



## Application for Works Approval

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

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<b>Works Approval Number</b>	W6718/2022/1
<b>Applicant</b>	Focus Operations Pty Ltd
<b>ACN</b>	115 821 255
<b>File number</b>	DER2022/000323
<b>Premises</b>	Three Mile Hill Gold Project COOLGARDIE WA 6429 Legal description -  Mining tenement M15/645 As defined by the premises map and coordinates attached to the issued works approval
<b>Date of report</b>	2 December 2022
<b>Proposed Decision</b>	Intent to grant works approval

**Alana Kidd**

**MANAGER, RESOURCE INDUSTRIES  
REGULATORY SERVICES**

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

# Table of Contents

<b>1. Decision summary</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2. Scope of assessment</b>	<b>1</b>
2.1 Regulatory framework	1
2.2 Application summary and overview of premises	1
2.3 Part IV of the EP Act	1
2.4 Mining Proposal	2
2.5 Clearing Permit	2
2.6 Known contaminated site	2
<b>3. Risk assessment</b>	<b>2</b>
3.1 Source-pathways and receptors	2
3.1.1 Emissions and controls	2
3.1.2 Receptors	4
3.2 Risk ratings	9
<b>4. Consultation</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>5. Conclusion</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>References</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Appendix 1: Summary of applicant’s comments on risk assessment and draft conditions</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Appendix 2: Application validation summary</b>	<b>15</b>
Table 1: Proposed applicant controls	3
Table 2: Sensitive human and environmental receptors and distance from prescribed activity	4
Table 3: Risk assessment of potential emissions and discharges from the premises during construction	9
Table 4: Consultation	11
Figure 1: Distance to sensitive receptors	6
Figure 2: Distance from asbestos site location	7
Figure 3: Site of proposed works	8

## 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 W6718/2022/1 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 15 July 2022, 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 for the construction of a foundation platform along the north embankment of the Three Mile Hill (TMH) Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) at the same elevation as the existing stage 2 embankment. The TMH TSF is located within mining tenement M15/645 at Three Mile Hill Gold Project (L8249/2008/3). The premises is approximately 4 km northeast of Coolgardie in the eastern Goldfields region on Western Australia.

The platform will be constructed as part of stage 2 interim works and will form the foundation for the stage 3 lift to be constructed on. The Stage 3 lift works approval will be submitted at a later date. The applicant intends to recommission the TMH Processing Plant and the TMH TSF with mining intended to commence in early 2023.

The premises relates to Category 5 (Processing or Beneficiation of metallic or non-metallic ore) and assessed production capacity under Schedule 1 of the *Environmental Protection Regulations 1987* (EP Regulations) which are defined in works approval W6718/2022/1. 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 W6718/2022/1.

Construction works are anticipated to take seven months with construction planned to commence in November/December 2022 and conclude in June 2023. The platform will be constructed to occupy approximately 55,000m<sup>3</sup> of storage capacity within the stage 2 TMH TSF and there will be no tailings deposition associated with the works.

### 2.3 Part IV of the EP Act

Ministerial Statement 75 (report number 394) was approved on 25 August 1989 for proponent Goldfan Limited (previous owner of the site) to construct and operate the THM Gold Project, an open cut mine at Three Mile Hill. The MS applies to a 283.1534 ha area and includes seven conditions. Notably condition 3 requires the proponent to '*ensure that traffic and services on or adjacent to the Great Eastern Highway are not adversely affected by dust from the minesite, the proponent shall undertake dust control in consultation with the Shire of Coolgardie to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA).*'

Ministerial Statement 246 (report number 593) was approved on 14 April 1992 for proponent Goldfan Limited to increase throughput at the site from 800,000 tonnes of gold ore per annum to 1.1 million tonnes per annum. Environmental commitments relate to water supply, dust control, public safety, tailings management, rehabilitation and general environmental controls.

Notable dust controls include watering of haulage ways for dust suppression and roadways metalled with crushed overburden to minimise dust and need for watering.

## 2.4 Mining Proposal

The applicant submitted mining proposal 'TMH TSF Stage 2 Foundation Platform Interim Works' (Focus Minerals, 2022) to DMIRS for assessment which was approved on 19 August 2022. As a part of the assessment of the Mining Proposal, a geotechnical assessment was undertaken and no geotechnical issues were identified with the proposed TSF foundation platform.

## 2.5 Clearing Permit

Clearing of 0.1ha of vegetation on the TSF embankment walls that have established as a result of the CGO being in Care and Maintenance will be conducted under CPS9513/1, which authorises no more than 60ha of clearing on Mining Lease 15/154, Mining Lease 15/645 and Mining Lease 15/1432.

## 2.6 Known contaminated site

Mining tenement M15/645 is classified as a known contaminated site under the *Contaminated Sites Act 2003* due to the presence of Asbestos Containing Material (ACM) onsite associated with the remains of a demolished building. The tenement was classified as Contamination - remediated required (C-RR) on 4 September 2018.

Talis Consultants Pty Ltd were engaged in 2018 to undertake an assessment (DWER Ref: A1581088) of the extent of ACM contamination onsite. The contaminated site covers an area of approximately 2,200m<sup>2</sup> and is located at a relatively isolated area at the central portion of M15/645, approximately 3.5 km northwest of the Town of Coolgardie on the western side of Great Eastern Highway (refer to Figure 2). This site is located away from the TMH TSF and will not be impacted by the proposed works.

An Asbestos Management Plan (DWER Ref: A1806334) was approved by DWER for the site on 22 August 2018 (DWER Ref: A1806366).

## 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 1.

Table 1 also details the control measures the applicant has proposed to assist in controlling these emissions, where necessary.

**Table 1: Proposed applicant controls**

Emission	Sources	Potential pathways	Proposed controls
<b>Construction</b>			
Dust	Earthmoving equipment Light vehicles Stockpiling of material	Air / windborne pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use dust suppression methods such as water carts during construction</li> <li>• Clearing to be limited during prevailing environmental conditions.</li> <li>• Water roads and trafficked areas as necessary</li> </ul>
Noise	Earthmoving equipment Light vehicles Diesel generators	Air / windborne pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction work during daytime hours</li> <li>• Conduct regular inspections and maintenance of generators and machinery.</li> </ul>
Hydrocarbon spill	Storage of fuel and lubricants Waste oil Vehicle spills	Seepage to soil and groundwater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fuel will be stored in a 30,000L self-bunded fuel tank in the plant workshop area</li> <li>• Lubricants and waste oil will also be contained within portable bunding.</li> <li>• All refueling and vehicle maintenance will occur within a bunded area at the fueling bay or TMH workshop.</li> <li>• Spill kits will be placed at the refueling area and in service vehicles and in all service vehicles and staff will be trained in the proper use of the kits.</li> <li>• Staff will comply with operating procedures for hydrocarbon handling, storage and clean up and disposal of spills.</li> <li>• Personnel to be trained in management and handling and disposal of spills.</li> <li>• Report any spill incident immediately to the Environment Department and report any significant spill/leakage (e.g. &gt;200L) to the DWER</li> </ul>
Sediment laden stormwater	Loose material mixing with stormwater Stockpiled material mixing with stormwater	Overland runoff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The existing pit crest bund around the north-east side of the TMH TSF (between the laydown area and the TSF basin) will be reinstated to a minimum height of 1m to reduce risk of overtopping in a storm event and increasing the runoff into the TSF.</li> </ul>

### 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 2 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 2: Sensitive human and environmental receptors and distance from prescribed activity**

Human receptors	Distance from prescribed activity
Great Eastern Highway	Approximately 130m west of the proposed stage 2 foundation platform
The Coolgardie townsite	Closest residential receptor approximately 3.5km southwest of the proposed works site. The townsite is sparsely populated, with a large community of fly-in-fly-out workers along with the longer-term residents Gold and nickel mining, pastoralism and tourism are the principal economic activities in the area
Native Title Claims	There is no Native Title Determination across the Prescribed Premises area and more specifically the project area. The Prescribed Premises area is located within boundaries of two registered Native Title claims, the Marlinyu Ghoorlie Claim, Number WC2017/007, and the Maduwongga Claim, Number WC2017/001.  There are no Registered heritage or unregistered heritage sites located within the proposed works project area. .
Environmental receptors	Distance from prescribed activity
Surface water	There are no significant surface water bodies within or near the proposed works area or L8249 premises boundary, however some ephemeral creek lines cross through the L8249 premises boundary and drain to numerous ephemeral salt lakes present to the east. Significant water bodies include Brown Lake, Red Lake, White Lake and Douglas Lake; and all are located in excess of 4km to the northeast of the TMH TSF. The ephemeral creek lines in the region are dry for most of the year, only flowing briefly immediately following significant rainfall.  Two minor non perennial watercourse are located northeast of proposed works, the closest being approximately 1.2km north-east. These watercourses feed into Brown Lake (salt lake system), approximately 6km east of the prescribed premises. Italian Gully, a non-perennial minor watercourse, is located approximately 1.4km south-west of proposed works and also feeds into Brown Lake.
Underlying groundwater (non-potable purposes)	The proposed works area is located within the Goldfields Groundwater Area proclaimed under the <i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> .  Groundwater is hypersaline with 14,000 to 35,000 total dissolved solids (TDS) (DWER Geocortex). Groundwater generally flows in an easterly direction (Focus 2022).  The TMH TSF lies within the Roe Paleo drainage system. The closest major aquifer is 2.5km to the south-east and is a Wollubar sandstone occurring in the Hannan Paleochannel.  Groundwater quality results from the most recent monitoring period (July 2021 to June 2022) indicate groundwater around the TMH TSF ranges from saline to brine (12,000 mg/L in TMHWB06 to 78,000 mg/L in TMHWMB08) and has pH ranging from 6.8 – 7.10.  Standing water levels (mbgl) results from the nearest monitoring bore to the proposed foundation platform (TMHWMB06) indicate groundwater depth in the vicinity ranges

	<p>from 11.11-11.70 mbgl and TDS at this bore ranged from 12,000 to 15,000 mg/l.</p> <p>Historic groundwater trends indicate that groundwater levels have been steadily decreasing at all monitoring locations. Relatively higher groundwater elevations (&gt;400 mAHD) are consistently recorded in the northwest (TMHWB05 and TMHWB06), with lower values (&lt;390 mAHD) in the west (TMHWMB04) and southwest (THWMB11).</p> <p>Groundwater elevation contours from May 2021 indicate that flow directions typically follow the topography, which gently falls from north to south (420 to 410 mAHD).</p>
Conservation Significant Flora Species	<p>Desktop assessment and field survey undertaken by Terratree Pty Ltd in 2019 determined that no Threatened or Priority flora or ecological communities were recorded as being present within the survey area, a 885ha area including the Brilliant, Bonnievale and TMH TSF/Greenfields project areas (Terratree 2019).</p> <p>However a siting and location map provided by the applicant (DWERDT598735 – see figure on page 8) during the recent licence renewal process indicates that there are some Conservation Significant Species within the L8249 premises boundary and surrounding area.</p> <p>However none of these species are located near the proposed works site at TMH TSF (distances greater than 4km from proposed works).</p>
Native vegetation	<p>The survey area is dominated by Eucalypt Mallee Woodlands and Open Woodlands with small areas of Mallee Shrublands and one Isolated Eremophila Heathland (Terratree 2019).</p> <p>Scattered vegetation located west of Great Eastern Highway approximately 160m of the proposed foundation platform.</p>
Threatened fauna - Malleefowl, Leipoa ocellata	<p>Western Ecological undertook a desktop assessment and field survey in 2020, which identified four fauna species of conservation significance. One species (Malleefowl, Leipoa ocellata) is considered as Possibly occurring and three are considered unlikely to occur in the survey area (Focus 2022).</p> <p>The following conservation significant fauna species have previously been sighted (DWER Geocortex):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Malleefowl, Leipoa ocellata (considered Threatened - Vulnerable at a State level and Vulnerable at a Federal level) – sightings approximately 1.5km north-north-west and 2km north-north-east of CNX Pit. Sightings range from 2013 to 2016.</li> <li>• No evidence of significant fauna species (including Malleefowl) were observed during the field survey undertaken by Western Ecological (Focus 2022).</li> </ul> <p>The survey did identify a total of approximately 134 ha of Eucalyptus Woodland and Acacia Shrubland that are dense enough to be suitable for Malleefowl and provide adequate shelter and suitable vegetation, as well as sandy soils for Malleefowl to construct mounds (Focus 2022).</p>
Native fauna	<p>A total of 40 fauna species from 26 families were recorded in the survey area. All fauna species recorded are considered relatively common and widespread (Focus 2022).</p>



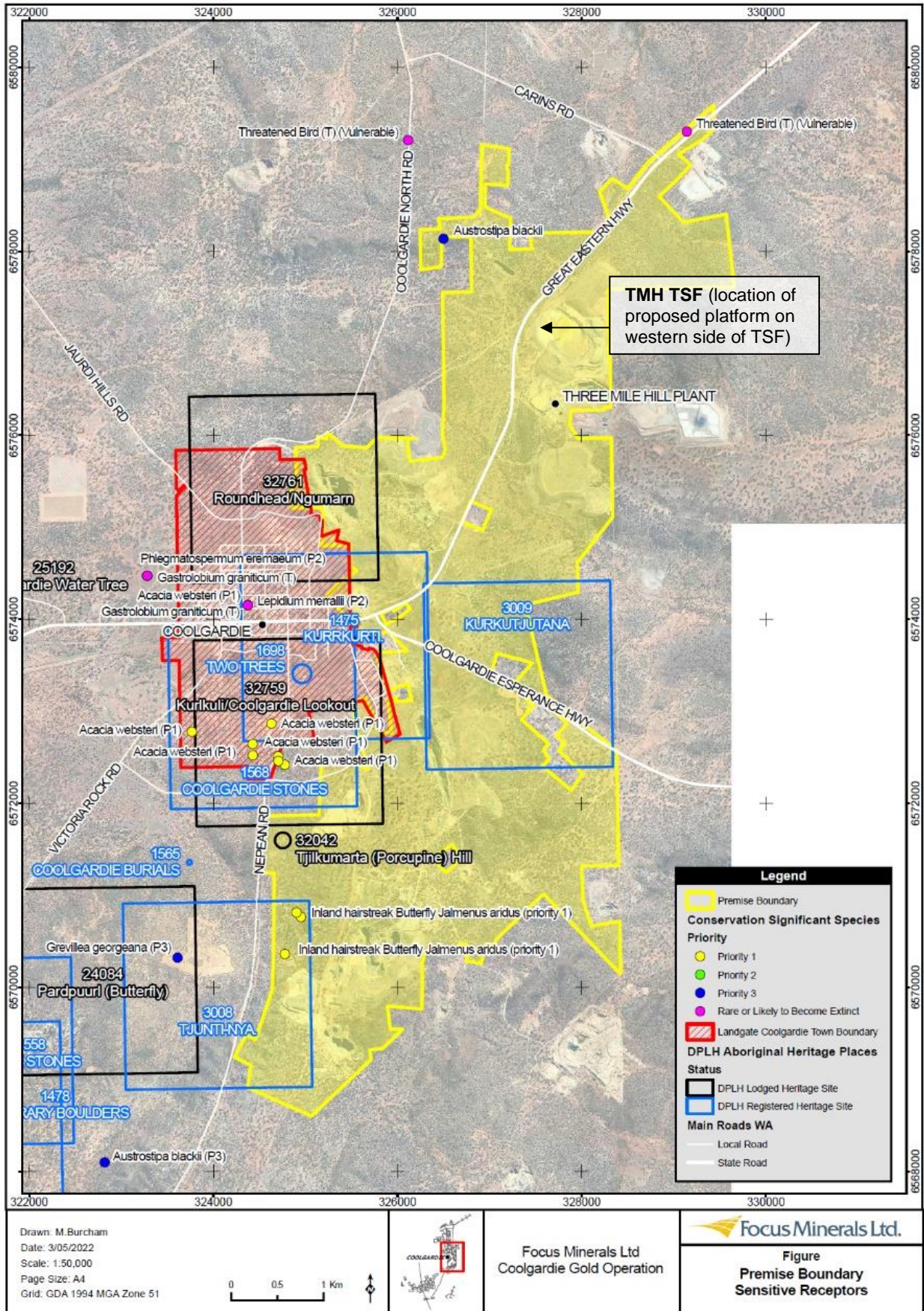
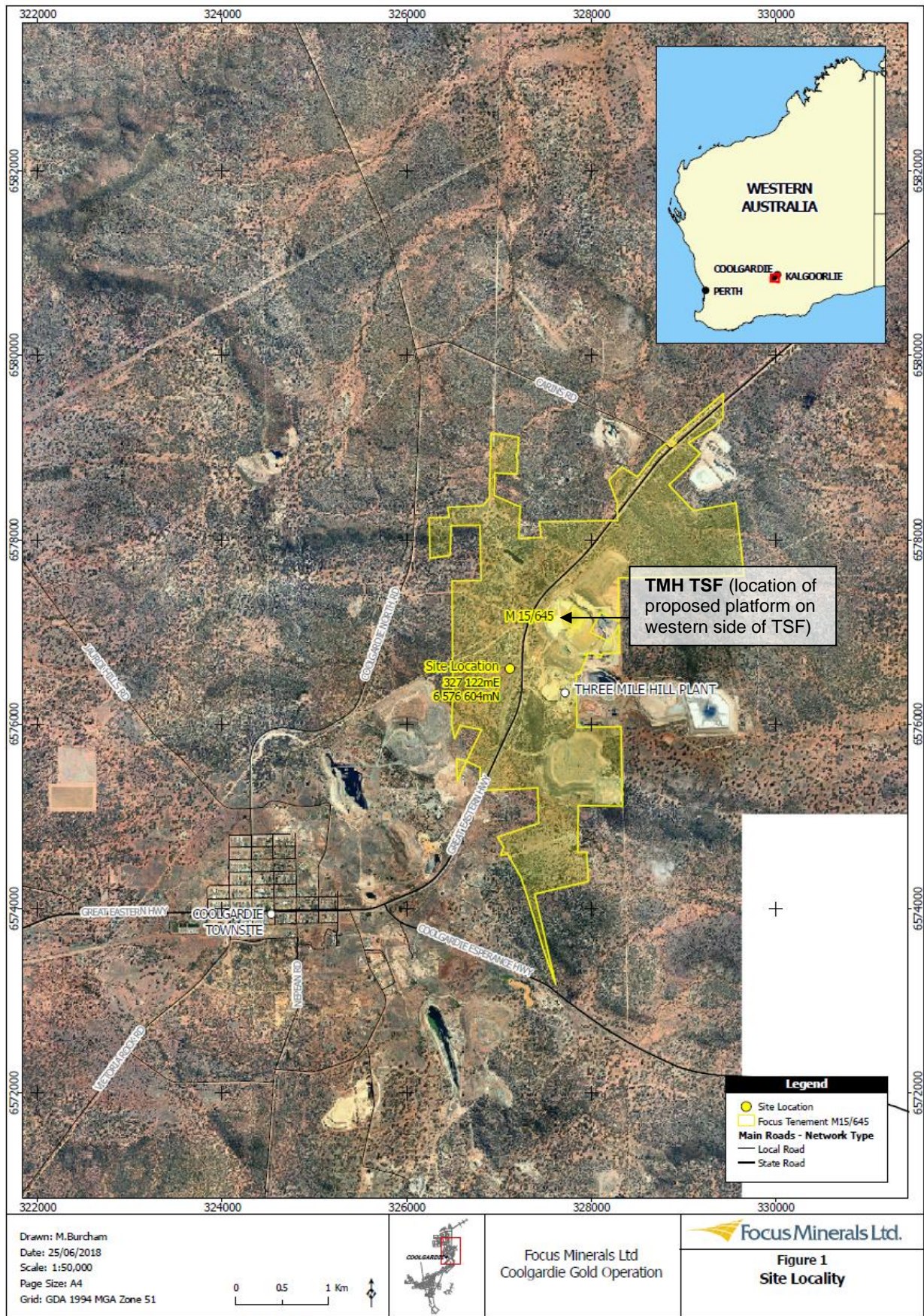


Figure 1: Distance to sensitive receptors





**Figure 2: Distance from asbestos site location**

Works approval: W6718/2022/1

IR-T13 Decision report template (short) v3.0 (May 2021)





**Figure 3: Site of proposed works**

Works approval: W6718/2022/1

IR-T13 Decision report template (short) v3.0 (May 2021)

## 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 3.

Works approval W6718/2022/1 that accompanies this decision report authorises construction. The conditions in the issued works approval, as outlined in Table 3 have been determined in accordance with *Guidance Statement: Setting Conditions* (DER 2015).

A risk assessment for the Stage 2 platform construction phase has been included in this decision report, however a second works approval application will need to be submitted for assessment of the TMH TSF stage 3 raise. A licence amendment is required to authorise emissions associated with the ongoing operation of the premises i.e. TMH TSF Stage 3 rise.

**Table 3: Risk assessment of potential emissions and discharges from the premises during construction**

Risk events					Risk rating <sup>1</sup> C = consequence L = likelihood	Applicant controls sufficient?	Conditions <sup>2</sup> of works approval	Justification for additional regulatory controls
Sources / activities	Potential emission	Potential pathways and impact	Receptors	Applicant controls				
<b>Site preparation and construction</b>								
Vehicle and/or machinery spill	Hydrocarbon and/or chemical spill	Direct discharge to soil causing soil contamination and infiltration to groundwater. Spill mixing with stormwater and infiltrating to groundwater causing contamination	Soil Vegetation ~160m west Groundwater ~ 11m bgl	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Slight L = Possible <b>Low Risk</b>	Y	N/A – no conditions proposed. Other regulatory controls apply such as the general provisions of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> and the <i>Environmental Protection (Unauthorised Discharges) Regulations 2004</i> .	N/A
Earthworks and stockpiling of	Sediment laden	Overland runoff from waste rock stockpiles and	Soil Vegetation	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Slight L = Possible	Y	Table 1: Design and construction / installation requirements – 1m	N/A

Works approval: W6718/2022/1



Risk events					Risk rating <sup>1</sup> C = consequence L = likelihood	Applicant controls sufficient?	Conditions <sup>2</sup> of works approval	Justification for additional regulatory controls
Sources / activities	Potential emission	Potential pathways and impact	Receptors	Applicant controls				
material	stormwater	excavation works causing erosion	~160m west Groundwater ~ 11m bgl		<b>Low Risk</b>		stormwater bund	
Machinery and vehicle construction activities for foundation platform including vegetation clearing, excavation and loading of rockfill, hauling and placement	Dust	Air / windborne pathway causing impacts to health and amenity and deposition on native vegetation potentially harming ecological function	Public travelling along Great Eastern Hwy ~ 130m west Vegetation ~160m west	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Slight L = Rare <b>Low Risk</b>	Y	N/A – existing ministerial statement conditions and licence conditions sufficient to manage risk	N/A
Machinery and vehicle construction activities (including generators) for foundation platform including vegetation clearing, excavation and loading of rockfill, hauling and placement	Noise	Air / windborne pathway causing impacts to health and amenity	No human receptors (within 1km)	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Slight L = Rare <b>Low Risk</b>	Y	N/A	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 4 provides a summary of the consultation undertaken by the department.

**Table 4: Consultation**

Consultation method	Comments received	Department response
Application advertised on the department's website on 2 September 2022 and in the West Australian on 5 September 2022	None received.	N/A
Shire of Coolgardie advised of proposal on 30 August 2022	None received.	N/A
Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) advised of proposal on 30 August 2022	DMIRS replied on 14 September 2022 advising that DMIRS has no issues with the proposed activities in the Works Approval. The proponent submitted a Mining Proposal for the proposed activities which was approved on the 19 August 2022.  As a part of the assessment of the Mining Proposal, a geotechnical assessment was undertaken. No geotechnical issues were identified with the proposed TSF embankment.	N/A

## 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.
4. Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) 2018, *Environmental Impact Assessment (Part IV Divisions 1 and 2) Procedures Manual*, Environmental Protection Authority, Perth, WA.
5. 360 Environmental (360) 2021. *Greenfields Mining Proposal*, December 2021. Prepared for Focus Minerals Limited
6. Snooks & Co 2002, *Style Manual for Authors*, 6th Edn, John Wiley & Sons Australia Ltd, Brisbane.

## Appendix 1: Summary of applicant's comments on risk assessment and draft conditions

Department comment / condition	Summary of applicant's comment	Department's response
<b>Comment 1</b> – APPLICANT TO SPECIFY APPROPRIATE FINAL EXPECTED PERMEABILITY OF PLATFORM	The permeability is expected to be kv. Sat = 1 which is $1 \times 10^{-3}$ m/s.	Accepted and updated. The Department notes that this permeability matches up with material hydraulic properties assumed in the seepage model for the proposed stage 3 lift which was approved by DMIRS.
<b>Comment 2</b> - APPLICANT TO SPECIFY CREST WIDTH.	We are proposing a width of 0.5m	Accepted and updated.
<b>Comment 3</b> - APPLICANT TO CONFIRM IF ANY ADDITIONAL STORMWATER CONTROLS TO BE IMPLEMENTED WHICH SPECIFICALLY APPLY TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PLATFORM AND NOT STAGE 3 LIFT WORKS	No as the platform will be incorporated into the existing TSF and then the Stage 3 raise.	Noted.
<b>Comment 4</b> - APPLICANT TO PROVIDE AN UPDATED PREMISES MAP/S CLEARLY DEPICTING THE PREMISES BOUNDARY WITH A PINK LINE, AS WELL AS THE LOCATION OF THE 1M BUNDS AROUND THE TMH TSF AND EROSION PROTECTION FEATURES. MAP TO INCLUDE NORTH ARROW, SCALE AND KEY.	Updated figure provided.	Accepted and updated.
<b>Comment 5:</b> APPLICANT TO PROVIDE COORDINATES IN GDA2020 FORMAT AS WELL AS A SHAPEFILE INCLUDING A CPG FILE, A DBF FILE, A PRJ FILE, A SHP FILE AND A SHX FILE.	Shapefile and co-ordinate list provided.	Accepted and updated.

Department comment / condition	Summary of applicant's comment	Department's response
N/A	<p><b>Applicant Other Items:</b> We have attached an edited version of the decision report with comments, as there are some administrative edits to the current prescribed premises license number required.</p> <p>Please also update the timing for construction to <b>7 months</b> starting from November 2022 to June 2023.</p> <p><b>Waiver of Comment period:</b> Please waive the remaining comment period and proceed to issue the final works approval as soon as possible.</p> <p><b>Applicant comments on draft decision report.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• L8249/2008/3 has recently been granted. please update.</li> <li>• Construction planned to take 7 months commencing in Nov/Dec 2022 to June 2023</li> <li>• Mine proposal submitted to DMIRS named TMH TSF Stage 2 Foundation Platform - Interim Works (Focus Minerals, 2022). REGID 112335</li> </ul>	Decision report updated and comment period waived.
Draft works approval Table 1 – rock armour	<p><b>Applicant comments on draft works approval:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove rock armour control from Table 1 as this will be constructed after the Stage 3 lift as it is more applicable to that phase</li> </ul>	Accepted and requirement removed from Table 1.



## Appendix 2: Application validation summary

SECTION 1: APPLICATION SUMMARY				
Application type				
Works approval	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Licence	<input type="checkbox"/>	Relevant works approval number:		None <input type="checkbox"/>
		Has the works approval been complied with?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
		Has time limited operations under the works approval demonstrated acceptable operations?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	
		Environmental Compliance Report / Critical Containment Infrastructure Report submitted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
		Date Report received:		
Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Current licence number:		
Amendment to works approval	<input type="checkbox"/>	Current works approval number:		
Amendment to licence	<input type="checkbox"/>	Current licence number:		
		Relevant works approval number:	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Registration	<input type="checkbox"/>	Current works approval number:	None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Date application received	15/07/2022 Validated as W6718/2022/1 on 23/8/22			
Applicant and Premises details				
Applicant name/s (full legal name/s)	Focus Operations Pty Ltd (ACN 115 821 255)			
Premises name	Three Mile Hill Gold Project (L8249/2008/2)			
Premises location	M15/645 PMB3 Coolgardie WA 6429			
Local Government Authority	Shire of Coolgardie			
Application documents				
HPCM file reference number:	DER2018/001042-7~71			
Key application documents (additional to application form):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IR-F09 Application form works approval licence_TSF_FoundationPlatform_FINAL_Signed</li> <li>Attachment 8_CGO_TMH TSF Platform_Works Approval Application_V1_FINAL(2): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appendix A: SRK TSF Platform Design Report</li> </ul> </li> <li>Attachment 7 PPL Project Location and Premise Boundary(2)</li> <li>Attachment 1A_Proof of occupier status(2)</li> <li>Attachement 2_Premises Map_project location(2)</li> </ul>			
Scope of application/assessment				
Summary of proposed activities or changes to existing operations.	<b>Works approval Location</b> Focus Operations Pty Ltd's (Focus) Coolgardie Gold Operations (CGO) (L8249/2008/2) is located about 4 km northeast of Coolgardie in the eastern Goldfields region of Western Australia. The site of proposed works is at the Three Mile Hill (TMH) TSF, which is surrounded by waste rock dumps. The disturbance			

envelope boundary pictured in the Figure on page 9 below appears to be the proposed works approval boundary.

#### **Construction and Design**

This works approval is for the construction of a foundation platform which will form the foundation for the Stage 3 Lift to be constructed on. (the Stage 3 Lifts works approval will be submitted at a later date).

As part of the Stage 2 interim works, the foundation platform is proposed to be constructed along the north embankment of the Three Mile Hill (TMH) TSF at the same elevation as the existing Stage 2 embankment prior to the recommencement of tailings deposition. The foundation platform is estimated to occupy approximately 55,000m<sup>3</sup> of storage capacity within the Stage 2 TSF.

The foundation platform has been designed with the following dimensions:

- Platform elevation RL 422m
- Raise height 4m
- Upstream slope: 1V: 2.5H

The foundation platform is expected to be constructed of compacted mass fill/general fill similar to that used in the construction of the downstream mass fill zone of the Stage 2 north embankment. A layer of rock fill material is also to be placed on the upstream side (external zone) of the foundation platform for erosion protection (SRK, 2022). Mass fill material will either be sourced from the on-site southern waste rock dump or from the Greenfields Pit expansion.

#### **Monitoring**

Six monitoring bores are located around the TSF to monitor groundwater levels and water quality. Management of groundwater is conducted and will continue on a quarterly basis in accordance with conditions of Environmental Licence L8249. No additional monitoring other than outlined above is currently proposed for the construction of the Foundation Platform.

#### **Timeframes**

The project has a seven-month estimated operating life. Commencement of works proposed for November/December 2022, with conclusion of works in June 2023.

#### **Purpose of the foundation platform**

Since 2013, there has been no deposition of tailings into the TMH TSF. This has allowed the deposited tailings to undergo self-weight consolidation and evaporation drying, which is likely to have improved the in-situ strength of the deposited tailings. (SRK, 2022).

The north embankment for the next stage (Stage 3) is planned to be raised upstream and partially founded on tailings. As such, this foundation platform will be constructed on the tailings beach within the footprint of the Stage 3 embankment raise before tailings deposition is recommenced, such that the future raise will be founded on the current in situ tailings rather than fresh tailings. Furthermore, the foundation platform will act as a preload surcharge, allowing the in situ tailings to potentially undergo further consolidation before the next embankment raise is constructed. (SRK, 2022).

#### **Site Background**

The TMH TSF was commissioned as an in-pit facility in 2002. The facility was designed to be constructed in three stages in the original design. The TMH TSF was commissioned as an in-pit facility in 2002. After the pit was filled, the TSF was expanded to an above-ground facility in two stages (Stage 1 and Stage 2). The TSF embankment (Stage 2 raise) crest elevation is currently RL 422 m, with tailings filled to a maximum elevation of RL 418 m during operation, leaving approximately 4 m of operational freeboard. The TMH TSF has been under care-and-maintenance since 2013.

Focus engaged SRK Consulting (Australasia) Pty Ltd (SRK) to undertake the detailed design to recommission the existing Stage 2 TMH TSF, as Focus intends to bring the Coolgardie Gold Operations back into production. The recommissioning of the Stage 2 TSF is intended to utilise this remaining capacity within the TSF before the next raise (Stage 3) is commissioned.

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

**Table 1: Prescribed premises categories**

<b>Prescribed premises category and description</b>	<b>Assessed production or design capacity</b>	<b>Proposed changes to production or design capacity (amendments)</b>
Category 5: Processing or Beneficiation of metallic or non-metallic ore	1.5Mpta	N/A

**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 type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ministerial statement No: 0075 approved 28/08/1989 (proponent Goldfan Ltd) EPA Report No:
Has the proposal been referred and/or assessed under the EPBC Act?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Reference No:
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: M15/654 expires 25 March 2035 Other evidence <input type="checkbox"/> Expiry:
Has the applicant obtained all relevant planning approvals?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	Approval: Expiry date: Focus has submitted a mining proposal to DMIRS for assessment which is currently pending assessment.
Has the applicant applied for, or have an existing EP Act clearing permit in relation to this proposal?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	CPS No: CPS9513/1 Clearing/grubbing of 0.1ha via machine proposed. Removal of vegetation on the TSF embankment walls that have established as a result of the CGO being on Care and Maintenance.

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"/>	Application reference No: Licence/permit No: GWL160936(5) Premises located within the Goldfields Groundwater Area
Does the proposal involve a discharge of waste into a designated area (as defined in section 57 of the EP Act)?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Name: N/A Type: Proclaimed Groundwater Area/Surface Water Area Has Regulatory Services (Water) been consulted? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Regional office: Swan Avon / Mid-West Gascoyne / Kwinana Peel / North West / South West / Goldfields / South Coast
Is the Premises situated in a Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA)?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Name: N/A Priority: P1 / P2 / P3 / N/A Are the proposed activities/landuse compatible with the PDWSA (refer to <u>WQPN 25</u> )? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
Is the Premises subject to any other Acts or subsidiary regulations (e.g. <i>Dangerous Goods Safety Act 2004, Environmental Protection (Controlled Waste) Regulations 2004, State Agreement Act xxxx</i> )	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Mining Act 1978 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 Dangerous Goods Safety Act 2004
Is the Premises within an Environmental Protection Policy (EPP) Area?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Is the Premises subject to any EPP requirements?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	



<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: Contamination - remediated required (C-RR) Three Mile Hill Tenement Number M15/645 Date of classification: 4 Sep 2018</p>
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