Government of Western Australia
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

Decision Report

Application for Works Approval

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

Works Approval Number	W3230/2026/1
Applicant	Mt Magnet Gold Pty Ltd
ACN	008 669 556
Application number	APP-0033780
File number	INS-003230
Premises	Mt Magnet Gold Operations Level 13, 58 Mounts Bay Road Perth, WA 6000 Legal description M58/194 Lot 555, Naughton Road Mt Magnet Gold Project As defined by the premises maps attached to the issued works approval (W3230/2026/1)
Date of report	27 May 2026
Decision	Works approval granted

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1. Decision summary

This decision report documents the assessment of potential risks to the environment and public health from emissions and discharges during the construction and operation of the premises. As a result of this assessment, works approval W3230/2026/1 has been granted.

2. Scope of assessment

2.1 Regulatory framework

In completing the assessment documented in this decision report, the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (the department; DWER) 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 Application summary and overview of premises

On 17 February 2026, the applicant submitted an application for a works approval to the department under section 54 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act).

The application is to undertake construction works relating to constructing and operating an effluent (treated sewage) disposal sprayfield (wastewater sprayfield) and associated WWTP for Blackcat SPQ Accommodation Camp at the premises. The premises is approximately 1 km north-east of Mount Magnet.

The premises relates to the category 54 and assessed production / design capacity under Schedule 1 of the *Environmental Protection Regulations 1987* (EP Regulations) which are defined in works approval W3230/2026/1. The infrastructure and equipment relating to the premises category and any associated activities which the department has considered in line with *Guideline: Risk Assessments* (DWER 2020) are outlined in works approval W3230/2026/1.

2.3 Clearing requirements

The proposed works will be managed as a low-impact activity in accordance with Schedule 1 of the *Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004*. Clearing will be limited to the minimum extent necessary for perimeter fencing, containment bunds and access tracks, with no clearing required for the irrigation system.

Any clearing proposed will remain exempt under the *Mining Act 1978*, within the allowance of up to 10 hectares per financial year per authority area (Mining Tenements M58/194 and G58/003). Clearing avoidance measures will be implemented, including the strategic placement of access tracks and fencing through areas of sparse or no vegetation to minimise disturbance.

2.4 Nutrient Loading and Eutrophication Risk Assessment

The applicant has undertaken an assessment of nutrient loading to the proposed wastewater sprayfield in accordance with the superseded nutrient application criteria and soil category tables within a previous version of *Water Quality Protection Notice 22* (WQPN 22) for the control of eutrophication risk. These tables are included in Figure 1 below. Based on site-specific soil characteristics, including a thin sandy clay loam topsoil layer underlain by inert ultramafic bedrock, the irrigated soils have been classified as Risk Category D, representing a low eutrophication risk.

Table 1 - Eutrophication risk based on soil type and location

Characteristics of the irrigated soils	Eutrophication risk of surface waters within 500 metres of irrigation site	Risk category [e]
Coarse grained soils [a] (e.g. sands and gravels)	significant [b]	A
	low [c]	B
Fine grained soils, PBI [d] > 100) (e.g. loam, clays or peat)	significant [b]	C
	low [c]	D

Table 2 - Nutrient application criteria to control eutrophication risk

Risk Category from Table 1	Maximum inorganic nitrogen addition (as N)		Maximum reactive phosphorus addition (as P)	
	Application rate (kg/ hectare/ year)	As water concentration (mg/litre) [a]	Application rate (kg/ hectare/ year)	As water concentration (mg/litre) [a]
A	140	9	10	0.6
B	180	11	20	1.2
C	300	19	50	3.1
D	480	30	120	7.5

Figure 1: Nutrient application rates and soil risk categories from previous WQPN 22

For Risk Category D, the maximum permissible nutrient application rates are 480 kg/ha/year for inorganic nitrogen (as N) and 120 kg/ha/year for reactive phosphorus (as P). The applicant's calculations indicate proposed nutrient application rates of approximately 73 kg/ha/year for nitrogen and 9.7 kg/ha/year for phosphorus, both of which are well below the relevant guideline limits.

In addition, the proposed treated effluent concentrations of total nitrogen (15 mg/L) and total phosphorus (2 mg/L) are below the corresponding Risk Category D limits of 30 mg/L (N) and 7.5 mg/L (P). An outline of the applicants proposed application rate versus the nutrient application rate is included below in Table 1.

On the basis of the calculated nutrient loading rates and effluent concentrations, the Department considers that the application of treated wastewater to the sprayfield is consistent with guideline criteria and is unlikely to pose a significant risk of nutrient accumulation or eutrophication of surrounding environments.

Table 1: Nutrient Application and Effluent Quality Comparison (Risk Category D)

Parameter	Guideline limit – Risk Category D	Applicant's proposed value	Assessment
Inorganic Nitrogen (as N)	480 kg/ha/year	73 kg/ha/year	Below guideline limit
Reactive Phosphorus (as P)	120 kg/ha/year	9.7 kg/ha/year	Below guideline limit
Total Nitrogen (effluent concentration)	30 mg/L	15 mg/L	Below guideline limit
Total Phosphorus (effluent concentration)	7.5 mg/L	2 mg/L	Below guideline limit

For noting: The Delegated Officer notes that WQPN 22 has recently been revised, removing reference to nutrient irrigation loading rates determined by soil risk category types which have been used by the applicant to demonstrate acceptable nutrient loading rates to the irrigation area proposed. DWER is currently preparing guidance to industry on how irrigation areas for spray fields located on mine sites can be calculated. In the interim, the methodology outlined previously in WQPN 22 and used by the applicant is acceptable

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 construction which have been considered in this decision report are detailed in Table 2 below. Table 2 also details the control measures the applicant has proposed to assist in controlling these emissions, where necessary.

Table 2: Proposed applicant controls

Emission	Sources	Potential pathways	Proposed controls
Construction			
Dust Noise	Construction of WWTP Infrastructure, placement of equipment and construction of wastewater sprayfield.	Air / windborne pathway	N/A
Commissioning			
Odour	Commissioning of wastewater treatment plant.	Air / windborne pathway	N/A
Wastewater	Irrigation of treated wastewater to sprayfield during commissioning Spills / leaks from infrastructure	Seepage to land	All infrastructure to be maintained free of leaks and defects. Irrigation spray field will be operated through rotational blocks with scheduled rest periods. Perimeter and secondary containment bunding will be installed to prevent leaks and overtopping. Irrigation will be suspended during periods of

Emission	Sources	Potential pathways	Proposed controls
			heavy rain.
Operation (including time limited operation)			
Odour	Operation of wastewater treatment plant	Air / windborne pathway	N/A
Wastewater	Irrigation of treated wastewater to sprayfield Spills / leaks from infrastructure	Seepage to land	All infrastructure to be maintained free of leaks and defects. Irrigation spray field will be operated through rotational blocks with scheduled rest periods. Perimeter and secondary containment bunding will be installed to prevent leaks and overtopping. Irrigation will be suspended during periods of heavy rain.

3.1.2 Receptors

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

Table 3 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)). Figure 2 provides an overview of the premises siting.

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

Human receptors	Distance from prescribed activity
Homesteads/ Mt Magnet town centre In between Priestley Street, Naughton Street and Watson Street	The closest homestead is approximately 1 km southwest of the premises boundary.
Environmental receptors	**Distance from prescribed activity**
Mount Magnet Water Reserve	Approximately 7.80 km West of the premises boundary.

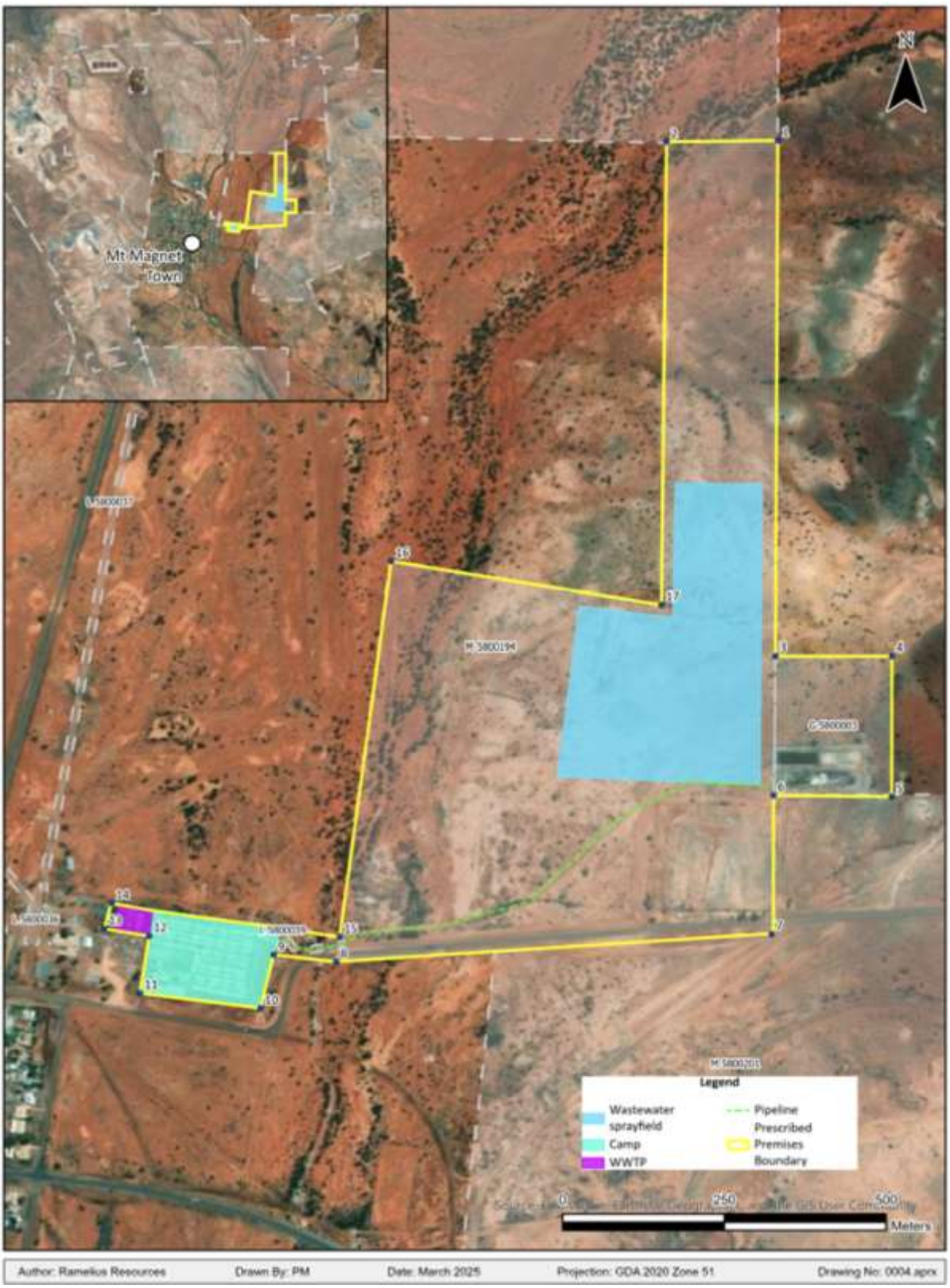

Figure 2: Overview of premises

3.2 Risk ratings

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

Where the applicant 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 applicant's proposed controls to be critical to maintaining an acceptable level of risk, these will be incorporated into the works approval as regulatory controls.

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

Works approval W3230/2026/1 that accompanies this decision report authorises construction and time-limited operations. The conditions in the issued works approval, as outlined in Table 4 have been determined in accordance with *Guidance Statement: Setting Conditions* (DER 2015).

A licence is required following the time-limited operational phase authorised under the works approval to authorise emissions associated with the ongoing operation of the premises. A risk assessment for the operational phase has been included in this decision report, however licence conditions will not be finalised until the department assesses the licence application.

Table 4: Risk assessment of potential emissions and discharges from the premises during construction, commissioning and operation

Risk events					Risk rating [1] C = consequence L = likelihood	Applicant controls sufficient?	Conditions [2] of works approval	Justification for additional regulatory controls / DWER comments
Sources / activities	**Potential emission**	**Potential pathways and impact**	**Receptors**	**Applicant controls**				
Construction								
Construction of WWTP Infrastructure, placement of equipment and construction of wastewater sprayfield	Dust	Air / windborne pathway causing impacts to health and amenity	Residences approximately 1 km southwest of the premises boundary between Priestley Street, Naughton Street and Watson Street	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Minor L = Rare Low Risk	Y	Condition 1	N/A Emission to be managed under the general provisions of the EP Act
	Noise			Refer to Section 3.1	C = Minor L = Rare Low Risk	Y	Condition 1	N/A Emission to be managed under the *Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997*
Commissioning								
Commissioning of wastewater treatment plant Irrigation of treated wastewater to sprayfield.	Odour	Air / windborne pathway causing impacts to health and amenity	Residences Approximately 1 km southwest of the premises boundary between Priestley Street, Naughton Street and Watson Street	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Minor L = Rare Low Risk	Y	Condition 1	N/A Emission to be managed under the general provisions of the EP Act
	Wastewater	Seepage to land	Discharge of wastewater containing high levels of nutrients to land, impacting soil quality and the health of surrounding vegetation		C = Moderate L = Unlikely Medium Risk	Y	Conditions 1, 5, 6, 7, 8	N/A

Risk events					Risk rating [1] C = consequence L = likelihood	Applicant controls sufficient?	Conditions [2] of works approval	Justification for additional regulatory controls / DWER comments
Sources / activities	**Potential emission**	**Potential pathways and impact**	**Receptors**	**Applicant controls**				
Operation (including time-limited-operations operations)								
Operation of wastewater treatment plant Irrigation of treated wastewater to sprayfield.	Odour	Air / windborne pathway causing impacts to health and amenity	Residences Approximately 1 km southwest of the premises boundary between Priestley Street, Naughton Street and Watson Street	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Minor L = Rare Low Risk	Y	Condition 1	N/A Emission to be managed under the general provisions of the EP Act
	Wastewater	Overtopping/ leaks to soil quality and the health of surrounding vegetation.	Soil and vegetation.	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Moderate L = Unlikely Medium Risk	Y	Conditions 1, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17	N/A
	Sediment laden storm water	Overland runoff potentially causing ecosystem disturbance or impacting surface water quality	Mount Magnet Water Reserve Approximately 7.80 km West of the premises boundary Soil and vegetation	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Moderate L = Unlikely Medium Risk	Y	Conditions 1, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17	N/A

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

Note 2: Proposed applicant 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
Application advertised on the department's website on 30 March 2026	None received	N/A
Local Government Authority, shire of Mt Magnet advised of proposal on 09 April 2026.	The Shire of Mt Magnet advised on 10 April 2026 that it supports the Works Approval application submitted by Ramelius Resources and has no objections to the proposed works.	Noted.
Department of Health advised of proposal on 09 April 2026.	None received.	It is the responsibility of the works approval holder to ensure all relevant regulatory approvals are in place prior to commencing construction of the wastewater treatment plant. This includes any approvals that may be required from the Department of Health.
Applicant was provided with a draft works approval on 25 May 2026.	On 25 May 2026 the applicant requested that the comment period be waved and the works approval be issued as soon as possible.	Noted.

5. Conclusion

Based on the assessment in this decision report, the delegated officer has determined that a works approval will be granted, subject to conditions commensurate with the determined controls and necessary for administration and reporting requirements.

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