



Ass # 601

Bill # 601

State # 234

WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

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

**PREMIER COAL MINE EXPANSION, COLLIE (601)**

**WESTERN COLLIERIES LTD**

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.

- In implementing the proposal, the proponent shall fulfil the commitments (which are not inconsistent with the conditions or procedures contained in this statement) made in the Consultative Environmental Review and in Response to Issues (Appendix 1 in Environmental Protection Authority Bulletin 601). (A copy of the commitments is attached).

**2. Detailed implementation**

Changes to the coal mining proposal, as described in the Consultative Environmental Review and Response to Issues documents, which are not substantial, may be carried out with the approval of the Minister for the Environment.

- 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. Where, in the course of that detailed implementation, the proponent seeks to change those designs, specifications, plans or other technical material in any way that the Minister for the Environment determines is not substantial, on the advice of the Environmental Protection Authority, those changes may be effected.

**3. Impacts on residents**

Predicted dust and noise impacts on residents surrounding the mining operation, particularly at Shotts from the crusher facility, are unacceptable and require a management strategy for resolution before development for coal mining commences.

- 3-1 Prior to coal mining operations the proponent shall prepare a management strategy, in consultation with the surrounding residents, which details strategies for either relocating residents who would be affected by unacceptable noise, dust and risk impacts from the mining operation or for modifying the mining operations, to the satisfaction of the Minister for the Environment on advice of the Environmental Protection Authority.
- 3-2 Should the approved strategy prepared in accordance with condition 3-1 be one of modifying mining operations rather than relocation of residents, this shall be implemented through the Environmental Management Programme required by condition 4-1.

Published on

2 APR 1992

3-3 Should the approved strategy prepared in accordance with condition 3-1 be one of relocation of residents, this shall be implemented to the satisfaction of the Minister for the Environment.

#### **4. Environmental Management Programme**

In order to plan for such a large earthmoving operation with large-scale environmental impacts, an Environmental Management Programme is required.

4-1 Prior to each major phase of the mining operation, the proponent shall prepare an Environmental Management Programme to plan for and monitor the effects of that phase of the proposal and to provide appropriate management strategies based on the monitoring results, to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority. The Environmental Management Programme must be consistent with the provisions of Clause 7 of the Collie Coal (Western Collieries) Agreement Act.

This Programme shall address, but not necessarily be limited to, the management, monitoring, auditing and reporting requirements of the following issues:

1. noise, dust and risk impacts on surrounding residents;
2. impacts from the mine dewatering operation;
3. impact on the conservation values and area of the State Forest;
4. dieback disease management; and
5. rehabilitation to an acceptable final land use.

4-2 The proponent shall implement the Environmental Management Programme required by condition 4-1 to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority.

#### **5. Mine dewatering impacts**

The proponent is responsible for managing the impacts of the mine dewatering.

5-1 The proponent shall prepare a water supply plan, as part of the Environmental Management Programme (condition 4), which describes measures to ensure adequate domestic and stock water supplies for any existing private users of the groundwater resource affected by the dewatering operation, to the satisfaction of the Minister for the Environment on advice of the Environmental Protection Authority and the Water Authority of Western Australia.

5-2 The proponent shall implement the plan required by condition 5-1 to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority on advice of the Water Authority of Western Australia.

5-3 The proponent shall utilise and/or dispose of any water occurring in or collecting on the Mining Lease (including water pumped or drawn from mines) in accordance with a water management plan which will deal with the supply of water to power stations and other utilities and the disposal of water in an acceptable manner. The development of this plan, which will be consistent with the provisions of relevant State Agreement Acts, is the responsibility of the Water Authority of Western Australia.

#### **6. Noise limits**

The noise generated by the coal mining operation should be kept within environmentally acceptable levels.

6-1 The proponent shall ensure that the noise emissions from the project do not cause or contribute to noise levels in excess of:

- 50db(A) slow from 7am to 7pm Monday to Saturday inclusive, but excluding gazetted public holidays;

- 40db(A) slow from 10pm to midnight and from midnight to 7am every day; and
  - 45db(A) slow at all other times;
- when measured:

- (1) at any point on or adjacent to other premises not occupied by the proponent and used for residential or other noise-sensitive purposes; and
- (2) at a height between 1.2 and 1.5 metres above ground level and at a distance greater than 3.5 metres from any reflecting surface other than the ground.

6-2 Where the combined level of the noise emissions from the project and the normal ambient noise exceeds the levels specified in condition 6-1, this condition shall be considered to be contravened only when the following criteria are also met at the measurement point:

- the noise emissions from the premises are considered by the Environmental Protection Authority to be audible and contributing significantly to the measured noise levels; and
- the noise emissions from the premises are identifiable by the Environmental Protection Authority as emanating from the project.

6-3 Noise emissions shall not include tonal or impulsive components or other characteristics which make the noise more annoying than it would be in their absence. These characteristics will be assessed by the Environmental Protection Authority.

6-4 The proponent shall conduct noise surveys to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority.

## 7. Dust limit

The dust generated by the coal mining operation should be kept within environmentally acceptable levels.

- The proponent shall not cause dust at residential premises surrounding the mine to exceed 1000 microgrammes per cubic metre ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ), measured continuously over 15 minutes.

## 8. Decommissioning

The satisfactory decommissioning of the project and removal of the plant and installations is the responsibility of the proponent.

8-1 At least six months prior to decommissioning, the proponent shall prepare a decommissioning plan, to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority.

8-2 The proponent shall implement the plan required by condition 8-1 to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority.

## 9. Proponent

The ministerial conditions legally apply to the nominated proponent.

- 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.

## 10. Time limit on approval

The environmental approval of the proposal is limited.

- 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 by way of a request for a change in the condition under Section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act. (On expiration of the five year period, further consideration of the proposal can only occur following a new referral to the Environmental Protection Authority).

## **11. Compliance Auditing**

In order to ensure that environmental conditions and commitments are met, an audit system is required.

- 11-1 The proponent shall prepare an "Audit Programme", which includes requirements for the preparation of periodic "Compliance Reports", in consultation with and to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority.
- 11-2 Subsequent to condition 11-1, the proponent shall implement the approved Audit Programme to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority.

### **NOTE:**

The reporting requirements for these conditions may be effected through the reporting requirements of the State Agreement Act, subject to meeting the timing requirements of the conditions.

**Bob Pearce, MLA**  
**MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

**2 APR 1992**

# Environmental Management Commitments

## 1. Groundwater

### 1.1 Production

WCL will prepare and subsequently implement a groundwater dewatering and monitoring programme.

WCL will monitor the groundwater abstraction, water quality and the regional drawdown effects from the mine dewatering on other existing licenced groundwater users.

WCL will liaise with the Water Authority of WA regarding regional effects.

WCL will implement remedial action, where necessary for safety reasons, of any areas of subsidence on the Premier mining lease due to the dewatering for the mining operation.

### 1.2 Monitoring

During the dewatering operation, WCL will monitor the bores to determine abstraction rates and the quality of the water.

During the mining operation, WCL will establish a piezometer bore monitoring programme, in conjunction with the monitoring of other regional bores, to determine the drawdown effect of the dewatering operation. Monitoring results will be submitted annually to the Water Authority of WA.

### 1.3 Discharge

WCL will provide all water produced by the dewatering operation to the power stations as a priority.

Prior to the discharge of any water to the natural surface drainage systems leading off the lease area, WCL will obtain the written approval of the Water Authority of WA.

If it is necessary to discharge water from the dewatering operation into the natural drainage systems, WCL will comply with discharge criteria set in the licence(s) issued under the Environmental Protection Act, 1986.

## 2. Surface water

WCL will implement measures, such as settling ponds, silt traps and biological filtration systems, to ensure that the natural drainage systems affected by the mining operation are not significantly adversely affected. Where possible, all drainage systems off rehabilitated areas would be diverted into recognised discharge points.

## 3. Forest Products

### 3.1 Large-scale clearing

WCL will apply for clearing permits from the Department of Conservation and Land Management at least 12 months in advance of large-scale (>10 ha) clearing of State Forest areas.

### 3.2 Small-scale clearing

WCL will apply for clearing permits from the Department of Conservation and Land Management at least 6 months in advance of small-scale (<10 ha) clearing.

## 4. Dieback

### 4.1 Mapping

WCL will cooperate with the Department of Conservation and Land Management regarding dieback mapping, access restrictions and hygiene controls in State Forest areas within the lease.

### 4.2 Management

WCL will implement dieback management measures within the lease area to minimise the spread of dieback disease pathogens, particularly into currently dieback free areas.

## **5. Blasting**

### **5.1 Blasting damage**

WCL will arrange for those living or owning property close to the mine to have a property condition survey prior to mining commencing. The survey will be conducted by an independent third party at WCL's expense.

### **5.2 Damage repair**

Any damage proven to be due to WCL's negligence will be rectified by WCL within three months to the original surveyed or other acceptable standard.

## **6. Noise**

### **6.1 Monitoring**

WCL will conduct noise modelling studies for critical locations surrounding the mine site.

WCL will develop and implement a noise monitoring programme immediately prior to the commencement of mining.

## **7. Dust**

### **7.1 Monitoring**

WCL will develop and implement a dust monitoring programme for dust levels at critical locations (nearest inhabited residences) surrounding the mine site immediately prior to the commencement of mining

### **7.2 Mitigation measures**

WCL will implement reasonable dust mitigation measures to achieve dust levels to the recommended goals of  $4 \text{ g/m}^2/\text{month}$  for total particulates and  $260 \text{ ug/m}^3$  for a 24 hour maximum and  $90 \text{ ug/m}^3$  for the annual mean.

## **8. Property valuation**

WCL will undertake an independent property valuation of the relevant properties in Shotts and other surrounding areas within 2km of the nearest proposed blasting in the pre-development stage before the commencement of mining.

## **9. Final void**

WCL will design the final void to facilitate its use in accordance with guidelines approved by the relevant authorities at the time.

## **10. Mine related traffic**

WCL will ensure that, except for WCL employees, no WCL mine related traffic will travel through Shotts.

## **11. Road/rail realignment**

### **11.1 Alignment**

WCL will ensure that the realignment of the road and the railway will not bring it any closer to the gazetted Shotts townsite.

### **11.2 Access**

WCL will provide an access route to the existing standard to all properties affected by the road/rail realignment.

## **12. Interference with communications**

WCL will rectify, if technically feasible, any interference to the communications systems of surrounding residents due to the mining operation.

### **13. Weed control**

WCL will liaise with the Department of Conservation and Land Management and the Agriculture Protection Board regarding the control of weed species on the lease area. Control measures such as hand removal and selective herbicides would be used to control weed species which are affecting the success of the rehabilitation programme as deemed necessary.