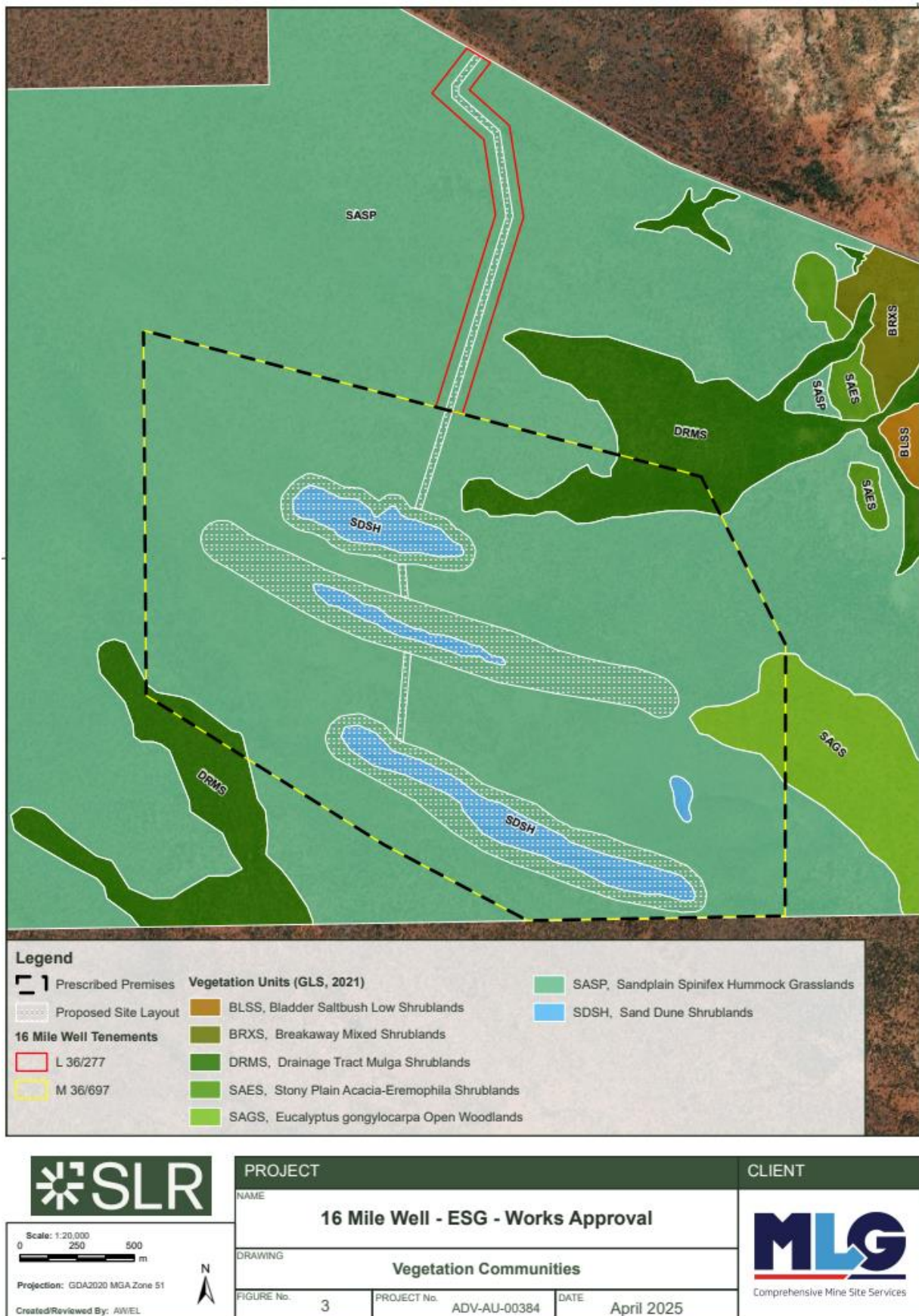


Figure 3: Vegetation Communities

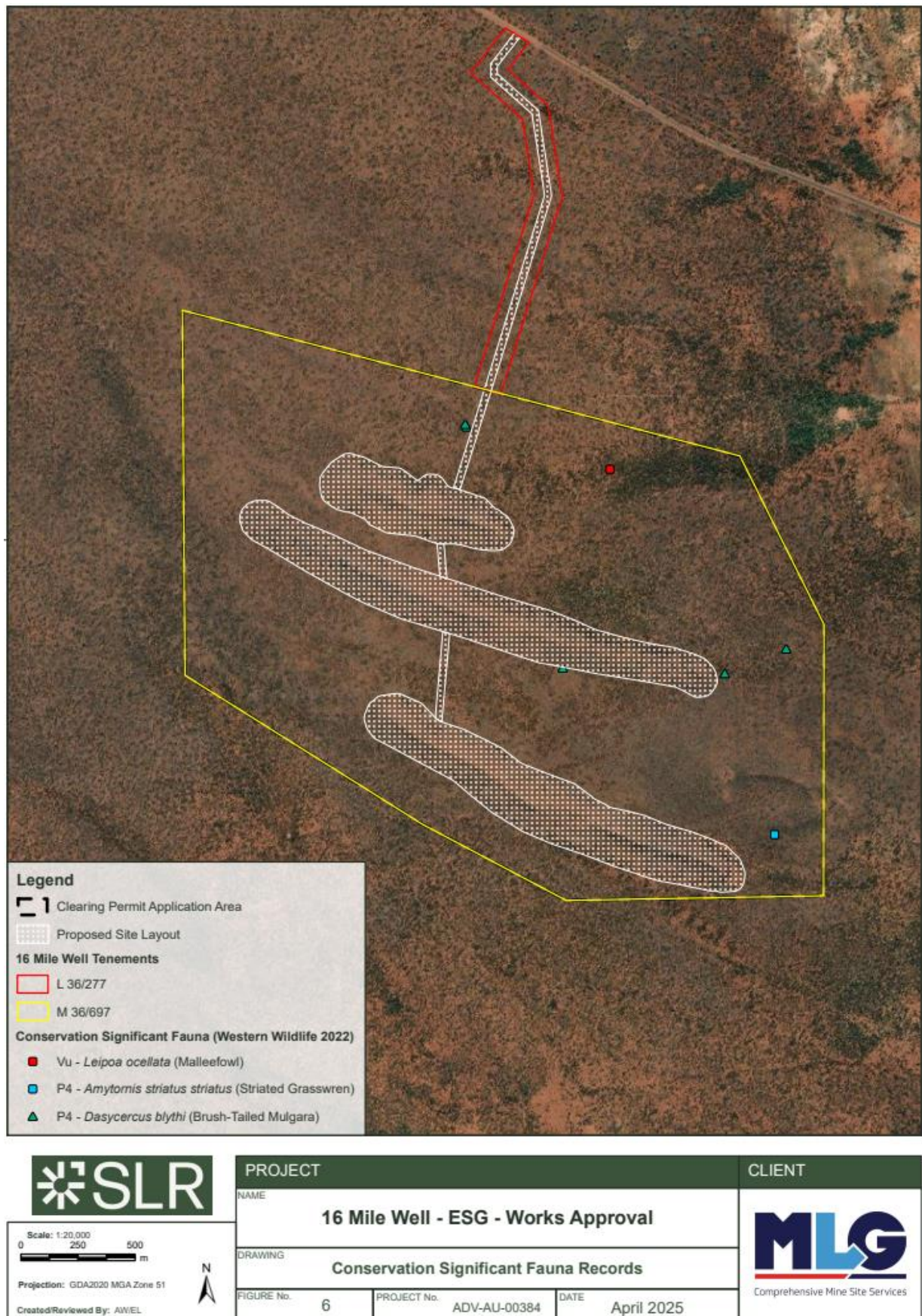


Figure 4: Sensitive Receptors - Conservation Significant Fauna

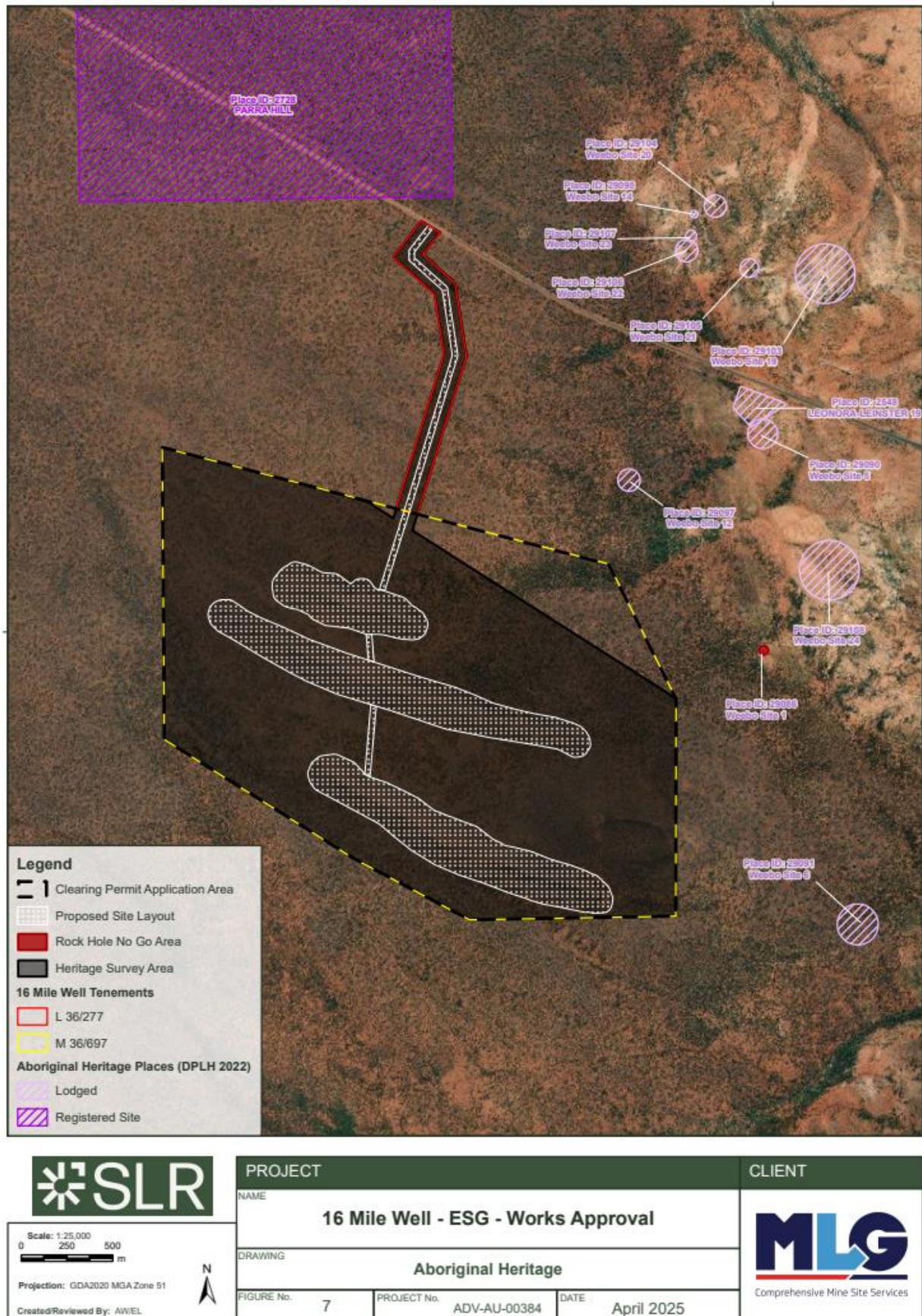


Figure 5: Sensitive Receptors - Aboriginal Heritage Sites

3.2 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 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 W2988/2025/1 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. crushing and screening 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								
Placement and mobilisation of screening plant, mobile crusher and associated equipment (including vehicle movements)	Dust	Pathway: Air/windborne pathway Impact: Health and amenity, decline to ecosystem health	Native vegetation Priority flora 800 m north Priority fauna Minor surface water lines closest (900 m west) Aboriginal Heritage Site 500 m east	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Moderate L = Possible Medium Risk	Y	Condition 1	N/A

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				
Operation (including time-limited-operations operations)								
Screening, crushing, unloading, loading and storage of material	Dust	Pathway: Air/windborne pathway Impact: Health and amenity, decline to ecosystem health	Native vegetation Priority flora 800m north Priority fauna Minor surface water lines closest (900m west) Aboriginal Heritage Site 500 m east	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Moderate L = Possible Medium Risk	Y	Condition 1 and 9	N/A
Vehicle movements	Sediment laden stormwater	Pathway: Overland runoff Impact: Ecosystem disturbance or impact to surface water quality	Minor surface water lines closest (900m west) Native vegetation Priority flora 800m north	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Moderate L = Possible Medium Risk	Y	Condition 6	No applicant controls proposed for stormwater management. Condition 6 has been added to provide sufficient control is undertaken during operations to prevent stormwater becoming contaminated.
Vehicle movements	Hydrocarbon discharge	Pathway: Overland runoff and seepage into groundwater Impact: Ecosystem disturbance or impact to surface water quality	Localised soils Native vegetation Minor surface water lines closest (900m west)	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Moderate L = Unlikely Medium Risk	Y	Conditions 1, 4, 5 and 9	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 20 June 2025	No comments received	N/A
Local Government Authority (Shire of Leonora) advised of proposal on 19 June 2025	No comments received	N/A
Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration (DMPE) advised of proposal on 19 June 2025	Response received from DMPE on 17 July 2025 confirming that the applicant has applied for a permit to clear 114.5 ha on the mining tenement (CPS 11098/1).	The delegated officer notes that the onus rests with the applicant to ensure compliance with all relevant regulatory bodies.
Tjiwarl Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC advised of proposal on 19 June 2025	No comments received	N/A
Applicant was provided with draft documents on 30 July 2025	The applicant provided comments on the draft documents on 20 August 2025. Refer to Appendix 1	Refer to Appendix 1

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. Goldfields Landcare Services (GLS) 2021, *Flora and Vegetation Survey 16 Mile Well Project*. An unpublished report prepared for MLG Oz Limited, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia.
5. Western Wildlife 2021, *Basic Vertebrate Fauna Survey 2021*. Un unpublished report prepared for MLG Oz Limited, Hovea, Western Australia.

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

Condition	Summary of applicant's comment	Department's response
Condition 1 – Table 1 (Item 1)	The applicant has requested that all machinery types are removed from condition 1 (Table 1), apart from the mobile screening unit. This is requested due to the other machinery not being directly required for the screening activities. Additionally, that the specific make and model of the equipment may vary due to availability and developments in operational fleet.	The delegated officer notes and accepts this request. The machinery types not directly associated with the screening activities have been removed from Table 1. Please note that this does not affect the risk assessment.
Condition 1 – Table 1 (Item 2)	The applicant requests that the brand name 'Kenworth' is removed from Table 1 – Item 2, when referring to the water truck to be used for dust suppression. This is to allow alternate makes and models of water trucks to be used on site due to availability.	The delegated officer notes this request and has removed the brand name 'Kenworth' to allow for alternate makes and models of water trucks to be used on site.
Condition 1 – Table 1 (Item 2)	Condition 1 requires the applicant to operate a water truck during construction and operation of the crushing and screening plant for dust suppression. The applicant has requested that the condition be amended to only require the water truck for dust suppression during the construction phase of the project.	The wording in condition 1, Table 1 has been amended to only require the water truck for dust suppression during the construction phase as this Table reflects construction requirements only. Please note that condition 9, Table 2 does require the operation of a water truck to suppress dust emissions during time limited operations.
Table 2 of the Decision Report	The applicant has provided confirmation of the distance to the nearest human receptor. The nearest human receptor is the town of Leinster, approximately 13 km from the prescribed premises boundary. The Leinster Downs homestead is approximately 25 km north west of the premises. An updated sensitive receptors figure displaying townsites and the pastoral station homestead was provided.	The delegated officer notes the information provided. Table 2 has been updated to reflect the distances provided by the applicant. All human receptors have been screened out of the assessment due to distance. The sensitive receptors figure provided by the applicant has been included in this report as Figure 1.
Condition 3 and 9	Error references messages were identified in conditions 3 and 9.	Corrections were made to the error messages in these conditions.