

Expansion of lime sands mining, Lancelin

Westdeen Holdings Pty Limited

Change to Ministerial Condition

**Environmental Protection Authority
Perth, Western Australia
Bulletin 580
Assessment No 578
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Introduction

The Environmental Protection Authority has received a request from Westdeen Pty Ltd for approval to change a Ministerial condition relating to the limit for tonnes mined at the Company's Lancelin lime sands mining operation.

In accordance with the Environmental Protection Act, Section 46(1), the Minister for the Environment has asked the Authority to report on the desirability of amending the Minister's Environmental Conditions to allow for the expansion of the Company's lime sands mining operation at Lancelin.

The proposal

The Environmental Protection Authority reported on the lime sands mining proposal in 1987 (Bulletin 294). The Authority recommended that the proposal was environmentally acceptable and the Government approved the project.

Ministerial conditions were subsequently set, on 5 November, 1987, with the objective of retaining the aesthetic nature of the area and avoiding interference with recreational activities. Mining was limited to the removal of a total of 20,000 tonnes over the 5 year period from 1988 through 1992. If the company wanted to extract material in excess of the limit or continue operations past the approved date, then a report describing the operations and the likely environmental effects had to be referred to the Environmental Protection Authority for assessment (Appendix 1).

The Company has now requested an increase of the maximum removal amount by 20,000 tonnes. The amended limit, if granted, would be 40,000 tonnes over the five year period, 1988 through to 1992.

Mining of the lime sands involves a front end loader removing sand from the western face of the dune and loading tip trucks which drive to the dune face. The trucks then deliver the lime sand to the agricultural market as agricultural lime for treatment of acid soils. No processing is involved.

Assessment and recommendation

The environmental impacts of the current operations are minimal due principally to the mobility of the dune system. Mining will take place along the base of the dune for a distance of around 100m to avoid any major change to the shape of the dune face. This method minimises the potential for "blow outs". There is no vegetation on the area being mined.

Trucks carting sand away are covered by a tarpaulin to mitigate dust loss. The truck route used is a common access route for the public and other mining operators. There are no adjoining residences.

Safety concerns expressed by recreational associations have been addressed by the placing of additional signs around the mining area and at the entrance to the dunes. These signs alert the public that sand mining is being carried out on the dunes.

The Company originally estimated the maximum extraction rate at about 30,000 tonnes per year. Since 1982, 16,300 tonnes of lime sand has been removed. An increase of 20,000 tonnes would mean up to 23,700 tonnes could be extracted within the next year. This amount is significantly more than past abstraction quantities which have been gradually increasing.

The Minister for the Environment's initial approval of the first stage of this operation expires on 31 December, 1992. In accordance with the Ministerial Conditions, the Company must submit a report by the end of 1992 to the State Mining Engineer, following referral to the Environmental Protection Authority, if they wish to continue mining the site.

The Environmental Protection Authority, in conjunction with the Department of Mines, is currently conducting a review of mining activities in the Lancelin area. This review, involving consultation with the local community and interested parties, will provide a coordinated, regional plan examining the possibility of mining continuing whilst protecting the environment.

The Company's abstraction limit will be considered during the regional review and also when the company submits its renewal report.

The Environmental Protection Authority believes an increase of 20,000 tonnes over the five year period is environmentally acceptable.

Recommendation

The Environmental Protection Authority recommends that the Ministerial Statement dated 5 November, 1987, be amended to increase the maximum removal to a total of 40,000 tonnes over the five year period from 1988 through to 1992.

Appendix 1

**Statement that a proposal may be implemented
(pursuant to the Environmental Protection Act 1986)**

Expansion of Lime Sands Mining, Lancelin



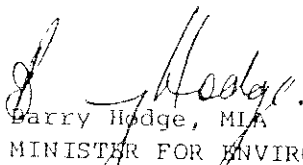
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT

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

LIMESAND EXTRACTION - LANCELIN
ENDEAVOR RESOURCES LTD

This proposal may be implemented subject to the following conditions:

1. No more than 20 000 tonnes of material be mined over the five year period from 1988 through 1992.
2. Further extraction of material in excess of the cumulative 20 000 tonnes for the specified period or continued operations past 31 December, 1992 shall require a further report to be submitted to the State Mining Engineer describing proposed operations and likely environmental effects; and approval being obtained for those operations from the State Mining Engineer following referral of the proposal to the Environmental Protection Authority
3. The operations and measures to protect the environment shall be carried out by the proponent in accordance with the proposals outlined in the document titled "Endeavour Resources Limited, Mining Plan for Mining Tenements at Lancelin" and dated August 1987.


Larry Hodge, MIA
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT

5 November 1987