

16 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 RPI25/001 Anglo American – Planet Downs Project (Access Tracks)

On 9 June 2025, the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (DSDIP) issued a Regional Interest Development Approval (RIDA) for RPI25/001 Anglo American – Planet Downs Project (Access Tracks) (the Project) to allow exploration activities for minerals within the Gulf Rivers Strategic Environmental Area (the SEA).

The original RIDA application for RPI25/001 was prepared by Umwelt on behalf of Anglo American Exploration Australia Pty Ltd (Anglo) (the Applicant), and submitted to DSDIP on 3 February 2025.

The RIDA application included RPI25-001 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), the RIDA application included the proposed construction of up to 20 kilometres (km) of temporary access tracks (of up to 3 m wide) to support Anglo's exploration activities within the SEA. The total area of disturbance for the proposed access tracks is 6.0 ha, which is inclusive of 1.4 ha of disturbance within the SEA Designated Precinct.

Since the submission of the RIDA application in February, the landowner of Lot 2 CP907594 has requested a preference for Anglo to not utilise a farm track in the vicinity of a homestead, and to instead to create a small temporary access track approximately 100 m to the west of their property (refer to "New Proposed Access Track (A)" on Figure 2). In addition, Anglo has undertaken further desktop assessments and analysis, and determined that one of the proposed access tracks is better located to the south of the site (refer to "New Proposed Access Track (B)" on Figure 2).

The portion of track to be removed is approximately 1.4 km in length, which is of a comparable size to the new proposed tracks, with the New Proposed Access Track (A) being approximately 250 m in length, and the New Proposed Access Track (B) being approximately 1.2 km in length. The two new access tracks are not located within the SEA Designated Precinct (Figure 2).





Figure 1 RIDA Attachment 1 – Approved Plan



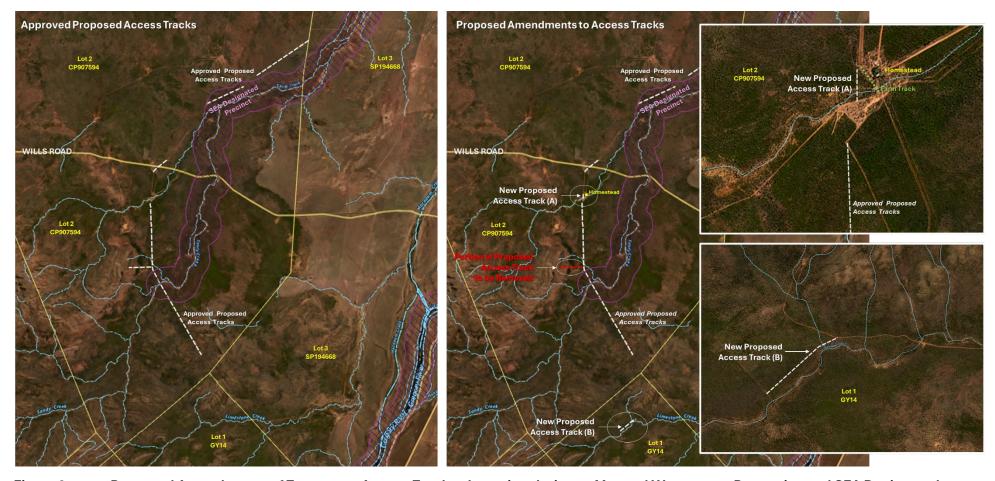


Figure 2 Proposed Amendments of Temporary Access Tracks shown in relation to Mapped Waterways, Properties and SEA Designated Precinct

(Image on the left showing the currently approved access tracks (as white dashed lines) in RPI25/001 RIDA dated 9 June 2025, with images on the right showing proposed amendments to the access tracks)



The construction methods that will be undertaken for the temporary access tracks are as described in the RIDA Supporting Report, and these will apply to the New Proposed Access Tracks. 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 access tracks are temporary, and activities will be undertaken in the dry season.

All activities on site, including those relating to the New Proposed Access Tracks, will be undertaken in accordance with the Project's Environmental Authority (EA) (P-EA-100269946) and RIDA Conditions.

# **Real Property Description**

The land relevant to the proposed amendment is shown on Figure 2 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 an access track (approximately 1.4 km in length) Addition of an access track (approximately 250 m in length)
1/GY14	Lands Lease	Lessee: Paraway Pastoral Company Ltd	Pastoral	Addition of an access track (approximately 1.2 km in length)
3/SP194668	Lands Lease	Lessee: Paraway Pastoral Company Ltd	Not Defined	No change

The landowners of the relevant properties listed in **Table 1** have confirmed they are aware of, and have no issues with, the proposed amendments.

There are no easements in the vicinity of the New Proposed Access Tracks.

The real property descriptions provided in the RIDA will need to be amended to include Lot 1 Plan GY14.

### **Environmental Attributes**

The New Proposed Access Tracks are not located in the vicinity of any mapped wetlands or springs and are not located in a biodiversity corridor. There are no areas of Essential Habitat, Environmentally Sensitive Areas, or areas on the Protected Plants Trigger Map located in the vicinity of the New Proposed Access Tracks.

The New Proposed Access Tracks will traverse mapped waterways at two locations, namely an unnamed tributary of Limestone Creek of stream order 2, and an unnamed tributary of Sandy Creek of stream order 3 (refer **Figure 3**). These tributaries are ephemeral minor drainage lines and unlikely to support riparian vegetation. The activities are not proposing to construct any waterway crossings at these locations, nor remove any riparian vegetation. Activities will be undertaken during the dry season. The proposed activities are temporary and unlikely to interfere with the natural hydrologic or geomorphic processes of either Limestone or Sandy creeks, their tributaries, nor of the SEA.





Figure 3 Proposed Drainage Line Crossing Points (indicative locations shown as red dot)

The activities will be undertaken in the dry season and are temporary.

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 Access Tracks), 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 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 Access Tracks 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:

- Description of the Land:
  - Real Property Description to be amended to include Lot 1 on GY14 as follows:
     Lot 2 on CP907594, Lot 3 on SP194668 and Lot 1 on GY14
- Table 1: Approved Resource Activity:
  - Location to be amended to include Lot 1 on GY14 as follows:
     Lot 2 on CP907594, Lot 3 on SP194668 and Lot 1 on GY14
- Attachment 1 Approved Plan:
  - A revised figure to be included as Attachment 1 Approved Plan is provided at Figure 4.
- Condition 1(c):
  - Suggested amended wording for condition 1(c), which references the figure provided in the RIDA application document, is provided as red text in **Table 2**.

No other conditions in the RIDA require amendment.

#### Table 2 Suggested Revised Wording for Condition 1(c) in RIDA RPI25/001

No.	Current RIDA Conditions	Suggested Revised Conditions	
1.	Carry out the approved resource activity in the Gulf Rivers SEA generally in accordance with:	Carry out the approved resource activity in the Gulf Rivers SEA generally in accordance with:	
	(a) the resource activity identified in Table 1: Approved resource activity	(a) the resource activity identified in Table 1: Approved resource activity	
	(b) the resource activity as described in Table 2: Description summary of the proposed resource activity in the Gulf Rivers SEA	(b) the resource activity as described in Table 2: Description summary of the proposed resource activity in the Gulf Rivers SEA	
	(c)-Plate 3.1 Proposed Temporary Access Tracks in relation to existing farm tracks, SEA and SEA Designated Precinct (Attachment 1) as provided in the submitted RPI25/001:Anglo American - Planet Downs Project (Access Tracks)Response to Requirement Notice of 17 February 2025, dated 24 February 2025.	(c) Figure 4 Amended Proposed Temporary Access Tracks in relation to Existing Farm Tracks, Mapped Waterways and SEA Designated Precinct (Attachment 1) as provided in the Request to Amend Regional Interest Development Approval - RPI25/00 Anglo American - Planet Downs Project (Access Tracks), letter from Umwelt to DSDIP, dated 16 July 2025.	



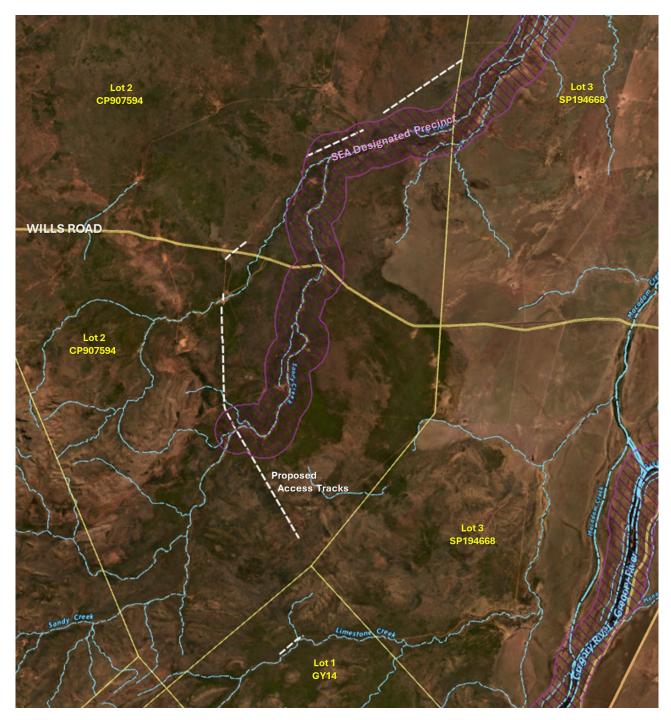


Figure 4 Amended Proposed Temporary Access Tracks in relation to Existing Farm Tracks,
Mapped Waterways and SEA Designated Precinct



## Conclusion

The New Proposed Access Tracks:

- are of a comparable size to the access track to be removed:
  - the access track to be removed is approximately 1.4 km in length
  - the New Proposed Access Tracks are approximately 1.45 km in length
- are temporary and will only be formed if required;
- do not increase the total area of disturbance described in Table 1 of the RIDA;
- are located within Lot 2 on CP 907594 and Lot 1 on GY14;
- do not change or increase any impacts to the SEA that were described and assessed in the RIDA application documents;
- are not located in the SEA Designated Precinct and will not impact the SEA Designated Precinct;
- are not located within a biodiversity corridor;
- are not located near essential habitat,
- are not located near Environmentally Sensitive Areas;
- will avoid the clearing of vegetation where possible;
- will not disturb trees with a diameter at breast height of greater than 20 cm;
- will temporarily traverse two minor drainage lines, but will not construct any waterway crossings nor remove any riparian vegetation;
- will not interfere with the existing flood regime within the SEA;
- does not impact the relevant required outcome for the SEA as contained in the RPI Act.

Only four components of the RIDA require amending, namely the real property descriptions provided in the Description of the Land and in Table 1 Approved resource activity, 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 RPI25/001, 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**

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