



Application for Licence

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

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|--------------------------|---|
| Licence Number | L8893/2015/2 |
| Applicant | Salt Lake Mining Pty Ltd |
| ACN | 162 824 473 |
| File Number | DER2015/001006-1~2 |
| Premises | Beta Hunt Mine Site St Ives Road KAMBALDA WA 6442 Part of Mining Tenements: M15/1512, M15/1513, M15/1516, M15/1517, M15/1518, M15/1526, M15/1527, M15/1529, M15/1531, M15/1628, M15/1629, M15/1691, M15/1694, M15/1698, M15/1699, M15/1702 and M15/1705 As defined by the coordinates in Schedule 1 of the licence |
| Date of Report | 7 July 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 1 April 2021 Salt Lake Mining Pty Ltd (the Licence Holder) applied to renew the licence L8893/2015/1 as the licence is due to expire on 9 July 2021. The Premises is located at St Ives Road Kambalda WA approximately 1.6 km from Kambalda in the Shire of Coolgardie. The licence relates to prescribed premises categories as described below in Table 1.

Table 1: Premises category description and production design capacity

| Prescribed premises category description (Schedule 1, <i>Environmental Protection Regulations 1987</i>) | Production / design capacity |
|--|---|
| Category 6: Mine dewatering | 480,000 tonnes per annum |
| Category 64: Class II or III putrescible landfill site: premises on which waste (as determined by reference to the waste type set out in the document entitled “Landfill Waste Classification and Waste Definitions 1996” published by the Chief Executive Officer and as amended from time to time) is accepted for burial. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 450 tonnes per annum – clean fill; inert waste type 1; uncontaminated fill; putrescible wastes; inert waste type 2 (not including tyres)• 1,000 tonnes per annum – inert waste type 2 (tyres only) |

2. Premises overview

The main activities occurring on the premises include an underground nickel sulfide and gold project, plus the operation of two Class II putrescible waste landfills (including the burying of tyres). The main emission regulated under this Licence is dewatering effluent from the underground mine; which is discharged to Lake Lefroy.

2.1 Mine dewatering

Controls implemented by the Licence Holder associated with mine dewatering include underground settlement dams. The dewatering pipeline conveys water from the underground operations to the surface through a single rising main. From there it is pumped via a 788m pipeline discharging into a rock and geofabric material lined turkey’s nest dam. Dewater is then piped onto a steel bollard with a concrete base, that dissipates the outgoing water into Lake Lefroy. Regulatory controls including a limit on the discharge and monitoring of key parameters to manage this activity.

2.2 Landfilling operations

The elevated Red Hill landform located north-north-west of the premises acts as a buffer to the Kambalda town site. There are no significant leachate generators given the small size of the landfill, the predominantly inert nature of the waste, and the lack of significant potential contamination sources. Due to the underground mine, the area beneath the Beta Hunt Mine is contained in a drawdown cone. The landfills are elevated on top of waste rock dumps and therefore considered unlikely to have any interaction with groundwater.

The landfill is bunded at the top of the waste rock dump and the laydown area to the north. Condition (8) of the licence stipulates the quantities and waste types allowed to be disposed of in the landfill. Condition (9) of the licence stipulates that waste deposited in the landfill is to be: covered at least every 30 days or when the open area reaches >30m length x 20m width (whichever is sooner); covered with a dense, inert and incombustible material; and totally covered, so that no waste is left exposed.

2.3 Hydrocarbon and chemical storage

Hydrocarbons and chemicals are stored in bunded areas. Spillage from within the bunded areas is directed to an oil-water separator. Hydrocarbon wastes are stored in skips on site (on a solid concrete pad) and are transported off site to be disposed of or recycled by a licensed controlled waste company. Other regulatory controls relating to hydrocarbon storage include spill response kits, containing spills as soon as they occur, and maintain bunded area capacity at 110% of the largest container or 25% of the volume of all containers (depending on which is the larger of the two).

2.4 Washdown bay

There is an evaporation pond for storage of washdown bay water. This is not captured as a regulatory control on the licence as the management of washdown bay water is not considered a prescribed activity under Schedule 1 of the EP Regulations and has not been risk assessed in previous decision reports relating to this licence.

3. 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 in line with the Department's *Work Instruction: Regulatory Services, COVID-19 licensing position*.

In replacing 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>

The Department has had regard for planning and other matters relevant to the granting of this instrument. The Primary activities of the Premises are within mining tenements M15-1529 and M15-1512. The Department has ensured that the licence duration extend significantly past the 23 December 2025 expiry date of the mining tenements. As such, the licence duration has been extended until **8 July 2026** as part of this renewal.

4. Complaints and incident history

A 2019 targeted inspection identified non-compliances that were later resolved by Compliance and Enforcement Branch and as part of the March 2020 licence amendment.

There has been one complaint identified in the last five years, reported on 21 December 2020. This complaint is currently under investigation.

5. Direct interest referral

Two direct interest parties were identified through validation of this renewal application.

A direct interest letter was addressed to the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation, and Safety (DMIRS) on the 25 May 2021. DMIRS responded on the 2 June 2021 advising that:

- The dewatering is consistent with a Mining Proposal DMIRS approved in January 2021 (Reg ID 81919). However, the operator appears to have constructed the landfill prior to obtaining approval from DMIRS. DMIRS is negotiating a retrospective approval for the landfill with the Licence Holder.

A direct interest letter was addressed to the Shire of Coolgardie (the Shire) also on the 25 May 2021. A response was not received from the Shire.

6. Decision summary

Under the regulatory framework the Delegated Officer has determined to grant the licence L8893/2015/2 without conducting any additional assessment or risk assessment.

The replacement licence will be issued for the duration of the mining tenements consistent with the *Guidance Statement on Licence Duration 2016*.

In renewing the licence the Delegated Officer has determined to:

- update the format and appearance of the licence;
- transfer all existing regulatory controls and conditions to the renewed licence; and
- align the duration of the licence with the mining tenement tenure.

As a result of this decision, a renewed Licence L8893/2015/2 has been granted subject to conditions set out in the attached licence and summarised below.

6.1 Summary of administrative changes

Section 62 of the EP Act provides general power to impose conditions on a licence. All licence 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 summarises 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.

Table 2: Licence conditions description and rationale

| Condition / table | Description and Rationale |
|-------------------|---|
| Licence Duration | Licence expiry date has been extended to 8 July 2026. |
| Licence Number | Version updated from L8893/2015/1 to L8893/2015/2 |

7. Consultation

The draft replacement licence and this decision report were provided to the licence holder on 29 June 2021 for comment. The licence holder replied with no further comments and request to issue the licence renewal immediately.

8. Conclusion

Based on the assessment in this Decision Report, the Delegated Officer has determined that the renewed licence L8893/2015/2 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.