

# MT ISA SOUTH EXPLORATION AREA

## REGIONAL INTEREST DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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Anglo American Exploration (Australia) Pty Ltd*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

Anglo American Exploration (Australia) Pty Ltd (AAEA) (the proponent) submitted a Regional Interests Development Application (RIDA) to the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning (DSDMIP) on 5 August 2019. The RIDA relates to the Mt Isa South exploration program that includes exploration activities within the Channel Country Strategic Environmental Area (SEA).

DSDMIP issued a Requirement Notice on 19 August 2019 that included additional information requirements for the RIDA. This document provides the additional information requested by the DSDMIP. It has been prepared by Hansen Bailey, on behalf of the proponent. The additional information is provided in Section 2 of this document.

## 2 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The additional information requested by DSDMIP is restated in text boxes below. The response to each additional information request follows the text boxes in normal font.

### **1. Provide specific detail of construction techniques proposed for new access roads, in particular if they are constructed across a watercourse or within a floodplain.**

The construction of new access tracks within the SEA will be limited to access tracks for drill sites. As discussed in Section 3.1.4 of the RIDA Supporting Information Report, the extent of any new tracks will be limited by using existing tracks, as far as possible. Any new access tracks will be graded tracks approximately 3 m wide. The tracks will be constructed using a grader in areas where there is minimal tree and shrub cover, or with a small dozer or loader in areas where there are trees and/or shrubs. In any areas where there are trees or shrubs the tracks will be cleared using the “blade up” method to minimise disturbance to tree and shrub roots, and topsoil.

In areas where the access tracks need to cross a watercourse, the crossing location will be confirmed during pre-disturbance inspections (Section 3.1.4 of the RIDA Supporting Information Report). Condition B2 of the Environmental Authority (EA) requires the EA holder to minimise the area and duration of disturbance to land, vegetation and watercourses. Any watercourse crossing locations will be selected to avoid areas with high and/or steep banks, as far as possible. Crossing locations will also be selected in areas where the watercourse has a stable bed. Erosion protection will be provided, where necessary, in any bank cut areas in watercourse crossings.

Any access tracks crossing floodplain areas will be inspected prior to construction and realigned, where necessary, to avoid any sensitive floodplain features such as mature trees or waterholes. Access tracks will be constructed along the natural grades, as far as possible, to avoid any significant cutting and/or filling in floodplain areas. Condition B1 of the EA also requires consultation with the landholder prior to constructing any new tracks. Access truck construction work will be conducted during the dry season to avoid any impacts on watercourse or floodplain flows.

Three of the four drill sites within the SEA (Sites C, D and E – Figure 6 of the RIDA Supporting Information Report) are located adjacent to the Boulia Bedourie Road. The access routes from the Boulia Bedourie Road to each of these drill sites do not cross any watercourses or floodplains. Drill Site P is located approximately 600 m from an existing track. The access route from the existing track to Drill Site P does not cross any watercourses but does traverse a section of floodplain. There are no sensitive features on the floodplain that would warrant the realignment of the most direct access route from the existing track to the drill site.

**2. Provide any proposed rehabilitation or remediation of new access roads following completion of exploration activities.**

As discussed in Section 3.1.4 of the RIDA Supporting Information Report, rehabilitation of new access tracks to the drill sites within the SEA will be completed immediately following the completion of drilling and will involve the following:

- Removal of wastes from the drill sites;
- Respreading of any stripped topsoil; and
- Natural regeneration from inherent seed stock.

Condition A5 of the EA also requires the installation of erosion and sediment controls, where ever necessary.

As discussed in Section 3.1.4 of the RIDA Supporting Information Report, a final inspection will be completed following decommissioning and final rehabilitation of the drill sites and access tracks to ensure rehabilitation has been successful and is in accordance with the EA conditions. These inspections would identify any necessary additional access track rehabilitation requirements including weed control, erosion control, or reseeded to achieve successful revegetation.

for  
**HANSEN BAILEY**



Peter Hansen  
Director