

Environmental Protection Authority

Environmental Protection Act 1986

Section 45C

NOTICE OF DECISION TO CONSENT TO AMEND AN APPROVED PROPOSAL AND IMPLEMENTATION CONDITIONS WITHOUT INQUIRY

PERSON TO WHOM THIS NOTICE IS GIVEN

Mardie Minerals Pty Ltd

PROPOSAL TO WHICH THIS NOTICE RELATES

Optimised Mardie Project – Revised Proposal

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT and ANY APPROVED CHANGES

Ministerial Statement 1264, issued 22 December 2025

DECISION

Pursuant to s. 45C (1) (c) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act), and as delegate for the Minister for Environment, I give approval to the following amendments of the approved proposal:

- Amend the limit on primary seawater intake volume from 180 gigalitre per annum (GL/a) to 250 GL/a.
- Administrative change to condition A1-1 to remove reference to Figure 7.

The amended proposal content document is attached.

SUMMARY OF REASONS

- The amendment to the seawater intake volume limit does not result in any new direct disturbance to benthic communities and habitat, as no changes to the primary seawater intake infrastructure or development footprint are proposed, and existing controls restricting intake to periods when sea levels are at or above mean sea level continue to limit potential impacts on tidal processes.
- No change in impacts to marine fauna is expected, as existing controls on the seawater intake design and operation, including screen size and intake velocity limits, continue to mitigate the risk of entrainment and impingement.
- The amendment does not introduce new infrastructure or substantially modify the physical drivers of potential impacts, including pond levels, hydraulic head, or seepage control measures, and is therefore not expected to create new impact pathways. It is noted that the requested increase in intake volume is driven by operational water demand associated with evaporation losses and system

commissioning, and is not intended to facilitate an increase in production throughput beyond that assessed for the approved proposal.

- The requested amendment was considered in the context of monitoring data from early operations that indicates higher than anticipated seepage rates and groundwater responses, including trigger and threshold exceedances, demonstrating variability in system performance and reducing confidence in predicted behaviour. There remains uncertainty regarding seepage behaviour, groundwater response, and pond conditioning timeframes. Updated groundwater modelling has been undertaken, but at the time of this decision was not available for technical review, therefore key assumptions regarding long-term seepage reduction have not yet been independently verified. Retaining a defined intake limit maintains a primary control on system loading and represents a cautious approach in the context of unresolved uncertainty, compared to removal of the limit entirely.
- An increase in the seawater intake to 250 GL/a aligns with the observed abstraction trajectory for the 2025/2026 compliance reporting period and reflects the mean range of increased water demand indicated by the evaporation-driven water balance.
- The amendment is supported by existing outcome-based conditions and conditioned management plans (including the Groundwater Monitoring and Management Plan and the Benthic Communities and Habitat Monitoring and Management Plan), which provide mechanisms for monitoring and managing inland waters and ecological impacts.
- A further revision to the Groundwater Monitoring and Management Plan is required to be submitted by October 2026 and will be supported by a report on the updated and recalibrated groundwater model. The updated GMMP and modelling will be subject to independent technical review and is expected to improve confidence in system behaviour and inform any future consideration of amendments to the seawater intake limit.
- A minor administrative amendment to condition A1-1, to remove reference to Figure 7, corrects an unintentional error in Ministerial Statement 1264.
- There are no new environmental factors likely to be significantly affected as a result of the amendments.
- The effects of the amendments on their own, the effect of the amendments in the context of the existing referred proposal, cumulative impacts, and holistic impacts have been considered.
- The amended proposal will be substantially the same character as the existing referred proposal.

EFFECT OF THIS NOTICE:

1. The proposal as amended in accordance with this notice is taken to be able to be implemented under s. 45 of the EP Act.

RIGHTS OF APPEAL:

There are no rights of appeal under the EP Act in respect of this decision.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darren Walsh', with a stylized, cursive script.

Darren Walsh

CHAIR

For the Minister for Environment under Notice of Delegation under section 18 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

01 July 2026

Attachment 1- Amended proposal content document

OPTIMISED MARDIE PROJECT – REVISED PROPOSAL

PROPOSAL CONTENT DOCUMENT

Table 1: General Proposal Content Description as listed in Ministerial Statement 1264

Proposal Title	Optimised Mardie Project – Revised Proposal
Proponent Name	Mardie Minerals Pty Ltd
Short Description	The Proposal is to develop a solar salt and sulphate of potash production plant and associated export facility at Mardie, approximately 80 km south-west of Karratha. The proposal includes two seawater intakes, brine discharge, evaporation and crystalliser ponds, processing plant, causeway, trestle jetty with associated dredge channel, offshore disposal of dredge material, and supporting infrastructure.

Table 2: Proposal Content Elements as listed in Ministerial Statement 1264 (changed elements in blue and bold font)

Proposal Element	Location	Existing Proposal extent, capacity or range	Proposed Amendment
Physical Elements			
Development Envelope	Figure 1 Figure 4	Terrestrial development envelope not to exceed 19,763 ha. Marine development envelope not to exceed 53 ha. Dredge development envelope not to exceed 307.5 ha. Combined area of concentrator ponds and crystalliser ponds not to exceed 11,368 ha.	No change.
Disturbance footprint	Figure 1	Terrestrial disturbance not to exceed 13,476 ha within 19,763 ha development envelope.	No change.
Direct disturbance of native vegetation	Figure 1	Clearing of no more than 3,014 ha vegetation in 'Good' to 'Excellent' condition native vegetation. Clearing of no more than 863 ha landward samphire.	No change.

Proposal Element	Location	Existing Proposal extent, capacity or range	Proposed Amendment
		Clearing of no more than 330 ha of coastal samphire.	
Impacts on PEC and Mangrove Habitat	Figure 2	No more than 145 ha direct and 20 ha indirect impacts to Horseflat PEC. No more than 13 ha of direct disturbance to mangrove habitat outside of the RRDMMMA. No direct disturbance within the RRDMMMA.	No change.
Direct disturbance to Algal mats	Figure 4	No more than 880 ha of direct impact to algal mats.	No change.
Capital Dredging	Figure 3	No more than 355,000 cubic metres, directly disturbing no more than 65 ha within the 307.5 ha dredge development envelope.	No change.
Offshore Dredge Spoil Disposal	Figure 6	Capital dredging of no more than 355,000 cubic metres, directly disturbing no more than 30.3 ha at Dredge Material Placement Area DMPA 4.	No change.
Foraging habitat for the Pilbara leaf-nosed bat (<i>Rhinonicteris aurantia</i>)	Figure 1	Clearing no more than 3,254 ha.	No change.
Foraging habitat for the Northern coastal free-tailed bat (<i>Ozimops cobourgiensis</i>)	Figure 1	Clearing no more than 1,186 ha.	No change.
Habitat for the Pilbara Olive Python (<i>Liasis olivaceus barroni</i>)	Figure 1	Clearing no more than 6 ha.	No change.
Foraging habitat for the Northern Quoll (<i>Dasyurus hallucatus</i>)	Figure 1	Clearing no more than 80 ha.	No change.

Proposal Element	Location	Existing Proposal extent, capacity or range	Proposed Amendment
Zone of High Impact (e.g. marine)	Figure 3 Figure 6	Marine Zone of High Impact to be limited to 121 ha at the dredge channel and 355 ha at the offshore dredge spoil disposal DMPA4.	No change.
Level of ecological protection areas (marine environmental quality)	Figure 4	Moderate ecological protection area (MEPA) not to exceed 53.9 ha. Low ecological protection area (LEPA) not to exceed 20.2 ha.	No change.
Distance between crystallisers and Mardie pool	Figure 1	Minimum distance of 1000 metres to be maintained between crystalliser ponds and Mardie pool.	No change
Drainage corridors	Figure 1	Minimum of two drainage corridors of a minimum of 200 metres wide to be established and aligned with existing natural drainage lines.	No change
Operational Elements			
Groundwater abstraction	Figure 7	Groundwater abstraction not to exceed 0.7 GL per annum.	Figure 7 -
Marine discharge rate	Figure 4	Brine discharge not to exceed 5.5 GL per annum with a specific gravity of no more than 1.25 via diffuser.	No change.
Seawater intake	-	Seawater intakes to be fitted with four- sided screens designed to ensure a rate not exceeding 0.15 metres per second through the screen. Primary seawater intake is to not exceed 180 GL per annum.	Seawater intakes to be fitted with four-sided screens designed to ensure a rate not exceeding 0.15 metres per second through the screen. Primary seawater intake is to not exceed 180 250 GL per annum.
Airstrip	Figure 1	To be utilised for emergencies only.	No change.
Offshore maintenance	Figure 6	Within DMPA4 only.	No change.

Proposal Element	Location	Existing Proposal extent, capacity or range	Proposed Amendment
dredge spoil disposal			
Timing elements			
Mine life	-	Up to 61 years from issue of this statement.	No change.
Seawater intake	-	Abstract seawater from primary and secondary intake only when tides are at or above Mean Sea Level.	No change.
Proposal Elements with greenhouse gas emissions			
Construction Elements			
Scope 1	N/A	57,847 tCO ₂ -e per year.	No change.
Scope 2	N/A	None.	No change.
Scope 3	N/A	Unlikely to be significant.	No change.
Operation Elements			
Scope 1	N/A	66,628.01 tCO ₂ -e per year.	No change.
Scope 2	N/A	None.	No change.
Scope 3	N/A	Unlikely to be significant.	No change.
Rehabilitation and Closure			
Proposal infrastructure to be removed within 3 years of closure. Construction disturbance that is not required for operations is to be rehabilitated.			No change.

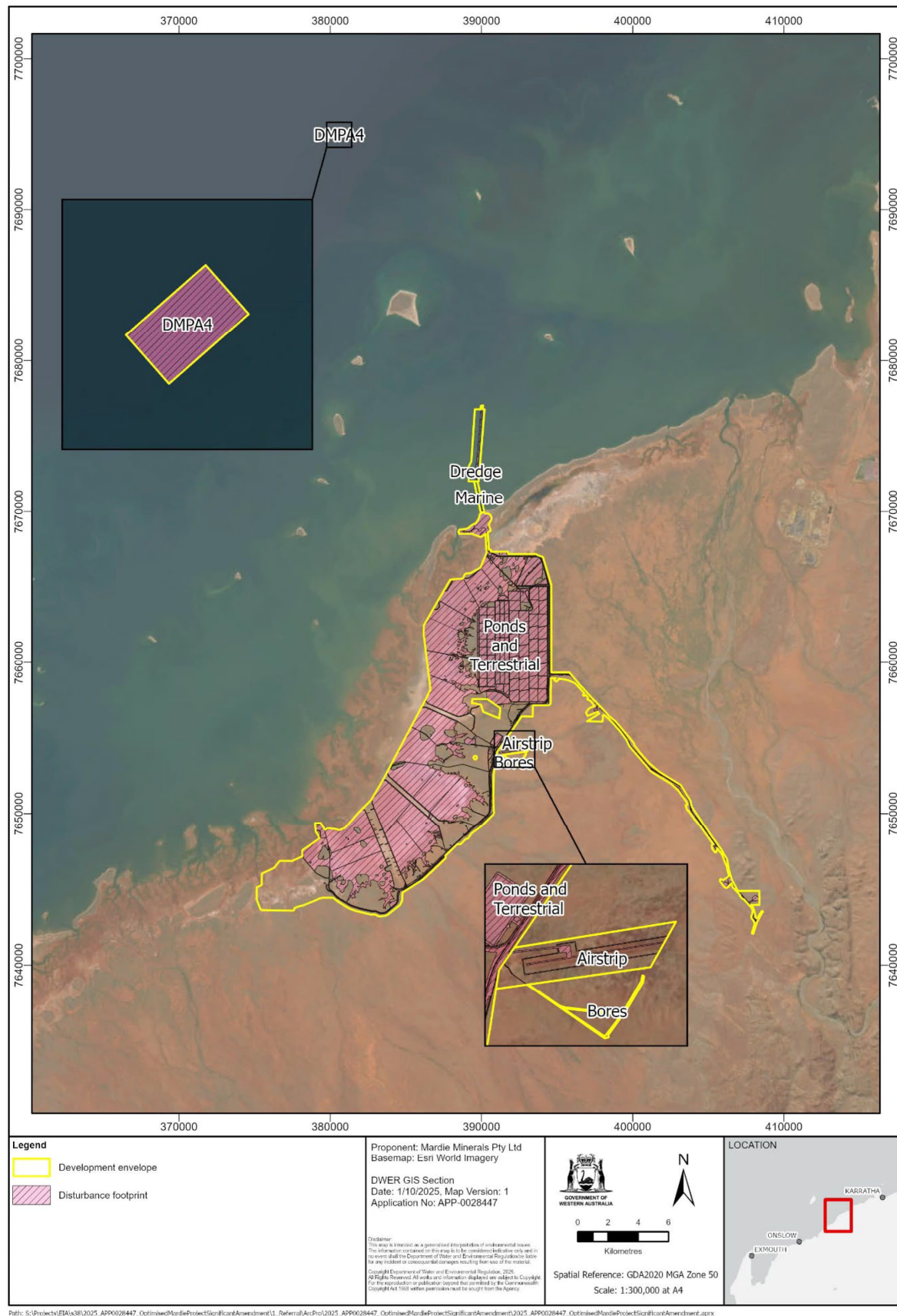


Figure 1: Proposal location and development envelope

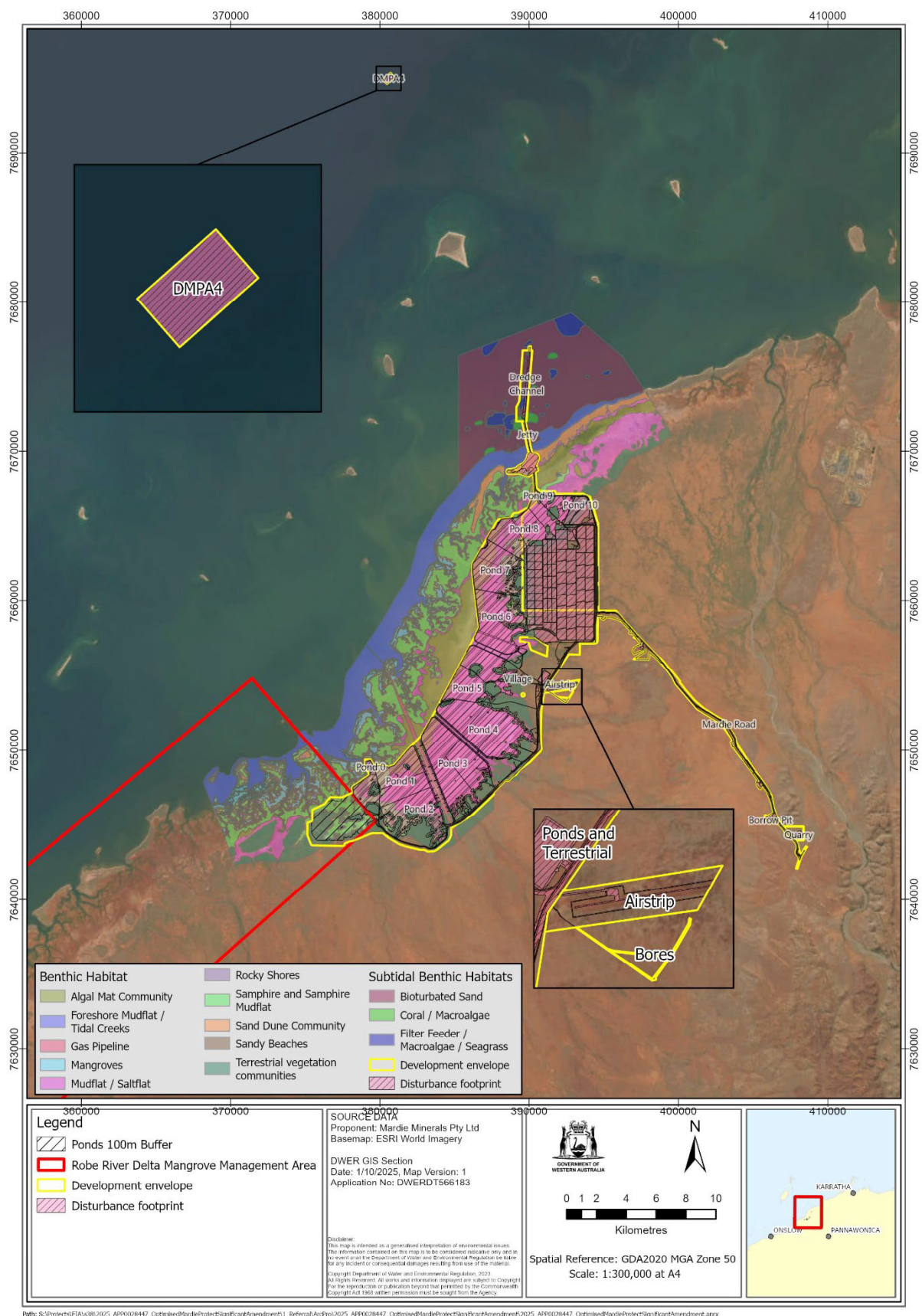


Figure 2: Benthic communities and habitats within the Proposal area

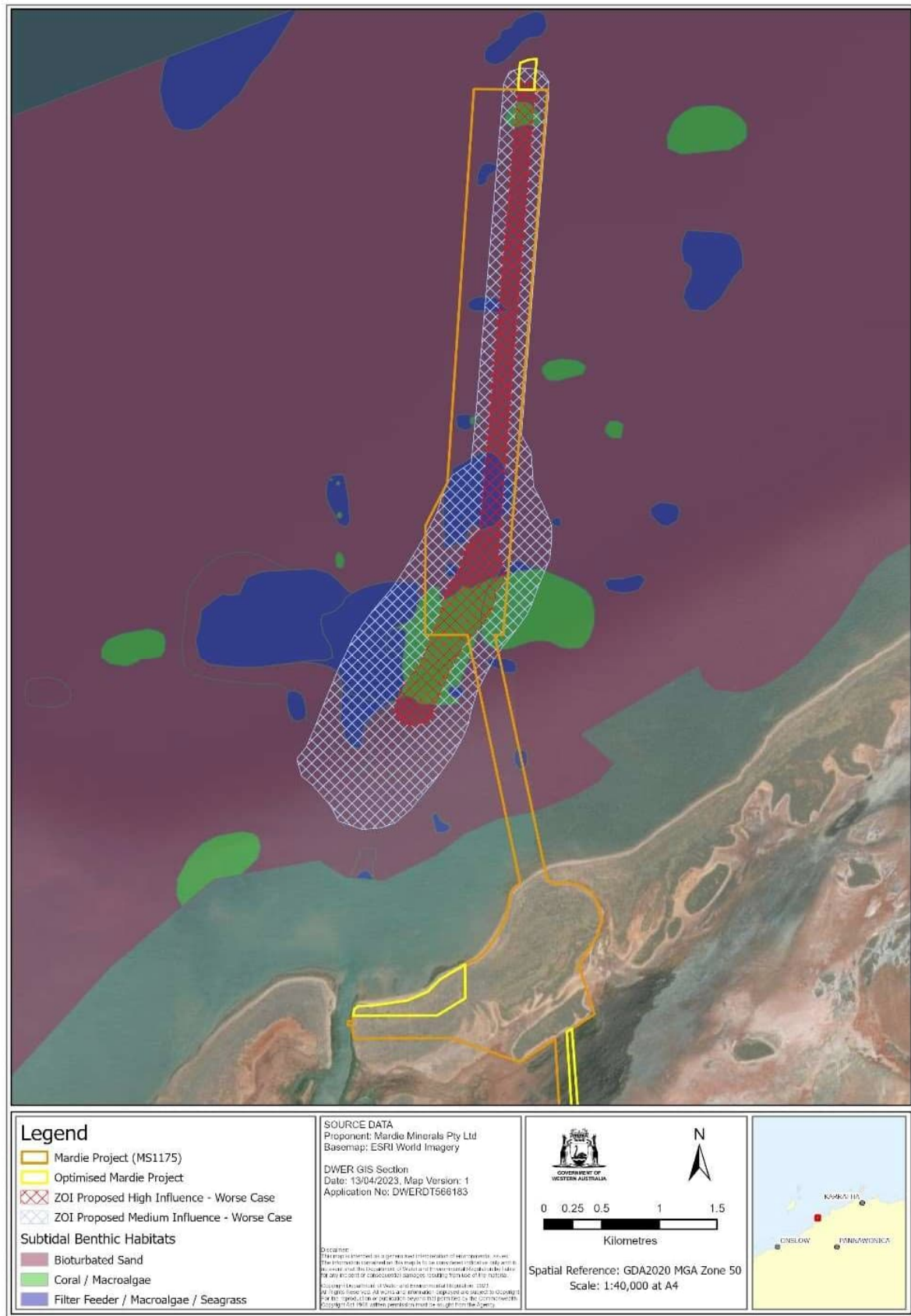


Figure 3: Dredge envelope with zones of High and Moderate Influence

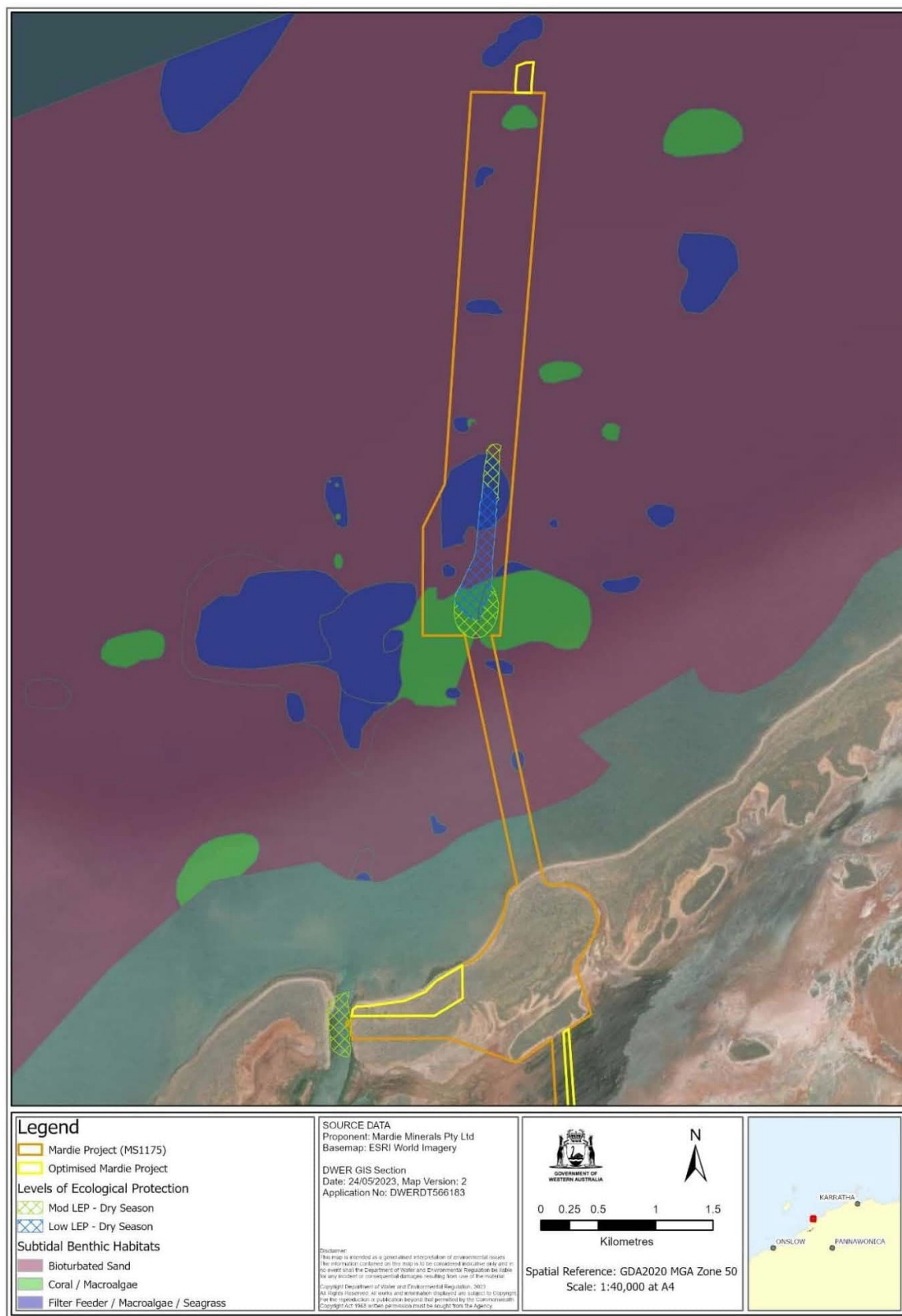


Figure 4: Level of ecological protection areas around diffuser location

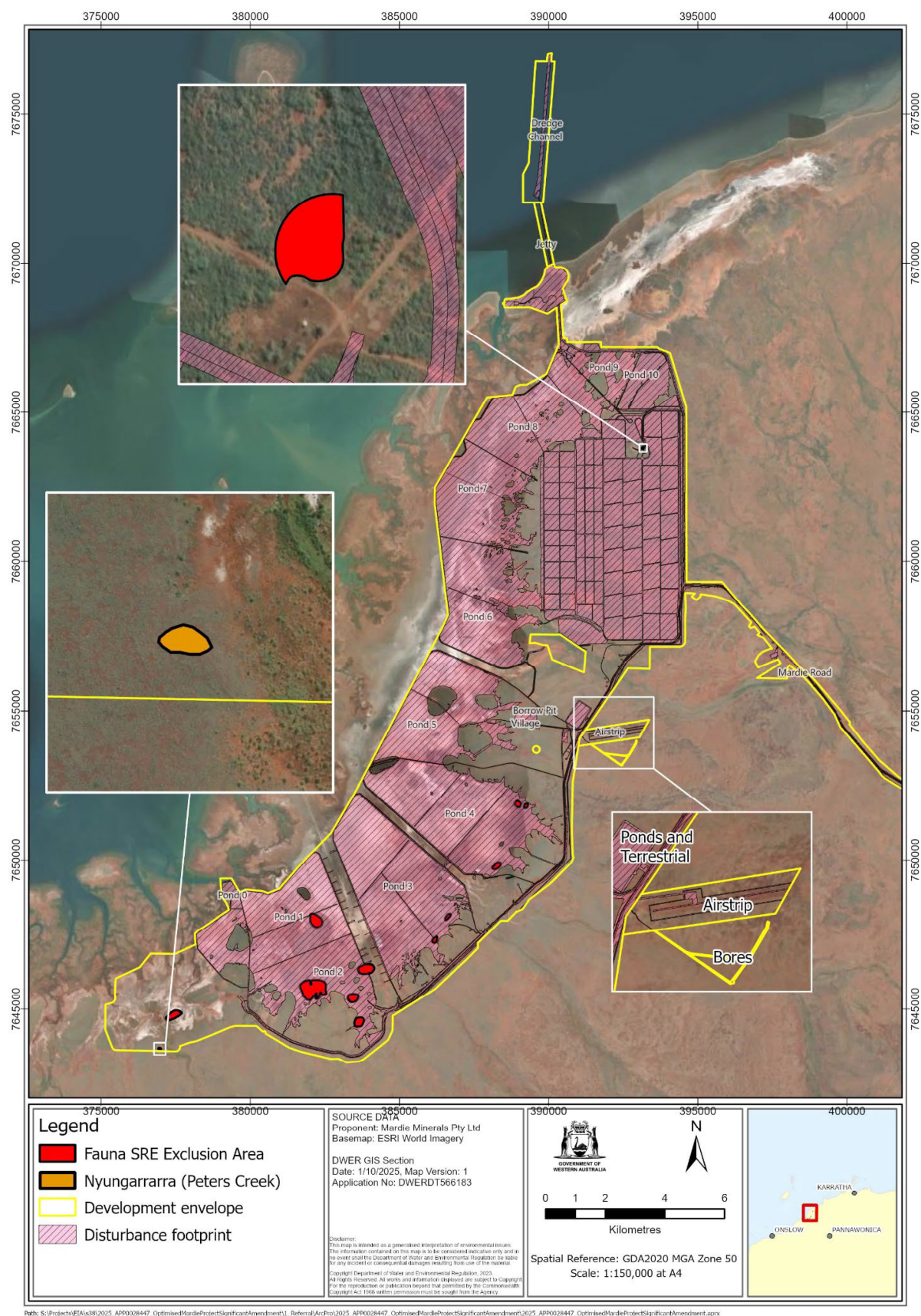


Figure 5: Short Range Endemic fauna exclusion zones and Peters Creek exclusion zone

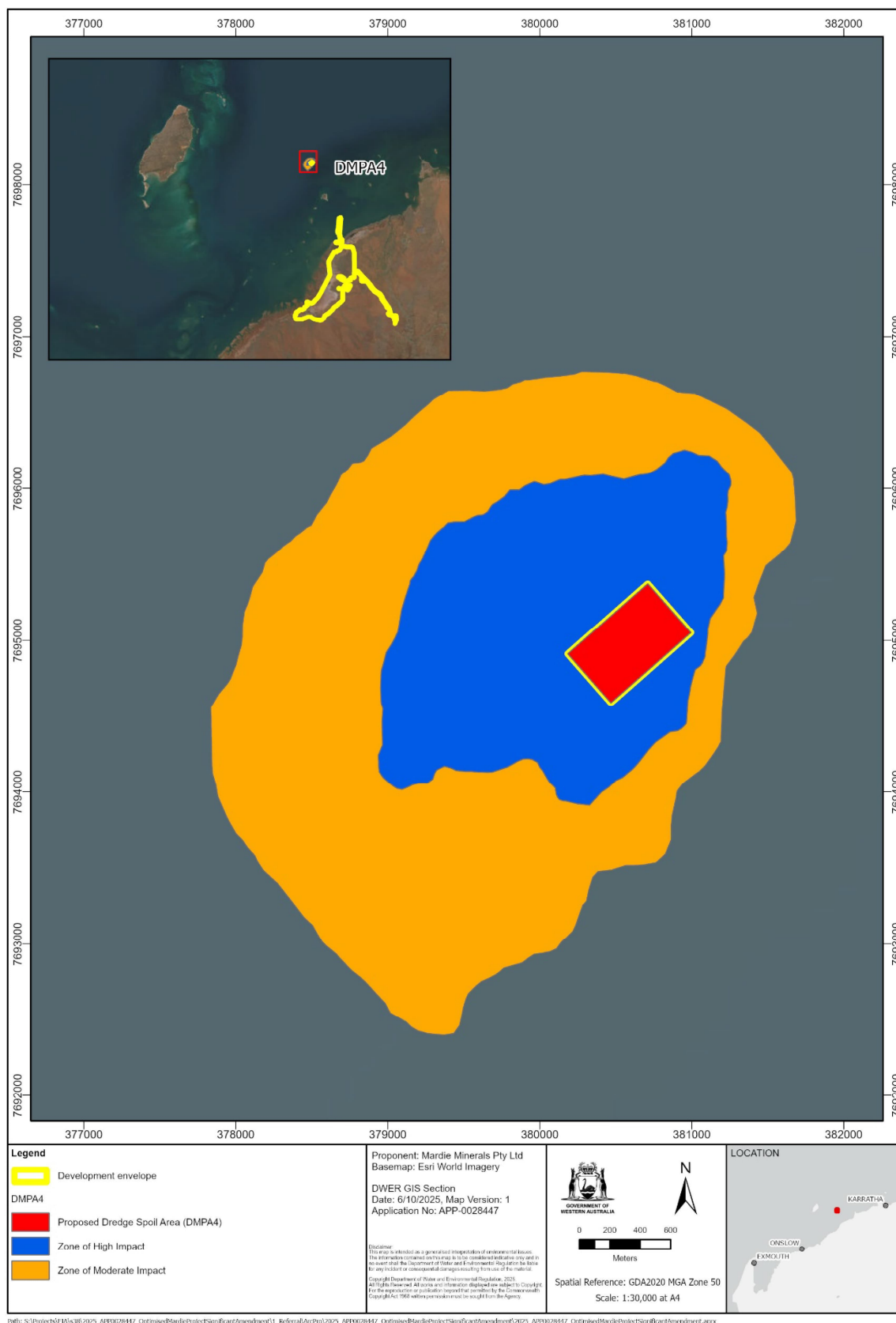


Figure 6: DMPA4 with associated zones of High and Moderate impact