# **Amendment Report**

## **Application for Licence Amendment**

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

Licence Number L9010/2016/1

Licence Holder Mt Morgans (WA) Gold Mining Pty Ltd

**ACN** 612 053 291

File Number DER2016/002022

Premises Mt Morgans Gold Project

Mining tenements M39/236, M39/395, M39/390, M39/272, M39/18, M39/228, M39/264, M39/304, M39/240, M39/248, L39/245, L39/246, M39/441, M39/250, M39/504, M39/745,

M39/403, M39/282, M39/36 and M39/1107

Date of Report 18 October 2021

**Decision** Revised licence granted

# A/MANAGER, RESOURCE INDUSTRIES REGULATORY SERVICES

an officer delegated under section 20 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 (WA)

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## 1. Decision summary

Licence L9010/2016/1 is held by Mt Morgans WA Mining Pty Ltd (Licence Holder) for the Mt Morgans Gold Project (the Premises), located at Mining tenements M39/236, M39/395, M39/390, M39/272, M39/18, M39/228, M39/264, M39/304, M39/240, M39/248, L39/245, L39/246, M39/441, M39/250, M39/504, M39/745, M39/403, M39/282, M39/36 and M39/1107 in the Shire of Laverton.

This Amendment Report documents the assessment of potential risks to the environment and public health from proposed changes to the emissions and discharges during the construction and operation of the Premises. As a result of this assessment, Revised Licence L9010/2016/1 has been granted.

### 2. Scope of assessment

#### 2.1 Regulatory framework

In completing the assessment documented in this Amendment Report, the department has considered and given due regard to its Regulatory Framework and relevant policy documents which are available at <a href="https://dwer.wa.gov.au/regulatory-documents">https://dwer.wa.gov.au/regulatory-documents</a>.

#### 2.2 Application summary

On 12 May 2021 and 19 August 2021, the Licence Holder submitted two separate applications to the department to amend Licence L9010/2016/1 under section 59 and 59B of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). Following consultation with the Licence Holder, the Department has elected to combine both applications into a single assessment and amendment process, with recommendations and a decision on both applications being determined in this Amendment Report. The following amendments are being sought:

- The amending of the infrastructure requirements in Table 1.2. to allow for the discharge of tailings into TSF Cell 1 now the walls have been raised to 411.5m RL.
- The discharge of water from Craic Underground Mine to Sarah Pit to allow for mining of the Craic Underground.

This amendment is limited only to changes to Category 5 and 6 activities from the Existing Licence. No changes to the aspects of the existing Licence relating to Category 54, 57 and 64 have been requested by the Licence Holder.

Table 1 below outlines the proposed changes to the existing Licence:

Table 1: Proposed changes

Category	Current throughput capacity	Proposed throughput capacity	Description of proposed amendment	
5	3.5 million tonnes per annual period	No changes to throughput required from these	Amend the height of TSF Cell 1from 408m RL to 411.5m RL to allow for discharge of tailings to that cell.	
6	1.2 million tonnes per annum	amendments	Include Craic Underground Mine as a dewatering source for Sarah Pit.	

#### 3. Risk 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.

#### 3.1 Source-pathways and receptors

#### 3.1.1 Emissions and controls

The key emissions and associated actual or likely pathway during premises operation which have been considered in this Amendment Report are detailed in Table 22 below. Table 22 also details the proposed control measures the Licence Holder has proposed to assist in controlling these emissions, where necessary.

The construction of the pipeline for the transport of water from the Craic Underground Mine and Sarah Pit is not included as the emissions are minor seeing as the pipeline will be run through already cleared road corridors requiring minimal ground disturbance and there are no sensitive receptors to noise and dust from the activity. A commissioning phase for the pipeline is also not proposed.

**Table 2: Licence Holder controls** 

Emission	Sources	Potential pathways	Proposed controls		
Operation	of pipeline be	tween Craic Pit an	d Sarah Pit		
Saline water	Leaks and spills from the pipeline transporting water (Figure 1)	Seepage to soils and groundwater	<ul> <li>Implementation and adherence to the DWER Site Licence and Spill Response Procedure.</li> <li>Pipelines placed within designated bunded areas and v-drains.</li> <li>Licence condition 1.2.1 of the licence requires the pipeline be either:         <ul> <li>equipped with telemetry systems and pressure sensors along pipelines to allow the detection of leaks and failures; or</li> <li>equipped with automatic cut-outs in the event of a pipe failure; or</li> <li>provided with secondary containment sufficient to contain any spill for a period equal to the time between inspections.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Licence condition 1.2.2, Table 1.2.1 provides conditions for inspection of mine dewater pipelines.</li> </ul>		
	Discharge to Sarah Pit.	Seepage through pit walls into groundwater.	<ul> <li>Monitoring confirms that water quality of source water is better than at the Emission Point. (Figure 2)</li> <li>Sarah Pit is a groundwater sink.</li> <li>Sarah Pit is a currently licensed emission point.</li> </ul>		

Emission	Sources	Potential pathways	Proposed controls
		Overtopping of pit.	Initial dewatering will be directed to the Jupiter Processing plant by preference and after that initial dewatering the continuing inflow will be used for dust suppression by preference.
			Only the excess will be diverted as necessary to Sarah Pit making the amount to be discharged to Sarah Pit significantly less than the amount to be extracted form Craic Underground Mine.
			<ul> <li>Licence condition 3.2.1, Table 3.2.1 sets a freeboard limit of 5 metres below crest level.</li> </ul>
Operation of	of TSF Cell 1		
	Leaks and spills from the pipeline	Direct contact with surrounding	<ul> <li>The pipelines on the premises are maintained with telemetry, automatic cutouts and secondary containment.</li> <li>Pipelines positioned within trenches</li> </ul>
	transporting tailings	vegetation and soil.  Contamination of stormwater through contact with contaminated soil.	
Tailings	Overtopping of the TSF	Direct contact with surrounding vegetation and soil. Contamination of stormwater through contact with contaminated soil.	<ul> <li>500mm freeboard is maintained.</li> <li>12 hourly inspection of freeboard.</li> </ul>
	Dust	Airborne pathway	<ul> <li>Conditions on licence managing dust.</li> <li>No increase in risk due to dusting from the TSF from the continued deposition of tailings to TSF Cell 1.</li> </ul>
Leachate	Deposition of tailings into TSF Cell 1	Seepage through ground	Seepage recovery system (Figure 3) that includes:     Interception sumps - eight sumps installed along the northern side of Cell 2 and the southern corner and south-eastern side of Cell 1. Five of the sumps are currently provided with a surface pump to remove seepage affected groundwater that enter the sumps. Two pumps run more-or-less continuously, while 3 pumps are operated manually, and pumps are run intermittently
			<ul> <li>Monitoring bores</li> <li>Groundwater management plan updated July 2021 that</li> </ul>
			Groundwater management plan updated July 2021 that

Emission	Sources	Potential pathways	Proposed controls
			includes trigger levels for recovery actions. These trigger levels are additional to the trigger and limit levels set on monitoring bore TSF MB1 by the licence condition 3.5.1
			Alteration of the spigot arrangement as approved under Works Approval W6008/2016/1. The spigots are spaced at 24m intervals around the perimeter of the TSF cell rather than the 36m initially proposed in the design. This will allow for better tailings deposition and beaching control.
			A section of the northeastern corner of the cell where a portion of the hill extends into the cell has the spigot arrangement around the hill changed to two movable single point discharge, as opposed to the existing design of perimeter spigots. This is to facilitate the ease of spigot installation as the current configuration would result in multiple bends in the main distribution pipeline. This would be difficult to install and will decrease efficiency of the hydraulic system. The two movable single point discharge system is ideal for the location as the licence holder is able to move the tailings discharge system within the two corridors on either side of the hill as required. The different technique will also not compromise the stability of the TSF as the two single point discharge would be situated on natural surface, not on the constructed embankment (i.e. future upstream raising of an embankment is not required). As per the extract from the 'as constructed' diagram for the TSF Cell 1 raise.
			A relevant snipped portion of the spigotting diagram shows the new arrangement of spigots (pink lines) in the northeastern corner of Cell 1. The scribbled red line is the length of spigotting previously planned but was found to include multiple bends making installation difficult and decreasing hydraulic system efficiency.
			24m spigot spacing not required  SLURRY SPIGOTS AT 24m CENTRES  408.5 Reuse Victaulic spools and spigots (24m)  WP1  X 40

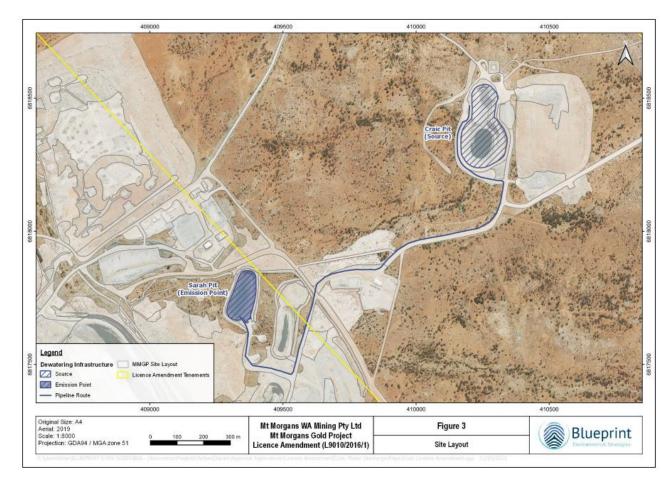


Figure 1: Dewatering pipeline between Craic Pit/Underground and Sarah Pit

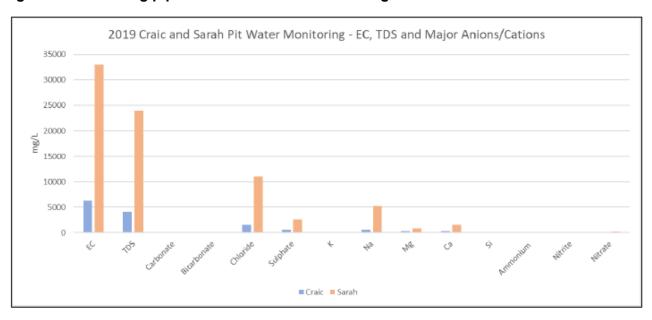


Figure 2: Water quality - Craic Pit/Underground and Sara Pit

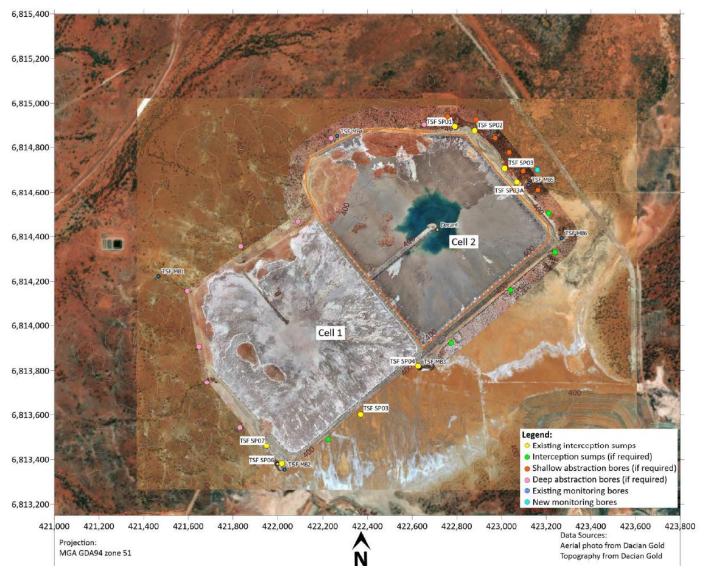


Figure 3: Existing and proposed monitoring and seepage infrastructure

#### Effectiveness of the seepage infrastructure

The seepage infrastructure was developed in response to the groundwater mounding around the TSF causing surface expression of groundwater at the south of the facility where the natural groundwater levels were shallow prior to construction of the TSF. Groundwater levels rose in all bores in response to deposition of tailings into the cells of the TSF. The current trend in most bores since the increased seepage management and the drying of TSF Cell 1 is toward stabilizing or decreasing groundwater levels.

The chart below (Figure 4) shows the water levels recorded in the monitoring bores since the commencement of discharge in early 2018 to April 2021.

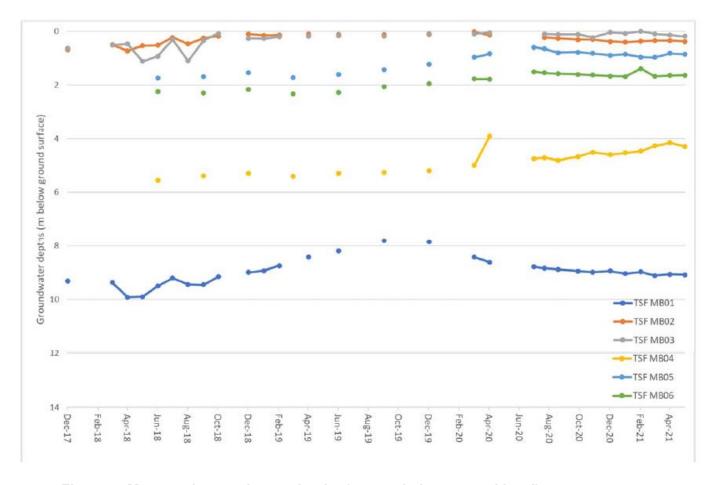


Figure 4: Measured groundwater depths (metres below ground level)

#### 3.1.2 Receptors

In accordance with the *Guideline: Risk assessments* (DWER 2020), the Delegated Officer has excluded employees, visitors and contractors of the Licence Holder's from its assessment. Protection of these parties often involves different exposure risks and prevention strategies, and is provided for under other state legislation.

Table 33 below provides a summary of potential human and environmental receptors that may be impacted as a result of activities upon or emission and discharges from the prescribed premises (Guideline: Environmental siting (DWER 2020)).

Table 3: Sensitive human and environmental receptors and distance from prescribed activity

Human receptors	Distance from activity / prescribed premises
Aboriginal community:  Mt Margaret	1 km west of northwest corner of TSF Cell 1 11 km southeast of the Craic Pit.
Environmental receptors	Distance from activity / prescribed premises
Mount Morgans calcrete groundwater assemblage	Approximately 600m to the northwest of the TSF. Approximately 4.6km northeast of Craic Pit

Underlying	groundwater	(non-potable	TSF Cell 1
purposes)			Background groundwater elevations (prior to tailings deposition) ranged between very shallow at the playa with groundwater depths of less than 0.5 m from ground surface at TSF MB2 and TSF MB3, to 9.3 m and 5.5 m at TSF MB1 and TSF MB4 respectively with monitoring bores between the playa and upgradient monitoring bores about 2 m depth.
			Since tailings deposition started, groundwater levels at TSF MB2 and TSF MB3 have increased to close to the ground surface with groundwater expressions occurring in places. However, since the TSF seepage interception system was installed, groundwater levels have lowered and is currently at 0.38 and 0.19 m below ground level (bgl) for TSF MB2 and TSF MB3 respectively.
			The quality of groundwater ranged from 150,000 mg/L TDS and 180,00 mg/L at the playa to 5,800mg/L to the northwest corner of Cell 1 (TSFMB1). Since deposition the TDS has fluctuated widely in the bores with low salinity increasing to hypersaline but dropping after deposition in Cell 1 ceased prior to the works approval Stage 8 lift.
			Cyanide has also been detected in some bores due to contamination with seepage from the TSF.
			Craic Underground and Sarah Pit
			The standing water level estimated from studies undertaken in 2009 was approximately 20 mbgl prior to mining.
			Salinity is in the brackish to saline range: TDS ->45,000 mg/L
Lake Carey			A playa connected the main Lake Carey playa is immediately adjacent to the TSF.
			Approximately 10 km south of Craic Pit.
Tecticornia cyr	mbiformis (Priorit	y 3)	Approximately 1.3 km west of the northwestern corner of Cell 1 of the TSF)
Eremophila ara (P3)	achnoides subsp	. Arachnoides	1 specimen is present in the Craic pit area and is expected to be cleared and 1 specimen was recorded outside of the pit area in a 2009 desktop survey.

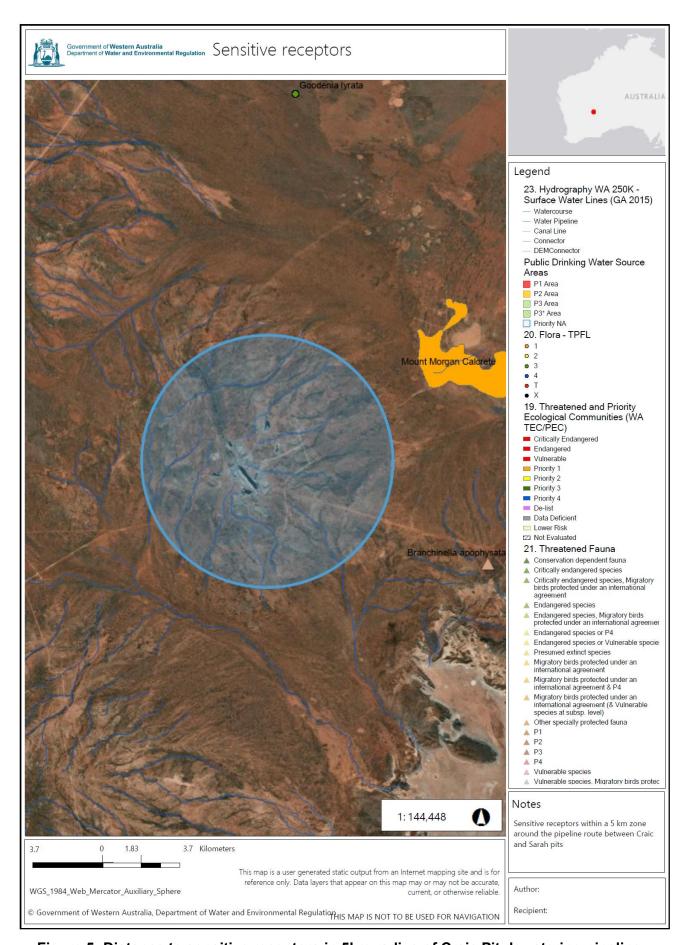


Figure 5: Distance to sensitive receptors in 5km radius of Craic Pit dewatering pipeline

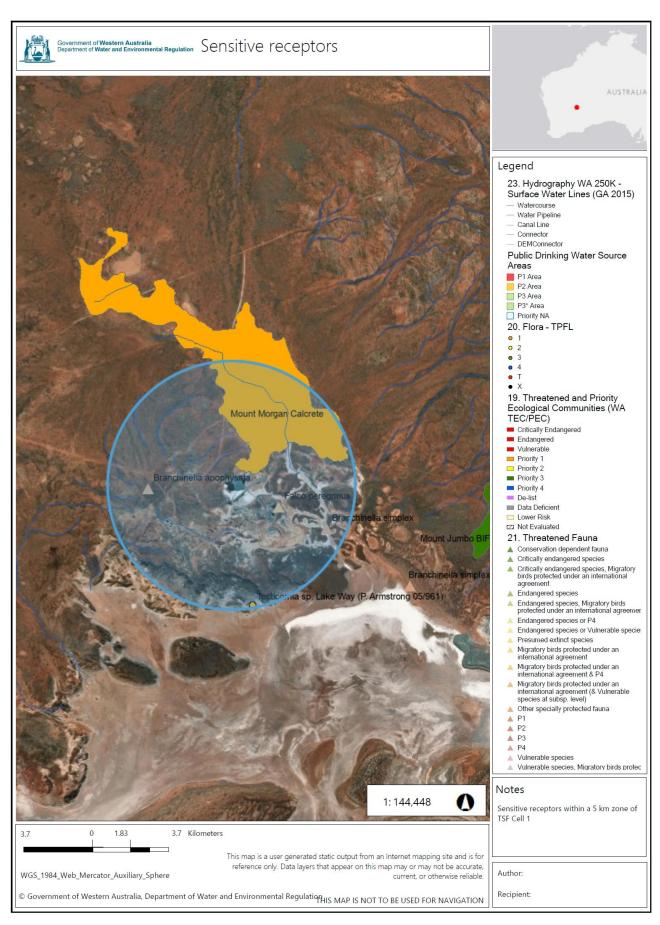


Figure 6: Distance to sensitive receptors in 5km radius of TSF Cell1

#### 3.2 Risk ratings

Risk ratings have been assessed in accordance with the *Guideline: Risk Assessments* (DWER 2020) for those emission sources which are proposed to change and takes into account potential source-pathway and receptor linkages as identified in Section 3.1. Where linkages are incomplete they have not been considered further in the risk assessment.

Where the Licence Holder has proposed mitigation measures/controls (as detailed in Section 3.1), these have been considered when determining the final risk rating. Where the Delegated Officer considers the Licence Holder's proposed controls to be critical to maintaining an acceptable level of risk, these will be incorporated into the licence as regulatory controls.

Additional regulatory controls may be imposed where the Licence Holder's controls are not deemed sufficient. Where this is the case the need for additional controls will be documented and justified in Table 4.

The Revised Licence L9010/2016/1 that accompanies this Amendment Report authorises emissions associated with the operation of the Premises i.e. Category 5, 6, 54, 57 and 64 activities.

The conditions in the Revised Licence have been determined in accordance with *Guidance Statement: Setting Conditions* (DER 2015).

Licence: L9010/2016/1

Table 4. Risk assessment of potential emissions and discharges from the Premises during operation

Risk Event		Risk rating <sup>1</sup>	Licence		Justification for			
Source/Activities	Potential emission	Potential pathways and impact	Receptors	Licence Holder's controls	C = consequence L = likelihood	Holder's controls sufficient?	Conditions <sup>2</sup> of licence	additional regulatory controls
Operation								
Transport of dewatering in pipeline and discharge of dewater to Sarah Pit	Saline water	Direct discharge to ground from leaks and spills	Surrounding vegetation	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Slight L = Possible Low Risk	Y	Current conditions Condition 1.2.1 Requires either telemetry, automatic cutouts or secondary containment of pipelines during operation Condition 1.2.2 Requires 12 hourly inspections of pipelines, corrective action if environmental protection is not being maintained and keep a log of all inspections Conditions 1.2.10 – 1.2.12 Standard construction conditions to require the pipeline be constructed in the area that is proposed in the application and within bunding so that it can be operated as per Condition 1.2.1. The standard conditions include reporting requirements.	The assessment of the risks associated with the transport of dewatering as low are reliant on the pipeline being constructed within the route proposed and the provision for secondary containment of the pipeline in the event of a leak or spill.  Standard conditions covering construction of the pipeline are therefore included as part of the management of the operational risks.  The risks of dust and noise creating an environmental impact during construction are not considered sufficient for them to be assessed separately
		Direct discharge to ground from overtopping			C = Minor L = Rare Low Risk	Y	Current conditions Condition 3.2.1, Table 3.2.1 sets a limit of 5 metres below crest level for all pits.	as there are no sensitive receptors present to be impacted by those emissions.

Licence: L9010/2016/1

Risk Event	Risk Event							Justification for
Source/Activities	Potential emission	Potential pathways and impact	Receptors	Licence Holder's controls	C = consequence L = likelihood	Holder's controls sufficient?	Conditions <sup>2</sup> of licence	additional regulatory controls
Transport of tailings and decant water in pipelines and discharge of tailings to TSF Cell 1	Tailings  Decant water	Direct discharge to ground from leaks and spills.  Direct discharge to land from overtopping of TSF	Surrounding vegetation Lake playa	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Minor L = Unlikely <b>Medium Risk</b>	Y	Current conditions Condition 1.2.1 Requires either telemetry, automatic cutouts or secondary containment of pipelines during operation Condition 1.2.2 Requires 12 hourly inspections of pipelines, corrective action if environmental protection is not being maintained and keep a log of all inspections Condition 1.2.4 Requires a top of embankment freeboard of 500 mm or a 1 in 100 year / 72 hour storm event (whichever is greater) is maintained.	N/A
	Leachate	Seepage through ground into surrounding aquifers causing groundwater mounding and contamination of the groundwater.	Surrounding vegetation. Fresh to brackish aquifer to north of TSF Cell 1.	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Moderate L = Almost certain <b>High Risk</b>	N	Current conditions Condition 1.2.5 Requires that a seepage collection and recovery system is provided and used to capture seepage from the TSF; and seepage is returned to the TSF or reused in process. Condition 1.2.6 Requires an annual vegetation assessment with the zone of influence of the	The conditions on the licence are extensive but the management actions that the licence holder has put in place as a result of these conditions have not been adequately shown to be effective.  There has been some improvement in the groundwater mounding but it was

Licence: L9010/2016/1

Risk Event	Risk Event							luctification for
Source/Activities	Potential emission	Potential pathways and impact	Receptors	Licence Holder's controls	C = consequence L = likelihood	Holder's controls sufficient?	Conditions <sup>2</sup> of licence	Justification for additional regulatory controls
							TSF. Condition 1.2.7 Requires the production of an annual water balance for the TSF. Condition 3.4.1 Requires monitoring of volumes of tailings discharged, water recovered from the TSF and the volumes of seepage recovered and re-used in the process plant. Condition 3.5.1 Requires the monitoring of the ambient groundwater around the TSF and sets the monitoring parameters and limits on the standing water level for TSF MB1. Conditions 3.5.2 and 3.5.3 Sets out the requirements in the event of a trigger or limit being exceeded in Condition 3.5.1	not clear from the reporting if the seepage recovery or the drying of the TSF Cell1 prior to carrying out the lift of the wall was the main influence in this improvement.  Continued monitoring is the only way of establishing the effectiveness of the seepage management systems in place.

Note 1: Consequence ratings, likelihood ratings and risk descriptions are detailed in the Guideline: Risk assessments (DWER 2020).

Note 2: Proposed Licence Holder's controls are depicted by standard text. **Bold and underline text** depicts additional regulatory controls imposed by department.

#### 4. Consultation

Table 5 provides a summary of the consultation undertaken by the department.

**Table 5: Consultation** 

Consultation method	Comments received	Department response
Local Government Authority advised of proposal (17/08/2021)	No comments were received.	N/A
Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) advised of proposal (17/08/2021)	No comments were received.	N/A
Licence Holder was provided with draft amendment on (07/10/2021)	Response received 13/10/2021 Updated map of dewatering network provided and 21 day period waived	Map in licence updated.

#### 5. Conclusion

Based on the assessment in this Amendment Report, the Delegated Officer has determined that a Revised 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 6 provides a summary of the proposed amendments and will act as record of implemented changes. All proposed changes have been incorporated into the Revised Licence as part of the amendment process.

Table 6: Summary of licence amendments

Condition no.	Proposed amendments
1.2.3, Table 1.2.2	Amend heights of embankments for TSF Cells
1.2.10 – 1.2.12	New conditions for construction of the new pipeline between Craic Pit and Sarah Pit. Conditions are standard construction conditions.
2.1.1	Includes Craic Underground Mine as a source of mine dewater for the Sarah Pit
Maps	New map added on page 22 depicting the pipeline route for the new dewatering pipeline.

#### 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.

# **Appendix 1: Application validation summary**

SECTION 1: APPLICATION SUMMARY (as updated from validation checklist)							
Application type							
Amendment to licence	$\boxtimes$	Current licence number:	L9010/2016/1				
		Relevant works approval number:	W6008/2016/1	N/A			
Date application received		12 May 2021 and 19 August 2021					
Applicant and Premises details							
Applicant name/s (full legal name/s)		Mount Morgans WA Mining Pty Ltd					
Premises name		Mt Morgans Gold Project					
Premises location		Mining tenements M39/236, M39/395, M39/390, M39/272, M39/18, M39/228, M39/264, M39/304, M39/240, M39/248, L39/245, L39/246, M39/441, M39/250, M39/504, M39/745, M39/403, M39/282, M39/36 and M39/1107					
Local Government Authority		Shire of Laverton					
Application documents							
HPCM file reference number:		DER2016/002022					
Key application documents (additional to application form):		TSF Cell 1 amendment 210722_DWER application supporting document PER2020-0002AW Rev 0 TSF Cell 1 raise construction report PER2020-0002AQ Rev 0 Spigots for TSF Cell 1 raise J2119R01 TSF groundwater management plan Craic Pit dewatering amendment Attachment 3B – Licence Amendment (L9010/2016/1) Supporting Document Site maps					
Scope of application/assessment							
Summary of proposed activities or changes to existing operations.		Operation of Tailings Storage Facility Cell 1  Construction of dewatering infrastructure between Craic Pit and					
		Sarah Pit.  Operation of dewatering infrastructure to dewater Craic Pit to allow access to the Craic Underground Mine to recommence mining.					

Category number/s (activities that cause the premises to become prescribed premises) Table 1: Prescribed premises categories Prescribed premises category and Assessed production or design Proposed changes to the description capacity production or design capacity (amendments only) N/A Category 5: Processing or 3.5 million tonnes per annual beneficiation of metallic or nonperiod metallic ore Category 6: Mine dewatering 1.2 million tonnes per annum Category 54: Sewage facility 100 kL per day Category 57: Used tvre 450 tyres storage(general) Legislative context and other approvals Has the applicant referred, or do they Referral decision No: intend to refer, their proposal to the EPA Managed under Part V □ Yes □ No ⊠ under Part IV of the EP Act as a significant proposal? Assessed under Part IV □ Does the applicant hold any existing Part Ministerial statement No: IV Ministerial Statements relevant to the Yes □ No ⊠ **EPA Report No:** application? Has the proposal been referred and/or Reference No: Yes □ No ⊠ assessed under the EPBC Act? Mining lease / tenement ⊠ Has the applicant demonstrated No changes to current premises Yes ⊠ No □ occupancy (proof of occupier status)? Has the applicant obtained all relevant If N/A explain why? Mining tenure planning approvals? Yes □ No □ N/A ⊠ Has the applicant applied for, or have an CPS No: 7408-3 existing EP Act clearing permit in relation Yes ⊠ No □ to this proposal? Has the applicant applied for, or have an Application reference No: N/A existing CAWS Act clearing licence in Yes □ No ⊠ Licence/permit No: N/A relation to this proposal? No clearing is proposed. Has the applicant applied for, or have an Application reference No: existing RIWI Act licence or permit in Yes □ No ⊠ Licence/permit No: relation to this proposal? Licence / permit not required.

Does the proposal involve a discharge of waste into a designated area (as defined in section 57 of the EP Act)?	Yes ⊠ No □	Name: Goldfields  Type: Proclaimed Groundwater Area  Has Regulatory Services (Water) been consulted?  Yes □ No ☒ N/A □  Regional office: Goldfields
Is the Premises situated in a Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA)?	Yes □ No ⊠	Name: N/A  Priority: P1 / P2 / P3 / N/A  Are the proposed activities/ landuse compatible with the PDWSA (refer to WQPN 25)?  Yes □ No □ N/A ⊠
Is the Premises subject to any other Acts or subsidiary regulations (e.g. Dangerous Goods Safety Act 2004, Environmental Protection (Controlled Waste) Regulations 2004, State Agreement Act xxxx)	Yes ⊠ No □	Mining Act 1978 RIWI Act 1914
Is the Premises within an Environmental Protection Policy (EPP) Area?	Yes □ No ⊠	
Is the Premises subject to any EPP requirements?	Yes □ No ⊠	
Is the Premises a known or suspected contaminated site under the Contaminated Sites Act 2003?	Yes ⊠ No □	Classification: Awaiting classification  Date of classification: N/A