

Notice of decision – Snapper Mineral Sands Project (MP 06_0168 Mod 7)

Section 2.22 and clause 20 of Schedule 1 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

Application type	State significant development modification
Application number and project name	MP06_0168-Mod-7 Snapper Mineral Sands Mine - Modification 7
Applicant	Tronox Mining Australia Limited
Consent Authority	Minister for Planning and Public Spaces

Decision

The Director – Resources Assessments under delegation from the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces has, under 4.55(2) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (the Act)*, modified the consent subject to the recommended conditions.

A copy of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's assessment report and instrument of modification is available [here](#).

Date of decision

18 March 2020

Reasons for decision

The following matters were taken into consideration in making this decision:

- the relevant matters listed in section 4.15 of the Act, including the objects of the Act;
- the considerations of Part 7 of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW)*;
- all information submitted with the modification application during the assessment and information considered in the Department's Assessment Report;
- the findings and recommendations in the Department's Assessment Report;
- the views of the community about the project (see Attachment 1).

The findings and recommendations set out in the Department's Assessment Report were accepted and adopted as the reasons for making this decision.

The key reasons for approving the modification are as follows:

- the modification would facilitate ongoing employment to approximately 110 workers, provide a continued supply of mineral concentrate and generate approximately \$2.3 million in royalties for NSW;
- the modification is permissible with consent, and is consistent with NSW Government policies, including the *NSW Aquifer Interference Policy*;
- the modification would have minimal incremental environmental impacts, particularly due to a net reduction in surface disturbance areas;
- issues in submissions have been considered and adequately addressed through changes to the project and existing and recommended conditions of consent.
- weighing all relevant considerations, the modification is in the public interest.

Attachment 1 – Consideration of Community Views

The Department exhibited the modification from Wednesday 4 December until Wednesday 18 December 2019 and received one objection from a nearby leaseholder. The local council did not provide any comments on the development.

The key issues raised in the submission from the leaseholder are outlined in Table 1 below and considered in the Department's Assessment Report and by the decision maker include justification, environmental and social impacts of the project.

Other issues are addressed in detail in the Department's Assessment Report.

Table 1 – Community Views

Issue	Consideration
Final Landform The proposed final depression would encroach on the adjacent leaseholder's property, which would affect fence maintenance, accessibility and livestock;	The Applicant subsequently agreed to backfill the part of the final depression that would be located on the leaseholder's land. No further consideration required.
Noise The modified mine path has the potential to exacerbate noise at the leaseholder's property	Assessment - Noise changes associated with the modification would be minor. - The modified operation could continue to comply with existing noise criteria (ie 35 dBA); - The Applicant has voluntarily committed to implement noise mitigation measures at the leaseholder's property. - These activities are not associated with noise exceedances under the Department's Voluntary Land Acquisition and Mitigation Policy. Conditions - The existing noise conditions remain appropriate for the modified project.
Air Quality The modified mine path has the potential to exacerbate air dust deposition at the leaseholder's property	Assessment - Due to the closer proximity of temporary emplacement areas, haulage emissions from the site would reduce by approximately 30 percent. - The modified operation could continue to comply with air quality criteria prescribed under Approved Methods for the Modelling and Assessment of Air Pollutants in New South Wales (EPA 2017). - Air quality impacts associated with the modification would be minor. Conditions - Contemporary revisions to the project's air quality conditions, including: - revising the annual average PM10 criterion to 25 µg/m³, to reflect current standards; and - requiring the implementation of reasonable and feasible mitigation measures to reduce dust emissions from the site.