1 April 2026

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Director, Resource Assessments
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

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Dear Stephen

RE: Northparkes Mine Project Approval 11_0060 – Proposed Modification 13 – Scoping Letter

1.0 Introduction

Northparkes Mine (Northparkes) is a copper and gold mine located 27 kilometres (km) north-west of Parkes in the Central West of New South Wales. The site is wholly located within the Parkes Shire Local Government Area (LGA) (Figure 1 of **Appendix A**).

Mining operations at Northparkes commenced in 1993 and have continued under various development consents and project approvals since that time. Current mining operations at Northparkes are authorised solely under project approval MP 11_0060 granted in July 2014, most recently modified in March 2025.

Approved operations at Northparkes include open cut and underground copper-gold mining and associated ore handling and processing activities, including the development and use of tailings storage facilities (TSFs), and product transport through to December 2032. Approved operations under MP 11_0060 are summarised in **Table 2.1**.

Evolution Mining (Northparkes) Pty Ltd (Evolution) has identified opportunities for aspects of existing mining and processing operations and associated water management. The proposed modification to MP 11_0060 will involve:

- Improvements to the milling process via coarse particle flotation methodologies and regrind.
- Relocation of and upgrade of the E48 axial vent fan.
- Revision to TSF management processes, including the use of hydro-cyclone sands deposition methods and the use of hydrocyclone sands for upstream embankment lifts across all TSFs, consistent with approved methodology for Rosedale TSF.
- Use of E31N and E31 voids as operational water storages.
- Increase the limit of biosolids imported to site to 2,000 tonnes (t) annually (up from 100 t).
- No changes to the approved disturbance footprint, mining method, mining footprint, processing life, mine life or maximum height of the TSFs is proposed.

The extension of hydrocyclone tailings deposition methods to all TSFs and the increased use of biosolids on site for dust management and rehabilitation purposes both follow successful trials at Northparkes. These trials have demonstrated their benefits in terms of both operational efficiencies and environmental outcomes.

Preliminary assessments of potential environmental and social impacts associated with the elements of the proposed modification indicate that the modification is likely to have only minor or beneficial impacts relative to existing approved operations. The proposed modification is considered to be substantially the same development as originally approved.

Umwelt has been engaged by Evolution Mining to prepare the Modification Report to support a modification application pursuant to section 4.55 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). Due to the nature of proposed impacts (discussed further in **Section 3.0** and **Section 6.0** below), it is expected the modification application would be lodged under s.4.55(1A) of the EP&A Act.

The purpose of this Scoping Letter is to:

- provide the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) with an overview of the proposed Modification
- identify relevant key environmental matters that will be further investigated in the Modification Report to be prepared by Umwelt and the proposed nature of assessment, and
- seek confirmation from DPHI that the Modification application can be determined pursuant to section 4.55(1A) of the EP&A Act and confirm that the proposed environmental assessment approach is consistent with DPHI expectations.

2.0 Existing Operations

Northparkes existing operations are outlined in **Table 2.1**.

Table 2.1 Summary of Approved Operations

Aspect	Approved Operations (MP 11_0060)
Mine Life	• Mining until end of 2032
Mining Areas	• Underground caving of the E22, E26 and E48 ore bodies. • Development of open cut mining area in existing mine subsidence zone for E26. • Development of four small open cuts to extract ore from E28, E28NE, E31 and E31N.
Mining Methods	• Sublevel and block caving methods. • Campaign Open cut mining of up to 7 Mtpa for stockpiling and processing as required.
Mine Products	• Copper/gold concentrate.
Blasting	• Surface blasting permitted between the hours of 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday to Saturday. • Underground blasting permitted 24 hours per day, seven days per week.

Aspect	Approved Operations (MP 11_0060)
Approximate Open Cut Mining Depths	• E26 – open cut mining complete, refer to underground mining below. • E22 – open cut mining complete, refer to underground mining below. • E28 – to approximately 220 metres Australian Height Datum (mAHD). • E28NE – to approximately 165 mAHD. • E31 – to approximately 180 mAHD. • E31N – to approximately 190 mAHD.
Approximate Underground Mining Depths	• E48 – SLC/BC to approximately -300 mAHD. • E26 – SLC/BC to approximately -540 mAHD. • E22 – SLC/BC to approximately -280 mAHD.
Underground Mining Infrastructure	• Continued use of underground mining infrastructure, including ventilation and dewatering systems, power supply, maintenance workshops, underground refuelling station, underground offices, crib rooms and amenity facilities.
Ore Processing	• Importation and processing of up to 2,000 tonnes per annum of ore from offsite sources (e.g. bulk samples). • Processing up to 8.5 Mtpa of ore through the existing processing plant sourced from underground and open cut mining areas and imported bulk sample material.
Ore Handling and Processing Infrastructure	• Continued operation of existing ore processing plant including surface crusher, crushed ore stockpiles, active grinding mills, ball mills, froth flotation area and concentrate storage. • An overland conveyor system and associated conveyor infrastructure to transport ore from the hoisting shaft to the ore processing plant stockpiles.
Tailings Management	• Approved TSFs comprise the Estcourt TSF, TSF 1, TSF2, Rosedale TSF (also known as TSF 3) and the Infill TSF (incorporating Infill TSF extension area). • Buttressing works on TSF2. • Ongoing maintenance and lifts of TSFs Ancillary activities associated with TSF operation including pipelines to tailings delivery and water management (to be located within Approved Operational Areas). • Ability to use cyclone sands tailings methodology for upstream construction processes at the Rosedale TSF.
Borrow Pits	• Caloola, Estcourt, Rosedale and E31 Precinct Borrow Pits (within approved Rosedale TSF footprint and immediately south of the Rosedale TSF). • Use of extractive and waste rock material generated by construction and augmentation of water management infrastructure for construction and maintenance of TSFs and water management infrastructure elsewhere on the site.
Waste Rock Management	• Establishment of waste stockpiles to store waste rock material generated during open cut mining campaigns. • Use of waste rock (including stockpiled material) for TSF construction and maintenance. • Emplacement of waste rock within future footprint of Rocklands TSF embankment (retention of which is subject to future approval of the TSF).

Aspect	Approved Operations (MP 11_0060)
Water Management	• Operation, maintenance (and where appropriate, relocation) of water supply infrastructure. • Continued supply and use of water via an extension of Parkes Shire Council's water pipeline via Main Water Supply Pipeline. • Use of collected surface water runoff and recycled water from processing plant and TSFs. • Continuation and extension of site water management system (WMS) for operational purposes. • Construction and maintenance of clean water diversion channels around the existing processing plant, site offices, TSFs and other operational areas, to ensure clean water is appropriately separated from operational water. • Development and use of Altona Water Storage(s).
Material Use	• Importation and use of up to 100 tpa of biosolids for dust management and rehabilitation purposes.
Site Facilities	• Administration buildings and change rooms, core shed, laboratory, emergency response shed, warehouses, workshops, chemical and explosive storage areas, internal mine site roads and associated parking facilities. • Block cave knowledge centre (including offices, classrooms, training workshops and additional car parking facilities). • Contractor area including carpark, offices, crib huts and a workshop, with flexibility to relocate Contractor Area within the existing Approved Operational Area (i.e. in the vicinity of the Processing Plant and Administration Buildings).
Services Infrastructure	• Continued operation (and where appropriate, relocation). of logistics connections including telecommunications, electricity and waste water. • Operation of four wastewater treatment plants and associated waste disposal areas.
Site Access	• Site access road alignment from McClintocks Lane (and closure of the previous site access road as primary mine site access point) and associated maintenance. • Development of an access control and visitor's car parking on new Access Road. • Upgrade/sealing and maintenance of McClintocks Lane between the Northparkes access road and Bogan Road.
Product Transport	• Road haulage of concentrate to Goonumbla rail siding for transport via rail to port facilities. • Permanent ability to transport up to 50 laden truck / month to the Parkes National Logistics Hub. • Temporary road haulage of up to 32 truck movements per day to Parkes National Logistics Hub in circumstances when transport to Port via the Goonumbla Rail Siding is unavailable (subject to the approval of the Planning Secretary).

Aspect	Approved Operations (MP 11_0060)
	• Temporary road haulage of up to 24 truck movements per day to alternative rail loading facilities for transport via rail to port facilities in the event of significant disruptions to rail networks (use of temporary arrangements for more than 30 days subject to the approval of the Planning Secretary).
Operating Hours	• 24 hours per day, seven days per week.
No. Employees	• Approximately 700 full time equivalents.
Approved Operational Area	• As shown in **Figure A.2** and Appendix 2 of the Consolidated Consent.
Rehabilitation and Final Landform	• As shown conceptually in Appendix 9 of the Consolidated Consent.
Biodiversity Offsets	• Limestone National Forest Offset. • Estcourt Tailings Storage Facility Offset. • Kokoda Biodiversity Offset.

The key features of approved operations under PA 06_0295 (as modified) are shown in **Figure A.2** of **Appendix A**.

3.0 Proposed Modification

Evolution proposes to modify Project Approval MP 11_0060 under section 4.55(1A) of the EP&A Act to allow for:

- Improvements to the milling process via coarse particle flotation and regrind methodologies, occurring within the existing Ore Processing Plant footprint.
- Relocation of and upgrade of the E48 axial vent fan.
- Revision to tailings storage facilities (TSFs) management processes, including the use of hydro-cyclone sands methods for tailings lifts across all TSFs, consistent with approved methodology for Rosedale TSF.
- E31N and E31 permitted for in-pit water storage.
- Increase the limit of biosolids imported to site to 2,000 tonnes (t) annually to continue dust management and rehabilitation practices found to be successful in revegetation trials on the TSFs.

This is referred to as Modification 13.

The location of key modification features relative to approved operations is shown in Figure 2 of **Appendix A**.

3.1 Comparison of Approved Operations and Proposed Modification

A comparison between the approved development under MP 11_0060 and the Proposed Modification is provided in **Table 3.1** and shown in **Figure A.2** of **Appendix A**.

Table 3.1 Proposed Modification

Aspect	Approved Operations	Proposed Modification 13
Mine Life	Mining operations until 31 December 2032.	No change.
Annual Ore Processing	No more than 8.5 million tonnes of ore per annum.	No change.
Limit on Imported Ore	Up to 2000 tpa.	No change.
Operating Hours	24 hours per day, 7 days per week.	No change.
Project Boundary	Refer to **Figure A.2**.	No change.
Project Disturbance Area	Refer to **Figure A.2**.	No change.
Subsidence	Subsidence management zones associated with approved E48, E26 and E22 underground Block Cave (BC) and Sub-Level Cave (SLC) operations.	No change.
Mining Method	Open cut and underground mining (including block cave and sub-level caving).	No change.
Approximate Open Cut Mining Depth	• E26 – open cut mining complete, refer to underground mining below. • E22 – open cut mining complete, refer to underground mining below. • E28 – approximately 220 metres Australian Height Datum (mAHD). • E28NE – approximately 165 mAHD (increase of 95 m). • E31 – approximately 180 mAHD. • E31N – approximately 190 mAHD.	No change.

Aspect	Approved Operations	Proposed Modification 13
Approximate Underground Mining Depth	• E48 – SLC to approximately -60 mAHD. • E26 – SLC/BC to approximately -40 mAHD. • E22 – SLC/BC to approximately -280 mAHD.	No change.
Surface Infrastructure	Refer to **Figure A.2**.	Relocation of E48 axial vent fan within already approved operational area. Processing facility changes associated with Regrind and Coarse Particle Flotation infrastructure.
Water Management	As per MP 11_0060 and approved Water Management Plan.	Use of E31N and E31 Open Cut voids as operational water storages.
Ore Handling and Processing	As per MP 11_0060.	No change.
Tailings Storage Facilities	Tailings storage facilities located as per MP 11_0060. • Estcourt TSF (including in-pit deposition in former E27 void). • TSF1. • TSF 2. • Infill TSF. • Rosedale TSF (including hydro cyclone tailings deposition and use of sands for upstream TSF embankment construction). • In-pit deposition within E22 void.	Extension of use of hydro-cyclone tailings deposition and use of hydrocyclone sands upstream TSF embankment construction in all TSFs.
Materials Handling	As per MP 11_0060.	Increase in imported biosolids for use in onsite rehabilitation and dust management purposes.
Transportation	As per MP 11_0060.	No change (heavy vehicle movements associated with biosolids import and construction activities will be within existing assessed levels of heavy vehicle movements).

Aspect	Approved Operations	Proposed Modification 13
Workforce	Approximately 700 people.	No change (construction workforce associated with ventilation fans changes and processing facility changes will be consistent with those of the approved but not yet constructed Ball Mill).

4.0 Strategic Context and Justification

The strategic context and justification for the proposed modification elements is provided in **Table 4.1**.

Table 4.1 Justification for Proposed Modification Elements

Proposed Modification 13 Element	Strategic Context and Justification
E31N and E31 In-Pit Tailings and/or Water Storage Facilities	E22 Void is currently used as an operational water storage. The approved underground mining of the E22 resource below the former E22 open cut necessitates the removal of water in the E22 void. The Altona Water Storage approved under Modification 11 was intended to operate as the replacement water storage for E22 however recent life-of-mine planning have identified this area as a potential future TSF and the development of these areas as a water storage has been deferred pending a final decision on the long-term use of this area. The E31 and E31N open cut voids present an ideal alternative storage location in that they are located close to existing tailings and water management infrastructure and their use as a water storage involves minimal earthworks and no change to the existing operational area. The shallower depth of the voids also results in reductions in energy use on site relative to the use of E22 as an operational storage.
Coarse Particle Flotation Methodologies and Regrind	Implementation of regrind and coarse particle flotation technology will improve the recovery of copper and gold by capturing larger mineral particles that are typically lost in conventional flotation processes. This will enhance milling efficiency, increase overall resource recovery, and reduce processing losses across the life of the mine. The initiative supports improved resource utilisation while maintaining operational and environmental performance. The additional infrastructure will be located within the existing processing area and construction, and operation of the facilities do not require any change to the approved operational area.

Proposed Modification 13 Element	Strategic Context and Justification
Relocation of E48 Vent Fan	The existing axial fans are nearing the end of their operational life and are insufficient to meet future airflow requirements. Installing new centrifugal fans will ensure adequate ventilation capacity, support safe underground operations, and reduce the risk of operational disruption due to equipment failure. The proposed fan design will also have lower noise levels than the existing fans which will result in an overall reduction in noise impacts relative to the existing fans.
Revision to Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) Management Processes	Hydrocyclone tailings separation and the use of hydrocyclone sands for upstream TSF embankment construction has been used on the Rosedale TSF since it was approved under Modification 10 in November 2023. Using cyclone sand for upstream structural zones improves embankment stability and enhances safety through improved phreatic surface control. The approach also reduces haulage, fuel use, operational costs, and associated environmental impacts, while improving the efficiency of tailings deposition and TSF lift activities. Following the successful implementation of this method of deposition/upstream lift construction, it is proposed to extend the use of this method to the other approved TSFs.
Increase the Limit of Biosolids	Biosolids were imported to site to trial their use as a method of improving the growing medium on TSFs during non-deposition periods to increase vegetation growth and reduce dust generation. This trial (approved under Modification 10) was successful, and it is proposed to increase the annual biosolids import limit to 2,000 t which would support establishment of vegetation as dust suppression and rehabilitation activities across the site more broadly. Expanding their use will assist with ongoing rehabilitation and improved environmental outcomes. Truck movements associated with biosolids imports can be managed within to existing assessed level of heavy vehicle movements attributable to the site.

5.0 Planning Approval Pathway

Project approval MP 11_0060 for Northparkes was granted on 16 July 2014 under Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). MP 11_0060 has been modified on twelve occasions since approval, with the most recent modification (Modification 11) being approved in March 2025. This consent provides for the consolidated regulation of all mining operations at the site to 31 December 2032.

Evolution is proposing to lodge Modification 13 to MP 11_0060 under section 4.55(1A) of the EP&A Act and considers that the development as proposed would remain 'substantially the same' development as the approved operations.

The proposed Section 4.55(1A) planning pathway is considered appropriate given:

- the proposed modification is expected to have minimal environmental impact (refer to **Section 6.0**)

- no changes are proposed with respect to the key elements of the existing operation, including the disturbance footprint, mine plan or mining methods, annual production rates, materials handling workforce numbers or product transport
- the proposed modified development will be 'substantially the same development' as the development last modified under former section 75W of the EP&A Act (i.e. Modification 4).

Evolution is seeking DPHI's confirmation that a modification under section 4.55(1A) of the EP&A Act would be an acceptable planning pathway.

6.0 Environmental Assessment Scope

The proposed Modification would not change the existing Project Boundary, mine life, extraction limits, mining methods and general surface operations/processing activities associated with the existing Northparkes operations. The proposed activities would not require any changes to the existing/approved disturbance footprint.

Accordingly, the Modification is not expected to change any surface or vegetation related impacts (e.g biodiversity, Aboriginal and European heritage, agriculture and land use interactions) relative to existing approved operations. The proposed changes will not result in any material change to traffic and transport arrangements. Vehicle movements associated with construction activities (ventilation fans and processing facility upgrades) will be consistent with those of ordinary maintenance activities and existing approved (but not yet constructed) infrastructure such as the Ball Mill approved in Modification 4) and waste streams associated with the existing approved Northparkes operation.

A preliminary assessment of potential environment and community issues that may arise as a result of the proposed Modification has been undertaken based on Evolution's detailed knowledge of the existing site environment, the nature of the proposed Modification and the likelihood of changed environmental impacts relative to the approved operations. This assessment is provided in **Table 6.1** below.

Table 6.1 Preliminary Environmental Assessment

Issue	Preliminary Analysis	Proposed Assessment Approach
Social	No adverse social impacts are associated with the Proposed Modification. The proposed changes to the reconfiguration of the E48 Vent fan is likely to reduce noise impacts at some receiver locations where noise impact associated with the vent fans have previously been raised.	The Proposed Modification will result in negligible changes to amenity impacts and will not alter employment or transport levels relative to existing approved operations. Minor positive economic benefits may accrue for the project in terms of supplier benefits however these are unlikely to be material relative to existing operational expenditure. Therefore, no detailed social impact assessment is proposed, and potential impacts can be assessed qualitatively.
Biodiversity	Modifications to plant associated with the coarse particle flotation and regrind will be within the disturbed footprint. The E48 vent fan upgrades will also take place within the Operational Area. All other activities are located within existing approved disturbance areas. Proposed operational changes are considered unlikely to have any material indirect (adverse) impacts on biodiversity values. Improved revegetation outcomes associated with increased use of biosolids is expected to have minor beneficial biodiversity effects. Use of E31 and E31N voids as water storages is not expected to have any impacts on groundwater or surface water systems which may have adverse biodiversity outcomes based on long term monitoring on site and conceptual understanding of the local groundwater system.	No additional assessment required as no additional disturbance is proposed. Ground disturbance required for the modification will be managed under Northparkes Surface Disturbance procedures.

Issue	Preliminary Analysis	Proposed Assessment Approach
Heritage	Modifications to plant will be within the Operational Area of the Project. There are no heritage impacts anticipated.	The Proposed Modification will not impact heritage items or increase disturbance areas. Therefore, no further assessment is required.
Groundwater	The use of the E31 and E31N voids as water storages may have minor localised impacts to groundwater levels and quality in the immediate vicinity of the voids. Based on site monitoring and a detailed understanding of groundwater systems in the area, adverse impacts on sensitive users and groundwater dependent ecosystems are not expected. The potential groundwater seepage pathways associated with interactions with Shallow Regolith and appropriate operational controls to manage any adverse risks need to be considered in the assessment.	A qualitative assessment based on an updated Conceptual Groundwater Model is proposed to accompany the Modification Report. This qualitative assessment pathway is considered appropriate based on an analysis of monitoring undertaken on site which indicates negligible changes to groundwater systems associated with tailings deposition in the E27 void and the use of E22 as a water storage. The low hydraulic conductivity of the geology, existing depressurisation effects from current and approved underground workings and proximity of the E31 and E31N voids to potential sensitive receivers indicates low potential for adverse groundwater risks associated with water storage in E31's. A qualitative Groundwater Assessment rather than numerical model is considered appropriate for the assessment of potential impacts associated with the modification.
Surface Water	Limited surface water impacts are anticipated as the proposed modification activities do not alter operational water catchment boundaries relative to existing approved operations. The use of E31 and E31 as water stages instead of E22 (and Altona) have potential to impact the Site Water Balance however impacts are expected to be negligible to positive due to expected reduced evaporative losses relative to storage within Altona (including consideration of evaporative losses from rainfall intercepted by E31 and E31N themselves.	The Proposed Modification will result in minor changes to surface water management, but these are considered unlikely to have a material impact on the site water balance. A detailed assessment of surface water impacts is not required however a qualitative analysis of potential implications on the Site Water Balance will be undertaken.

Issue	Preliminary Analysis	Proposed Assessment Approach
Noise	Relocation of the E48 vent fan and change of the fan type with a lower sound power level will alter the location and intensity of noise sources associated with the fan operations. Impacts are expected to be negligible to positive. The Regrind facility and Coarse Particle Flotation plant are expected to result in negligible or minor increases to processing facility noise sources. The use of hydrocycloned sands for upstream TSF embankment construction will reduce waste rock vehicle movements associated with TSF lifts with corresponding benefits from reduced noise impacts.	A qualitative noise assessment is proposed to be completed to confirm no impacts to noise amenity due to relocation of E48 vent fan and proposed processing plant changes.
Geochemical	Aspects of approval are expected to have similar geochemical impacts to approved operations.	Not required - potential geochemical issues associated with the use of E31 voids for water storage will be considered in the groundwater assessment. Previous assessment of geochemical characteristics of hydrocycloned sands undertaken for Modification 10 indicated that this deposition methods did not result in adverse geochemical outcomes relative to conventional deposition methods.
Air Quality	Relocation of the E48 vent fan impacts assumptions of latest air quality impact assessment prepared for Modification 10. The increase in biosolids allowed on site is expected to result in further improvements to dust management on TSFs during non-active deposition periods. Increased use of hydrocycloned sands for upstream TSF embankment constriction will reduce dust emissions from waste rock handling relative to conventional TSF embankment construction methods.	A qualitative air quality assessment will be undertaken which compares potential air quality impacts associated with proposed changes with those of previously modelled operations. It is noted that previous modelling of metals and metalloids from the site conservatively assumed emissions sources based on the highest of any single emission source on site. This assessment included derived metal and metalloid concentrations from wind tunnel samples of fine tailings. Additional modelling of metal and metalloid concentrations is therefore not considered to be required.

Issue	Preliminary Analysis	Proposed Assessment Approach
	Particulate and NOx emissions from vehicle movements is expected to be the same as or potentially lower than those of existing approved operations due to reduced waste rock handling requirements for TSF embankment construction.	
Greenhouse Gas	Aspects of approval are expected to have similar greenhouse impacts as the approved operations.	The Proposed Modification will have negligible impact on Scope 1 emissions but may may result in minor changes to Scope 2 emissions associated with electricity usage. These changes will need to be quantified to understand potential implications under the NSW Guide for Large Emitters however it has been assumed that no detailed greenhouse gas assessment is required and can be assessed qualitatively as part of the Air Quality Assessment. Any increase in GHG emissions would be expected to be small and unlikely to materially impact either climate change impacts of State emissions targets (noting also that the production of copper is an essential requirement for the transition to a lower carbon emissions trajectory).
Visual	Aspects of approval are expected to have similar visual impacts as the approved operations. Changes associated with the Project are not expected to be visible from outside the Project Area.	The Proposed Modification will not have impacts associated with visual amenity, and therefore no landscape and visual assessment is not required or proposed.
Agriculture	The Proposed modification does not increase the approved operational area or remove any additional area from agricultural production. The use of the E31 and E31N voids as water storages will defer the development of the Altona Water Storage and this would enable this area to be used for Agricultural Production for longer. Aspects of approval are expected to have similar land and soil impacts to approved operations.	The Proposed Modification will not have any adverse impacts on agricultural production, and therefore a detailed agriculture assessment is not required or proposed.

Issue	Preliminary Analysis	Proposed Assessment Approach
Traffic and Transport	Aspects of approval are expected to have similar traffic and transport impacts to approved operations.	The Proposed Modification will not have impacts associated with traffic and transport, and therefore no quantitative assessment of traffic and transport impacts is proposed. Potential impacts on traffic generation will be assessed qualitatively.
Economic Impact	Aspects of approval are expected to have similar economic impacts to approved operations.	The Proposed Modification is expected to generate positive economic benefits in terms of supplier benefits however these are unlikely to be material relative to existing operational expenditure, and therefore a detailed economic assessment is not required or proposed. Potential economic impacts will be assessed qualitatively.
Public Safety and Hazards	The Proposed modification does not introduce any new public safety risks or hazards, nor will it increase the risk profile of existing hazards. The proposed modification will not increase the risk profile of the Project from hazards associated with climate change or other climate relate hazards such as flooding.	The Proposed Modification will not alter the public safety and hazard risk profile of operations relative to approved operations and therefore no assessment is required or proposed.
Rehabilitation	Aspects of the Proposed Modification are expected to be similar to existing operations. The proposed increased use of biosolids is expected to have positive benefits in terms of rehabilitation outcomes. Use of cyclone-sands tailings deposition method on all other TSFs (noting Rosedale has approval for this deposition method) would have minor implications to the final capping design.	The Proposed Modification will not materially impact the current rehabilitation strategy or approved landform, and therefore no assessment is proposed. The ongoing use of biosolids will improve progressive rehabilitation activities undertaken on site.
Subsidence	The Proposed Modification will not vary from the existing operations in terms of subsidence impacts or management.	The Proposed Modification will not alter the subsidence impacts of approved operations, and therefore no subsidence assessment is proposed.

7.0 Proposed Timeframe

Subject to DPHI's confirmation with the proposed environmental assessment approach outlined in this letter, it is anticipated that the Modification Report would be lodged with the DPHI in mid-2026.

8.0 Conclusion

This Scoping Letter has outlined the proposed Modification to MP 11_0060 for Northparkes. The identified environmental aspects will be subject to assessment as part of the Modification Report as detailed in **Section 6.0.** Mitigation measures will be developed for inclusion in the Modification Report and will address the management of any potential issues identified in the assessment process.

It would be appreciated if DPHI would:

- confirm the application of section 4.55(1A) as an appropriate planning pathway for the proposed Modification, provided that the Modification Report appropriately demonstrates that the proposal meets the relevant statutory tests; and
- confirm the proposed scope of environmental assessments approach outlined above.

I trust this information provides you with the necessary content on the proposed Modification 13. Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned should you require clarification or further information.

Yours sincerely

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Appendix A

Figures

Legend

- Northparkes Project Area
- Parkes National Logistics Terminal
- Goonumbla Rail Siding
- Railway Line
- Road
- Drainage Line

FIGURE 1

Locality Map

Image Source: Google Basemap (2026) Data source: NPM(2021); NSW DFSI (2021)

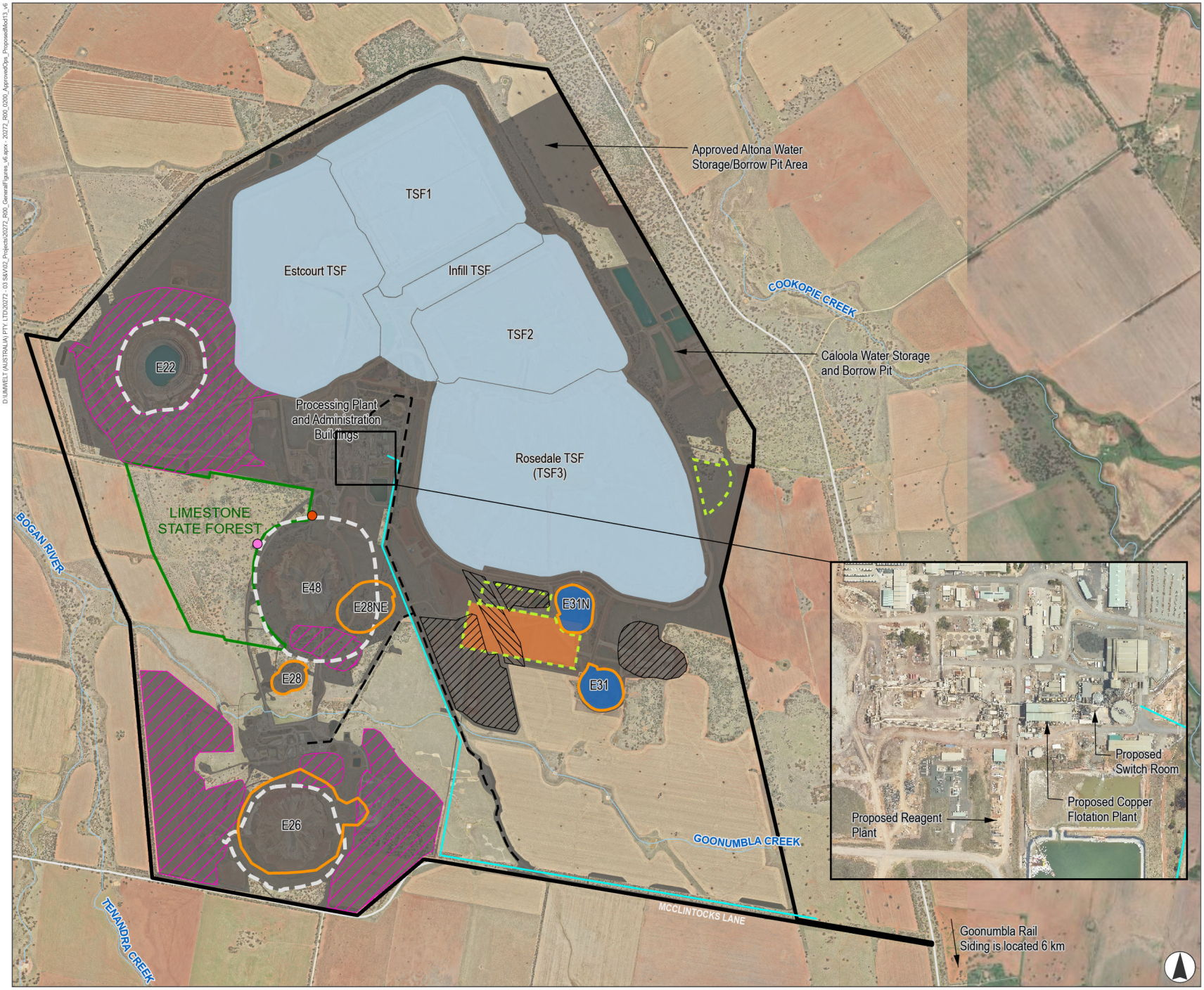

FIGURE 2

Current Approved Operations and Proposed Modification 13

Legend

Approved Operations

- Open Cut Area
- Operational Area
- Northparkes Project Area
- Temporary Waste Rock Stockpiles
- Underground Subsidence Management Areas
- Borrow Pit
- Preliminary Rocklands Emplacement Area
- Tailings Storage Facility
- Waste Rock Stockpiles
- Rosedale Borrow Pit and Waste Rock Stockpile Area
- Water Supply Pipeline
- Internal Access Road
- Existing E48 Vent Fan Location

Proposed Modification 13

- Indicative E48 Vent Fan Location
- Proposed Water Storage

Locality Layers

- Drainage Line
- Road
- State Forest

Note: Proposed pumping and ancillary infrastructure not shown

Note: Approved Operation Area shown does not include mapping of the alignment of existing powerlines and water pipelines which will also require some future disturbance activities to undertake maintenance during operations and removal as part of the mine closure processes (see Umwelt 2021, Northparkes Mine Review of Approved Disturbance Area, September 2021). These areas will be formally identified as part of the Approved Operational Area in the Modification Report for Modification 13.

0 0.5 1

Kilometres

Scale 1:40,000 at A4
GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55

Image Source: Google Basemap (2026) | **Data Source:** NSW DFSI (2024)