STATEMENT THAT A PROPOSAL MAY BE IMPLEMENTED
(PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1986)

MT KEITH NICKEL PROJECT: TAILINGS STORAGE UPGRADE
400 KM NORTH OF KALGOORLIE (995)

WESTERN MINING CORPORATION LIMITED

This proposal may be implemented subject to the following conditions:

1 **Proponent Commitments**
The proponent has made a number of environmental management commitments in order to protect the environment.

1-1 In implementing the proposal, the proponent shall fulfil the commitments made in the Consultative Environmental Review and in response to issues raised following public submissions; provided that the commitments are not inconsistent with the conditions or procedures contained in this statement.

The environmental management commitments (January 1996) were published in Environmental Protection Authority Bulletin 812 (Appendix 6) and a copy is attached.

2 **Implementation**
Changes to the proposal which are not substantial may be carried out with the approval of the Minister for the Environment.

2-1 Subject to these conditions, the manner of detailed implementation of the proposal shall conform in substance with that set out in any designs, specifications, plans or other technical material submitted by the proponent to the Environmental Protection Authority with the proposal.

2-2 Where, in the course of the detailed implementation referred to in condition 2-1, the proponent seeks to change the designs, specifications, plans or other technical material submitted to the Environmental Protection Authority in any way that the Minister for the Environment determines, on the advice of the Environmental Protection Authority, is not substantial, those changes may be effected.
3 Proponent
These conditions legally apply to the nominated proponent.

3-1 No transfer of ownership, control or management of the project which would give rise to a need for the replacement of the proponent shall take place until the Minister for the Environment has advised the proponent that approval has been given for the nomination of a replacement proponent. Any request for the exercise of that power of the Minister shall be accompanied by a copy of this statement endorsed with an undertaking by the proposed replacement proponent to carry out the project in accordance with the conditions and procedures set out in the statement.

4 Decommissioning
The satisfactory decommissioning of the project, removal of the plant and installations and rehabilitation of the site and its environs to a sustainable condition in the long term, is the responsibility of the proponent.

4-1 Within five years following commissioning of the tailings storage facility, or at such later time considered appropriate by the Minister for the Environment on advice of the Department of Environmental Protection, the proponent shall prepare a plan which:
1 describes the process for decommissioning and rehabilitation of the project area;
2 provides for the long term management of ground and surface water systems affected by the tailings disposal area; and
3 provides for the development of a "walk away" solution for the decommissioned tailings storage facility,
to the requirements of the Environmental Protection Authority on advice of Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Minerals and Energy and the Water and Rivers Commission.

Note: A "walk away" solution means that the site shall either no longer require management at the time the proponent ceases discharge operations, or if further management is deemed necessary, the proponent shall make adequate provision so that the required management is undertaken with no liability to the State.

4-2 The proponent shall implement the plan required by condition 4-1 to the requirements of the Environmental Protection Authority on advice of the Department of Minerals and Energy, the Water and Rivers Commission and the Department of Environmental Protection.

5 Reporting

5-1 Within five years following the commencement of the operation of the tailings storage facility, the proponent shall submit a report which includes, but is not necessarily limited to the following:
1 a description of the development of the tailings storage facility;
2 details of the operation of the facility and issues arising from and variations required to its operation; and
3 monitoring results,
to the requirements of the Environmental Protection Authority.

The reporting required by this condition shall be repeated thereafter at five-yearly intervals to the requirements of the Minister for the Environment.

Note: The Environmental Protection Authority will subsequently advise the Minister for the Environment on the need for further five-yearly reports.
6 Time Limit on Approval
The environmental approval for the proposal is limited.

6-1 If the proponent has not substantially commenced the project within five years of the date of this statement, then the approval to implement the proposal as granted in this statement shall lapse and be void. The Minister for the Environment shall determine any question as to whether the project has been substantially commenced.

Any application to extend the period of five years referred to in this condition shall be made before the expiration of that period to the Minister for the Environment.

Where the proponent demonstrates to the requirements of the Minister for the Environment on advice of the Department of Environmental Protection that the environmental parameters of the proposal have not changed significantly, then the Minister may grant an extension not exceeding five years.

7 Compliance Auditing
To help determine environmental performance and compliance with the conditions, periodic reports on the implementation of the proposal are required.

7-1 The proponent shall submit periodic Performance and Compliance Reports, in accordance with an audit programme prepared by the Department of Environmental Protection in consultation with the proponent.

Procedure

1 Unless otherwise specified, the Department of Environmental Protection is responsible for assessing compliance with the conditions contained in this statement and for issuing formal clearance of conditions.

2 Where compliance with any condition is in dispute, the matter will be determined by the Minister for the Environment.

Note

The proponent is required to apply for a Works Approval for this project under the provisions of Part V of the Environmental Protection Act.
Proponent's Environmental Management Commitments

January 1996

MT KEITH NICKEL PROJECT: TAILINGS STORAGE UPGRADE 400 KM NORTH OF KALGOORLIE (995)

WESTERN MINING CORPORATION LIMITED
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Commitments</th>
<th>Timing</th>
<th>Whose requirements</th>
<th>Specification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Security of remnant vegetation/land systems of region</td>
<td>Protect the ecological values of affected land systems and associated vegetation, habitats and fauna</td>
<td>1. Minimise clearing of vegetation and rehabilitate areas no longer required for operations</td>
<td>Pre- and post-construction</td>
<td>DME, DEP</td>
<td>Compliance with tenement conditions</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>2. Contribute to co-ordinated management in north-eastern Goldfields with other land users</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>CALM, WADA</td>
<td>Consultation ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protect or enhance conservation values of Wanjarri Nature Reserve</td>
<td>Protect the ecological values of Wanjarri Nature Reserve from direct and indirect disturbance</td>
<td>3. Manage surface drainage and groundwater quality, to minimise impact on Wanjarri Nature Reserve</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>CALM</td>
<td>Minimal impacts on Wanjarri</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4. Contribute to management of Wanjarri Nature Reserve, in accordance with existing Memorandum of Understanding with CALM</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Signatories of the Memorandum of Understanding</td>
<td>Improved management of Wanjarri Nature Reserve</td>
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<tr>
<td>Groundwater resource</td>
<td>Protect the water quality and long term yield of superficial and palaeochannel aquifers</td>
<td>5. Design and construct TSF to most stringent guidelines from DME.</td>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>DME</td>
<td>DME guidelines</td>
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<td>6. Manage TSF to minimise risk of seepage</td>
<td>During operation</td>
<td>WRC and DEP</td>
<td>Comply with ANZECC Guidelines for Groundwater Protection in Australia</td>
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<td>7. Implement monitoring programme to detect and monitor saline seepage out of TSF. If seepage is detected, formulate response plan</td>
<td>During and after construction</td>
<td>WRC and DEP</td>
<td>No change to existing and future beneficial uses</td>
</tr>
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<td>Surface drainage</td>
<td>Maintain as far as possible the pre-existing flow patterns, and protect downstream vegetation from the effects of saline runoff.</td>
<td>8. Design stormwater diversion drains to replicate as closely as possible the natural drainage patterns downstream of the TSF</td>
<td>Before and during construction, and ongoing</td>
<td>WFC</td>
<td>Minimal impact on vegetation and soil structure as indicated by vegetation and erosion monitoring</td>
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<td>9. Implement a soil erosion monitoring programme. Should accelerated soil erosion be detected as a result of TSF, implement a remediation programme.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>DME (reported in annual environmental report)</td>
<td>Erosion minimised in comparison with control plots</td>
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<td>10. Implement a vegetation monitoring programme. Should changes in vegetation be detected as a result of the TSF, implement a remediation programme</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>CALM and DEP</td>
<td>Downstream net vegetation loss minimised in comparison with upstream monitoring plots</td>
</tr>
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<td>Implement an Environmental Management System</td>
<td>Develop an Environmental Management System (EMS) to ensure sound management of TSF and environment</td>
<td>11. Identify and implement an EMS. Update existing Environmental Management Programme (EMP) to include matters relevant to the TSF</td>
<td>EMP updated within 12 months. EMS implementation ongoing</td>
<td>In accord with Australian Standards including independent auditing</td>
<td>Compliance with intent of Interim Australian Standards 14001 and 14004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site selection process</td>
<td>Select most appropriate site on environmental criteria</td>
<td>12. Siting will take into account all environmental aspects including hydrology, hydrogeology and significant features</td>
<td>Preconstruction</td>
<td>No impact on ecologically significant areas or restricted habitats</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Plants and animals</td>
<td>Protect rare and priority species</td>
<td>13. Assess TSF site for Declared Rare Flora and priority listed species</td>
<td>Preconstruction</td>
<td>CALM</td>
<td>Compliance with Conservation and Land Management Act 1984.</td>
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<td>14. Conduct trapping programme over TSF for mulgara. If any are trapped, implement relocation programme</td>
<td>Preconstruction</td>
<td>CALM</td>
<td>Successful relocation of mulgara, if present</td>
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<td>15. Fund and conduct long term research into distribution and ecology of mulgara in north-eastern Goldfields</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>CALM</td>
<td>Improved understanding of mulgara ecology</td>
</tr>
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<td>Rehabilitation</td>
<td>Provide stable landforms and self-sustaining vegetation cover through progressive and final long term rehabilitation.</td>
<td>16. Prepare draft rehabilitation programme, updated as required to reflect results of rehabilitation trials and advances in knowledge of rehabilitation techniques. Submit final rehabilitation plan prior to implementation</td>
<td>Draft rehabilitation plan within two years. Updates and trials ongoing.</td>
<td>DEP, CALM and DME</td>
<td>Stable, non-polluting aesthetically acceptable landform.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensure integrity of facility to extreme events</td>
<td>Design and construct safe facility</td>
<td>17. Design and construct TSF in accordance with most stringent geotechnical guidelines</td>
<td>Design stage and during construction</td>
<td>DME</td>
<td>Compliance with DME Guidelines for Tailings Storage Facilities</td>
</tr>
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<td>Other</td>
<td>Avoid disturbance to Aboriginal heritage sites</td>
<td>18. No Aboriginal heritage sites will be disturbed without permission from the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. If any previously unrecorded sites are found, all work in immediate vicinity will cease and appropriate procedures adopted</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Dept of Aboriginal Affairs</td>
<td>Compliance with Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972.</td>
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<td>Minimise dust</td>
<td>19. Minimise clearing and stripping and implement dust control strategies during construction. Establish vegetation cover on topsoil piles and perimeter walls.</td>
<td>During construction and ongoing</td>
<td>DEP and DME</td>
<td>Compliance with Environmental Protection Act 1987 Licence conditions, and Mines Safety and Inspection Act</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**REGULATORY AUTHORITIES**
- WADA: Department of Agriculture
- DME: Department of Minerals and Energy
- CALM: Department of Conservation and Land Management
- WFC: Water and Rivers Commission
- DEP: Department of Environmental Protection