



Balranald Mineral Sands Project
2023 Annual Review
(1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023)

ANNUAL REVIEW DETAILS

Details of the operations are summarised in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Annual Review title block

Name of operation	Balranald Mineral Sands Project
Name of operator	Iluka Resources Limited
Development consent / project approval #	SSD – 5285
Name of holder of development consent / project approval	Iluka Resources Limited
Mining Leases #	ML 1736 & ML 1855
Name of holder of mining lease	Iluka Resources Limited
Water licence #	WAL31101, WAL31102, WAL44602, WAL44970 & WAL 41857
Name of holder of water licence	Iluka Resources Limited
RMP start date	12 August 2022
RMP end date	Continuing
Annual Review start date	01 January 2023
Annual Review end date	31 December 2023

I, Brendan Isaacs, certify that this audit report is a true and accurate record of the compliance status of Balranald Mineral Sands Project for the period 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023 and that I am authorised to make this statement on behalf of Iluka Resources Limited.

Note.

- a) The Annual Review is an 'environmental audit' for the purposes of section 122B(2) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. Section 122E provides that a person must not include false or misleading information (or provide information for inclusion in) an audit report produced to the Minister in connection with an environmental audit if the person knows that the information is false or misleading in a material respect. The maximum penalty is, in the case of a corporation, \$1 million and for an individual, \$250,000.
- b) The Crimes Act 1900 contains other offences relating to false and misleading information: section 192G (Intention to defraud by false or misleading statement—maximum penalty 5 years imprisonment); sections 307A, 307B and 307C (False or misleading applications/information/documents—maximum penalty 2 years imprisonment or \$22,000, or both).


Name of authorised reporting officer	Brendan Isaacs
Title of authorised reporting officer	Environmental Rehabilitation & Community Relations Superintendent
Signature of authorised reporting officer	
Date	22 March 2024

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1 STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

This report is the 2023 Annual Review for the Balranald Mineral Sands Project (the 'Balranald Project' or the 'Project') as required by Condition 4, Schedule 5 of State Significant Development Consent SSD-5285 granted under the provisions of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). This report has been prepared using the *Annual Review Guideline Post-approval requirements for State significant mining developments* (DPE, October 2015).

A summary of the compliance status of the operation with the conditions of the relevant approvals is provided in Table 2.

Non-compliances are described in Table 3, noting that no non-compliance events occurred during the reporting period.

Table 2: Statement of compliance

Statutory approval	All conditions complied with
SSD Development consent (SSD-5285)	Yes
Mining Lease 1736	Yes
Mining Lease 1855	Yes
Environment Protection Licence 20795	Yes
EPBC Approval (2012/6509)	Yes

Table 3: Non-compliances

Relevant approval	Condition	Condition description	Compliance status	Comment	Where addressed in Annual Review
No non-compliances during the reporting period					

Compliance status key for Table 3

Risk level	Colour code	Description
High	Non-compliant	Non-compliance with potential for significant environmental consequences, regardless of the likelihood of occurrence
Medium	Non-compliant	Non-compliance with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> potential for serious environmental consequences, but is unlikely to occur; or potential for moderate environmental consequences, but is likely to occur
Low	Non-compliant	Non-compliance with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> potential for moderate environmental consequences, but is unlikely to occur; or potential for low environmental consequences, but is likely to occur
Administrative non-compliance	Non-compliant	Only to be applied where the non-compliance does not result in any risk of environmental harm (e.g. submitting a report to government later than required under approval conditions)

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Operations overview

Iluka have approval to develop a mineral sands mine in south-western New South Wales (NSW), known as the Balranald Mineral Sands Project (the Balranald Project). It includes construction, open-cut mining, primary processing, and rehabilitation of two linear mineral sand deposits, known as the West Balranald and Nepean deposits, located approximately 12 kilometres (km) and 66 km north-west of the town of Balranald, respectively. The Balranald Project also included undertaking an approved bulk sampling activity at the West Balranald deposit with the removal of up to 100,000 tonnes (t) of mineral ore to trial the use of underground mining methods.

Development consent (SSD-5285) was granted for the Balranald Project by a delegate of the NSW Minister for Planning under the EP&A Act on 5 April 2016 (herein referred to as the consent). Approval was also granted under the EPBC Act (EPBC 2012/6509) by a delegate of the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment on 6 January 2017 (herein referred to as the Commonwealth approval).

Iluka has undertaken some of the approved bulk sampling activity involving the extraction of the mineral ore from depth using trial underground mining technology within the approved disturbance area of the West Balranald deposit.

The underground mining trials were conducted as follows:

- Trial 1 (T1) proof of concept undertaken between February and May 2015;
- Trial 2 (T2) commerciality test undertaken between May to October 2016;
- Trial 3 (T3) commerciality test undertaken between June to November 2020; and
- Site placed into care & maintenance from 18 November 2020.

The outcome of the bulk sampling activity confirmed the effectiveness of the underground mining method, validated key elements of the mining unit design and have been used to help guide future life-of-mine (LOM) operational conditions and inform the potential suitability (commerciality and potential reduced environmental impacts) of underground mining as an alternative method for resource extraction.

On 21 December 2022, Iluka were granted approval to modify the consent (MOD1) to expand the underground mining trial which includes an additional area of disturbance to the approved Balranald Project area to enable primary processing of the ore into heavy mineral concentrate (HMC) and transport of HMC offsite for secondary processing at Iluka's facilities in Victoria and/or Western Australia (WA). Figure 3 shows the underground mining trial approved by the MOD1 Consolidated Consent.

2.2 Environmental management responsibilities

Table 4 provides the details of the Iluka personnel with environmental management responsibilities during the reporting period.

Table 4: Environmental management responsibilities

Name	Role	Contact details
Philip Lazzari	Project Manager	Philip.Lazzari@iluka.com
Dave Wright	Operations Manager	Dave.Wright@iluka.com
Nick Travers	Principal Environmental Approvals	Nick.Travers@iluka.com
Brendan Isaacs	Environmental Superintendent	Brendan.Isaacs@iluka.com

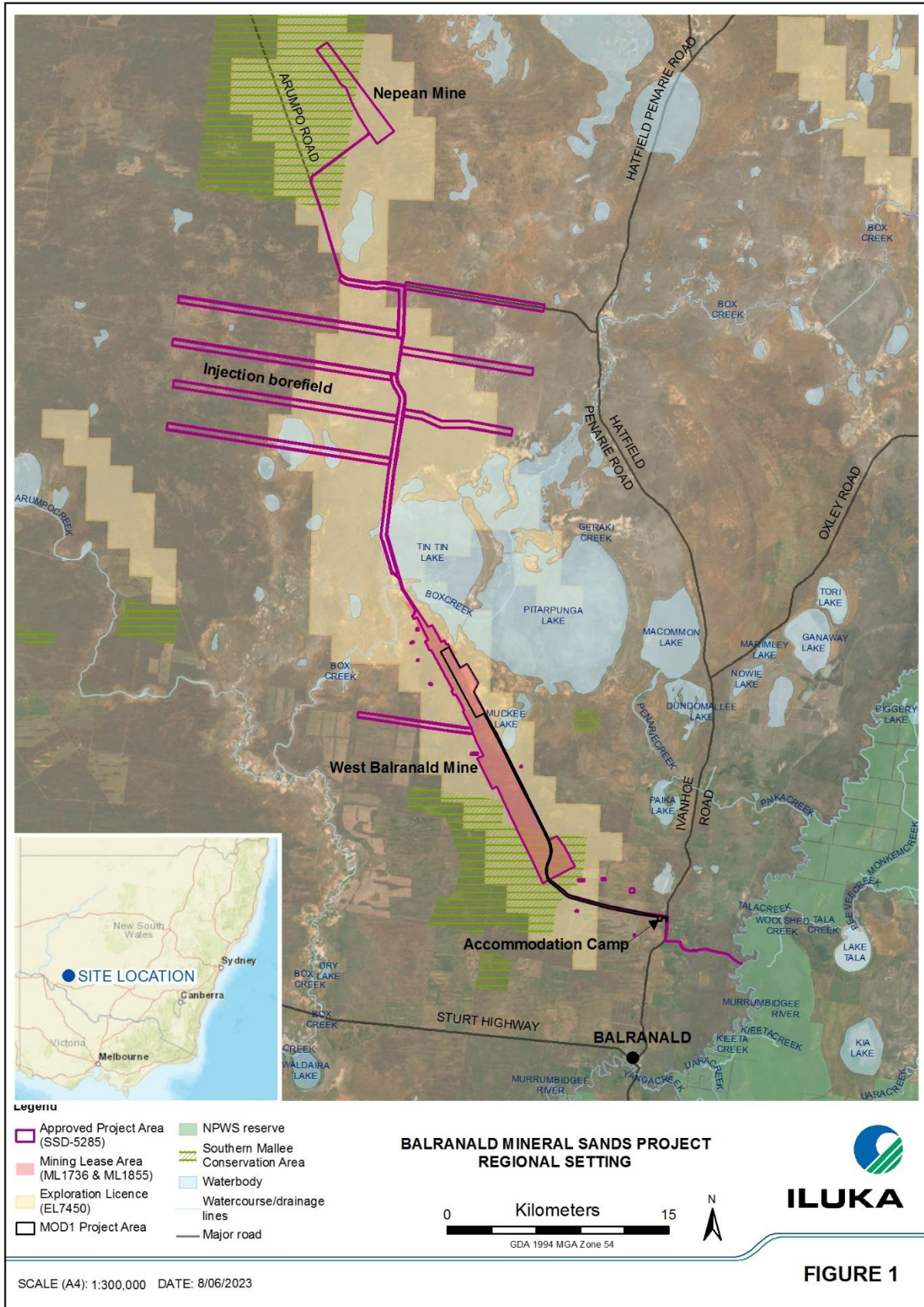


Figure 1: Project location and activity area

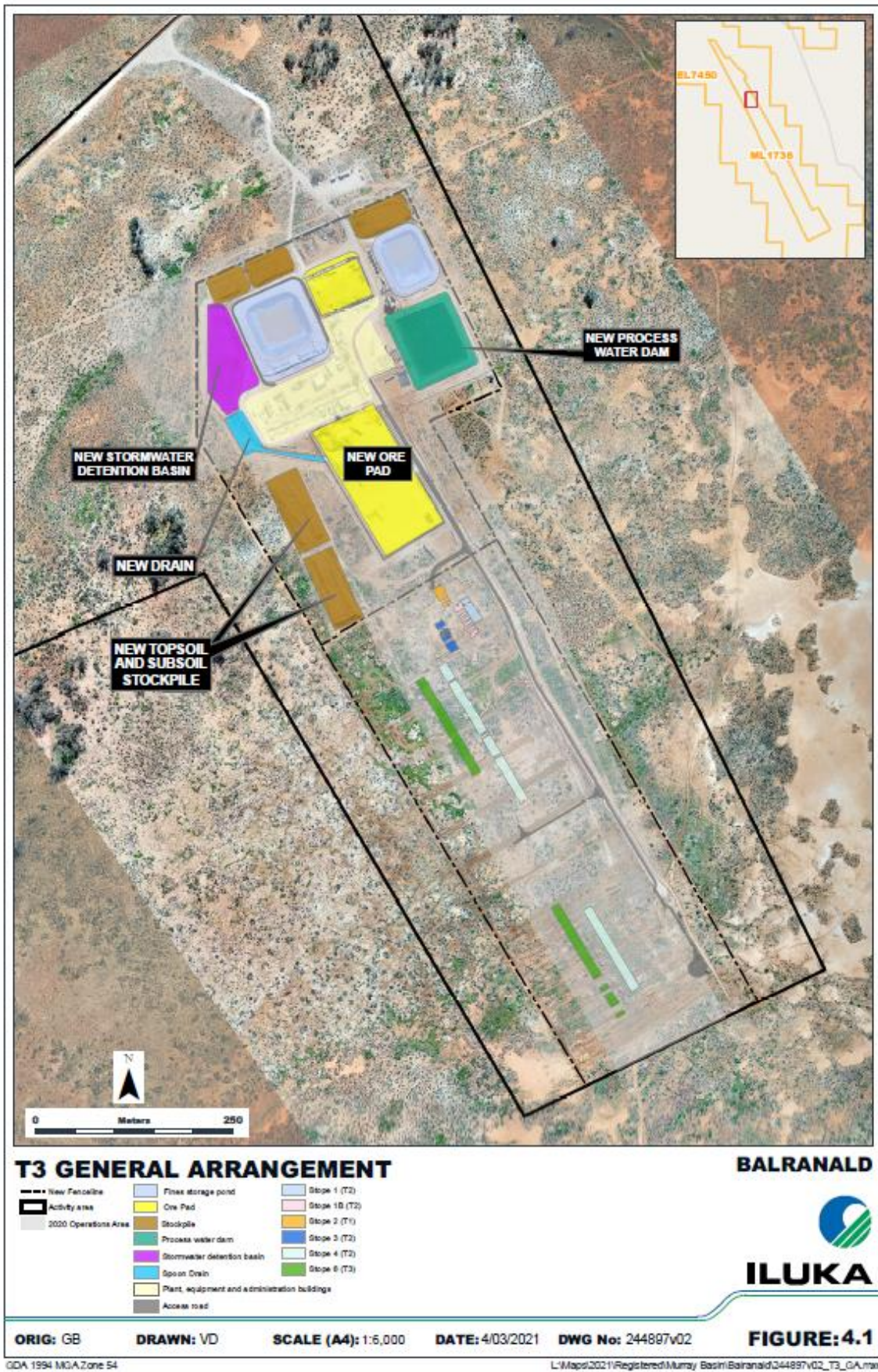


Figure 2: T3 trial site general arrangement

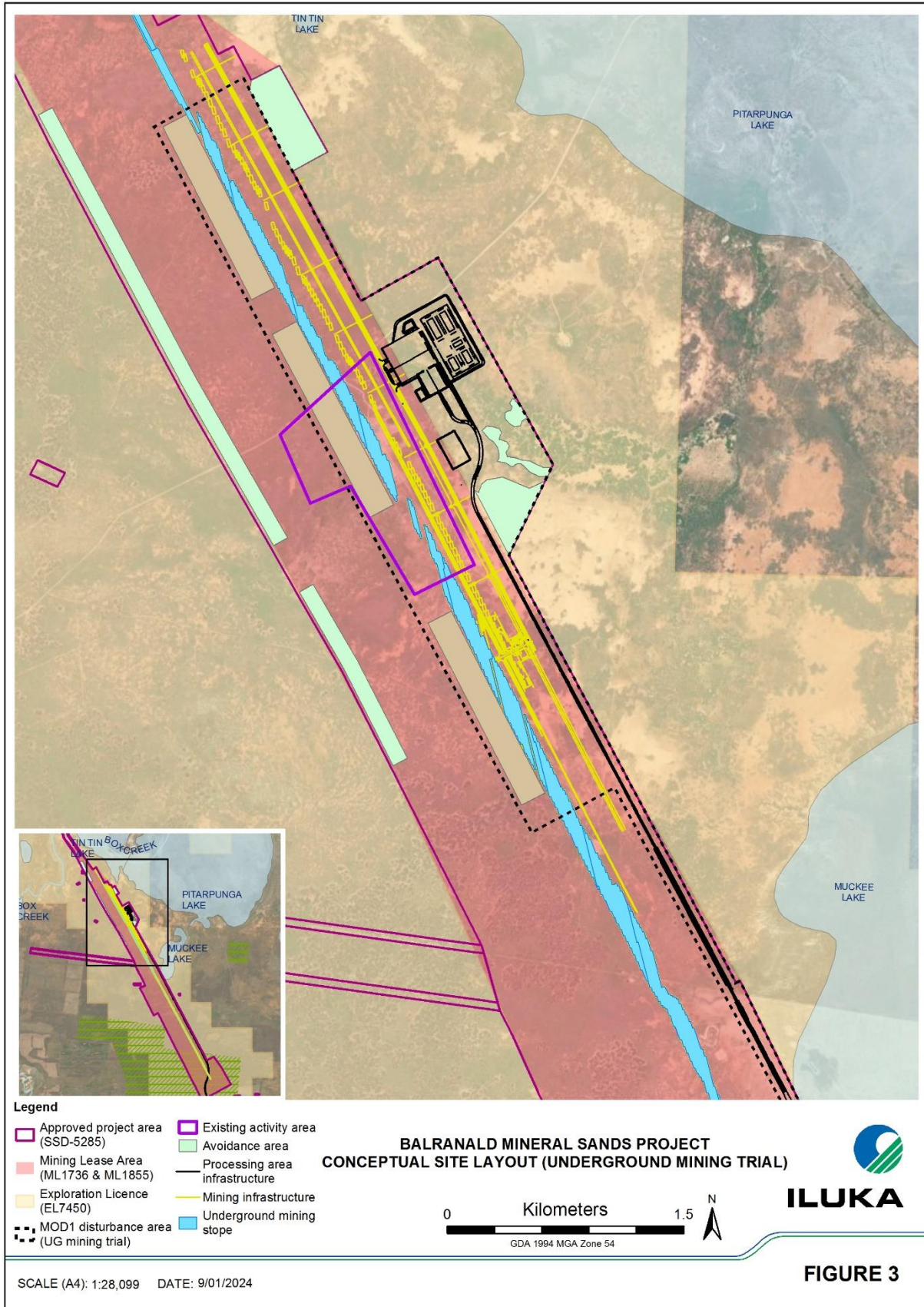


Figure 3: Approved modified project (MOD1) conceptual site layout

3 APPROVALS

The Balranald Project is a Level 1 mine and was assessed as a State Significant Development (SSD) under Part 4 of the EP&A Act.

The current approvals (including consents, authorisations, licenses and management plans) for the Project are summarised in Table 5 and Table 6.

Table 5: Current consents, authorisations and licenses

Type	Identification	Details
Development Consent	SSD-5285	Granted: 5 April 2016 Duration: 16 years
Development Consent Modification	SSD-5285 (MOD1)	Modified: 21 December 2022
Development Consent Modification	SSD-5285 (MOD2)	Modified: 1 August 2023
EPBC Act Referral 2012/6509	EPBC 2012/6509	Granted: 6 January 2017 Duration: 1 January 2046
EPBC Act Referral 2012/6509 Variation	EPBC 2012/6509 (Variation 1)	Varied: 1 August 2023
Mining Lease	ML1736	Granted: 9 May 2016 Duration: 21 years
Mining Lease	ML1855	Granted: 13 June 2023 Duration: 21 years
Environment Projection Licence	EPL20795	Granted: June 2016 and renewed annually
Water Access Licence(s)	WAL31101 WAL31102 WAL44602 WAL44970 WAL41857	Total allocation volume – 50 ML Total allocation volume – 0 M Total allocation volume – 1,950 ML Total allocation volume – 3,400 ML Total allocation volume – 101 ML

Table 6: Approved management plans during reporting period

Management Plan	Changes during reporting period
Environmental Management Strategy (9 February 2023, Version 1)	New plan: approved 28 February 2023.
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan (ACHMP) (18 May 2023, Version 3)	Updated to include the management of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage within the approved MOD1 additional disturbance area.

Management Plan	Changes during reporting period
Air Quality Management Plan (8 March 2023, Version 1)	New plan: approved 17 March 2023.
Noise Management Plan (22 February 2023, Version 1)	New plan: approved 3 March 2023.
Water Management Plan (31 October 2023, Version 4)	New plan: approved 1 August 2023. Plan updated for take of water from Murrumbidgee River, approved 3 November 2023.
Traffic Management Plan (13 June 2023, Version 2)	New plan: approved 5 July 2023.
Biodiversity Management Plan (11 July 2023, Version 7)	New plan: approved 27 July 2023.

4 OPERATIONS SUMMARY

4.1 Introduction

The T3 mining trial commenced in early August 2020 and was completed in early November 2020. The trial site was demobilised and put into care and maintenance in November 2020. Iluka was granted approval in December 2022 to construct an underground mining operation, construction officially commenced on 7 August 2023.

4.2 Site construction

Construction activities during the reporting period included erecting of a temporary communications tower, relocation and refurbishment of portable offices, installation of an ablutions building and connection of water and electrical services.

An 8m wide track was initially cleared through 11km of Mallee vegetation along the approved mine access road corridor to allow preliminary site access.

Approximately 7km or 27Ha of the proposed mine access road corridor was cleared of vegetation and approximately 3km or 14Ha stripped of topsoil in preparation for road construction.

4.3 Mining operations

Production figures associated with construction of the MOD1 (extended underground mining trial) are provided in Table 7.

No mining or processing operations occurred during the reporting period with relevant activities limited to construction-related soil stripping.

Table 7: Production summary (MOD1 Underground mining)

Material	Approved limit (specify source)	Previous reporting period (actual)	This reporting period (actual)	Next reporting period (forecast)
Topsoil (m3)	No limit	0	12,642	355,000
Subsoil (m3)	No limit	0	0	39,000
Overburden	No limit	0	0	115,000
Ore	No limit	0	0	0
Coarse reject	No limit	0	0	0
Fine reject (Tailings)	No limit	0	0	0
Product (HMC)	700,000 tonnes per annum (SSD-5285) MOD1	0	0	0

4.4 Exploration

Air core drilling (AC) was completed at West Balranald to define the strand geometry over two areas impacted by faulting at depth. A total of 36 AC drill holes were completed totaling 2,795m of drilling. Re-interpretations of the strand were completed followed by Mining Engineer review which confirmed that the new strand geometry in the faulted areas can be mined with the proposed underground mining method.

Prior to mining the northern faulted area, a grade control drill program consisting of between 10 to 16 AC drill holes will be required to refine the strand geometry and this is proposed to be completed in late 2025 or 2026. Further sonic drilling will be required in 2025 – 2026 to support conversion of Indicated Resources to Measured Resource classification in advance of mining.

4.5 Decommissioning

No decommissioning works were undertaken during the reporting period.

4.6 Next reporting period

During the next reporting period the remainder of the mine access road and processing area will be cleared of vegetation and the topsoil stripped. The road will be constructed to design by the appointed contractor.

The required public road upgrades within Balranald will be completed during the next reporting period as described in the Traffic Management Plan. Roads that will be upgraded in the next reporting period are Balranald-Ivanhoe Rd & Mine Access Road intersection, McCabe St and Balranald-Ivanhoe Rd intersection, Piper St, O'Connor St West, Moa St and Sturt Hwy & Balranald-Tooleybuc Rd intersection.

Other construction activities that will be at various stages during the next reporting period include:

- processing plant infrastructure;
- product and tails pad(s);
- process water, potassium amyl xanthate (PAX) and fines dams;

- underground mining infrastructure;
- hardstand and laydown areas;
- site offices, warehousing, workshops, amenities and carparking;
- services and utilities infrastructure;
- fuel storage and dispensing area;
- telecommunications tower;
- accommodation camp; and
- internal access tracks and roadways.

5 ACTIONS REQUIRED FROM PREVIOUS ANNUAL REVIEW

No actions required from the previous Annual Review.

Table 8: Actions required from previous Annual Review

Action required from previous Annual Review	Requested by	Action taken by the Operator	Where discussed in Annual Review
Nil			

6 ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

Table 9 provides a summary of the environmental performance monitoring completed during the reporting period in accordance with the approved management plans for the project.

Table 9: Environmental performance summary

Aspect	Approval criteria / EIS prediction	Performance during period	Trend / key management implications	Implemented/proposed management actions
Noise	Noise criteria specified in Table 2 of SSD-5285.	The first attended noise monitoring was conducted on 6 th December 2023. Noise monitoring reports will be published on the Iluka website.	No noise was audible from construction activities.	Quarterly attended noise monitoring to continue through construction.

Aspect	Approval criteria / EIS prediction	Performance during period	Trend / key management implications	Implemented/proposed management actions
Air quality	Air quality criteria specified in Table 3 of SSD-5285.	Both PM10 and PM2.5 particulate matter remained below the Consent criteria with the exception of two events where 24hr averages were exceeded for PM10 on 20/11/23 and 9/12/23 respectively.	<p>At the time of the exceedances there was no dust generating activities at the mine site.</p> <p>Elevated results are associated with sheep activity in vicinity of the BAM unit at the time.</p> <p>Wind speeds were recorded up to 33.9km/h with an average speed of 29.1km/h from a SSW direction during 17:00 to 21:00 on the 9/12/23. These windy conditions have caused temporary elevated PM10 dust levels during this period (Ave 167.41 µg/m³ and max 241.57 µg/m³).</p>	<p>Continue to monitor PM10 and PM2.5 taking note of any adverse weather conditions or dust events not attributed to construction activities.</p> <p>Continue to implement dust controls as outlined in the Air Quality Management Plan.</p>
Groundwater	Water licence extraction limits, trigger levels specified in the Water Management Plan.	<p>Meter readings recorded for all groundwater extraction.</p> <p>Quarterly groundwater levels obtained for regional monitoring sites.</p> <p>Annual groundwater quality testing conducted and reported.</p>	<p>All groundwater extraction was within extraction limits of Water Access Licences and Approvals.</p> <p>Quarterly groundwater levels remained stable and trigger levels reached.</p> <p>No adverse groundwater quality trends identified or trigger levels reached.</p>	<p>Compliant water meters with telemetry installed and meter readings recorded at least monthly.</p> <p>Continue monitoring groundwater levels each quarter.</p> <p>Quality monitoring to be undertaken annually.</p> <p>Groundwater monitoring reports to be published on the Iluka website.</p>

Aspect	Approval criteria / EIS prediction	Performance during period	Trend / key management implications	Implemented/proposed management actions
Surface water / Erosion and sediment	No offsite release of turbid water or sediments.	<p>Drainage networks monitored after rain events.</p> <p>Drains cleaned out around T3 site.</p>	Drainage networks have performed well and maintained any runoff from disturbed areas within the site boundary.	<p>Continue to implement erosion and sediment controls outlined in the Water Management Plan.</p> <p>Monitor drainage networks after rain events.</p> <p>Ensure temporary erosion controls are applied to construction areas where there is risk of erosion and offsite sedimentation.</p> <p>Monitoring of surface water quality in accordance with the Water Management Plan.</p>
Biodiversity	Protection of Malleefowl, Corben's Long-eared Bat and Raptors.	<p>Targeted threatened species surveys undertaken in October 2023.</p> <p>Pre-disturbance report attached as Appendix D.</p> <p>No impact to Malleefowl, Corben's Long-eared Bat or Raptors during clearing activities.</p> <p>Clearing report attached as Appendix E</p>	<p>One active Malleefowl mound identified within the disturbance footprint.</p> <p>Hollow bearing trees identified within Corben's Long-eared Bat habitat mapped as med-high density hollows.</p> <p>Raptor nests identified in clearing areas.</p>	<p>No vegetation clearing within 200m of the active Malleefowl mound until breeding has ceased. (i.e. end of Feb)</p> <p>No clearing within Corben's Long-eared Bat habitat between May and November.</p> <p>Hollow bearing trees (HBTs) within Corben's Long-eared Bat habitat to be marked up and surrounding vegetation cleared first followed by HBTs 48hrs later. Felled trees to be re-located 24hrs after felling.</p> <p>Raptor nests to be inspected with drone for presence of eggs and chicks prior to clearing.</p>
	<p>Minimise clearing in the approved footprint.</p> <p>Protect adjacent vegetation and habitat.</p>	<p>Site Disturbance Permits were issued for all ground disturbing activities undertaken.</p> <p>Clearing areas were demarcated on the ground by a competent surveyor.</p>	No breaches of any permit occurred.	All future ground disturbing activities will be subject to this permitting process.

Aspect	Approval criteria / EIS prediction	Performance during period	Trend / key management implications	Implemented/proposed management actions
	Timber, vegetation and soil salvage.	Vegetation and topsoil removed from the mine access road has been stockpiled for future use in rehabilitation.	Topsoil stockpiles moderately erodible due to dry soil conditions.	<p>Stockpile attributes and locations mapped and included in database.</p> <p>Stockpiles signposted with unique identification numbers.</p> <p>Stockpile volumes obtained from survey and included in database.</p> <p>Commercial soil binder applied to topsoil stockpiles to minimise erosion.</p>
	Weed and feral pest management	<p>All vehicles, plant and equipment were inspected for weed seeds and soil contamination before mobilising to site.</p> <p>Feral pests identified onsite and surrounding lands including feral goats, pigs and foxes.</p>	Increasing number of feral animal sightings. Goat populations on the rise due to low commercial demand and price.	<p>Lessees consulted to undertake pest control.</p> <p>Goat control scheduled for January 2024.</p> <p>Fox and pig baiting to be implemented in 2024.</p> <p>Weed control to be implemented in 2024.</p>
	Bushfire prevention and response	Fence lines graded around the site to maintain a fire break between surrounding properties.	High than average rainfall in previous years has led to greater than average fuel loads.	<p>Periodic fire break maintenance.</p> <p>Testing of emergency response procedure and equipment.</p> <p>Testing of the Pollution Incident Response Plan in accordance with the Environment Protection Licence 20795.</p>
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan (ACHMP)	<p>Salvage and storage of remaining artefacts within MOD1 additional disturbance area.</p> <p>Due Diligence survey of gravel pits and access tracks.</p> <p>Due Diligence survey of proposed fence lines.</p> <p>Sub-surface excavation and test pitting survey within location 8.</p>	<p>A number of sites identified within the EIS boundary will remain in situ and be avoided by development.</p> <p>Unexpected finds may be encountered during clearing and topsoil stripping works during construction.</p>	<p>Protection of modified trees and hearth sites identified for avoidance by fencing.</p> <p>Adherence to the unexpected finds protocols outlined in the ACHMP.</p> <p>Maintain consultation with Registered Aboriginal Parties for the Project through biannual Aboriginal Cultural Heritage working group meetings.</p>

7 WATER MANAGEMENT

7.1 Water take

Water use for the previous water year 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 is summarised in Table 10.

Table 10: Summary of water use

Water Licence #	Water Source and Water Sharing Plan	Entitlement / allocation	Passive take / inflows	Active pumping	Total (ML)
44602	Western Murray Porous Rock Groundwater Source/NSW Murray Darling Basin Porous Rock Groundwater Sources 2020.	1,950 ML	0 ML	0 ML	0 ML
44970		3400 ML	0 ML	0 ML	0 ML
31101		50 ML	0 ML	0 ML	0 ML
31102		0 ML	0 ML	0 ML	0 ML
41857	Murrumbidgee Regulated River Water Source 2016	101 ML	0 ML	0 ML	0 ML

7.2 Groundwater monitoring

7.2.1 Underground bulk sampling activity (trial site)

Groundwater monitoring was conducted in accordance with the approved *Groundwater Management Plan (GWMP) for Bulk Sampling Activities* (EMM, 2020). The Groundwater Management Plan was applicable to the underground bulk sampling activity (T3) that was undertaken in 2021. The GWMP was superseded in August 2023 by the *Water Management Plan (WMP)* (Iluka, 2023) for the underground mining trial approved by the Consent (SSD-5285 MOD1). Future groundwater monitoring will be in accordance with the approved WMP.

Analysis of the February 2023 groundwater pressure and quality data, with comparison to the October 2021 pre-activity and during-activity data analysed by EMM (2021), found the following:

- The average change in groundwater levels which occurred in regional monitoring bores when comparing pre-activity and February 2023 data was an increase of 0.29 m. This increase is likely due to above average rainfall conditions experienced in the areas from January 2022 onwards. Trial 3 activities (T3) are considered to have had little or no impact on nearby groundwater levels.
- Minor changes in field pH, TDS, EC and total iron concentrations were observed when comparing pre-activity, October 2021 and February 2023 data from regional bores. Exceptions to this include considerable increases in the ORP measurements observed in regional SFM and LPS bores, which could suggest a natural trend occurring in these aquifers.
- No significant trends were found in any groundwater quality parameters that would suggest the local groundwater system was impacted by T3, or that any other impacts have occurred. In general, analyte concentrations measured in February 2023 were similar to those measured prior to the beginning of T3 and in October 2021.
- Some exceedances of groundwater quality SSTLs were noted but were determined to be due to natural fluctuations or local mineralisation (elevated background

concentrations). In bores where an SSTL exceedance was noted, no increasing trends were observed, and no other bores showed similar exceedances.

The February 2023 Groundwater monitoring report is provided as Appendix A.

7.2.2 Underground mining operation

Regional groundwater monitoring commenced in September 2023 in accordance with the approved Water Management Plan for the Underground Mining Operation. Water levels were measured quarterly and published on the Iluka website. The frequency of water quality monitoring for regional bores will decrease from bi-annually to annually as required by the approved Water Management Plan. The first annual quality monitoring will be undertaken in Q1 2024.

Regional groundwater levels remained stable during the three month period, with only minor decreases in levels observed of between 0.03m and 0.06m recorded across all bores except LPSPB03 which had no change.

A graph of the quarterly regional groundwater levels is shown in Figure 4. Approximately 80 additional monitoring bores will be constructed within the Shepparton Formation, Loxton Parrilla Sands and Olney aquifers during the next reporting period in preparation for mining activities in 2025. Monitoring bores will be constructed by a qualified driller under Miscellaneous Works Approval (60MW583326). Baseline data will be collected from these locations at least 6 months prior to commencement of mining operations.

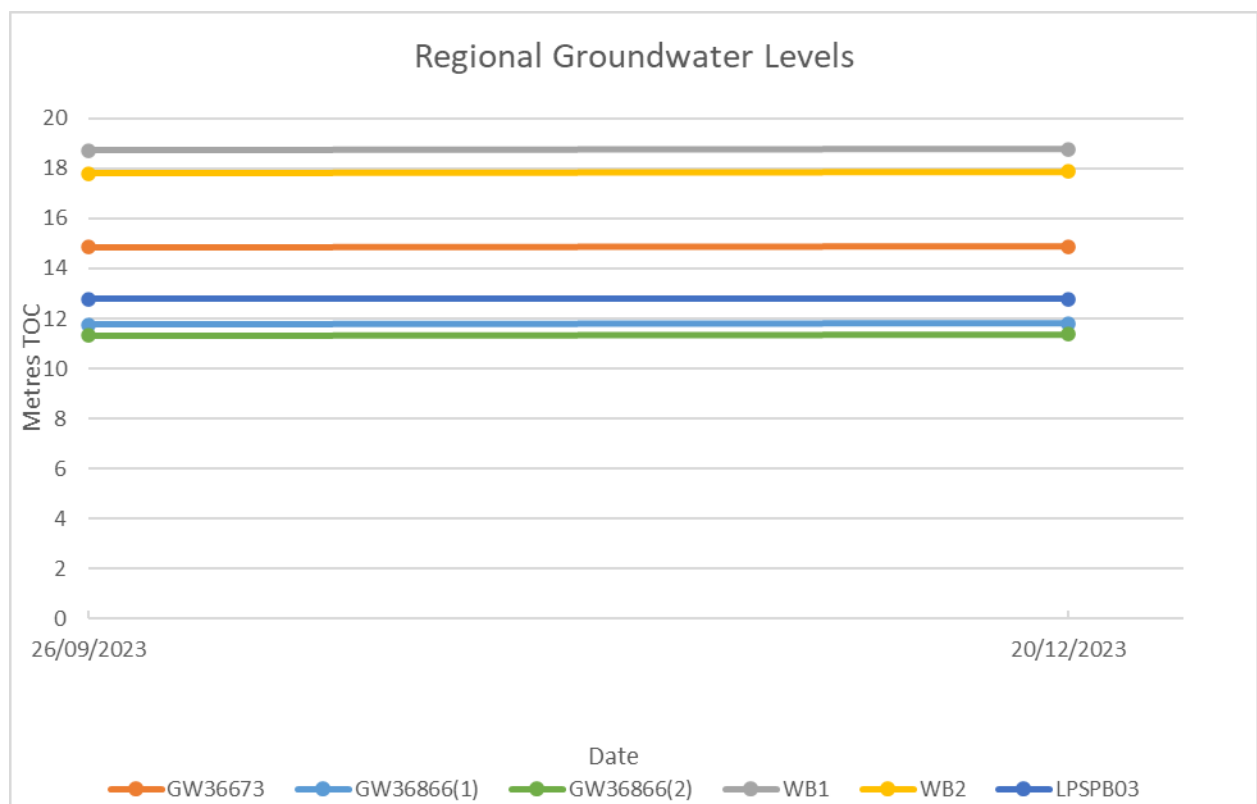


Figure 4- Quarterly groundwater levels for regional bores

7.3 Erosion and sediment

A total of 300mm of rainfall was recorded in 2023 at the Balranald RSL weather station located in the town of Balranald (BOM Station No. 049002). This is slightly below the average rainfall of 324.1mm for the region.

The only real significant rain event was on the 4th of October where 60.2mm of rain was recorded (Figure 5).

No sediment was observed to have discharged from the site and all drainage networks and storage basins were functional and below freeboard levels.

A site based weather station is now installed and all future weather data will be obtained from this station for better representation of actual site conditions.

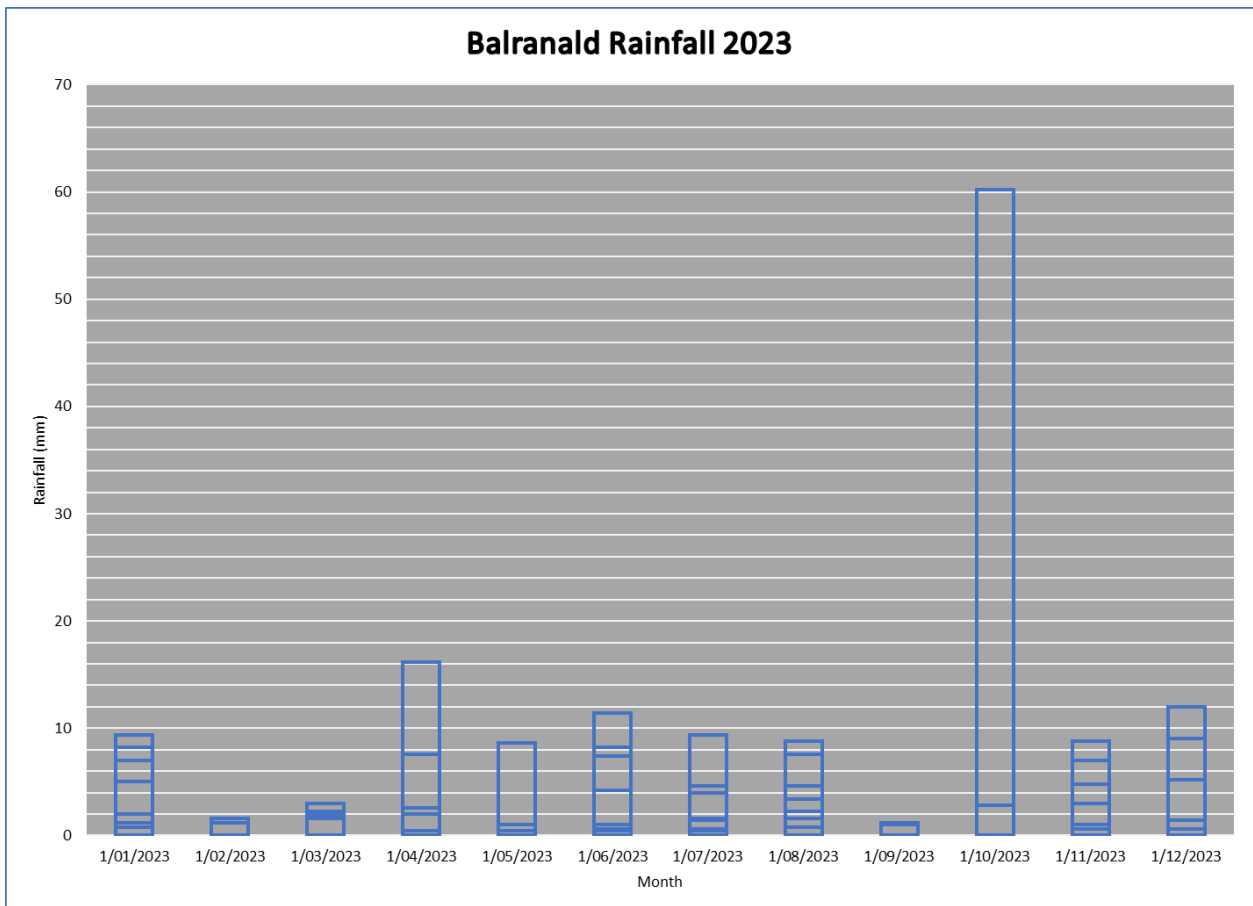


Figure 5- Balranald rainfall 2023

8 REHABILITATION

An Annual Rehabilitation Report and Forward Program has been prepared in accordance with *Mining Amendment (Standard Conditions of Mining Leases— Rehabilitation) Regulation 2021* under the *Mining Act 1992*.

The 2023 Annual Rehabilitation Report and 2024-2026 Three Year Forward Program are provided as Appendix B and Appendix C, respectively.

Table 11 shows the current status of rehabilitation at the site, during the reporting period no rehabilitation had been undertaken at the site.

Table 11- Rehabilitation status

Mine Area Type	Previous Reporting Period (Actual) Year (ha)	This Reporting Period (Actual) Year (ha)	Next Reporting Period (Forecast) Year (ha)
A. Total mine footprint	30.48	38.9	215.96
B. Total active disturbance	30.48	38.9	215.96
C. Land being prepared for rehabilitation	0	0	0
D. Land under active rehabilitation	0	0	0
E. Completed rehabilitation	0	0	0

9 COMMUNITY

9.1 Complaints

No community complaints were received during the 2023 reporting period. A copy of the complaints register for the Project is provided on the Iluka Resources website in accordance with the Condition 11, Schedule 5 of SD-5285.

9.2 Community engagement

Town Hall Meeting

A community town hall meeting was held on 21 June 2023 at the Balranald Football Netball Club rooms. An update on the project was provided by the Balranald Project Manager and Operations Manager. The meeting provided opportunity for the community to speak with Iluka representatives about the project and enquire about any technical aspects, environmental issues or employment opportunities.

The meeting was well attended by both the local community and Balranald Shire Council.

Murray Basin Newsletter

Iluka published newsletters in July 2023 and November 2023 to inform the community about the progress of the Balranald Project and Iluka's other projects in the Murray Basin.

The newsletters and other project updates are available on the Iluka website [Balranald Engagement Hub](#)

Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs)

Iluka consulted and engaged with RAPs to undertake an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage surface collection program in May 2023 within the additional disturbance area approved under MOD1 Consent.

Iluka consulted and engaged with RAPs to undertake an Aboriginal cultural heritage due diligence assessment for gravel pit access tracks located outside the EIS boundary in accordance with the Heritage NSW Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects (DECCW 2010).

The field investigations and walk over of the proposed gravel pits and access tracks was completed on 26–27 May 2023 and 30–31 May 2023.

RAPs were engaged again during October 2023 to undertake archaeological subsurface excavation, geomorphic assessment and exploratory test pits within Location 8 of the approved Balranald EIS project boundary, in accordance with Section 6.1 of the approved Balranald Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan (ACHMP) (Niche 2016).

An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan has been developed for the Balranald Mineral Sands Project, detailing the measures to be undertaken by Iluka to protect and manage Aboriginal cultural heritage within the area. A core component of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan includes the creation of the Balranald Mineral Sands Project Cultural Heritage Working Group.

The Balranald Mineral Sands Project Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Working Group terms of reference were established and signed by members on 2 August 2023. The working group will provide a formal platform for on-going engagement, communication and consultation between Iluka and Registered Aboriginal Parties.

Iluka is committed to protecting and preserving Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and consulting with Traditional Owners on all Cultural Heritage matters.

Balranald Shire Council (BSC)

Iluka undertook negotiations with BSC during 2023 to establish the Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) and Road Maintenance Agreement (RMA) required under condition 18 of Schedule 2 and condition 25 of Schedule 3 for the Balranald Mineral Sands Project Development Consent (SSD-5285).

Iluka and BSC were unable to reach an agreement prior to the commencement of construction and therefore requested an extension from DPE on 4 July 2023. An extension of time was granted by DPE on 27 July 2023 until 31 January 2024 for Iluka to enter into a VPA and a road maintenance agreement with Balranald Shire Council.

Following receipt of the Extension, Iluka was in regular communication with BSC and has continued to negotiate the VPA and RMA. Whilst most elements of the VPA and RMA have been agreed to in principle, it was unlikely to be formalised prior to 31 January 2024. Iluka requested a subsequent extension from DPE on 19 December 2023 to enable sufficient time to finalise the agreements. An extension to 30 July 2024 was granted by DPE on 22 December 2023 to finalise the details about the balance of the contributions and road maintenance framework and to fully execute the VPA.

9.3 Community contributions

Iluka's community contributions during the reporting period are summarised below in Table 11.

Table 12: Community contributions

Community Group	Sponsorship and Donations
Balranald Football Netball Club	Sponsorship over 4 year term to make improvements to the clubs facilities.
Balranald Murrumbidgee Classic	Sponsorship for Murrumbidgee Classic 2024 fishing competition.
Balranald Incorporated	Donation of redundant mining equipment for auction in 2023. All proceeds to go to local community groups.
Homebush Rodeo	Sponsorship for Homebush 2023 Rodeo event.

10 INDEPENDENT AUDIT

No Independent Audit was conducted during the reporting period. The first Independent Audit is required within 12 months from the commencement of construction associated with the underground mining trial.

DPE were formally notified in accordance with Schedule 2, Condition 11(b) and Condition 12 of Development Consent (SSD-5285) that the commencement date for construction is 7 August 2023.

The first Independent Environmental Audit is required by 7 August 2024.

11 INCIDENTS AND NON-COMPLIANCE

11.1 Non-compliances

No non-compliances with the conditions of the relevant statutory approvals occurred during the 2023 reporting period.

11.2 Reportable incidents or exceedances

No reportable incidents with the conditions of the relevant statutory approvals (Table 5) occurred during the 2023 reporting period.

11.3 Official cautions or warnings

No official cautions, warning letters, penalty notices or prosecution proceedings were received by any regulatory agency for the Project during the 2023 reporting period.

12 ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT REPORTING PERIOD (2024)

12.1 Environmental management

Quarterly attended noise monitoring will be conducted during construction in accordance with the approved Noise Management Plan.

Air quality monitoring for PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} will continue during construction using a continuous particulate monitor to obtain data and provide ongoing compliance monitoring for air quality during construction. Air quality monitoring will be undertaken in accordance with an approved Air Quality Management Plan.

Regional groundwater bore levels will be taken each quarter and samples taken for quality analysis taken once in the reporting period.

Groundwater monitoring bores will be installed during construction to obtain baseline data prior to the commencement of mining operations. Groundwater monitoring will be undertaken in accordance with an approved Water Management Plan.

The Water Management Plan will require updating during the next reporting period in preparation for operations in 2025.

12.2 Stakeholder engagement

Balranald Shire Council will be consulted in 2024 to finalise the Voluntary Planning Agreement and Road Maintenance Agreement required under condition 18 of Schedule 2 and condition 25 of Schedule 3 for the Balranald Mineral Sands Project Development Consent (SSD-5285).

Balranald Shire Council and Transport for NSW will be consulted during 2024 regarding the required public road upgrades required under Condition 22 of Schedule 3 for the Balranald Mineral Sands Project Development Consent (SSD-5285).

Consultation with RAPs will continue in 2024 to maintain the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Working Group. The group will meet at least twice per year, and will be an advisory committee which Iluka will work with in relation to ongoing management of Aboriginal heritage associated with the project.

Community consultation will be undertaken over the next reporting period, including attending community events, providing project updates and responding to queries or complaints during the construction phase.

12.3 Approval conditions triggered during next reporting period

Approval conditions to be triggered in the next reporting period are listed in Table 12.

Table 13: Approval conditions triggered during next reporting period

Action	Source	Timing
Enter into Voluntary Planning Agreement with Balranald Shire Council	SSD-5285 Schedule 2, Condition 18	Prior to 30 July 2024
Implement road upgrade works detailed in Table 8 of SSD-5285	SSD-5285 Schedule 3, Condition 22	Within 12 months of commencing construction (7 August 2024)
Enter into a road maintenance agreement with Balranald Shire Council	SSD-5285 Schedule 3, Condition 25	Prior to 30 July 2024
Conduct Independent Environment Audit	SSD-5285 Schedule 5, Condition 8	Within 12 months of commencing construction (7 August 2024)
Retire stage 1 Offset credits as specified in Table 7 of SSD-5285	SSD-5285 Schedule 3, Condition 16A	Within 24 months of the commencement of disturbance
Notify the Department prior to the construction of the processing area in the West Balranald Mine	SSD-5285 Schedule 2, Condition 11(c)	1 week prior to commencing construction

APPENDICES

A-1.1 Appendix A: Hydrogeochemical assessment- March 2023 groundwater monitoring event.

A-1.2 Appendix B: Annual Rehabilitation Report 2023

A-1.3 Appendix C: Three Year Forward Program 2024-2026

A-1.4 Appendix D: Malleefowl and raptor pre-disturbance survey report 2023

A-1.5 Appendix E: Balranald west mine vegetation clearing report 2023

A-1.6 Appendix F: Plan 1- Current status of mining & rehabilitation and current landform contours.

**A-1.7 Appendix G: Plan 2- Forecast disturbance and rehabilitation years 2024-
2026**