



Application to renew a licence

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

Licence Number	L8358/2009/3
Licence Holder	Northern Star (MKO) Pty Ltd
ACN	135 597 634
File Number	DER2015/001858-1~5
Premises	Bronzewing Gold Mine 106 Mt McClure Road LEONORA WA 6438 Legal description Mining Tenements M36/146, M36/200, M36/263, M36/295, L36/183, L36/200 and L36/245 As defined by the Premises map in Schedule 1
Date of Report	18 October 2024
Decision	To grant a licence

Christine Pustkuchen
MANAGER, RESOURCE INDUSTRIES
INDUSTRY REGULATION (STATEWIDE DELIVERY)
Officer delegated by the CEO under section 20 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*

1. Decision summary

Under the regulatory framework the Delegated Officer decided to process the application to renew licence L8358/2009/3 without conducting an additional risk assessment.

The licence will be issued for 5 years, which is consistent with the *Guidance Statement on Licence Duration 2016* and is the duration requested by the licence holder based upon the life of the asset (LAO). In renewing the licence the Delegated Officer has determined to;

- incorporate new licence version, and,
- include all amendment/s issued prior to the replacement licence;
- change REFIRE licence format to new licence format,
- Administrative changes to conditions to align with the new licence format, and,
- Remove condition 1 as it is redundant, replaced condition 5, 6 and 10 with a standard annual reporting condition and remove Condition 11 & 12 because the requirements have been addressed and are compliant and no longer required.

As a result of the above, the Delegated Officer decided to grant Licence L8358/2009/3, subject to conditions set out in the attached licence.

2. Scope of assessment

2.1 Application summary

On 20 May 2024, Northern Star (MKO) Pty Ltd (licence holder) applied to renew licence L8358/2009/2, as the licence is due to expire on 18 October 2024. The licence was granted to the licence holder for the premises located approximately 80km northeast of Leinster on mining tenements M36/146, M36/200, M36/263, M36/295, L36/183, L36/200 and L36/245, at 106 McClure Road, Leonora and known as Bronzewing operations (Premises).

The licence relates to prescribed premises categories as described in Table 1.

Table 1: Premises category description and production design capacity

Prescribed premises category description (Schedule 1, <i>Environmental Protection Regulations 1987</i>)	Assessed production capacity
Category 5: Processing or beneficiation of metallic or non-metallic ore	2.5 million tonnes per annual period
Category 6: Mine dewatering	1 million tonnes per annual period
Category 52: Electric Power Generation	10 MW in aggregate
Category 73: Bulk storage of chemicals etc.	1 600 m ³ in aggregate
Category 85: Sewage facility	100 m ³ per day
Category 89: Putrescible landfill	600 tonnes per annual period

On site processing and tailings disposal at Bronzewing operation has not been undertaken since 2013 and the premises was in care and maintenance until 2022. Open pit mining recommenced at Mt McClure's Orelia Pit in mid-2022, with cutback activities being undertaken at the existing pit. Gold bearing ore is currently being transported to the Thunderbox processing plant.

The main activities occurring on the Premises is the mining of ore. As part of Bronzewing's environmental and legal obligations under this licence (L8358/2009/2) the following activities occur.

- routine water monitoring is undertaken for Bronzewing Tailing Storage Facility (TSF1) monitoring bores,
- monitoring of the Discovery in-pit TSF monitoring bores and supernatant pond, plus,
- monitoring of the water level and quality of the Lotus and Central pits.

3. Regulatory framework

The Delegated Officer has conducted an administrative licence renewal that does not require further environmental assessment of emissions and discharges from the Premises and may extend the duration of the licence up to 20 years, and include administrative changes deemed appropriate. This renewal is in line with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's (department) *Work Instruction: Industry Regulation, Licensing position - COVID-19 response* dated October 2022.

In granting the licence, the Delegated Officer has considered and given due regard to the department's regulatory framework and relevant policy documents which are available at [DWER Regulatory documents | Western Australian Government \(www.wa.gov.au\)](https://www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/regulatory-documents)

4. Considerations for issuing a new licence

4.1 Compliance and enforcement actions

There have been no incidents or complaints identified at the Premises by the department in the last five years. Therefore, no enforcement actions have resulted for the licence holder at this premises.

4.2 Legal occupancy

The licence holder has demonstrated legal occupancy of the Premises by being the holder of these mining tenements for the mining and processing activities to occur.

4.3 Categories of the licence

The requested categories and the corresponding maximum production capacities for the renewal of the licence are consistent with the categories for which the licence holder currently holds a licence, and which was previously assessed.

4.4 Previous relevant decision reports

As the renewal of this licence is deemed an administrative licence renewal and there is no additional risk assessment conducted, the delegated officer likes to note for the purpose of transparency and ease of access the previous relevant decision reports shown in Table 2 will be viewable when published.

Table 2: Previous relevant decision reports

Description of decision report	Grant Date	Document No.
Licence amendment to correct storage amount for category 73 and to change continuous WAD-CN monitoring in the in-it TSF to manual monitoring per shift.	28/10/2019	A1765008
Licence transferred from Echo Resources Limited to Northern Star (Echo Mining) Pty Ltd	22/05/2020	A1896443
Licence amendment to permit dewatering operations into Central pit with changes to Category 5, 6 and 85 activities	02/07/2021	A2022864

4.5 Planning approval

The licence holder does not require a planning approval for the activities at the Premises because the mining proposal approval has been granted under the provisions of the Mining Act.

5. Summary of changes to the licence conditions

Section 62 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) provides the legal power to attach conditions to licences. Most licences are issued with conditions as per *Guidance Statement – Setting Conditions* (October 2015) to prevent, control, abate or mitigate pollution or environmental harm resulting from emissions and/or discharges from the premises.

Table 3 summarises the changes from the expiring licence into the new licence including changes made to licence conditions where required and the rationale for changes made.

Table 3: Licence conditions changes, description and rationale

Current condition / table	Summary of current condition	New condition / table (if relevant)	Description and rationale
Explanatory Notes	Explain the licence holders obligation under the legislation.	Removed section	No longer a part of new licence template. The licence does not need to explain the obligation in the licence as the legislation does this
Definitions	Definitions within the licence conditions	Table 7	Relocated definitions to Table 7 at the end of the licence conditions
New		Licence History	Addition to new licence format that describes the date when authorised approvals were made to the licence.
Interpretation	Provides explanation of the licence	Interpretation	Amended to meet the new licence format. Intent of wording remains the same.
1	Authorised emissions	Removed	Condition is redundant and unenforceable and no longer in new licence template. Specific emissions for mine tailings and dewater discharge have been included in new licence condition 1.
2	Infrastructure and equipment	1	Amended condition to address tailing storage and dewater containment infrastructure. Table also renumbered.
3 (a) to (c)	Infrastructure Inspection	2	Amended condition to Included changes to table 2.
3 (d) and (e)	Infrastructure Inspection	3	Amended to create new condition with same intend to mitigate and to log the inspection findings
4 (a) to (c)	Ambient Groundwater Monitoring	4	Remains unchanged except renumbered to table 3.
5, 6 & 10	Condition 5, 6 & 10 reporting trends and supplying raw data	Removed	Conditions deleted and replaced by new condition 17 being a new Annual Reporting requirement
7 (a) to (c)	Cyanide monitoring	5	Remains unchanged except renumbered to table 4

Current condition / table	Summary of current condition	New condition / table (if relevant)	Description and rationale
8	Cyanide reporting – 6 months from recommencement of operations	6	Condition remains unchanged except renumbered. The condition applies when Bronzewing processing operations recommence.
9 (a) to (c)	Dewatering monitoring	7	Remains unchanged except renumbered table 5.
4 (d) to (g) 7 (d) & (e) 9 (d) to (g)	Collection standard, sampling standard, sampling frequency limits and laboratory testing accreditation	8, 9, 10 & 11	Duplicated conditions 4, 7 & 9 replaced with new conditions to reference collection and sampling standards, sample frequency and laboratory accreditation.
11 & 12	Hydrogeological, geophysical and geochemical assessment due December 2021.	Removed	Condition 11 and 12 are compliant as of 30 March 2022 (Document reference A2307762) therefore conditions removed.
13 (a) to (d)	Maintain Records	12	Revised and amended to the new licence condition.
13 (e) to (h)	Legible Record	13	Revised and amended to the new licence condition.
14	Complaints Management	14	Revised and amended to the new licence condition.
15	Annual Audit Compliance Report	16	Revised and amended to the new licence condition.
16	Meet request of Department	15	Administrative changes only to meet new licence standards.
	Annual Report	17	New condition to replace old condition 5, 6 & 10
Schedule 1	Plans in Figures 1 to 4	Figure 1 to 4	New maps have been included in Schedule 1 of the new licence.

6. Consultation

The Delegated Officer undertook the consultation for the application to renew the licence as per Table 4.

Table 4: Consultation

Consultation method	Comments received	Delegated Officer's response
Application advertised on the department's website on 21 August 2024 with submissions closing on 11 September 2024.	Public advertising closed on 11 September 2024 with no submissions received.	N/A
Local Government Authority advised of application on 19 August 2024.	No comment's received.	N/A

Consultation method	Comments received	Delegated Officer's response
Applicant was provided with draft documents on 11 September 2024	Licence holder replied on 17 September 2024 with on comments and waived the remaining consultation period.	Noted.

7. Conclusion

Based on this decision report, the delegated officer has determined that the application to renew licence L8358/2009/3 will be granted, subject to conditions commensurate with the determined controls and necessary for administration and reporting requirements.