TUTUNUP FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Approvals

What is Iluka proposing to do? What is the project?
Iluka proposes to establish a mineral sands mine located approximately 195km south of Perth and 17km east of Busselton in the south west of Western Australia.

The Tutunup Mineral Sands Project (the Project) 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 a wet concentrator plant, tailings storage dams, administration office facilities, and heavy and light vehicle roads.

The project is wholly contained within a 653ha development envelope area.

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

The previous proposal was withdrawn in its early stages due to potentially unacceptable environmental impacts.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 significantly 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.

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 previous 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 does the approvals process work and how long will it take?
The environmental approvals process in Western Australia requires a rigorous and thorough assessment of the environmental impacts for proposed projects. 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 environmental approvals

information, complete the assessment, and allow review by both government agencies and the public before obtaining approval to commence mine construction.

A breakdown of the process is outlined below:

1. *Baseline Environmental Studies*

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.

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 frame what approvals will be required and any additional study work required
- The studies are used to support the environmental approvals documents and the environmental impact assessment and
- Referral to the EPA (Environmental Protection Authority WA) and DCCEEW (Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water)

2. *Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)*

The major component of environmental approvals is the EIA. This involves the development of the Environmental Review Document (ERD), which must address all potential environmental impacts identified in the Environmental Scoping Document (ESD) and provide an impact 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 and/or 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.

More detail is available at **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 construction and mining may commence. 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)

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 at:
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 five 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 in early 2027 (subject to change). Following this study phase, a Final Investment Decision (FID) will be made regarding the construction of the proposed mine.

What will the operating hours/days be?
Iluka is currently assessing all operating options, however, mining industry standard is 24-hour mining operations, seven days per week. Impact to the local community, including noise, light and dust impact, 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 will the product be transported?
The mined product will be concentrated on site at Tutunup and transported by truck to the Iluka North Capel plant for further processing. We anticipate approximately 12 trucks a day during daylight hours.

Will this mean more job opportunities?
Should the project proceed there will be potential job opportunities during the construction, operations, rehabilitation and closure stages of the proposed mine.

Environmental

My property is nearby; will there be dust and noise?
Iluka has completed an air quality and dust assessment as well as a noise and vibration assessment as part of the baseline studies to understand what the impacts will be. The outcomes of the air quality and dust modelling have shown that dust and noise emissions, with appropriate management measures in place, will be minimal and will not have a significant impact upon surrounding areas. If mining progresses, dust and noise management plans will be implemented to minimise any potential impacts. The proposed wet-mining method will help minimise dust and noise during mining.

My property is nearby; will I see the operations?
Possibly. The project is situated adjacent to public roads including Tompsett Road. As the majority of the operation will occur in open paddocks with tree line barriers, there is the potential part of 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 some nearby public roads at certain angles. Where possible, infrastructure will be placed and designed 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?
Extensive cultural heritage surveys have been conducted across the project development envelope in close consultation with Traditional Owners of the area. Appropriate protection measures have been applied to all known sites of significance, and we continue to work in close collaboration with Traditional Owners to manage cultural heritage.

Will there be radioactive material or anything which could cause me to be concerned for my health?
Mineral sands, as with other minerals such as clay, soils, rocks and many ores, contain levels of naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM). This is associated with low level, naturally occurring uranium and thorium contained within the grains of the minerals monazite, xenotime, zircon and some ilmenites.

While the level of NORM in most natural substances is low, any operation in which material containing radiation is extracted from the earth and processed can potentially concentrate NORM in the mineral sand products, by-products, and waste or residue materials. For this reason, stringent, internationally-accepted radiation management standards are adopted to minimise the potential risk to human health and the environment.

Iluka applies radiation management practices that are aligned with international best practice according to the publications of the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), as well as the relevant country or state legislation.

The occupational dose limit a person can receive in a single year is recommended by the IAEA, based on research by the ICRP and adopted in Australia as law. For most workers, occupational exposure levels are less than half what they would receive from ordinary background exposure.

Iluka identifies, assesses and controls risks associated with exposure to radiation from NORM and man-made sources through all phases of its activities. This includes exploration, project development, operations, rehabilitation and closure.

Monitoring is also an important part of NORM management at Iluka. At operational sites, Iluka undertakes routine monitoring of workers and the environment to confirm that radiation doses are low. This monitoring ensures that we are complying with our management plans and legislative requirements.

How will Iluka manage these potential impacts?
Iluka's Group Radiation Management Standard and site-specific Radiation Management Plans ensure exposure to radiation is below the prescribed statutory limits and is as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA principle).

Our Group Radiation Management Standard sets out rigorous requirements for risk assessment, occupational radiation management, radiation waste management, monitoring and reporting. This Standard informs our site-specific Radiation Management Plans, which present detailed control measures across the range of activities that Iluka undertakes in its projects and operations.

Iluka also has Radiation Safety Officers in each state to ensure that we maintain best practice in our radiation management and uphold our commitment to health and safety in the workplace and in the community.

General

Will Iluka buy my property?
Iluka will assess possible scenarios in regards to properties within the project area that Iluka may seek to purchase. The project is currently at the stage of the Develop Phase Study 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. These studies will feed into the project approvals process. As soon as we suspect a property may be impacted, we will engage directly with the owner and residents to reach a resolution.