



Application for Licence

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

Licence Number	L8493/2010/3
Applicant	Rosslyn Hill Mining Pty Ltd
ACN	075 523 661
File Number	2012/006880-1
Premises	<p>Paroo Station Mine WILUNA WA 6646</p> <p>Legal description Mining leases M53/502, M53/503, M53/504, M53/1002 and miscellaneous leases L53/106, L53/107, L53/108 and L53/149 WILUNA WA 6646 As defined by the Premises map in schedule 1 of the licence.</p>
Date of Report	12/11/2021
Proposed Decision	Licence granted

Neville Welsh
Senior Industry Regulation Officer

An officer delegated by the CEO under section 20 of the EP Act

1. Application summary

On 17 August 2021, Rosslyn Hill Mining Pty Ltd (Licence Holder) applied to renew the licence L8493/2010/2 for Paroo Station Mjne that is due to expire on 28 November 2021. The Premises is located 30km west from Wiluna on Goldfield Highway in the Shire of Wiluna. The licence relates to prescribed premises categories as described below in Table 1 with the primary activity being category 5 (processing and beneficiation of metallic or non-metallic ore) under schedule 1 of the *Environmental Protection Regulations 1987*.

Table 1: Premises category description and production design capacity

Prescribed premises category description (Schedule 1, <i>Environmental Protection Regulations 1987</i>)	Assessed production / design capacity
Category 5: Processing or beneficiation of metallic or non-metallic ore	1,700,000 tonnes per year
Category 85: Sewage facility	35 m ³ per day
Category 89: Putrescible landfill site	250 tonnes per year

The primary activities occurring on the premises include the mining and processing of lead carbonate ores to produce lead carbonate concentrate at an ore processing rate of 1.7Mtpa. The ore is crushed and ground into a slurry that passes through a series of agitators and flotation tanks. The resultant concentrate is dried then bagged and packed into locked shipping containers for transport to port.

The existing infrastructure located at the premises includes Magellan and Cane pits, ROM ore pad, concentrator plant, above ground tailing storage cells, topsoil storage areas, low grade ore stockpiles, mine administration, accommodation village, wastewater treatment plant, integrated waste landform (IWL), waste landfills, water storage dams and pipeline networks.

Waste in the form of tailings is pumped along a bunded pipeline corridor to a two-celled paddock style tailings storage facility (TSF) where it is discharged in a manner that maximises solids consolidation and process water return.

The operation was placed in care and maintenance by the Licence Holder in January 2015 due to low metal prices. At the time of this report the operation remains in care and maintenance.

The Licence Holder holds works approval W6127/2018/1 that approves the construction and operation of a hydrometallurgical facility, adjacent to the existing concentrator plant, to produce an estimated 70,000 tonnes per annum (tpa), of lead metal ingots. This new facility will process the lead concentrate using an acid leach process that dissolves the lead into solution and then electro-win the lead from the solution, onto cathodes which are then melted and poured into ingots.

The mining tenements are held by the Licence Holder and generally the tenure expires in May or December 2041 which provides sufficient justification for the replacement licence to be issued for 20 years.

The main risks associated with the operation of the concentrator plant include:

- the potential for seepage of supernatant liquor from the TSF into groundwater.
- the release of fugitive dust emissions containing lead particulate matter from the exposed surfaces of the TSF; and,
- from material handling and storage of dried lead concentrate.

These emissions will not be reassessed during this replacement licence process.

2. Regulatory framework

The department has determined to undertake an administrative renewal of the licence and has not conducted a full review and risk assessment of emissions and discharges from the premises. The Administrative licence renewal aligns with the Department's *Work Instruction: Regulatory Services, COVID-19 licensing position*.

In replacing the existing 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>.

3. Complaints and Incident History

There have been no incidents or complaints identified by the Department because of the premises operations during the last five years.

4. Decision summary

Under the regulatory framework the Delegated Officer has determined to grant the licence L8493/2010/3 without conducting additional risk assessment.

In renewing the licence the Delegated Officer has determined to:

- update the format and appearance of the replacement licence;
- incorporate licence amendment/s issued prior to the replacement licence;
- remove redundant conditions;
- revise licence conditions and consolidate existing pollution control conditions; and,
- correct clerical mistakes and unintentional errors.

The replacement licence will be issued for 20 years consistent with the *Guidance Statement on Licence Duration 2016*.

4.1 Summary of administrative changes

Section 62 of the EP Act provides general power to impose conditions on licences. All licences are issued with conditions as per *Guidance Statement – Setting Conditions* (October 2015) for the purposes of the EP Act to prevent, control, abate or mitigate pollution or environmental harm.

Table 2 summarizes the transfer of all appropriate conditions from the expiring licence into the renewed licence including changes made to licence conditions where required and the rationale for changes made.

Table 2: Licence conditions description and rationale

Condition / table	Description and Rationale
Cover page	Licence version updated. "Duration", "Date of issue" and title of delegated officer updated.
Footers	Update the footers on all pages
Licence History	Include references to W6127/2018/1.
All	Correct clerical mistakes and unintentional errors

5. Consultation

The draft replacement licence and this decision report were provided to the licence holder on 29 October 2021 for comment. The licence holder replied on 2 November with no comments and waiving the remaining consultation period.

6. Conclusion

Based on the assessment in this Decision Report, the Delegated Officer has determined that the renewed licence L8493/2010/3 will be granted. The licence is subject to conditions commensurate with the determined controls as well as conditions necessary for administration and annual reporting requirements.