

## NOTICE OF DECISION TO ACCEPT SIGNIFICANT VARIATION

This notice of decision is made under regulation 168 of the Environment Protection Regulations 2020 (EP Regulations)

<b>Name of proposal</b>	Winchelsea Island Manganese Mine Project
<b>Proponent</b>	Winchelsea Mining Pty Ltd
<b>NT EPA reference</b>	EP2021/004
<b>Description of proposed action</b>	<p>To construct and operate an open cut manganese mine on Winchelsea Island about 600 km southeast of Darwin. Strip mining using free digging and rock breaking would be undertaken to extract ore and overburden. Mine infrastructure would include run-of-mine, processing and stockpiling areas, workshops, haul and access roads, a product conveyor, barge loading facility and boat ramp. Product would be loaded from the conveyor onto barges, and then loaded onto ships at a marine transshipment area for export.</p> <p>The mine disturbance footprint is 379 hectares, and the mine life would be approximately 12 years.</p>
<b>Nature of the variation</b>	<p>Mining</p> <p>The key changes to the proposal include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a 43% decrease of the disturbance footprint from 659 ha to 378 ha</li> <li>• a reduction from five to two mining pits resulting in 251 ha less of direct pit disturbance</li> <li>• a ~50% decrease in the mining rate from 1.4 mtpa to 0.7 mtpa</li> <li>• change from a beneficiation processing plant to crushing and screening only</li> <li>• removal of the northern export corridor (floating jetty, wharf and conveyor)</li> <li>• replacing the pioneer boat ramp piled jetty extension with a rock extension for a barge landing facility</li> <li>• construction workforce reduced from 200 to 36 workers and operations workforce reduced from 56 to 36 workers</li> <li>• removal of the Little Paradise accommodation village and jetty on Groote Eylandt (to be completed as a separate proposal by a third party).</li> </ul>
<b>Person authorised to make decision</b>	<p>Paul Purdon</p> <p>Executive Director Environmental Assessment and Policy Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security</p>

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Delegate of the NT EPA under section 36 of the *Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority Act 2012*

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**Decision** To accept the above named **notice of significant variation of a proposed action** in accordance with regulation 166 of the EP Regulations

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**Signature**



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**Date of decision** 24 May 2021

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