



Application to renew a licence

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

Licence Number	L9253/2020/3
Licence Holder	Mardie Minerals Pty Ltd
ACN	152 574 457
File Number	DER2020/000168
Premises	Mardie Trial Project Legal description - Mining Tenement M08/526 as defined by the premises boundary coordinates in Schedule 1 Table 6
Date of Report	24/09/2024
Decision	To grant a licence

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INDUSTRY REGULATION
Officer delegated under section 20 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (WA)

1. Decision summary

Under the regulatory framework the Delegated Officer decided to process the application to renew licence L9253/2020/3 without conducting any additional risk assessment.

The licence can be issued for 20 years, which is consistent with the *Guidance Statement on Licence Duration 2016*. In renewing the licence the Delegated Officer has determined to:

- correct clerical mistakes and unintentional errors
- include conditions considered necessary for the effective administration of the licence (i.e. record keeping and reporting requirements); and
- transfer all existing regulatory controls and conditions to the new licence.

As a result of the above, the Delegated Officer decided to grant Licence L9253/2020/3, subject to conditions set out in the attached licence.

2. Scope of assessment

2.1 Application summary

On 23/02/2024 Mardie Minerals Pty Ltd (licence holder) applied to renew licence L9253/2020/2, as the licence is due to expire on 24/09/2024. The licence was granted to the licence holder for the premises located at Mining Tenement M08/526 (Premises) and known as the Mardie Trial Project.

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>)	Production / design capacity
Category 14 Solar salt manufacturing: premises on which salt is produced by solar evaporation	137 tonnes per annum

The main activities occurring on the Premises relates to the production of salt being a mixture of potassium salt for further processing into sulphate of potash and waste bitterns for characterisation.

The Mardie Trial Project is located approximately 100 km south-west of Karratha in the Pilbara region of Western Australia and aims to:

- Confirm the evaporation rates at each brine density stage during solar concentration and crystallisation.
- Calibrate the results using recorded atmospheric conditions to long term Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) records.
- Provide raw salt product samples for laboratory and pilot processing trials; and,
- Produce samples of the resultant waste bitterns for characterisation.

3. Regulatory framework

The Delegated Officer has not conducted a full review and risk assessment of emissions and discharges from the Premises in line with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's (department) *Work Instruction: Regulatory Services, COVID-19 licensing position* 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 \(www.wa.gov.au\)](http://www.wa.gov.au)

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. There have been no enforcement actions undertaken in the last 5 years.

4.2 Legal occupancy

The licence holder has demonstrated legal occupancy of the Premises.

4.3 Categories of the licence

The requested category and the corresponding maximum production capacities for the renewal of the licence are consistent with the category that were 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 noted for the purpose of transparency and ease of access the previous relevant decision reports shown in Table 2 will also be published.

Table 2: Previous relevant decision reports

Description of decision report	Grant Date	Document number
Undertake the Mardie Trial Project to gather data to enable more accurate implementation for a full-scale Mardie Project.	25/09/2020	A1937761
Renewal of licence L9253/2020/1	21/09/2022	A2127076

4.5 Planning approval

The licence holder has informed the department that it has planning approval for the activities on the Premises.

5. Summary of changes to the licence conditions

Mardie Minerals Pty Ltd requested that the use of water carts and /or the fixed sprinkler system be used for dust suppression at Mardie Trial Project. The Delegated Officer noted the request and added the proposed changes. See proposed changes in Table 3 below.

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
Condition 10	NA	Included condition 10(b)	Updated records and reporting Condition to new licence standard.
	10(b), 10(c) & 10(d)	10(c), 10(d) & 10(e)	

Current condition / table	Summary of current condition	New condition / table (if relevant)	Description and rationale
Table 3: Infrastructure and equipment requirements	Fixed sprinkler system for dust suppression <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be maintained and regularly inspected for leaks and malfunctions; and Operated so that spray over drift does not impact on the surrounding environment. Located in the areas as labelled 'Sprinklers' in Schedule 1 Figure 2. 	Fixed sprinkler system and/or water carts for dust suppression <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Located in the areas as defined as 'Sprinklers' in Schedule 1 Figure 2. Infrastructure and Equipment to be maintained and regularly inspected for leaks and malfunctions. Operated so that spray over drift does not impact on the surrounding environment. Water Cart may substitute for the fixed sprinkler system within the same operational area as defined in Schedule 1 Figure 2. 	The requested use of water carts was added to Table 3 of the licence.

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 in question.

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 13/5/2024	No submissions received	N/A
Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) advised of the application 5/4/2024	No submission received.	N/A
Applicant was provided with draft documents on 23/8/2024	The licence holder responded on the 29/8/2024 requesting that the use of a water cart for dust suppression be included when the fixed sprinkler system was not operational. All other proposed licence changes were accepted and the remaining consultation period was waved.	The Delegated officer accepted the proposed use of a water cart when the fixed sprinkler system was not operational. See Table 3 for changes to the licence.