

3 July 2025

**Darren Brewer** Manager, Planning Group Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning

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Dear Darren

**RE:** Request to Amend Regional Interest Development Approval RPI25/002 Anglo American – Planet Downs Project (Exploration Drilling)

On 6 June 2025, the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (DSDIP) issued a Regional Interest Development Approval (RIDA) for RPI25/002 Anglo American – Planet Downs Project (Exploration Drilling) (the Project) to allow exploration activities for minerals within the Gulf Rivers Strategic Environmental Area (the SEA).

The original RIDA application for RPI25/002 was prepared by Umwelt on behalf of Anglo American Exploration Australia Pty Ltd (Anglo) (the Applicant), and submitted to DSDIP on 13 February 2025.

The RIDA application included exploration drilling on up to ten drill pads, and associated ancillary activities including the construction of temporary access tracks, a temporary accommodation camp, and temporary laydown area, with a total area of disturbance within the SEA of approximately 4.0 ha.

The RIDA application included RPI25-002 Anglo American – Planet Downs Project RIDA Application: Supporting Information Report (the RIDA Supporting Report) which provided background information and an assessment of the proposed activities in relation to the SEA and compliance to prescribed solutions.

As described in the RIDA Supporting Report and as shown on Attachment 1 – Approved Plan of the RIDA (refer Figure 1), there are three Proposed Drilling Areas planned for exploration drilling. The total area of disturbance across these Proposed Drilling Areas is up to 1.0 ha for exploration drilling, and up to 2.4 ha for the construction of temporary access tracks.

Since the submission of the RIDA applications in February, Anglo has undertaken additional desktop assessments and analysis, and determined that a portion of the southern Proposed Drilling Area may not be as prospective as originally thought, and Anglo now wish to relocate this portion to an area further to the south (refer Figure 2).

The New Proposed Drilling Area covers an area of approximately 146.1 ha, which is of a comparable size to the original drilling area that is proposed to be relocated (146.2 ha). The New Proposed Drilling Area does not intersect with the SEA Designated Precinct.



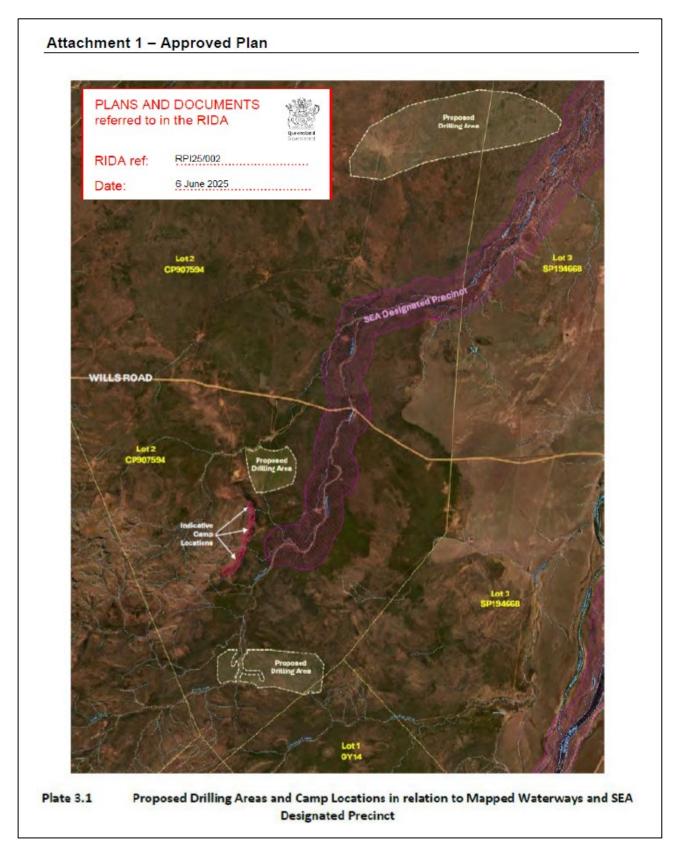


Figure 1 RIDA Attachment 1 – Approved Plan



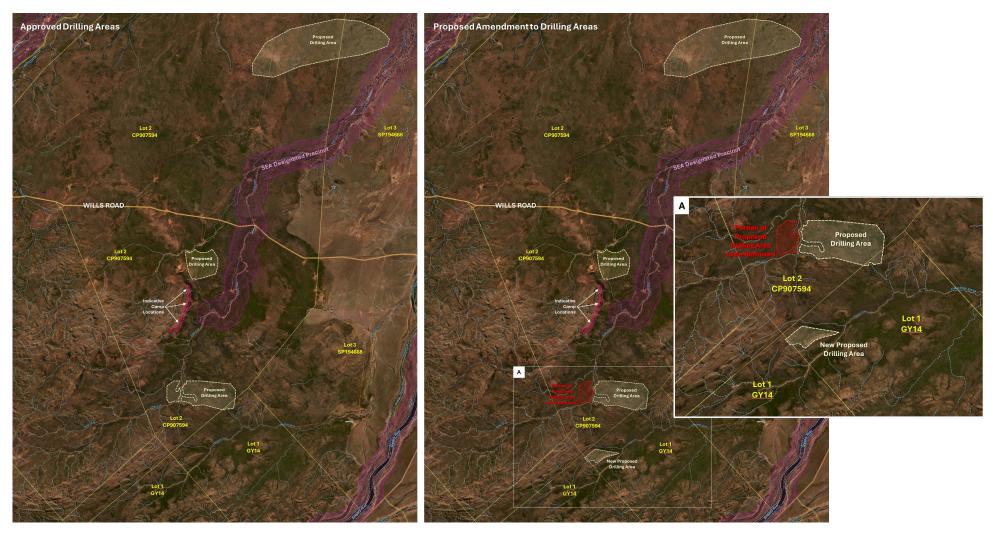


Figure 2 Proposed Amendment of Drilling Areas shown in relation to Mapped Waterways and SEA Designated Precinct

(Image on the left showing the currently approved drilling areas in RPI25/002 RIDA dated 6 June 2025, with images on the right showing proposed amended drilling area)



The exploration activities and methods that will be undertaken within the proposed drilling areas are as described in the RIDA Supporting Report, and these will apply to the New Proposed Drilling Area. There are no new activities or methods proposed to be undertaken, and no increase to the total area of disturbance as approved in the RIDA. All activities will be undertaken in the dry season.

All activities on site, including in the New Proposed Drilling Area, will be undertaken in accordance with the Project's Environmental Authority (EA) (P-EA-100269946) and RIDA Conditions for RPI25/002.

# **Real Property Description**

The land relevant to the proposed amendment is shown on Figure 3 and described in Table 1.

Table 1 Landownership of Properties in relation to the Proposed Amendment

Lot/Plan	Land Tenure	Lessee / Trustee	Purpose	Proposed Amendment
2/CP907594	Lands Lease	Lessee: James Cameron Brown, Elizabeth Veronica Brown	Grazing or agricultural	Removal of a portion of a drilling area (approximately 146.2 ha in size)
1/GY14	Lands Lease	Lessee: Paraway Pastoral Company Ltd	Pastoral	Addition of a drilling area (approximately 146.1 ha in size)

No amendment or change to the real property description provided in the RIDA is required.

There are no easements in the vicinity of the New Proposed Drilling Area.

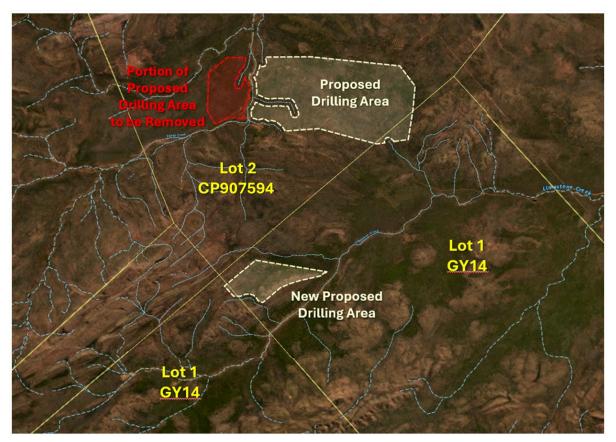


Figure 3 Proposed Amendment showing Relocated Drilling Area



# **Environmental Attributes**

The New Proposed Drilling Area is located 100 m from mapped drainage features (refer **Figure 3**), and does not contain any mapped wetlands or springs. No creek crossings are required to be constructed for activities within the New Proposed Drilling Area.

There are no areas of Essential Habitat or Environmentally Sensitive Areas located in the vicinity of the New Proposed Drilling Area, and no areas on the Protected Plants Trigger Map. The New Proposed Drilling Area is not located in a biodiversity corridor.

The activities for the Project, including in the New Proposed Drilling Area, will be undertaken in the dry season.

Further information on the environmental attributes of the Project site are provided in detail in the RIDA Supporting Report.

# Assessment of Compliance to Prescribed Solutions

The RPI Regulations (Schedule 2, Part 5, Section 15) provides SEA Assessment Criteria to determine if the required outcome can be met through prescribed solutions. An assessment of the Project against the prescribed solutions was undertaken for the Project (refer to Table 5.1 of the RIDA Supporting Report), which confirmed the Project activities can meet the required outcomes of the SEA.

There are no changes to this assessment in relation to the compliance of the proposed amendment (i.e. the New Proposed Drilling Area), and the proposed amendment aligns to the evidence of compliance as described in Table 5.1 of the RIDA Supporting Report. That is:

- The proposed amendment will not directly or indirectly impact on hydrological, geomorphic or riparian processes, wildlife corridors, or water quality of watercourse channels, aquifers or floodplains.
- The proposed amendment is not within the designated precinct of the SEA.
- The proposed amendment does not include the unacceptable uses in a designated precinct as listed in the RPI Regulation. That is, the proposed activity does not include open cut mining, broadacre cropping or a water storage (dam).
- The footprint of the activities will be minimised as far as possible.
- The activity does not compromise the preservation of the environmental attributes within the SEA.
- The activity is consistent with regional outcomes.

The activities within the New Proposed Drilling Area will be compliant with the required outcome for activities within the Gulf Rivers SEA.



# **Proposed RIDA Amendments**

The conditions within the RIDA that require amending are:

- Attachment 1 Approved Plan
- Condition 1(c) (which references the figure provided in the RIDA application document).

Suggested amended wording for condition 1(c) is provided as red text in **Table 2**, and a revised figure to be included in Attachment 1 – Approved Plan is provided at **Figure 4**.

No other conditions in the RIDA require amendment.

Table 2 Suggested Revised Wording for Condition 1(c) in RIDA RPI25/002

No.	Current RIDA Conditions	Suggested Revised Conditions
1.	Carry out the approved resource activities in the Gulf Rivers SEA generally in accordance with:	Carry out the approved resource activities in the Gulf Rivers SEA generally in accordance with:
	<ul><li>(a) the resource activities identified in Table 1: Approved resource activities;</li></ul>	<ul><li>(a) the resource activities identified in Table 1: Approved resource activities;</li></ul>
	(b) the resource activities as described in Table 2: Description summary of the proposed resource activities in the Gulf Rivers SEA; and	<ul> <li>(b) the resource activities as described in Table 2:</li> <li>Description summary of the proposed resource activities in the Gulf Rivers SEA; and</li> </ul>
	(c)-Plate 3.1 Proposed Drilling Areas and Camp Locations in relation to Mapped Waterways and SEA Designated Precinct (Attachment 1) as provided in the submitted RPI Act Development Application Supporting Information Report, Version 02, prepared by Umwelt (Australia) Pty Ltd, dated 13 February 2025.	(c) Figure 4 Amended Proposed Drilling Areas in relation to Mapped Waterways and SEA Designated Precinct (Attachment 1) as provided in the Request to Amend Regional Interest Development Approval - RPI25/002 Anglo American - Planet Downs Project (Exploration Drilling), letter from Umwelt to DSDIP, dated 3 July 2025.



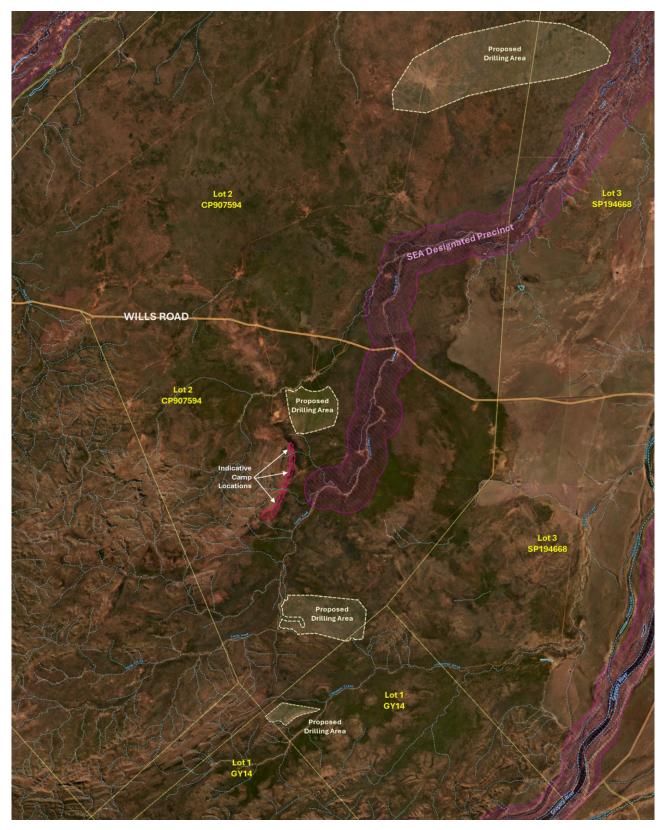


Figure 4 Amended Proposed Drilling Areas in relation to Mapped Waterways and SEA Designated Precinct



# Conclusion

The New Proposed Drilling Area:

- is of a comparable size to the original Proposed Drilling Area:
  - The original drilling area to be removed is approximately 146.2 ha
  - The New Proposed Drilling Area is approximately 146.1 ha;
- is located within Lot 1 on GY14, as per the properties listed in Table 1 of the RIDA;
- does not change the number or size of drill pads that may be constructed within the SEA, as described in Table 1 of the RIDA;
- does not increase the total area of disturbance described in Table 1 of the RIDA;
- does not change or increase any impacts to the SEA that were described and assessed in the RIDA application documents;
- is not located in the SEA Designated Precinct and will not impact the SEA Designated Precinct;
- is located 100 m from mapped waterways;
- is not located within a biodiversity corridor;
- is not located near essential habitat;
- will not include any creek crossings;
- does not impact the relevant required outcome for the SEA as contained in the RPI Act.

Only two components of the RIDA require amending, namely Attachment 1 – Approved Plan and Condition 1(c) (which references the figure provided in the RIDA application document).

All activities will be undertaken as described in the RIDA application documentation, and in accordance with the Project's EA and RIDA conditions.

### Closure

We appreciate your consideration of our requested amendment to the RIDA for RPI25/002, and would be pleased to provide you with any further information you may require to help inform your decision on this matter.

Yours sincerely

#### **Kate Everding**

Principal Environmental Consultant

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