



Application for Works Approval Amendment

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

Works Approval Number	W6460/2020/1
Works Approval Holder	Covalent Lithium Pty Ltd
ACN	623 090 139
File Number	DER2020/000521~1
Premises	Earl Grey Lithium Project Mining Tenements M77/1066, M77/1080 and G77/129 As defined by the premises map attached to the issued works approval
Date of Report	21 April 2023
Decision	Revised works approval granted

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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

Works Approval W6460/2020/1 (W6460) is held by Covalent Lithium Pty Ltd (Works Approval Holder) for the Earl Grey Lithium Project (the Premises, or EGLP), located at mining tenements M77/1066, M77/1080 and G77/129 in the Shire of Yilgarn.

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 Works Approval W6460/2020/1 has been granted.

2. Scope of assessment

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 <https://dwer.wa.gov.au/regulatory-documents>.

Application summary

On 16 March 2023, the Works Approval Holder applied to the department to amend Works Approval W6460/2020/1 under section 59 and 59B of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The following amendments are being sought:

- Commissioning of the Concentrator (subject of W6460/2020/1) was assessed by DWER in 2021 and permitted in the amended Works Approval 23 February 2023. The Works Approval Holder has found it to be necessary for the Project timeline to stage the commissioning of the Concentrator into two stages:
 - Primary and Secondary Crushing Circuits (Stage 1):
 - Run of Mine (ROM) Pad
 - ROM bin
 - Crushing plant circuit
 - Water sprays installed at the ROM bin and transfer points in the crushing circuit.
 - Two insertable type dust collectors installed at the primary crusher and the screen within crushing circuit.
 - All remaining components (Stage 2):
 - Tertiary crushing circuit, including bag house style dust collectors installed at the crushed ore stockpile reclaim tunnel feeders to conveyor transfer points, and classification and mica removal circuit.
 - Dense medium circuit
 - Grinding and magnetic separation circuit (grinding and desliming, magnetic removal)
 - Flotation circuit
 - Product handling circuit
 - Reagent storage area, including hydrocarbon and water treatment plant reagents storage, containment areas.

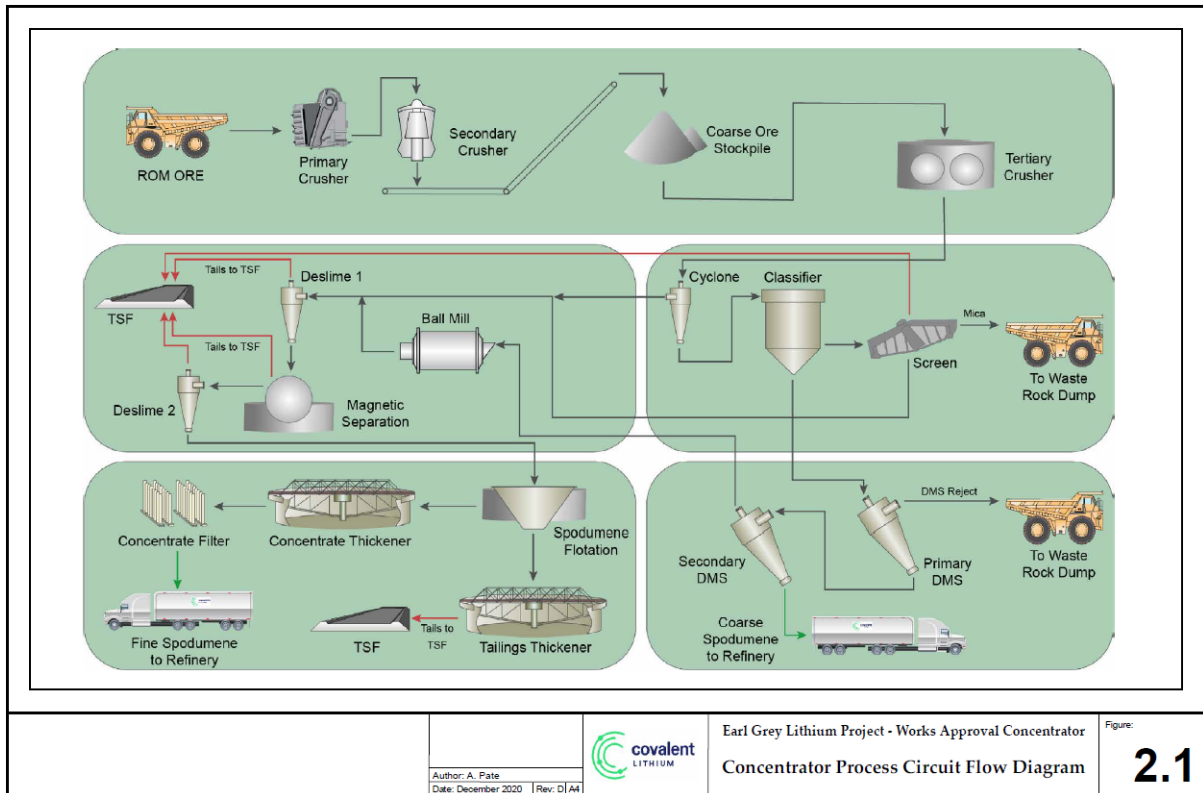


Figure 1: Concentrator Circuit Flow Diagram

In separating out Stage 1 and Stage 2 infrastructure the Works Approval Holder has refined the description of some infrastructure to clearly demarcate processing circuits.

This amendment is limited only to changes to staged commissioning of Category 5 activities from the Existing Works Approval. No changes to throughput capacity, or changes to the aspects of the existing Works Approval relating to Category 12 have been requested by the Works Approval Holder. Table 1 below outlines the proposed changes to the existing Works Approval

Table 1: Proposed design or throughput capacity changes

Category	Current design throughput capacity	Proposed design throughput capacity	Description of proposed amendment
Category 5 – processing beneficiation of metallic ore	2,000,000 tonnes per annum	N/A	Commissioning and TLO of the Concentrator in two stages. Primary and secondary crushing circuit to be commissioned first, followed by all remaining components of the Concentrator (as Stage 2)
Category 12: Screening etc. of material	500,000 tonnes per annum	N/A	N/A

The Delegated Officer considers that the proposed changes to commissioning does not alter the risk rating for the premises which has been previously assessed in W6460/2020/1 Works Approval Decision Report (12 February 2021) and Works Approval Amendment Report (23 February 2023). No further risk assessment is required.

3. Consultation

Table 2 provides a summary of the consultation undertaken by the department.

Table 2: Consultation

Consultation method	Comments received	Department response
Works Approval Holder was provided with draft amendment on 11 April 2023	<p>Works Approval Holder provided comments related to incorrect cross-reference formatting on 18 April 2023.</p> <p>On 20 April 2023, the Works Approval Holder requested a minor change to Figure 4 – Location of bunded contamination areas.</p> <p>In the works approval, a turquoise circle indicates that the top of the coarse ore stockpile (COS) would be graded to the central sump, which is not feasible given there is a stockpile in the centre of that area.</p> <p>The Works Approval Holder clarified that stormwater that falls on the COS will report to the central sump.</p> <p>Stormwater that falls beyond the footprint of the stockpile but on the flat surface of the COS area will report to settlement basins along with other stormwater runoff as per site drainage arrangement.</p> <p>The Works Approval Holder waived the remainder of the comment period and requested the final instrument be issued as soon as possible.</p>	<p>The Delegated Officer fixed the incorrect formatting in the final version of W6460/2020/1.</p> <p>The Delegated Officer does not believe the proposed change to sump area and the area graded to sumps will significantly change the risk to the environment, and so Figure 4 has been replaced in the amendment version of W6460/2020/1.</p>

4. Conclusion

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

Summary of amendments

Table 3 provides a summary of the proposed amendments and will act as record of implemented changes. All proposed changes have been incorporated into the Revised Works Approval as part of the amendment process.

Table 3: Summary of Works Approval amendments

Condition no.	Proposed amendments
Condition 1 Table 1: Design and construction requirements	Separation of Concentrator processing plant into Stage 1 (Primary and Secondary Crushing Circuit) and Stage 2 (all other Concentrator processing plant infrastructure).
	Refined the description of some infrastructure to clearly demarcate Concentrator processing circuits.

Condition no.	Proposed amendments
Condition 5 Table 2: Environmental commissioning requirements	Included Stage 1 and Stage 2 into commissioning requirements for the Concentrator processing plant.
Condition 10 Table 3: Infrastructure and equipment requirements during time limited operations	Included Stage 1 and Stage 2 into requirements for the Concentrator processing plant during time limited operations.
Figure 4 – Location of bunded contamination areas	<p>The Works Approval Holder clarified that stormwater that falls on the coarse ore stockpile (COS) will report to the central sump.</p> <p>Stormwater that falls beyond the footprint of the stockpile but on the flat surface of the COS area will report to settlement basins along with other stormwater runoff as per site drainage arrangement.</p>

References

1. Covalent Lithium Pty Ltd 2023, *Application form: Works Approval Amendment and Supporting Information document*, Perth, Western Australia
2. Department of Environment Regulation (DER) 2015, *Guidance Statement: Setting Conditions*, Perth, Western Australia.
3. Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) 2020, *Guideline: Environmental Siting*, Perth, Western Australia.
4. DWER 2020, *Guideline: Risk Assessments*, Perth, Western Australia.

Appendix 1: Application validation summary

SECTION 1: APPLICATION SUMMARY			
Application type			
Amendment to works approval	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Current works approval number:	W6460/2020/1
Date application received	16 March 2023		
Applicant and Premises details			
Applicant name/s (full legal name/s)	Covalent Lithium Pty Ltd		
Premises name	Earl Grey Lithium Project		
Premises location	Mining Tenements M77/1066, M77/1080 and G77/129		
Local Government Authority	Shire of Yilgarn		
Application documents			
HPCM file reference number:	DWERDT751673		
Key application documents (additional to application form):	Supplementary Information Document		
Scope of application/assessment			
Summary of proposed activities or changes to existing operations.	<p>Works approval amendment</p> <p>Commissioning of the Concentrator (subject of W6460/2020/1) was assessed by DWER and permitted in the amended Works Approval; however, it is necessary for the Project timeline to stage the commissioning of the Concentrator into two stages:</p> <p>Primary and Secondary Crushing Circuits (Stage 1):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Run of Mine (ROM) Pad - ROM bin - Crushing plant circuit - Water sprays installed at the ROM bin and transfer points in the crushing circuit - Two insertable type dust collectors installed at the primary crusher and the screen within crushing circuit <p>All remaining components (Stage 2):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - tertiary crushing circuit, including bag house style dust collectors installed at the crushed ore stockpile reclaim tunnel feeders to conveyor transfer points, and classification and mica removal circuit - dense medium circuit - grinding and magnetic separation circuit (grinding and desliming, magnetic removal) - flotation circuit - product handling circuit - reagent storage area, including hydrocarbon and water treatment plant reagents storage, containment areas. 		

Category number/s (activities that cause the premises to become prescribed premises)

Table 1: Prescribed premises categories

Prescribed premises category and description	Assessed production or design capacity	Proposed changes to the production or design capacity (amendments only)
Category 5: Processing or beneficiation of metallic or non-metallic ore	2,000,000 tonnes per annum	No change to capacity
Category 12: Screening etc. of material	500,000 tonnes per annum	No change to capacity

Legislative context and other approvals

Has the applicant referred, or do they intend to refer, their proposal to the EPA under Part IV of the EP Act as a significant proposal?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Referral decision No: Managed under Part V <input type="checkbox"/> Assessed under Part IV <input type="checkbox"/>
Does the applicant hold any existing Part IV Ministerial Statements relevant to the application?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Ministerial statement No: MS 1199 EPA Report No:
Has the proposal been referred and/or assessed under the EPBC Act?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Reference No: EPBC 2017/950
Has the applicant demonstrated occupancy (proof of occupier status)?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Certificate of title <input type="checkbox"/> General lease <input type="checkbox"/> Expiry: Mining lease / tenement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expiry: Other evidence <input type="checkbox"/> Expiry:
Has the applicant obtained all relevant planning approvals?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Approval: Expiry date: If N/A explain why?
Has the applicant applied for, or have an existing EP Act clearing permit in relation to this proposal?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CPS No: N/A Clearing approved under ministerial statement
Has the applicant applied for, or have an existing CAWS Act clearing licence in relation to this proposal?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Application reference No: N/A Licence/permit No: N/A
Has the applicant applied for, or have an existing RIWI Act licence or permit in relation to this proposal?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	GWL201377(1) annual water entitlement 5,000kL duration 22/2/2019 to 29/5/2023 Process water supplied by scheme water sourced from Kalgoorlie-Goldfields water pipeline.

<p>Does the proposal involve a discharge of waste into a designated area (as defined in section 57 of the EP Act)?</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Name: N/A Type: Has Regulatory Services (Water) been consulted? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional office:</p>
<p>Is the Premises situated in a Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA)?</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Name: N/A Priority: N/A Are the proposed activities/ landuse compatible with the PDWSA (refer to WQPN 25)? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Is the Premises subject to any other Acts or subsidiary regulations (e.g. <i>Dangerous Goods Safety Act 2004</i>, <i>Environmental Protection (Controlled Waste) Regulations 2004</i>, <i>State Agreement Act xxxx</i>)</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><i>Mining Act 1978</i> <i>Dangerous Goods Safety Act 2004</i></p>
<p>Is the Premises within an Environmental Protection Policy (EPP) Area?</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	
<p>Is the Premises subject to any EPP requirements?</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	
<p>Is the Premises a known or suspected contaminated site under the <i>Contaminated Sites Act 2003</i>?</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Classification: possibly contaminated – investigation required (PC–IR) Date of classification: Oct 2020</p>