

TUTUNUP FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Approvals

What is Iluka proposing to do? What is the project?

Iluka proposes to establish a mineral sands mine targeting the Tutunup deposit located approximately 195km south of Perth and 17km east of Busselton in the south west of Western Australia.

The Tutunup Mineral Sands Project (the Proposal) is part of Iluka's ongoing south west operations, being a continuation of mining and production of heavy mineral concentrate (HMC) in the region.

The project includes the development of a mine pit and associated infrastructure including an onsite wet concentrator plant, tailings storage dams, administration facilities, and heavy and light vehicle roads.

It has a maximum indicative disturbance footprint of 142ha of native vegetation. This disturbance footprint is wholly contained within the development envelope of 653ha.

Iluka has been here before with a proposed plan but withdrew it; will it be different this time?

The previous proposal was withdrawn in its early stages due to potentially unacceptable environmental impacts. Since that time, Iluka has explored different mining methods to reduce environmental impact and risk. Further studies and assessments are ongoing to confirm that the new proposal successfully manages any potential impacts to the environment.

All mining projects undergo feasibility studies to determine their viability. At any time, a project could be placed on hold for a number of commercial reasons such as return on investment, market supply, mineral resource value and/or further technical advancement being required.

How does the approvals process work and how long will it take?

The environmental approvals process in Western Australia and Australia provides a rigorous and thorough assessment of the environmental impacts associated with proposed projects.

For major development projects and projects which have the potential for significant or long-lasting impacts to the environment, approvals are required at both State and Federal levels. There are two primary pieces of legislation which set out the approvals required. In WA, this is the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* and federally this is the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. It can take up to five years to collect the required information, complete the assessment and allow review by government agencies and the public before obtaining approval to commence mine construction.

A breakdown of the process is outlined below:

1. Baseline Environmental Studies

Timing: six months to two years

As part of the approvals process, proponents are required to undertake comprehensive environmental studies to understand the environmental values in the proposed development area. Collectively these are known as Baseline Environmental Studies. The timing of baseline studies can be seasonal which influences the time it takes to complete the surveys. For instance, in the south west, flora and vegetation surveys must be completed in spring for best results and in some

cases, two season (spring and autumn) or multiple surveys (two spring surveys) are needed to capture the majority of the species and values. Baseline studies include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Flora and vegetation
- Fauna and fauna habitats
- Short range endemic fauna
- Groundwater (hydrogeology)
- Surface water (hydrology)
- Groundwater geochemistry
- Groundwater dependent ecosystems
- Ecological linkages
- Agricultural assessments
- Aquatic biology (when water bodies are present)
- Soils and landforms (soil type characterisation to understand rehabilitation materials)
- Acid sulfate soils
- Aboriginal heritage
- Noise and vibration
- Radiation
- Air quality and dust
- Visual amenity
- Transport
- *Phytophthora* Dieback

An understanding of the environmental values is an essential first step in any development project for several reasons:

- It allows the proponent to make early decisions on project design based on environmental values
- It helps to frame what approvals will be required and any additional study work required; and
- The studies are used to support the environmental approvals documents and the environmental impact assessment
- Referral to the EPA (Environmental Protection Authority WA) and DCCEEW (Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water)

Timing: Referral preparation and submission three to six months (completed). Scoping six to 12 months (in progress).

The first approvals step is to refer the project. This involves providing a high level summary of the proposed activities and the environmental values to the government departments (EPA and DCCEEW). This allows them to review the proposed activities and determine if they believe a detailed environmental impact assessment is necessary (this is known as the assessment pathway). This process was completed between December 2021 and May 2022.

Following referral to both EPA and DCCEEW, the proposed Tutunup Mineral Sands Project received a level of assessment of Environmental Review Document and Controlled Action. Iluka has opted to have the project assessed via the Accredited Assessment process between the EPA and DCCEEW.

The Accredited Assessment process is whereby the EPA will complete the assessment of Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) on behalf of DCCEEW. This means we only need

to write one document that covers both State and Federal matters covered by the EP Act and EPBC Act.

Now the EPA and DCCEEW have determined the level of required assessment and approvals pathway (Accredited Assessment), the Environmental Scoping Document (ESD) is being prepared. This document outlines what is required for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and the additional studies the EPA and DCCEEW require to complete their assessment of the project. The first version of this document was submitted to the EPA and DCCEEW in March 2023, and Iluka and the EPA are currently in final discussions regarding the studies to be completed to inform the EIA process.

2. *Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)*

Timing: Requires all baseline studies to be completed. Assume six to eight months preparation followed by approximately 15 months' assessment and addressing EPA, DCCEEW and public comments.

The major component of environmental approvals is the EIA. This involves the development of a large document known as the Environmental Review Document (ERD). This document must address all potential environmental impacts identified in the ESD and provide an impact assessment (similar to a risk assessment) on the environmental values present within the development area. The ERD will also provide management measures and commitments that will be undertaken to avoid/reduce/minimise/offset impacts to environmental values. After submission of the ERD there are opportunities for the public to comment on the document. The EPA and DCCEEW will then decide if the project can proceed and under what conditions to ensure environmental protection. Under both Acts, there is also an appeals process that can be undertaken by the proponent or the public.

More detail is available here: <https://www.epa.wa.gov.au/step-step-through-proposal-assessment-process>

3. *Secondary Approvals*

There are a number of secondary environmental and other approvals required before mining can occur. These approvals focus on environmental impacts from targeted activities as well as approval to undertake specific activities. These secondary approvals include:

- Works Approval and Licence to Operate – essentially a licence to operate a Prescribed Premises (Part 5, *EP Act 1896*)
- Mining proposal and preliminary mine closure plan – to start mining (*Mining Act 1978*)
- Licence to abstract groundwater (*Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*)
- Building permits – depending on the local council requirements (Council by-laws)

4. *Offsets*

Offsets are used for development projects where environmental impacts cannot be avoided, reduced or mitigated. The aim of offsets is to protect vegetation or habitat to that being impacted. The offset site is then protected from future development under secure tenure. In some situations, the offset site may also include management activities to improve the quality such as revegetation or feral animal management. Iluka expects that the Tutunup Project will require offsets to be obtained.

What opportunity do I have to put forward my view?

There are several opportunities for the public to provide comments during the formal approvals process.

Iluka is undertaking stakeholder engagement activities as part of an ongoing process during the project and will seek community feedback. During the EIA phase, the public can make a comment on the ERD through the EPA website.

More information is available here: <https://www.epa.wa.gov.au/public-comment-and-submissions-proposals>

How will my views make a difference?

At the EIA stage, Iluka will receive a copy of all comments received through the EPA public consultation phase. It is a requirement that Iluka responds to each of these comments. Consideration will be given to all comments and Iluka will provide a formal response on how the comment is/has been addressed.

Project

What is the life of the project?

Once the potential environmental impacts are fully understood through the EIA, a more accurate estimate of the life of mine will be possible. At this stage it could be anywhere from four to 10 years.

When will Iluka start mining here?

Iluka is currently completing the Develop Phase Study. This phase of the project is planned for completion mid-2026. Following this study phase, Iluka's Board will make a Final Investment Decision (FID) regarding the construction of the proposed mine. It is expected that following an approved FID, the construction of the mine would take several years and operations would then commence (subject to change).

What will the operating hours/days be?

Iluka is currently assessing all operating options, however, mining industry standard is 24-hour mining operations across nominal 12-hour shift duration. Impact to the local community, including noise, light and dust, will be considered as part of the operational strategy for the proposed mine and managed appropriately during construction and operations to ensure minimal disturbance to neighbours.

How is this project different to the last one? What is dredging?

The previous proposal used conventional truck and shovel mining which would have required dewatering of the mine pit. Initial studies found that dewatering the mine may result in changes to the groundwater, potentially impacting the surrounding flora and vegetation. Based on the outcomes of these studies, the proposal, using a dry mining method, did not proceed.

The new proposal will use dredging as the mining method. Dredging is a method of wet mining where the ore is loaded into a hopper (to transport the ore) from a floating excavator. Studies conducted thus far have shown that dredging will have minimal impact on groundwater levels and quality.

How will the product be transported?

The product will be concentrated on site at Tutunup and transported by truck to our North Capel plant for further processing. We anticipate approximately 12 trucks a day during daylight hours.

What route will be used to transport material from Tutunup to the North Capel plant?

The final transport route is yet to be confirmed. Iluka commissioned a transport report in 2014 which identified a possible route:

- Turn right into Tompsett Road (City of Busselton) for 1.8km
- Turn left into Tutunup Road (City of Busselton) for 5.4km
- Turn right into Ludlow Hithergreen Road (City of Busselton) for 4.5km
- Turn right into Bussell Highway (MRWA) for 15km and
- Turn right into Yearley Road (Shire of Capel) for 0.85km.

Will this mean more job opportunities?

Should the project proceed, there will be potential job opportunities during both the construction and operation stages of the proposed mine.

How many people will work there?

Numbers have not yet been established.

Will this mean more business opportunities?

Should the project proceed, there will be potential business opportunities arising from both the construction and operation stages of the proposed mine.

Environmental**Will there be any impact to the nearby Ironstone Threatened Ecological Community?**

The outcomes of studies undertaken by Iluka have shown that the new mining method will not impact the Ironstone Threatened Ecological Community. Additional to the baseline studies and impact assessments conducted, a Flora and Vegetation Management Plan will be implemented to ensure adjacent vegetation communities are not adversely impacted by the project or operations.

Will there be any impact to Black Cockatoos?

Baseline studies to date have shown the project is unlikely to have any direct impacts upon individual Black Cockatoos. However, the project may require the removal of some trees that may be used by Black Cockatoos for nesting and/or roosting, as well as foraging habitat. Should this be required, if the areas and trees in question cannot be avoided, the areas planned for removal will be minimised and mitigated. In the final instance, offsets will be provided, as detailed above. Furthermore, a Fauna Management Plan will be developed for the project. The precise impacts upon Black Cockatoos will be exactly quantified upon the completion of the EIA process, currently underway.

Will there be any impact to Western Ringtail Possums?

Baseline studies to date have shown the project is unlikely to have any direct impacts upon individual Western Ringtail Possums (WRPs). However the project may require the removal of some trees that may be used by WRPs for nesting as well as foraging habitat. Should this be required, if the areas in question cannot be avoided, the areas planned for removal will be minimised and mitigated. In the final instance, offsets will be provided, as detailed above. Furthermore, a Fauna Management Plan will be developed for the project. The precise impacts upon WRPs will be exactly quantified upon the completion of the EIA process, currently underway.

My property is nearby; will there be dust?

Iluka has completed an air quality and dust assessment as part of the baseline studies to understand what the impacts will be. The air quality and dust modelling has shown that dust emissions, with appropriate management measures in place, will be minimal and will not have a

significant impact upon surrounding areas. If mining progresses there will be a dust management plan will be implemented to minimise any potential impacts.

My property is nearby; will there be noise?

Possibly. Iluka has completed a noise and vibration assessment as part of the baseline studies to understand what the impacts to surrounding neighbours will be. The outcomes of the noise and vibration modelling has shown that emissions can be managed to an acceptable level. Iluka will continue to investigate noise reduction technologies during the definitive study phase to ensure impacts are minimised

My property is nearby; will I see the operations?

The project is situated adjacent to public roads including Tompsett Road. As the majority of the operation will occur in open paddocks with few tree line barriers, there is the potential the operations will be visible. Iluka has undertaken a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, with the results showing that project and operational activities will be visible to very few houses and from public roads. Where possible, infrastructure will be designed and placed to minimise visibility from privately-owned houses and public roads.

My property is nearby; will I see light at night from the operations?

Possibly. The project location is in open paddocks with few tree line barriers so there is a possibility light will be visible at night. Where possible, lights at night will be minimised and shielded to avoid nuisance light spill.

How does Iluka propose to make sure my water and bores are not impacted in any way?

The results of baseline hydrological studies and modelling undertaken thus far have shown that water and bores in the area will not be impacted by the proposed project and operations. Should the project proceed, Iluka will continue to undertake regular monitoring to ensure ground and surface water quality and levels are not impacted by our operations.

What will happen to the Aboriginal heritage sites?

Comprehensive archaeological and ethnographic survey work was conducted in 2023, in close collaboration with the Karri Karrak Aboriginal Corporation and Traditional Owners of the Tutunup Project. Iluka looks forward to working closely with Karri Karrak Aboriginal Corporation in the management of cultural heritage.

I grow produce which may be affected by dust; what will Iluka do to make sure this doesn't happen?

The EIA will review and quantify potential dust impacts. A dust management plan will be developed for the project, which will likely include watering vehicle tracks and roads, the use of dust suppressant materials, wind breaks and planting vegetation. Dust modelling undertaken to date does not suggest there will be significant impacts to adjacent areas of produce.

Will there be radioactive material or anything which could cause me to be concerned for my health?

No radioactive material or any materials which may cause adverse effects to health to the public or the environment are anticipated to be encountered or created during the project or subsequent operations.

How will Iluka manage these potential impacts?

Conducting impact assessments early in the project phase allows Iluka to develop strategies to either avoid or mitigate those impacts, including making changes to proposed activities or the locations of infrastructure. Where an impact is unavoidable, we work closely with our stakeholders to develop management plans that will reduce the impact to an acceptable level. However, we

believe in a culture of constant improvement and encourage our communities to let us know if we could be doing something better.

Will Iluka buy my property?

Iluka will assess possible scenarios in regards to properties within the project area. Iluka is currently at Definitive Feasibility Stage phase and there is as yet no guarantee the project will proceed.

Will I need to move?

There will not be any privately-owned dwellings impacted by the mine pit area. However, we won't know the full impact of the surrounding mine infrastructure until final studies are completed. As soon as we suspect a property may be impacted, we will engage directly with the owner and residents to reach a resolution.

Will you compensate me for the effect on my farm?

Iluka will conduct a number of studies to quantify the effect (if any) to the surrounding properties. Based on the outcomes of these studies, compensation may be offered.