Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Planning and Assessment Considerations

Professor Matthew Tonts, Chair
Environmental Protection Authority

GHG Emissions & Mining Projects

- Distinction between State policy and EPA assessment process

- The EPA's Environment Factor Guideline – Greenhouse Gas Emissions (EFG GHG) was published in April 2020

- Developed against the background of rapidly rising emissions in WA

- The current EFG GHG sets out how the EPA considers greenhouse gas emissions as part of the environmental impact assessment process
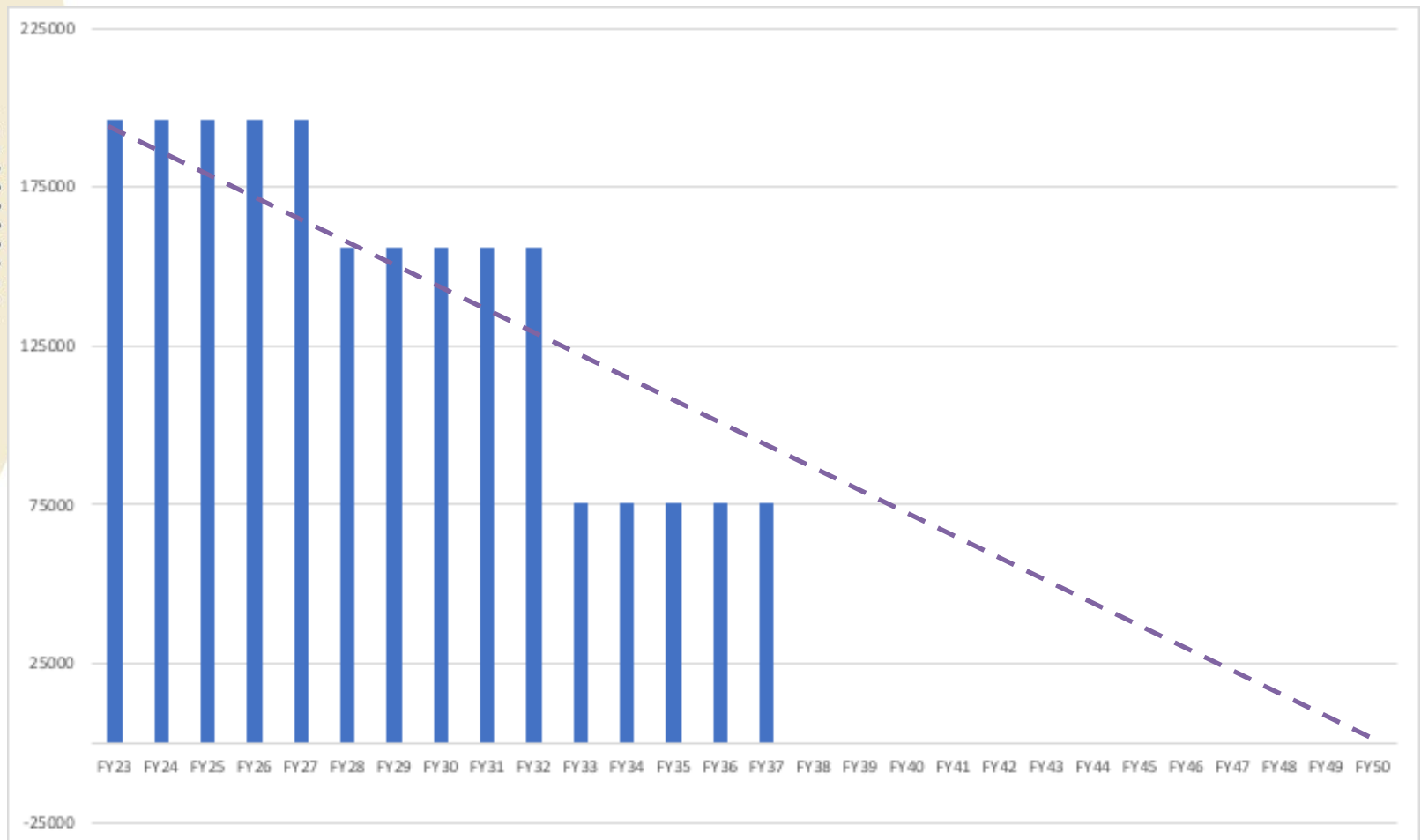
The EPA Approach

- 100,000 tonne per annum threshold

- Case by case & contextual consideration of projects

- Requirement for clear emissions estimates

- Application of the mitigation hierarchy

- GHG Management Plans to underpin trajectory

- Typically 5 year reporting and updated plans

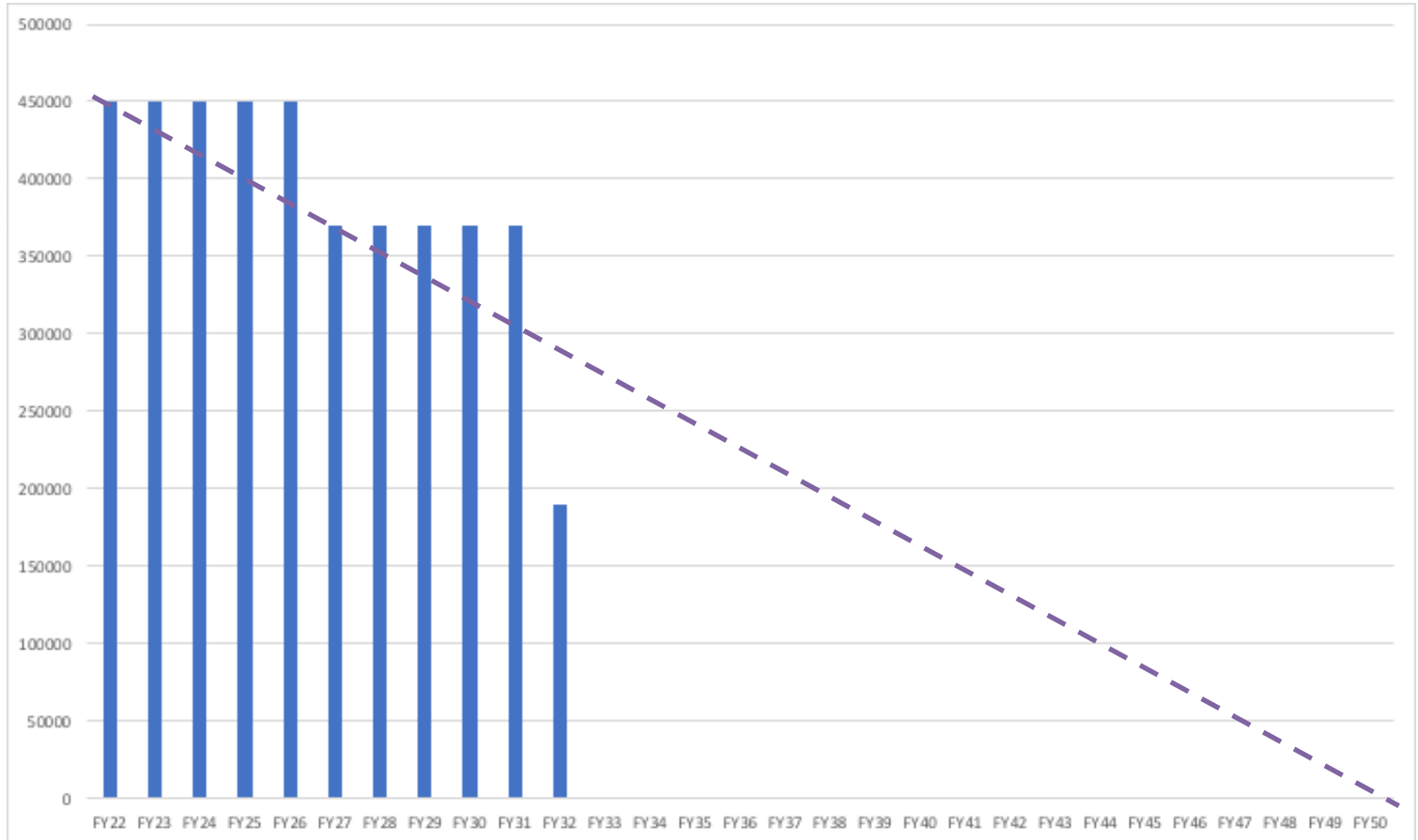# March 2022 – West Musgrave Copper & Nickel
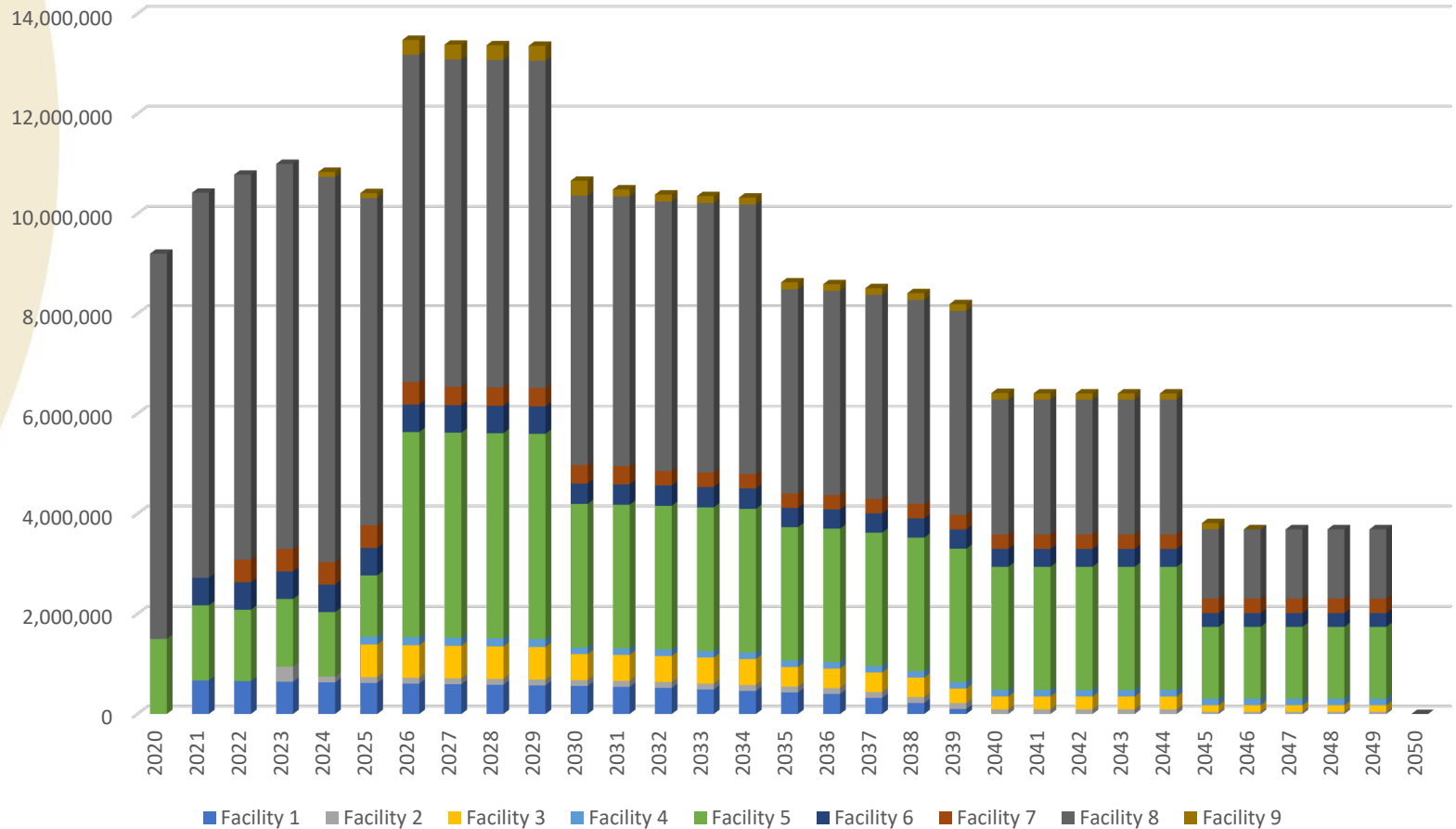
Industry: Mining
Baseline (scope 1): 196,000 tpa

March 2022 – Roy Hill Extension

Industry: Mining
Baseline (scope 1): 450,000 tpa

The total emissions and reductions so far...

Review of the GHG Guidance

- The most recent climate science

- EPA's view of emissions reductions needed to protect WA's environment: limit global warming to not more than 1.5 degrees

- Deep and substantial cuts this decade; then straight line to net zero

- 100,000 tonnes of scope 1 or 2 as threshold

- Clarified information requirements for assessment including:
  - emissions estimates (inc. scope 1, 2 and 3),
  - Greenhouse Gas Management Plans,
  - best practice and
  - offset integrity

- Submissions due 21 September (EPA website)

Industry innovation

- Mine planning and site design – increased efficiency and reduced energy use

- Declining energy use from scope 2 emitters

- Increasing uptake of renewable energy on site, or significant efficiency gains using mixed forms of power generation

- Asset planning and energy efficiency

- Less energy intensive processing technologies and methods

- Widespread innovation and aspiration across the mining sector is evident