



Application for Works Approval

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

Works Approval Number	W3179/2026/1
Applicant	Pilbara Iron Pty Ltd
ACN	107 216 535
File number	APP-0031874
Premises	Bellbird Strategic Laydown Legal description - Land Administration Act Lease I134828 and Miscellaneous Licence L47/128 As defined by the coordinates in Schedule 2 of the works approval As defined by the premises maps attached to the issued works approval
Date of report	17 March 2026
Decision	Works approval granted

MANAGER, HEAVY INDUSTRIES

an officer delegated under section 20 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (WA)

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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 W3179/2026/1 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 14 October 2025, Pilbara Iron Pty Ltd (the applicant) (a subsidiary of Rio Tinto) 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 install and operate a mobile crushing and screening plant and stockpile degraded ballast removed from the rail network for reuse in other rail projects, at the Bellbird Strategic Laydown (the premises). The premises is approximately 29 km north of the nearest main town of Tom Price, within the Pilbara region of northern Western Australia. The premises is located within Land Administration Act (LAA) Lease I134828 and mining tenement L47/128, an area referred to as Bellbird 255 km YAML Strategic Laydown (Bellbird) (Figure 1). The tenure is held by Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd (a subsidiary of Rio Tinto) under the *Land Administration Act 1997* (I134828) and *Mining Act 1978* (L47/128).

The premises relates to the category 12: Screening etc. of material, category 13: Crushing of building material and category 61A: Solid waste facility and assessed production / design capacity under Schedule 1 of the *Environmental Protection Regulations 1987* (EP Regulations) which are defined in works approval W3179/2026/1. 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 W3179/2026/1.

2.3 Prescribed Activity Overview

This Works Approval application is for the installation and operation of a mobile crushing and screening plant and stockpiling of degraded rail ballast and rail civil material removed from Rio Tinto's Integrated Rail Network (IRN). The IRN comprises approximately 1,980 km of heavy freight railway network for the transportation of iron ore from Rio Tinto's 18 mining operations in the Pilbara to numerous port facilities for export (Rio Tinto, 2025). The applicant, a member of the Rio Tinto Group, has been appointed to operate, maintain and manage construction activities associated with the IRN.

The IRN currently comprises eight mainlines, including the Yandicoogina Mainline (YAML), which extends approximately 198 km from the Yandicoogina mine site; hence the area identified as the Bellbird YAML Strategic Laydown. Crushing and screening activities are required to facilitate the repurposing and reuse of degraded rail civil materials removed during ballast cleaning operations and major rail renewal programs undertaken across the Rio Tinto rail network.

As the applicant undertakes ballast cleaning and rail renewal works across the IRN, degraded ballast/rail civil materials are removed from the track and from the rail formation. The entire IRN requires ballast cleaning/renewal to maintain safe operations and to extend the life of the asset. Ballast degradation occurs over time due to normal rail activities as edges of the ballast become

rounded and less effective. Thus, ballast renewal must occur, as required, throughout the life of the IRN.

The track renewal program will at times capture sub ballast capping material, which forms part of the rail formation and replacement of concrete railway sleepers. The removed civil materials have been geotechnically tested for reuse in other civil related projects within the Rio Tinto's Railway Division and across their wider Pilbara operations, producing a circular economy and reuse of materials.

Material processed at the premises will be used for large rail renewal maintenance projects, resheeting of rail access road, rehabilitation, mine pit backfill, grade separation projects, mine haul road maintenance, track ramp construction and other Rio Tinto projects where the material has a use.

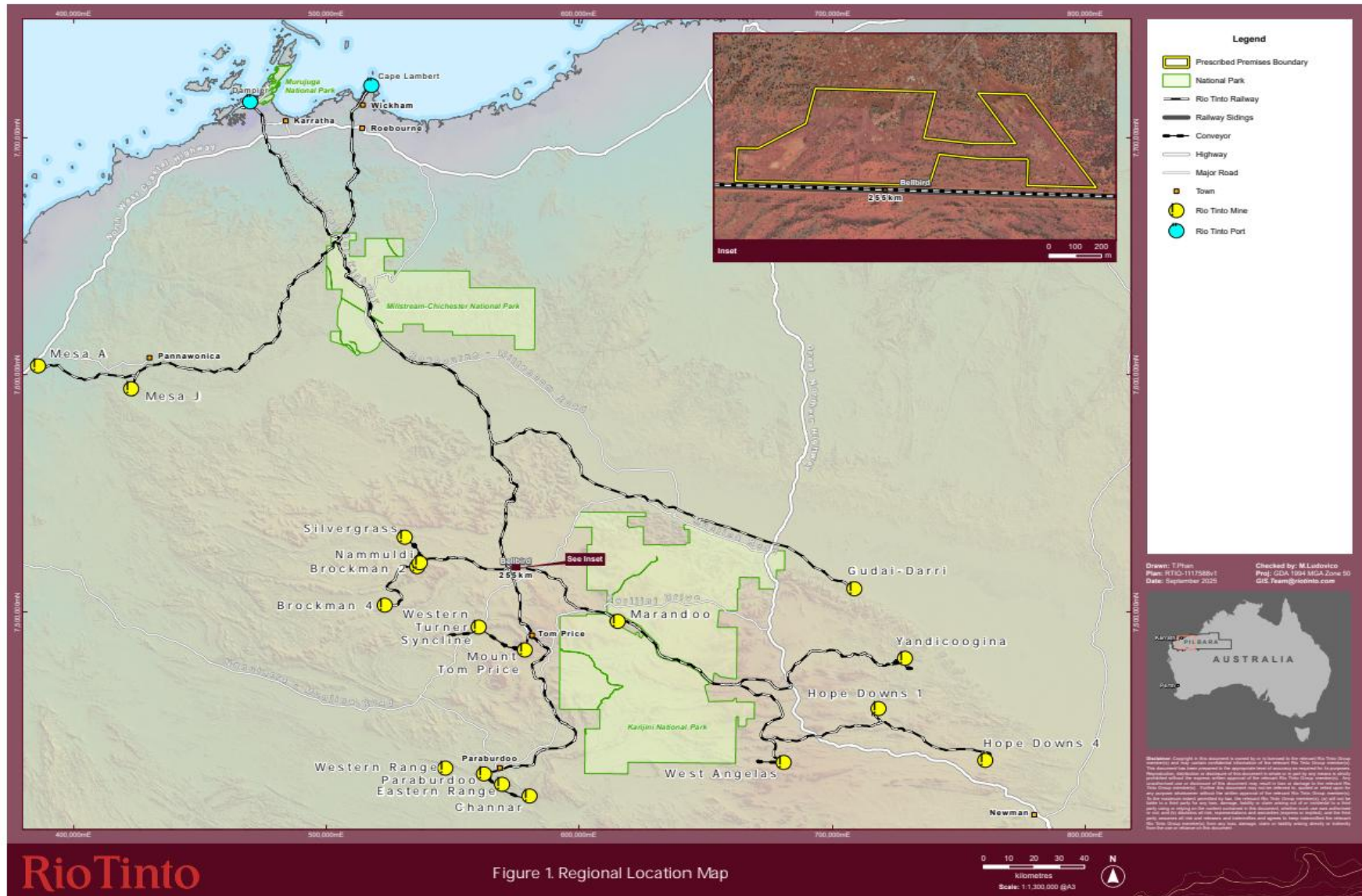


Figure 1: Regional location map

2.4 Mobile Crushing and Screening Plant – Category 12 and Category 13 activities

The indicative mobile crushing and screening plant comprises the following:

1. Initial screen
2. Cone crusher
3. Final screen

2.4.1 Initial Screen

Material will be fed into the initial screening unit via an excavator or front-end loader. The material will be pre-screened via the Heavy-Duty Screen 883+ unit removing any foreign objects and over/undersize material. No civil material will be flagged as waste during the screening process rather, all material is proposed to be reused.

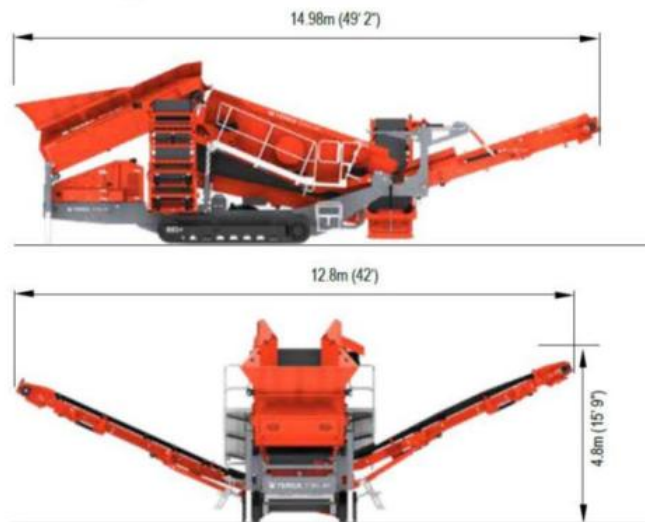


Figure 2: Working dimensions of Terex Finlay 883 Heavy Duty Screen

2.4.2 Cone Crusher

Material will be fed into the crushing unit via an excavator or front-end loader. It is proposed that the material will then be crushed through a diesel-powered Cone Crusher unit.

Throughput of the C1545S is primarily influenced by the cone's closed-side setting, which is adjusted according to the bulk density of the feed material and the required final product size. These parameters vary depending on the specific Rio Tinto product specification for which the material is being repurposed.



Figure 3: Working dimensions of C1545 Cone Crusher

2.4.3 Final Screen

The final screen will occur through the Incline Ascreen 696 2-deck unit to ensure product size is as required depending on the reuse/repurposing of the material.



Figure 4: Working Dimensions of 696 inclined screen

The plant is preconfigured for use, so the only modifications required during setup is the setting of the crusher aperture to deliver product of the required size, testing dust suppression systems, and installing the screens required to produce materials of the desired size. During setup, dust suppression sprays will be tested to ensure functionality. The setup period will be completed within a month of mobilising the crushing and screening plant to site. Other activities such as boundary demarcation, earthen bund construction, and sump installation will also be undertaken at this time, preparing the area for crush and screen and stockpiling movements.

Inclusion of Category 13 also allows for potential crushing (and screening) of concrete sleepers (waste building or demolition material i.e. concrete) as railway line renewal programs require small scale concrete sleeper replacement. While the various options for reuse and disposal of concrete sleepers continue to be assessed, the inclusion within this Works Approval enables the option to crush and screen concrete sleepers should it be required as Rio Tinto looks towards potential repurposing opportunities of such materials to avoid disposal to landfill.

2.4.4 Annual throughput

The annualised crushing and screening throughput is estimated at 850,000 tonnes per annum for each of Category 12 and Category 13 activities.

The crushing and screening activity under Category 12 and Category 13 will be required for approximately 10 years as ballast cleaning and track renewals are undertaken across the entire rail network.

2.5 Stockpiling of Offsite Material – Category 61A activities

The stockpiling will also include other rail civil material such as concrete sleepers, sub-ballast capping (SBC) material and formation where track renewal maintenance programs warrant its renewal.

The stockpiling area is designed to incorporate the following:

- Typical slope angle of 3:1 or approximately 18 degrees, with multiple lifts;

- A maximum height of 14 m above ground level;
- Material stockpile areas comprising:
 - Ballast/crushed rock stockpile
 - Segregation stockpile for material required to be moved urgently and, awaiting sampling and analytical results (including asbestos);
- An erosion resistant earthen bund at approximately 0.4 m in height surrounding the material stockpiles or at a height as per detailed engineering design determined to divert surface water run off around the strategic laydown; and
- Earthen sumps for surface water runoff collection and evaporation.

2.5.1 Material Volumes

The volume of degraded material identified for stockpiling at Bellbird, is estimated at 850,000 tonnes at any one time, which also reflects the facilities holding capacity. Approximately 120,000 (40,000 tonnes) used concrete sleepers will also be temporarily stockpiled in the premises as the applicant assesses options for reuse or disposal or potential crush and screen.

2.5.2 Material characteristics

The applicant outlines that significant background sampling and leachate testing of degraded ballast/rail civil material has been undertaken. Material that has not been sampled to date, will be sampled at regular intervals prior to acceptance at the premises to understand its characteristics and any potential risks the material may pose to the environment. Testing includes determining asbestos concentrations, as asbestos exposure poses not only an environmental risk but also a significant human health and safety risk to employees. Should material be required to be moved to the premises urgently, and cannot undergo prior sampling, the applicant proposes moving the material to a segregation stockpile where background sampling and leachate testing will occur.

2.6 Assessing whether a material is waste

The application indicates that Rio Tinto is treating degraded ballast or rail civil material as a 'product' as it has multiple reuse options across their operations.

The primary consideration in the application of regulatory requirements for the reuse of rail ballast material is whether the material is considered 'waste' for the purposes of the EP Act and *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007* (WARR Act).

There are a number of relevant factors that should be considered in an assessment of whether material is waste as identified in the Fact Sheet: [Assessing whether material is waste](#). In accordance with this factsheet, burial and/or reuse waste may trigger prescribed premises categories as detailed in Schedule 1 of the EP Regulations.

2.7 Part IV of the EP Act

The premises is covered by Ministerial Statement (MS) 1251 (formerly MS 1113). An estimated 12.5 ha of vegetation clearing maybe undertaken. Any clearing required will be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of MS 1251.

2.8 Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914 (RIWI Act)

Water required for crush and screen and stockpiling activities will be sourced from a Rio Tinto Licenced bore. It is anticipated that nearby Rio Tinto supply bores 242-1 and 242-2 which are approximately 11.4 km to the northwest of Bellbird (GWL 165810) will be utilised as a water source (Rio Tinto, 2025). Groundwater abstraction and utilisation will comply with conditions of RIWI Act 5C Licence GWL165810, that expires on 21 July 2034.

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. 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 (Rio Tinto, 2025)
General (applicable to both construction and/or installation and operation)			
Leaks and spills of hydrocarbons and/or chemicals	Mobile equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operation of mobile equipment • Refuelling of mobile equipment 	Infiltration into soil and groundwater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potentially contaminated stormwaters retained onsite via bunds and sumps. • Diversion of clean surface water around the work area via installation of earthen bund. • Stormwater will be collected and held within the crushing/screening and stockpiling footprint, via installation of an earthen bund. • Field-based mobile equipment and plant will be refuelled via bunded service trucks. • Refuelling trucks will be fitted with a dry brake coupler (won't allow fuel flow until it's locked in place), pressure valve regulators, overfill protection, 25,000 L max fuel level. • Spill kit and drip trays/pads will be used during refuelling. • Provision for spill response equipment during any refuelling of mobile plant and equipment will be on site. • Field-based machinery refuelling from mobile fuel trucks, drip tray will be used at the transfer point. • Any hydraulic spill from burst hydraulic hoses or minor hydrocarbon spills will be cleaned up and contaminated soil bagged for removal from site to appropriate facility. • The leaks and spills of hydrocarbons will be managed according to Rio Tinto procedures.

Emission	Sources	Potential pathways	Proposed controls (Rio Tinto, 2025)
Construction and/or Installation			
Dust (General)	Stockpiling area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Placement of screen and associated equipment including vehicle movements. • Construction of earthen bund and earthen stormwater sump for new stockpile area. 	Air/windborne pathway	Dust suppression on trafficable areas including water sprays, water trucks, control of vehicle movements / restricted speeds.
Time Limited Operations			
Category 12: crushing and screening of material and Category 13: Crushing of building material			
Dust (General)	Mobile plant: Crushing, screening and stockpiling areas	Air/windborne pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dust suppression on trafficable areas including water trucks, control of vehicle movements / restricted speed. • Spraying the crushing and screening will be fed stockpile with water prior to being fed into the screen if necessary. • Use of angle-adjustable stockpiling conveyors to minimise drop heights. • The crushing and screening plant will be fitted with a hose and water sprays for dust suppression, including dust covers should they be required. • Crushing and screening will not occur within close proximity (<500 m) of a creek line or waterway, with effective dust controls to reduce dust emissions. • The dust will be managed according to the Rio Tinto procedures.
Asbestos Fibres (Category 13)	Recycling ballasts	Air/windborne pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Material will be tested for asbestos prior to removal from the rail network. • The Integrated Rail Network Environmental Management Plans will be incorporated with management of fibrous material through Rio Tinto procedures.
Contaminated (including asbestos fibres) and/or sediment laden stormwater	Stockpiling areas	Overland runoff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No planned discharge of water will occur from site. • Plant and stockpiling will be located at least 600 m to the east and 650 m to the west from any ephemeral drainage lines. • Potentially contaminated stormwater will be

Emission	Sources	Potential pathways	Proposed controls (Rio Tinto, 2025)
			<p>retained onsite via bunds and diverted into sumps for containment and evaporation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A bund will provide adequate diversion of external surface water from entering the premises. • Any spills that do occur will be managed according to Rio Tinto procedures, cleaning up the spill as soon as practicable. • Spill kits will be located near any potential contamination/refuelling points so that they are available for immediate use. • Stormwater will be managed according to the Rio Tinto procedures.
Category 61A: Solid waste facility			
Dust (General)	Storage areas (Stockpiling offsite material) and Ongoing stockpiling/unloading of offsite degraded rail civil material	Air/windborne pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dust suppression on trafficable areas including water trucks, control of vehicle movements / restricted speed. • Any material removed from the IRN during emergency/urgent works (where analytical asbestos testing has not been possible) will be placed in a segregation stockpile area, pending sampling and analysis. • Crushing and screening will not occur within close proximity (<500 m) of a creek line or waterway, with effective dust controls to reduce dust emissions. • Material will be tested for asbestos prior to removal from the rail network. • The dust management will be compliant according to the Rio Tinto procedure; <i>Iron Ore (WA) Integrated Rail Network Environmental Management Plan, 2025</i>.
Contaminated (including asbestos fibres) and/or sediment laden stormwater		Overland runoff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earthen bund installed to contain runoff from the stockpile area following large rain events. • Material will be tested for asbestos prior to removal from the rail network. • In situ rail civil material sampling and analytical analysis will be completed prior to ballast cleaning/removal works commencing to determine if rail civil material is suitable for stockpiling or is to be disposed of at an approved disposal location as removed from track. • Any material removed from the IRN during emergency/urgent works (where analytical asbestos testing has not been possible) will be placed in a segregation stockpile area,

Emission	Sources	Potential pathways	Proposed controls (Rio Tinto, 2025)
			<p>pending sampling and analysis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ballast sampling and disposal management decision process flowchart will be implemented, and the Post Renewal Material Management Plan will be drafted. This emission will be managed according to the Rio Tinto procedures.

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 5 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
Closest residential and recreational zoned premises: Town of Tom Price	<p>Approximately 29.2 km South (Little bit towards south-east) of the premises boundary.</p> <p><i>This receptor is screened out from further assessment due to distance from the premises.</i></p>
Closest residence: Hamersley Pastoral Station Homestead	<p>Approximately 18km northwest of the premises boundary.</p> <p><i>This receptor is screened out from further assessment due to distance from the premises.</i></p>
Environmental receptors	Distance from prescribed activity
Threatened and Priority Fauna	<p><i>Pseudomys chapmani</i>, commonly known as the Western pebble mound mouse, reported approximately 9.8 km northeast of the premises boundary (Geocortex).</p> <p><i>This receptor is screened out from further assessment due to distance from the premises.</i></p>
Native vegetation	Native vegetation located adjacent to the north and south of the prescribed premises.
Threatened and Priority Flora	<p>One priority 3 (P3) flora located approximately 4 km from the prescribed premises (Geocortex).</p> <p><i>This receptor is screened out from further assessment due to distance from the premises.</i></p>
	<p>One P3 flora located approximately 3 km from the prescribed premises (Railway Division Bellbird Strategic Laydown – Works Approval Application).</p> <p><i>This receptor is screened out from further assessment due to distance from the premises.</i></p>

Underlying groundwater	<p>Premises is located within the Pilbara Groundwater Area proclaimed under <i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i>.</p> <p>Groundwater depth recorded in the closest bore (utilised by Hamersley Station – RCB11) was found to approximately 10 metres below ground level (mbgl) (Rio Tinto, 2025).</p>
Surface water (ephemeral drainage lines)	<p>There are no permanent water bodies adjacent to the prescribed premises. Adjacent surface water drainage is dominated by an unnamed major ephemeral drainage line located approximately 570 m east of the prescribed premises and an unnamed minor ephemeral drainage line approximately 650 m west. These flow for a short period during and after significant rainfall events.</p>
Millstream Water Reserve -Priority 2 Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA)	<p>Approximately 19.6 km North of the premises boundary.</p> <p><i>This receptor is screened out from further assessment due to distance from the premises.</i></p>
Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs)	<p>The nearest TEC, Brockman Iron cracking clay communities of the Hamersley Range, is located approximately 6.9 km northeast and 8.2 km north of premises boundary.</p> <p><i>This receptor is screened out from further assessment due to distance from the premises.</i></p>
Cultural receptors	Distance from activity / prescribed premises
<p>Aboriginal Site: Narraminju (Caves Creek) (ID: 37670)</p> <p>Type: Creation / Dreaming Narrative</p>	<p>The Aboriginal Heritage Site (which includes the two ephemeral drainage lines) is located approximately 200 m east 680 m west of the prescribed premises.</p>

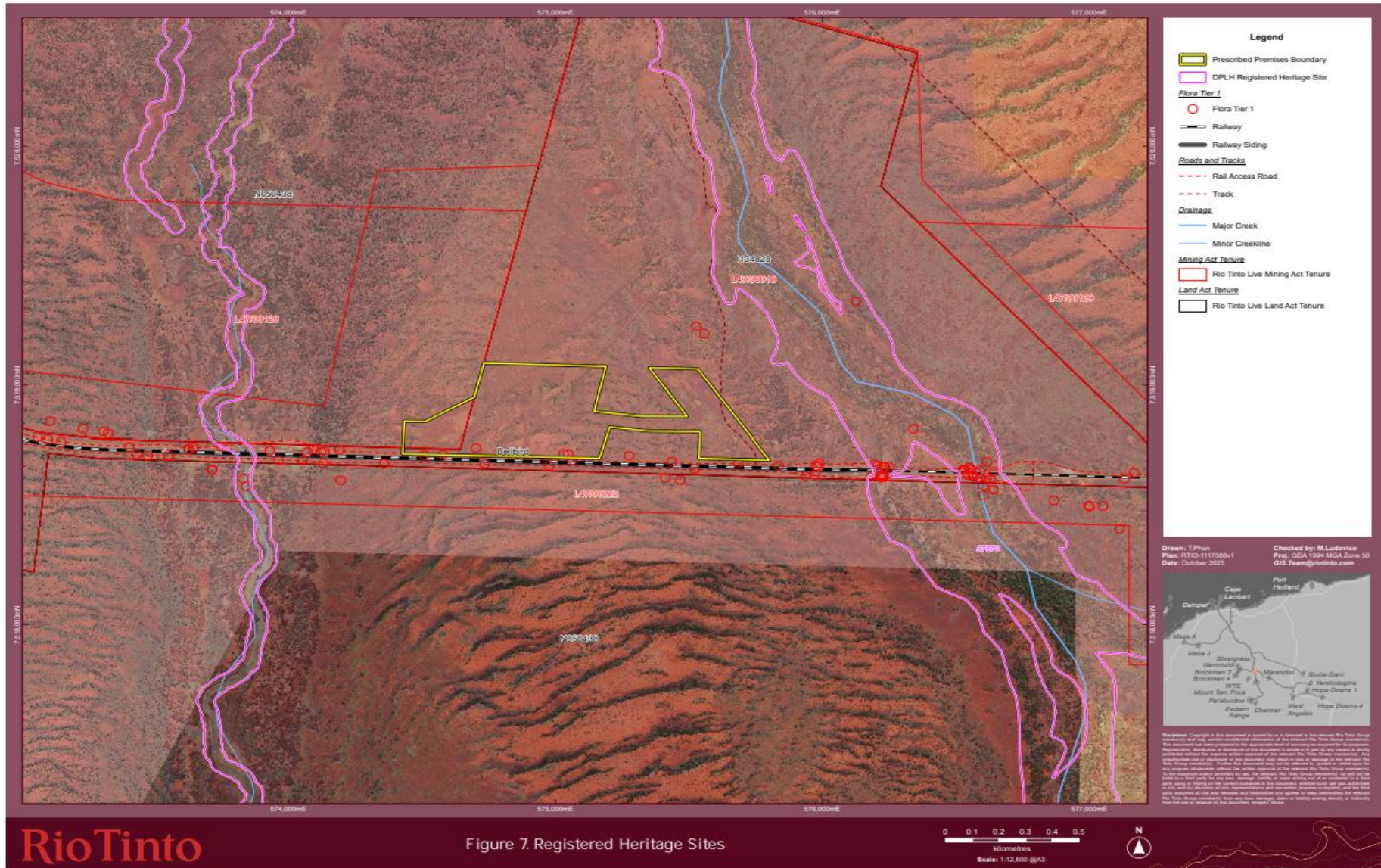


Figure 5: Distance to sensitive receptors

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 W3179/2026/1 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. categories 12, 13 and 61A 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, installation and operation

Risk events					Risk rating ¹ C = consequence L = likelihood	Applicant controls sufficient?	Conditions ² of works approval	Justification for additional regulatory controls / DWER comments
Sources / activities	Potential emission	Potential pathways and impact	Receptors	Applicant controls				
General (applicable to both installation and operation)								
Source: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobile equipment Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operation of mobile equipment Refuelling of mobile equipment 	Leaks and spills of hydrocarbons and/or chemicals	Pathway: Infiltration into soil and groundwater Impact: Localised contamination of soil and groundwater	Native vegetation Groundwater Surface water (ephemeral drainage lines) Nearby aboriginal heritage	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Slight L = Possible Low Risk	Y	Condition 1, table 1, item 3 – Infrastructure design/construction requirements Conditions 6, table 2, item 3 - Infrastructure operational requirement	Additional regulatory controls – N/A. Premises operations are also subject to the requirements of the <i>Environmental Protection (Unauthorised Discharge) Regulations 2004</i> .
Construction and/or Installation								
Source: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stockpiling area Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Placement of screen and associated equipment including vehicle movements Construction of earthen bund and earthen stormwater sump for new stockpile area 	Dust (General)	Pathway: Air/windborne pathway Impact: Impacts to priority flora and native vegetation health	Native vegetation Nearby aboriginal heritage	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Slight L = Possible Low Risk	Y	Condition 1 – Mobile crushing and screening plant design and construction / installation requirements	The applicant has indicated that the plant is preconfigured for use, so the only modification required during setup is the setting of the crusher aperture to deliver products of the required size, testing of dust suppression systems, and installing the screens required to produce materials of the desired size (Rion Tinto, 2025). During setup, dust suppression sprays will be tested to ensure functionality. The setup period will be completed within a month of mobilising the crushing and screening plant to site. The applicant has also committed to using water carts or dust reduction agents on trafficable areas to reduce generation of dust emissions.

Risk events					Risk rating ¹ C = consequence L = likelihood	Applicant controls sufficient?	Conditions ² of works approval	Justification for additional regulatory controls / DWER comments
Sources / activities	Potential emission	Potential pathways and impact	Receptors	Applicant controls				
Operation (including time-limited-operations operations)								
Category 12 and 13								
Source: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crushing, screening and stockpiling areas Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unloading material Crushing and screening operations Stockpiling activities Storage of material in stockpiles Recycling ballasts 	Dust (General)	Pathway: Air/windborne pathway Impact: Reduced priority flora/native vegetation health	Native vegetation Surface water (ephemeral drainage lines) Nearby aboriginal heritage	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Minor L = Possible Medium Risk	Y	Conditions 6 – Mobile crushing and screening plan dust suppression/mitigation measures Condition 7 – Material acceptance specifications	N/A
	Asbestos fibres	Pathway: Air/windborne pathway Impact: Site contamination	Surface water (ephemeral drainage lines) Nearby aboriginal heritage	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Minor L = Unlikely Medium Risk	N	Conditions 6 – Mobile crushing and screening plan dust suppression/mitigation measures during the time limited operations Conditions 7 – Material acceptance specifications <u>Condition 8 - Limit relevant to asbestos concentrations</u> <u>Condition 9 – Material inputs and outputs monitoring</u> <u>Condition 11 – Time limited operations report to include asbestos sampling/testing report</u> <u>Condition 12 – Records of asbestos sampling/testing and offsite disposal facility</u>	The applicant advises that materials are tested for asbestos prior to transport to the premises and therefore considers the potential for asbestos impacts to be negligible. Where testing has not occurred, material is stored in a segregation area until testing is completed. Although asbestos has not been detected in previous material characterisation testing, the delegated officer has adopted a precautionary approach regarding the potential for asbestos emissions at the premises. Additional regulatory controls and conditions are therefore required to appropriately manage the assessed risk. Condition 7, to regulate materials accepted at the premises. Condition 8, to limit maximum asbestos concentration of any recycled output. Condition 9, to monitor the inputs and outputs of materials from premises

Risk events					Risk rating ¹ C = consequence L = likelihood	Applicant controls sufficient?	Conditions ² of works approval	Justification for additional regulatory controls / DWER comments
Sources / activities	Potential emission	Potential pathways and impact	Receptors	Applicant controls				
<p>Source:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stockpiling areas <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Storage of material in stockpiles 	Contaminated and/or sediment laden stormwater	<p>Pathway:</p> <p>Overland runoff</p> <p>Impact:</p> <p>Reduced priority flora/native vegetation health or death</p> <p>Reduced quality or contamination of soil/sediment, groundwater and/or surface waters</p>	<p>Native vegetation</p> <p>Groundwater</p> <p>Surface water (ephemeral drainage lines)</p> <p>Nearby aboriginal heritage</p>	Refer to Section 3.1	<p>C = Minor</p> <p>L = Unlikely</p> <p>Medium Risk</p>	Y	Conditions 6 – Infrastructure and equipment requirements during time limited operations	<p>Additional regulatory controls – N/A.</p> <p>Premises operations are also subject to the requirements of the <i>Environmental Protection (Unauthorised Discharge) Regulations 2004</i>.</p>
Category 61A								
<p>Source:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Storage areas <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unloading of material 	Dust (General)	<p>Pathway:</p> <p>Air/windborne pathway</p> <p>Impact:</p> <p>Reduced priority flora/native vegetation health or death</p>	<p>Native vegetation</p> <p>Surface water (ephemeral drainage lines)</p> <p>Nearby aboriginal heritage</p>		<p>C = Slight</p> <p>L = Possible</p> <p>Low Risk</p>	Y	<p>Conditions 6 - Material stockpile dust suppression measures</p> <p>Condition 7 – Material acceptance specifications for the premises</p>	Additional regulatory controls – N/A.
<p>Source:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Storage areas <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Storage of degraded rail civil material and concrete sleepers 	Contaminated (including asbestos fibres) and/or sediment laden stormwater	<p>Pathway:</p> <p>Overland runoff</p> <p>Impact:</p> <p>Reduced priority flora/native vegetation health or death</p> <p>Reduced quality or contamination of soil/sediment, groundwater and/or surface</p>	<p>Native vegetation</p> <p>Groundwater</p> <p>Surface water (ephemeral drainage lines)</p> <p>Nearby aboriginal heritage</p>	Refer to Section 3.1	<p>C = Minor</p> <p>L = Unlikely</p> <p>Medium Risk</p>	N	<p>Conditions 6 – Mobile crushing and screening plan dust suppression/mitigation measures during the time limited operations</p> <p>Conditions 7 – Material acceptance specifications</p> <p><u>Condition 8 - Limit relevant to asbestos concentrations</u></p> <p><u>Condition 9 – Material</u></p>	<p>The applicant advises that materials are tested for asbestos prior to transport to the premises and therefore considers the potential for asbestos impacts to be negligible. However, material removed from the IRN during urgent works is not intended to undergo asbestos testing prior to transport and will instead be placed within the designated segregation stockpiles at the premises.</p> <p>Although asbestos has not been</p>

Risk events					Risk rating ¹ C = consequence L = likelihood	Applicant controls sufficient?	Conditions ² of works approval	Justification for additional regulatory controls / DWER comments
Sources / activities	Potential emission	Potential pathways and impact	Receptors	Applicant controls				
		waters					<u>inputs and outputs monitoring</u> <u>Condition 11 – Time limited operations report to include asbestos sampling/testing report</u> <u>Condition 12 – Records of asbestos sampling/testing and offsite disposal facility</u>	detected in previous material characterisation testing, the delegated officer has adopted a precautionary approach regarding the potential for asbestos emissions at the premises. Additional regulatory controls and conditions are therefore required to appropriately manage the assessed risk.

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 8 January 2026.	None received.	N/A
Application advertised in the West Australian newspaper on 12 January 2026.	None received.	N/A
Local Government Authority (Shire of Ashburton) advised of proposal on 8 January 2026.	None received.	N/A
The Wintawari Guruma Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC was invited to comment on 8 January 2026.	None received.	N/A
Applicant was provided with draft documents on 03 February 2026.	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. Rio Tinto 2025, *RTIO Railway Strategic Laydown Crush and Screen and Stockpiling, Bellbird 255km Yandicoogina Mainline Miscellaneous Licence L47/128 and LAA Lease I134828; Attachment 8*, 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
Cover page	<p>The department requested that the applicant confirm whether the assessed production capacity for Category 61A is 890,000 tonnes per year (i.e. 850,000 tonnes + 40,000 tonnes concrete sleepers) or a total of 890,0000 tonnes at any one time.</p> <p>The applicant confirmed that the capacity for Category 61A is 890,000 tonnes at any one time.</p>	The delegated officer noted the applicant's comment and updated the Assessed production / design capacity accordingly.
Condition 1, Table 1	<p>In addition to correction of administrative /typographical errors in Table 1, the applicant also requested that Table 1, Item 4, be amended to the following:</p> <p><u>Adequately sized</u> collection sumps must be constructed for any potential contaminated stormwater runoff collection and evaporation.</p>	This works approval conditions have been updated accordingly.
Condition 6, Table 2	<p>The applicant requested the changes to the wording of Table 2, Item 2, bullet point (a) regarding stockpile design. The applicant stated that the initial volume estimates assumed stockpile faces would need to be trafficable by a loader and therefore battered at 18 degrees (3:1). Operational experience with degraded ballast has since shown this to be unnecessary, as the coarse, angular material is more stable than originally assumed and stockpiles have therefore been accessed from one or both ends, placing material from the top and wheel-rolling each layer. This method, consistent with waste-dump practices, has resulted in steeper faces typically 30–45 degrees reflecting the natural angle of repose of the degraded ballast. The applicant stated that stockpiles will continue to be managed to a maximum height of 14m above ground level, with suitable slope angles as assessed by its Rail Engineering team.</p>	<p>Proposed wording was considered by the delegated officer who determined that the condition be amended to:</p> <p><i>Stockpiles must be constructed and maintained in a safe and stable manner, with slope angles consistent with the natural angle of repose of the material.</i></p>
Condition 12	The applicant requested the removal of words 'monitoring, leachate and' in condition 12 noting that this is not applicable to the works approval.	The delegated officer accepted the applicant's comment and conditioned in the Works Approval.
Throughout the Works approval	It is noted that Condition 10 is missing, which may have led to misalignment in the numbering of later conditions.	Works approval condition numbers have been adjusted.