

Environmental mining licence framework |

Guidance on application maps

This fact sheet provides guidance on the maps required to be provided with an application for an environmental mining licence under the *Environment Protection Act 2019* (EP Act).

Background

Licence applications generally require four types of maps to be provided with accompanying spatial data (e.g. shapefiles). These include a Locality map; Project map; Sensitive features map; and a Mining and No-Go areas map. Key terms are described below.

- **Activity extent** – means a delineated area within which approved disturbance may occur. Applications are required to identify a *proposed activity extent*, that excludes all sensitive features and their respective buffers. If granted, a licence will include a map showing the *approved activity extent* (AAE).
- **Disturbance footprint** – means a delineated area within the activity extent that represents the maximum area of disturbance proposed by an operator, for which security must be paid. If a licence is granted, the location of the approved disturbance footprint may be moved within the approved activity extent providing that (i) the total disturbance area (hectares) does not exceed the approved amount; and (ii) it does not intersect any No-Go areas. The disturbance footprint may be equal to or smaller than the activity extent.
- **No-Go area** – means an area in which disturbance must not occur. No-Go areas consist of all types of sensitive features; including ecologically sensitive features (e.g. sensitive and significant vegetation, threatened species habitat), culturally sensitive features (e.g. sacred sites, heritage places), and their respective buffers. Buffer widths for ecologically sensitive features should be consistent with relevant standard conditions, the NT Planning Scheme Land Clearing Guidelines, or alternative widths supported by evidence-based mitigation measures. Buffer widths for culturally sensitive features should be consistent with advice from relevant agencies (e.g. AAPA, Heritage Branch).
- **Forward program of works (FPW)** – means a proposal made by an operator (in the approved form) to amend the approved disturbance footprint within the approved activity extent. A FPW must be accompanied by an updated security calculation and disturbance tracking spreadsheet; and may be approved by the department. The FPW process avoids the need to undergo a comprehensive assessment process to vary the licence because the AAE (and No-Go areas) have already been assessed and approved. Contrastingly, a variation application will be required to amend the AAE.

Map types

The purpose of a broad-scale **Locality map** is to show the location of the proposed activity extent within the context of the related mineral interest and cadastral (i.e. land parcel and road reserve) boundaries. It should show imagery but not proposed disturbance features.

The purpose of a detailed **Project map** is to show the location of individual proposed/existing disturbance features comprising the disturbance footprint, within the proposed activity extent. It should include imagery but exclude all sensitive features and their related buffers.

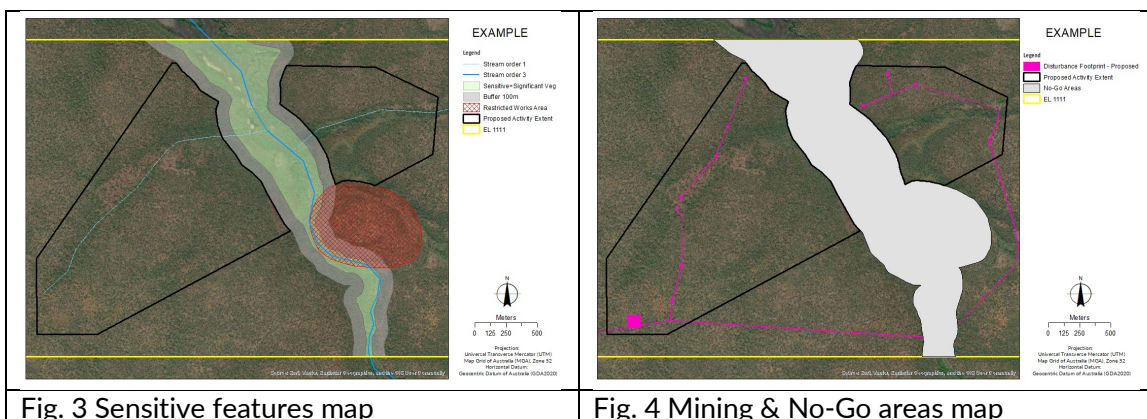
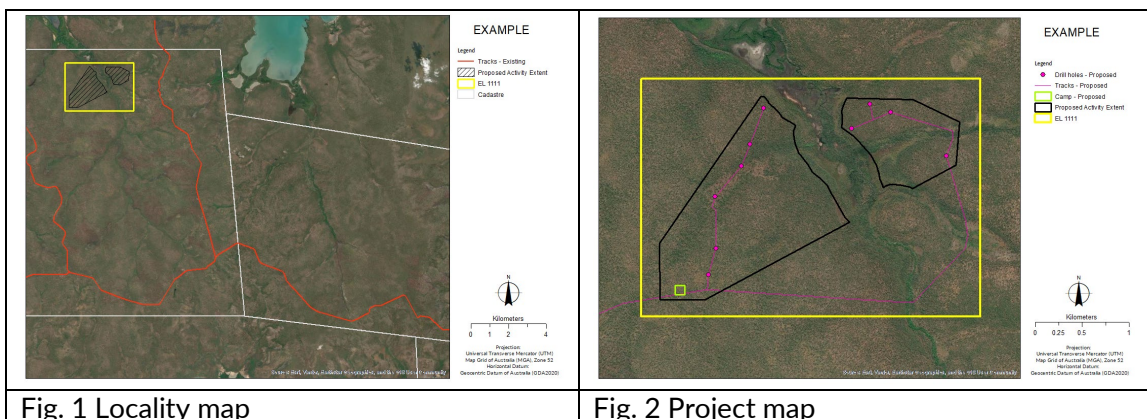
The purpose of a detailed **Sensitive features map** is to show the location of all individual ecologically sensitive features and their proposed buffers only (i.e. excluding culturally sensitive features and proposed/existing disturbance features).

The purpose of the **Mining and No-Go areas map** is to show the location of the disturbance footprint within the activity extent and all areas that must not be disturbed (i.e. No-Go areas).

A comparison of the features to be shown on the different maps is provided below; and conceptual images are shown in Figures 1 to 4.

Feature	Locality map	Project map	Sensitive features map	Mining & No-Go areas map
Scale	Broad scale	Fine scale	Fine scale	Fine scale
Imagery	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cadastre	✓	Optional	X	Optional
Title boundaries	✓	Optional	Optional	Optional
Activity extent*	✓	✓	✓	✓
Disturbance features*	X	✓	X	✓
Sensitive features*	X	X	✓	X
Buffers*	X	X	✓ (transparent)	X
No-Go areas*	X	X	X	✓ (non-transparent)
Other features**	Optional	Optional	Optional	Optional

*Spatial data must be provided with application | **Maps may show other important landscape features relevant to the project or locality e.g. legacy mine features | Features marked optional should be shown if applicable to the project and or map scale.



Further information

Contact the Mining Division | mineralinfo.dlpe@nt.gov.au | (08) 8999 6528