



Department initiated Amendment

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

Licence Number	L9259/2020/1
Licence Holder	Bellevue Gold Limited
ACN	110 439 686
File Number	DER2020/000278
Premises	Bellevue Gold Project Mining tenements M36/24 and M36/25
Date of Report	17 November 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

The Delegated Officer has determined to make amendments to Licence L9259/2020/1. The amendments are administrative in nature therefore they do not alter the risk profile of the Premises, providing that activities, emissions and receptors as stated in existing approvals remain unchanged.

This Amendment Report documents the amendments made pursuant to section 59 and 59(B) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act).

The decision report for the Existing licence will remain on the department's website for future reference and will act as a record of the department's decision making.

2. Scope of assessment

2.1 Regulatory framework

In amending 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>.

2.2 Amendment summary

Licence L9259/2020/1 is held by Bellevue Gold Limited (Licence Holder) for the Bellevue Gold Project (the Premises), located at Mining tenements M36/24 and M36/25, Shire of Leonora, WA.

The Premises relates to the category and the assessed production capacity under Schedule 1 of the *Environmental Protection Regulations 1987* (EP Regulations) which are defined in existing Licence L9529/2020/1.

On 16 November 2020, the department initiated an amendment to Licence L9259/2020/1. The amendment is limited to a short term extension of the period of time that dewatering may be discharged into the environment.

Currently the licence provides for dewatering discharge to occur until 2 November 2021. An application to amend L9259/2020/1 to extend the licence expiry date until 1 March 2024 and remove the time limit on dewatering discharge was received on 14 September 2021. The Delegated Officer notes the amendment application was received less than 60 working days prior to the 2 November 2021, leaving insufficient time to assess the application and undertake adequate consultation with direct interest stakeholders.

It is also considered that further information during the assessment period of the applied for amendment may be required from the Licence Holder.

The above circumstances prevent the issuing of the licence amendment applied for within a short timeframe. The Licence holder has expressed concern that the delay will impact the safety of the mine as underground exploration drilling has not been completed and refurbishment of the mine is ongoing. The Licence Holder has requested that dewatering of the underground at the rate previously approved be permitted to continue in the short term whilst the amendment application is being assessed.

To meet this request, the Delegated Officer has elected to grant an administrative amendment to extend the authorised dewatering timeframe until 1 March 2022. This will allow sufficient time to complete a detailed risk assessment of the longer term dewatering proposal, which is proposed until March 2024.

The Delegated Officer considers that a short term extension (~15 weeks) of the authorised dewatering discharges at the same throughputs will not alter the environmental risks and therefore a formal risk assessment has not been undertaken. Existing licence conditions, including controls for pipelines (such as inspections and secondary containment), maintenance of pit freeboards at discharge points, discharge monitoring, groundwater monitoring and the requirement to maintain a 5 m below ground level standing water limit in monitoring bores are sufficient to manage any risks in the short term.

3. Consultation

The Licence Holder was provided with the draft Amendment Report on 17 November 2021. On 17 November 2021 the Licence Holder waived the comment period.

4. Conclusion

Based on the assessment in this Amendment Report, the Delegated Officer has determined that an amended licence will be granted, subject to conditions commensurate with the determined controls and necessary for administration and reporting requirements.

4.1 Summary of amendments

Table 1 below provides a summary of the proposed amendments and will act as a record of implemented changes. All proposed changes have been incorporated into the Revised licence as part of the amendment process.

Table 1: Summary of licence amendments

Condition no.	Proposed amendments
<i>Condition 4 – Table 3</i>	<i>The dewatering discharge timeframe is amended to: Dewatering discharge may only occur until 01/03/2022</i>