

17/06/2025

[REDACTED]
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
Prime House, 8 Davidson Terrace
Joondalup, Western Australia 6027
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

RE: NOTIFICATION FOR UNDERTAKING PRESCRIBED ACTIVITIES WITHOUT PART V APPROVAL - BUNDARRA

Northern Star would like to report two instances in breach of regulatory requirements under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, whereby the company has undertaken dewatering and landfill activities without Part V Approval at its Bundarra site.

Bundarra is located approximately 60 km north of Leonora and 60 km southeast of Leinster in the northeastern Goldfields region of Western Australia. Northern Star's Thunderbox Operations (Thunderbox) is located approximately 20 km northwest, with Bundarra forming a satellite operation to Thunderbox.

Bundarra includes two mining areas: Celtic and Wonder, located on opposite sides of the Goldfields Highway. Celtic is comprised of one open pit (Celtic Pit) and two waste rock landforms (WRL) and was first mined in 2000 by Pacmin. Wonder is comprised of two open pits (Wonder North and West Pits) and one WRL. The site was first mined by Sons of Gwalia in 2001. Mining activities ceased at Bundarra in 2003, and the site was placed in care and maintenance until Northern Star recommenced underground mining of Wonder North Pit in late 2023. Small Mining Proposal 119072 was approved in late 2023 to undertake the proposed activities however, Part V approvals for the project were never obtained.

Dewatering commenced in parallel with the restart of underground mining at Wonder Pit North in late 2023. GWL 170438 was approved in July 2023 to allow for an annual water entitlement of 250 000kL for dewatering and other mining activities. Dewater from Wonder North Pit is pumped to a series of fully contained surface holding tanks. Water from these tanks is then recycled underground to support drilling and mining activities or used on the surface for dust suppression. Any surplus water is currently being pumped to Wonder West Pit.

Since recommencement of the site in 2023, a single landfill cell has been constructed and operated at the waste rock landform (WRL) shown in Figure 1. Waste volumes have been recorded, however only small amounts of waste have been disposed of into the cell. Most of the waste generated at the site has been taken offsite to Leonora for disposal at a licenced facility.

Northern Star initially became aware of the situation in early May 2025 and has attempted to contact the department via phone however, these attempts have been unsuccessful. To ensure the Department is aware, we provide this letter as means of notification. To ensure that future undertaking of the forementioned prescribed activities at Bundarra are conducted in accordance with Part V approval, a works approval application will be submitted to seek approval for Category 6: dewatering, and Category 89: Putrescible landfill. The application is also seeking the approval of future planned activities under Category 12 and Category 5. It is anticipated that the works approval application will be submitted to DWER within the next few days.

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[Encls]

Figure 1: Bundarra General Site Map

[CC:]

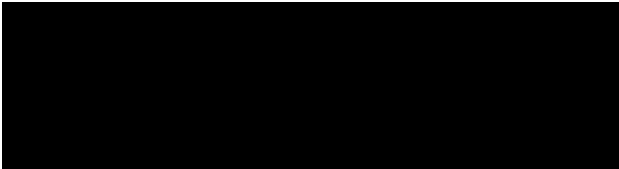




Figure 1: Bundarra General Site Map

- Northern Star Tenements
- Proposed Prescribed Premises Boundary