

Permit

Environmental Protection Act 1994

Environmental Authority

This environmental authority is issued by the administering authority under Chapter 5 of the Environmental Protection Act 1994.

Environmental authority number: P-EA-100925014

Environmental authority takes effect on 9 July 2026.

The anniversary date of this environmental authority is 24 November each year.

An annual return will be due each year on 1 April.

Environmental authority holder(s)

Name(s)	Registered address
White Ranges Mines Pty Ltd	Riverside Centre Level 18, Suite 1803 123 Eagle Street Brisbane, QLD 4000

Environmentally relevant activity and location details

Environmentally relevant activity/activities	Location(s)
Schedule 3-09: A mining activity involving drilling, costeaning, pitting and carrying out geological surveys causing significant disturbance.	MDL205

Additional information for applicants

Environmentally relevant activities

The description of any environmentally relevant activity (ERA) for which an environmental authority (EA) is issued is a restatement of the ERA as defined by legislation at the time the EA is issued. Where there is any inconsistency between that description of an ERA and the conditions stated by an EA as to the scale, intensity or manner of carrying out an ERA, the conditions prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.

An EA authorises the carrying out of an ERA and does not authorise any environmental harm unless a condition stated by the EA specifically authorises environmental harm.

A person carrying out an ERA must also be a registered suitable operator under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (EP Act).

Mobile and temporary activities

If you operate a mobile and temporary ERA, other than regulated waste transport, you are required to maintain a work diary. You must:

- use the approved form for a work diary (ESR/2015/1696);
- keep the work diary records for 2 years after the last entry;
- inform the administering authority within 7 days of the work diary being lost or stolen;
- record the information required in the work diary for each location within 1 day of leaving the location.

Contaminated land

It is a requirement of the EP Act that an owner or occupier of land give written notice to the administering authority if they become aware of the following:

- the presence of, or happening of an event involving, a hazardous contaminant on the land that is causing, or is reasonably likely to cause, serious or material environmental harm (notice must be given within 24 hours); or
- if the land is contaminated land – a change in the condition of the land that is causing, or is reasonably likely to cause, serious or material environmental harm (notice must be given within 24 hours); or
- a notifiable activity (as defined in Schedule 3) having been carried out, or is being carried out, on the land (notice must be given within 20 business days).

For further information, including the form for giving written notice, refer to the Queensland Government website www.qld.gov.au, using the search term 'duty to notify'.

Take effect

Please note that, in accordance with section 200(1) of the EP Act, an EA has effect:

- (a) if the authority is for a prescribed ERA and it states that it takes effect on the day nominated by the holder of the authority in a written notice given to the administering authority—on the nominated day; or
- (b) if the authority states a day or an event for it to take effect—on the stated day or when the stated event happens; or
- (c) otherwise—on the day the authority is issued.

However, in accordance with section 200(2) of the EP Act, the day that the EA takes effect may not be before:

- (a) if the authority is for a resource activity—the day the relevant tenure is granted to the applicant; or
- (b) if a development permit for a material change of use of premises under the *Planning Act 2016* is necessary for carrying out an activity that related to the authority—the day the development permit takes effect; or
- (c) if an SDA Approval under the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971* is necessary for carrying out an activity that relates to the authority—the day the approval takes effect.

If this EA takes effect when the additional authorisation takes effect, you must provide the administering authority written notice within 5 business days of receiving notification of the related additional authorisation taking effect.

If you have incorrectly claimed that an additional authorisation is not required, carrying out the ERA without the additional authorisation is not legal and could result in your prosecution for providing false or misleading information or operating without a valid EA.



Signature

9 July 2026

Date

Sarah De Vries

Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation

Delegate of the administering authority

*Environmental Protection Act 1994***Enquiries:**

Minerals Business Centre

PO Box 7230, Cairns QLD 4870

Phone: (07) 4222 5352

Email: ESCairns@detsi.qld.gov.au

Obligations under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*

In addition to the requirements found in the conditions of this EA, the holder must also meet their obligations under the EP Act, and the regulations made under the EP Act. For example, the holder must comply with the following provisions of the Act:

- general environmental duty (section 319)
- duty to restore the environment (section 319C)
- duty to notify environmental harm (section 320-320G)
- offence of causing serious or material environmental harm (sections 437-439)
- offence of causing environmental nuisance (section 440)
- offence of depositing prescribed water contaminants in waters and related matters (section 440ZG)
- offence to place contaminant where environmental harm or nuisance may be caused (section 443).

Other permits required

This permit only provides an approval under the EP Act. In order to lawfully operate you may also require permits / approvals from your local government authority, other business units within the department, and other State and Federal Government agencies prior to commencing any activity at the site. For example, this may include permits or approvals with your local Council (for planning approval), the Department of Transport and Main Roads (to access State controlled roads), the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing, and Regional and Rural Development (to clear vegetation), and the Department of Primary Industries (to clear marine plants or to obtain a quarry material allocation).

Obligations under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)*

Matters of national environmental significance (MNES) are regulated under the Commonwealth EPBC Act rather than under state legislation. You may need to submit a referral if your project potentially impacts any matters protected under the EPBC Act. For more information on self-assessments, and referral and assessment processes, please visit the Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water's website at www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/epbc/advice.

Obligations under the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* and *Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003* (the Cultural Heritage Acts)

The Cultural Heritage Acts require anyone who carries out a land-use activity to exercise a duty of care. This 'duty of care' means land users must take all reasonable and practicable measures to ensure their activity does not harm Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage, and applies to any activity where Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage is located. For more information on your obligations under this legislation, please visit the Department of Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Multiculturalism webpage at, www.dwatsipm.qld.gov.au.

This environmental authority incorporates the following schedules:

Schedule A – General

Schedule B – Land

Schedule C – Waters

Schedule D – Waste

Schedule E – Definitions

Schedule F – Maps

Conditions of environmental authority

Schedule A – General

A1 This environmental authority authorises the activities listed in Schedule A Table A1 – Authorised activities to the extent that they are carried out in accordance with:

- a) the activity's:
 - i) maximum disturbance size; and
 - ii) maximum scale; and
 - iii) location; and
- b) Schedule F Figure 1 – Authorised exploration within MDL205, relative to the Category B ESA

Schedule A Table A1 – Authorised activities

Mine Domain	Mine area	Max. disturbance size (hectare)	Location
Mt Joshua camp & laydown	Within Category B ESA	0.220	Refer to Schedule F - Figure 1: Authorised exploration within MDL205, relative to the Category B ESA
Exploration	Within Category B ESA	4.858	Refer to Schedule F - Figure 1: Authorised exploration within MDL205, relative to the Category B ESA
	Remaining MDL 205	14.921	MDL 205 – not within Category B.

A2 This environmental authority authorises environmental harm referred to in the conditions. Where there is no condition or this environmental authority is silent on a matter, the lack of a condition or silence does not authorise environmental harm.

A3 Except where the site-specific conditions apply, the holder of the environmental authority must comply with all conditions in the most recent version of the *Eligibility criteria and standard conditions for exploration and mineral development projects* (ESR/2016/1985). To the extent where any inconsistencies exist, the site-specific conditions of this environmental authority prevail.

A4 Written procedures must be developed and implemented by an appropriately qualified person that ensure:

- a) all potential risks to the environment from the carrying out of the activity are identified and assessed; and
- b) for each potential risk identified, any necessary measures to prevent or minimise the potential for environmental harm are implemented; and
- c) staff understand their obligations under this environmental authority and the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*; and
- d) environmental risk management procedures are continually reviewed and improved, based on a reasonable risk-management approach.

A5 The holder of the environmental authority must notify the administering authority by written notification within

twenty-four (24) hours, after becoming aware of any emergency or incident not in accordance, or reasonably expected to be not in accordance with, the conditions of this environmental authority.

A6 Within ten (10) business days following the initial notification of an emergency or incident, or receipt of monitoring results, whichever is the latter, further written advice must be provided to the administering authority, including the following:

- a) results and interpretation of any samples taken and analysed; and
- b) outcomes of actions taken at the time to prevent or minimise unlawful environmental harm; and
- c) proposed actions to prevent a recurrence of the emergency or incident.

A7 The holder of the environmental authority must record all environmental complaints received about the mining activities including:

- a) name, address and contact number for of the complainant; and
- b) time and date of complaint; and
- c) reasons for the complaint; and
- d) investigations undertaken; and
- e) conclusions formed; and
- f) actions taken to resolve the complaint; and
- g) any abatement measures implemented; and
- h) person responsible for resolving the complaint.

A8 The holder of the environmental authority must, when requested by the administering authority, undertake relevant specified monitoring within a reasonable timeframe nominated or agreed to by the administering authority to investigate any complaint of environmental harm. The results of the investigation (including an analysis and interpretation of the monitoring results) and abatement measures, where implemented, must be provided to the administering authority within 10 business days after the end of the timeframe nominated by the administering authority to undertake the investigation.

Record keeping

A9 Unless otherwise specified by a condition of this environmental authority, records must be:

- a) kept until surrender of this environmental authority; and
- b) provided to the administering authority upon request and in the format requested.

END OF SCHEDULE A

Schedule B – Land

- B1** Contaminants must not be released to land.
- B2** Notwithstanding condition A13 of the *Eligibility criteria and standard conditions for exploration and mineral development projects*, the holder of the environmental authority is authorised to carry out exploration activities up to and within the Category B environmentally sensitive area (ESA), identified as endangered remnant regional ecosystems, in accordance with Condition B3 – B7 and as illustrated in Schedule F – Figure 1: Authorised exploration within MDL205, relative to the Category B ESA.
- B3** Prior to carrying out activities in the Category C ESA, identified as the Ballara Nature Refuge, consultation with the relevant administering authority must be conducted. If it is determined through consultation that additional conditions are necessary, the holder of the environmental authority must comply with those conditions.
- Note: Nature refuges are administered by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships. Please contact naturerefuge@detsi.qld.gov.au for more information.*
- B4** The area of authorised disturbance by exploration activities within the Category B ESA must not exceed 4.858 hectares.
- B5** Significant disturbance caused by clearing for drill pads within the Category B ESA must not exceed 600 square metres at any one drill location. Any new access tracks must not exceed three (3) metres in width.
- B6** The total area of authorised disturbance for the drilling camp and laydown within the Category B ESA at the following locations, must not exceed 0.220 hectares.
- a) drilling camp centre point: (GDA2020 MGA Zone 54) 453637 mE, 7674599 mN / -21.028814° Lat, 140.553813° Long; and
 - b) laydown centre point: (GDA2020 MGA Zone 54) 453612 mE, 7674551 mN / -21.029248° Lat, 140.553576° Long.
- B7** The disturbance specified in Conditions B4 – B6 must not damage or destroy any mature trees with a diameter breast height of greater than fifteen (15) centimetres.
- B8** Significant residual impacts to prescribed environmental matters, are not authorised on MDL205 under this environmental authority or the *Environmental Offsets Act 2014*.
- B9** Records demonstrating that each impact to a prescribed environmental matter did not, or is not likely to, result in a significant residual impact to that matter must be:
- a) completed by an appropriately qualified person; and
 - b) kept for the life of the environmental authority
- B10** Within the Category B ESA, the holder of the environmental authority must complete the rehabilitation processes on all areas disturbed by exploration activities, apart from those areas being utilised for exploration activities, as soon as practical and prior to the onset of the wet season.
- B11** Rehabilitation of any land disturbed by exploration activities on tenure MDL205 since the date that MDL205 was granted remains the responsibility of the holder of this environmental authority and all rehabilitation must

be conducted in accordance with the *Eligibility criteria and standard conditions for exploration and mineral development projects* and the conditions of this environmental authority.

B12 No more than 1 ha of active exploration can occur within the Category B ESA at any one time.

END OF SCHEDULE B

Schedule C – Waters

- C1** Notwithstanding condition B14 of the Eligibility criteria and standard conditions for exploration and mineral development projects – Version 2 (ESR/2016/1985), the holder of the environmental authority may undertake excavation or clearing of vegetation for the purpose of establishing tracks and drill pads, within the defined distance of a watercourse, within or on the levee banks of the normal flow channel, which must:
- a) be a maximum width of twenty (20) metres (m); and
 - b) not to cause erosion of the bed and banks of the watercourse, or cause a material build-up of sediment in such waters; and
 - c) follow the natural contours of the watercourse; and
 - d) only clear grass and/or shrub species.
- C2** The watercourse must be geotechnically and erosionally stable prior to the onset of the wet season.
- C3** The natural watercourse bed and banks disturbed by the construction of tracks and drill pads must be rehabilitated to a profile similar to the pre-disturbance condition.

END OF SCHEDULE C

Schedule D – Waste

- D1** The holder of the environmental authority must not directly or indirectly release waste from the project area to any watercourse, waterway, groundwater, wetland or lake.
- D2** All waste generated in carrying out the activity must be reused, recycled or removed to a facility that can lawfully accept the waste.

END OF SCHEDULE D

Schedul E - Definitions

Key terms and/or phrases used in this document are defined in this section. Where a term is not defined, the definition in the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, its regulations or environmental protection policies must be used. If a word remains undefined it has its ordinary meaning.

'activity' means the environmentally relevant activities to which the environmental authority relates.

'administering authority' is the agency that administers the environmental authority provisions under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.

'appropriately qualified person' means a person who has professional qualifications, training, skills or experience relevant to the nominated subject matter and can give authoritative assessment, advice and analysis on performance relating to the subject matter using the relevant protocols, standards, methods or literature.

'banks' means the feature which confines major flows within a watercourse. They are steeper than a terrace and are generally of a slope greater than 1:1 on outer bends.

'commercial place' means a workplace used as an office or for business or commercial purposes, which is not part of the mining activity and does not include employees' accommodation or public roads.

'disturbed' means any area that has had its natural state altered by the action or interference of carrying out an activity associated with the exploration project.

'holder', for a mining tenement, means a holder of the tenement under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989*, and the holder of the associated environmental authority under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.

'lake' means a natural or artificial body of water, either permanent or intermittent.

'land' means land excluding waters and the atmosphere, that is, the term has a different meaning from the term as defined in the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*. For the purposes of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1954*, it is expressly noted that the term 'land' in this environmental authority relates to physical land and not to interests in land.

'minimise' is to reduce to the smallest possible amount or degree.

'prescribed environmental matters' has the meaning in section 10 of the *Environmental Offsets Act 2014*, limited to the matters of state environmental significance listed in schedule 2 of the *Environmental Offsets Regulation 2014*.

'rehabilitation' the process of reshaping and revegetating land to restore it to a stable landform.

'riverine area' means the land adjoining and associated with watercourses, including the bed, banks, adjoining terraced land and riparian vegetation.

'sensitive place' means:

- a) a dwelling, residential allotment, mobile home or caravan park, residential marina or other residential premises, or
- b) a motel, hotel or hostel, or
- c) an educational institution, or
- d) a medical centre or hospital, or
- e) a protected area under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, the *Marine Parks Act 1992*, or
- f) a World Heritage Area, or
- g) a public park or gardens.

Note: The definition of 'sensitive place' and 'commercial place' is based on Schedule 1 of EPP Noise. That is, a sensitive place is inside or outside on a dwelling, library and educational institution, childcare or kindergarten, school or playground, hospital, surgery or other medical institution, commercial & retail activity, protected area or an area identified under a conservation plan under *Nature Conservation Act 1992* as a critical habitat or an area of major interest, marine park under *Marine Parks Act 2004*, park or garden that is outside of the mining lease and open to the public for the use other

than for sport or organised entertainment. A commercial place is inside or outside a commercial or retail activity. A mining camp (i.e., accommodation and ancillary facilities for mine employees or contractors or both, associated with the mine the subject of the environmental authority) is not a sensitive place for that mine or mining project, whether or not the mining camp is located within a mining tenement that is part of the mining project the subject of the environmental authority. For example, the mining camp might be located on neighbouring land owned or leased by the same company as one of the holders of the environmental authority for the mining project, or a related company. Accommodation for mine employees or contractors is a sensitive place if the land is held by a mining company or related company, and if occupation is restricted to the employees, contractors and their families for the particular mine or mines which are held by the same company or a related company. For example, a township (occupied by the mine employees, contractors and their families for multiple mines that are held by different companies) would be a sensitive place, even if part or all of the township is constructed on land owned by one or more of the companies.

'significant residual impact' is defined in section 8 of the *Environmental Offsets Act 2014*.

'watercourse' as the meaning in Schedule 4 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.

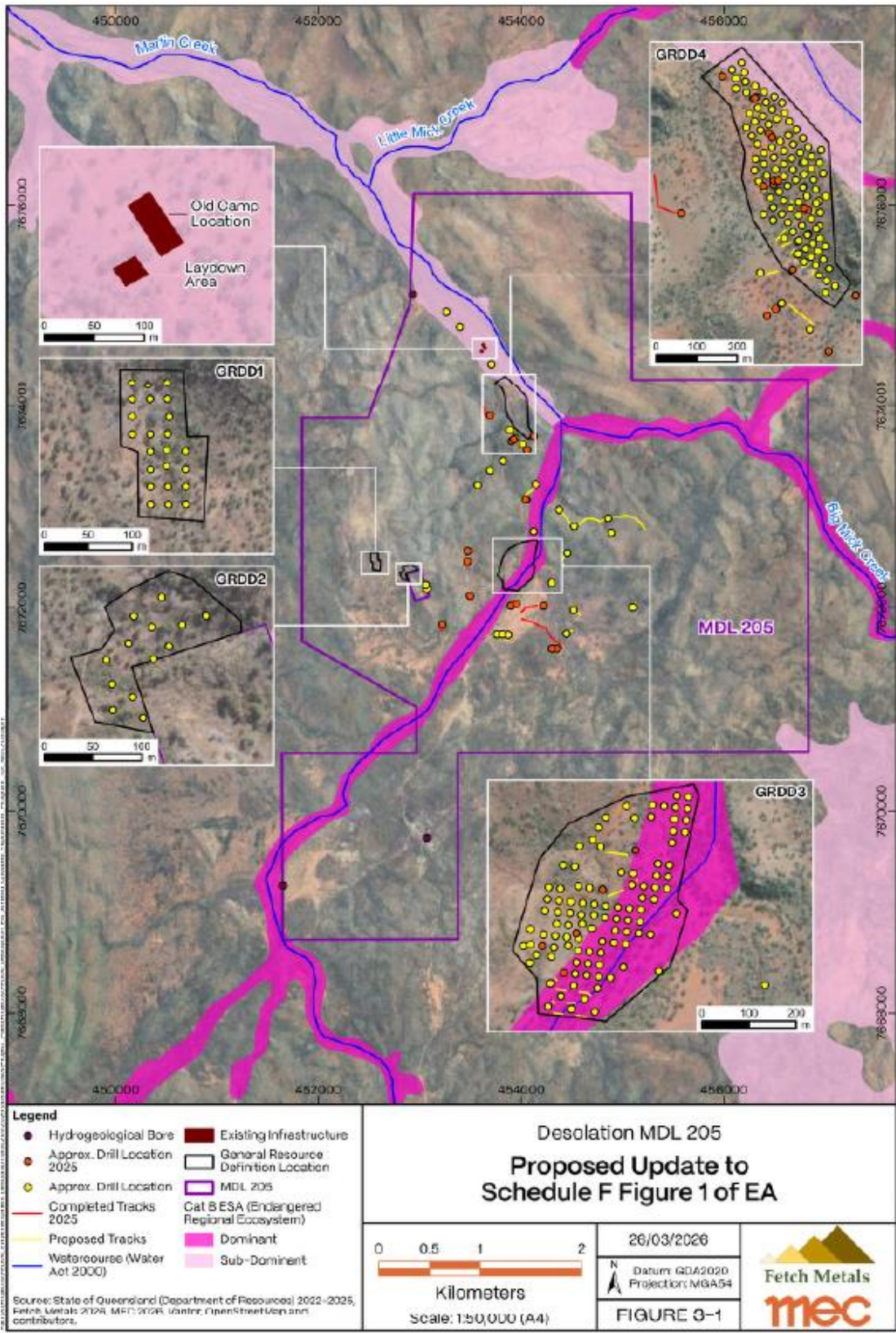
'waters' includes river, stream, lake, lagoon, pond, swamp, wetland, unconfined surface water, unconfined natural or artificial watercourse, bed and bank of any waters, dams, non-tidal or tidal waters (including the sea), storm water channel, storm water drain, and groundwater and any part thereof.

'wetland' areas of permanent or periodic/intermittent inundation, whether natural or artificial, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed 6m. Wetlands typically include areas such as lakes, swamps, marshes, estuaries or mudflats.

END OF SCHEDULE E

Schedule F – Maps

Figure 1: Authorised exploration within MDL205, relative to the Category B ESA



END OF SCHEDULE F

END OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORITY