



## Application for Licence Amendment

### Part V Division 3 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*

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<b>Licence Number</b>	L6949/1993/8
<b>Licence Holder</b>	Sandstone Operations Pty Ltd
<b>ACN</b>	611 811 280
<b>File Number</b>	APP-0026251
<b>Premises</b>	Twin Shafts Treatment Plant  Legal description –  Part of mining tenements: M 57/128-I and M 57/129-I  SANDSTONE WA 6639  As defined by the Premises maps attached to the Revised Licence
<b>Date of Report</b>	26 March 2025
<b>Proposed Decision</b>	Revised licence granted

## Table of Contents

<b>1. Decision summary</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. Scope of assessment</b>	<b>3</b>
2.1 Regulatory framework	3
2.2 Application summary	3
<b>3. Assessment</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4. Consultation</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5. Conclusion</b>	<b>4</b>
5.1 Summary of amendments	4
<b>References</b>	<b>5</b>

## 1. Decision summary

The Delegated Officer has determined to make amendments to Licence L6949/1993/8. The amendment relates to a change in registered office address, and a minor adjustment in groundwater monitoring frequency around the Twin Shaft In Pit Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) with no change to the risk profile of the Premises, providing that activities, emissions and receptors as stated in existing approvals remain unchanged.

This Amendment Report documents the amendments made pursuant to section 59 and 59(B) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act).

The decision report for the Existing licence will remain on the department's website for future reference and will act as a record of the department's decision making.

## 2. Scope of assessment

### 2.1 Regulatory framework

In amending the licence, the department has considered and given due regard to its Regulatory Framework and relevant policy documents which are available at <https://dwer.wa.gov.au/regulatory-documents>.

### 2.2 Application summary

Licence L6949/1993/8 is held by Sandstone Operations Pty Ltd (Licence Holder) for the Twin Shafts Treatment Plant (the Premises), part of mining tenements: M 57/128-I and M 57/129-I.

The Premises relates to category 5 and the assessed production/design capacity under Schedule 1 of the *Environmental Protection Regulations 1987* (EP Regulations) which are defined in existing Licence L6949/1993/8.

On 29 October 2024, the Licence Holder submitted an application to the department to amend Licence L6949/1993/8 under section 59B of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The amendment is limited to:

- Change in registered office to Unit 1, 295 Rokeby Road, Subiaco WA 6008
- Reduction in care and maintenance of groundwater monitoring frequency from 6 months to 12 months around the Twin Shaft In Pit Tailings Storage Facility (TSF).

## 3. Assessment

The department assesses the risks of emissions from prescribed premises and identifies the potential source, pathway and impact to receptors in accordance with the *Guideline: Risk assessments* (DWER 2020).

To establish a Risk Event there must be an emission, a receptor which may be exposed to that emission through an identified actual or likely pathway, and a potential adverse effect to the receptor from exposure to that emission. However, since the proposed amendment does not result in any new emissions or impact to receptors, a risk event assessment is not required.

A hydrogeologist performed a review of monitoring data from 2007 to current (Saprolite Environmental 2024) and has indicated the groundwater conditions are stable and therefore monitoring could be reduced. A summary of the findings is outlined below:

- The monitoring program has been in place since 2007, with the site entering care and maintenance in October 2010. This period has indicated that licensed groundwater quality parameters, including pH, WAD CN, TDS, EC, arsenic, iron, copper, and zinc, are mostly stable and generally low, with all concentrations remaining below regulatory

limits.

- Currently water levels at the monitoring bores are approximately 25mbgl, but they may gradually rise toward the pre-mining level of 14mbgl over time. Nevertheless, they are expected to remain at depths that will not negatively impact vegetation.
- Given the stability of the historical results and the lack of any clear indication of increasing concentrations since the transition to care and maintenance, along with the observation of little seasonal variation, it would be reasonable to consider transitioning to annual monitoring.

Based on this hydrological review, the department considers annual monitoring to remain adequate whilst the site is in care and maintenance. Note that, if tailings deposition recommences, the licence requires quarterly groundwater monitoring.

## 4. Consultation

The Licence Holder was provided with the draft amendment on 20 February 2025. No comments were made during the comment period.

## 5. Conclusion

Based on the assessment in this Amendment Report, the Delegated Officer has determined that an amended licence will be granted, subject to conditions commensurate with the determined controls and necessary for administration and reporting requirements.

### 5.1 Summary of amendments

Table 1 below provides a summary of the proposed amendments and will act as a record of implemented changes. All proposed changes have been incorporated into the revised licence as part of the amendment process.

**Table 1: Summary of licence amendments**

Condition no.	Proposed amendments
Cover page	Updated to new format Changed registered business address to Unit 1, 295 Rokeby Road, Subiaco WA 6008
Contents and Introduction	Removed to reflect updated licence format.
Licence history	Updated to new format and added this amendment.
Interpretation	Added new section to reflect updated licence format.
Condition 2.3.1, Table 2.3.1	Changed groundwater monitoring frequency from 6 months to annually while the Premises is in care and maintenance.
Condition 3.2.1 Table 3.2.1	Changed the environmental report due annually to biennial (and subsequent conditions) as per the notice of amendment of licence reporting requirements.

## References

1. Department of Environment Regulation (DER) 2015, Guidance Statement: Setting Conditions, Perth, Western Australia.
2. Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) 2020, Guideline: Environmental Siting, Perth, Western Australia.
3. DWER 2020, Guideline: Risk Assessments, Perth, Western Australia.
4. Saprolite Environmental 2024, Sandstone Gold Project – Part V Licence L6949/1993/8 – Groundwater Monitoring Review, Western Australia.