

# **Exploration licence 74/135, Ravensthorpe Range, Change to an environmental condition**

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**Outokumpu Exploration Australia Pty Limited**

**Report and recommendation  
of the Environmental Protection Authority**

**Environmental Protection Authority  
Perth, Western Australia  
Bulletin 630  
June 1992**

## THE PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

This report contains the Environmental Protection Authority's environmental assessment and recommendations to the Minister for the Environment on the environmental acceptability of the proposal.

Immediately following the release of the report there is a 14-day period when anyone may appeal to the Minister against the Environmental Protection Authority's recommendations.

After the appeal period, and determination of any appeals, the Minister consults with the other relevant ministers and agencies and then issues his decision about whether the proposal may or may not proceed. The Minister also announces the legally binding environmental conditions which might apply to any approval.

## APPEALS

If you disagree with any of the assessment report recommendations you may appeal in writing to the Minister for the Environment outlining the environmental reasons for your concern and enclosing the appeal fee of \$10.

It is important that you clearly indicate the part of the report you disagree with and the reasons for your concern so that the grounds of your appeal can be properly considered by the Minister for the Environment.

## ADDRESS

Hon Minister for the Environment  
18th Floor, Allendale Square  
77 St George's Terrace  
PERTH WA 6000

## CLOSING DATE

Your appeal (with the \$10 fee) must reach the Minister's office no later than 5.00 pm on 19 June, 1992.

ISBN 0 7309 4749 1  
ISSN 1030 - 0120  
Assessment Number 733

## **Background and recommendation**

The Environmental Protection Authority has been requested by the Minister for the Environment to inquire into and report on whether or not the conditions for Exploration Licence 74/135 should be changed under Section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986.

The Minister for the Environment issued environmental conditions for Exploration Licence 74/135 on 14 November, 1991. These conditions were based on the recommendations made in the Environmental Protection Authority's Bulletin 579.

One of the recommendations was that the procedure for implementing the project should be controlled according to a list of Minister for Mines' conditions. A copy of this list was included as an appendix.

When the Minister for the Environment set his conditions however, an outdated version of the Minister for Mines' conditions was mistakenly attached. This outdated version erroneously included an extra condition that relates to rehabilitation of previous mining activity.

In order to rectify this administrative error, the proponent has requested that the correct Minister for Mines' conditions replaces those currently set.

### **Recommendation**

**The Environmental Protection Authority recommends that the attached Minister for Mines' conditions for Exploration Licence 74/135 should replace those currently appended to the environmental conditions.**

## **Appendix**

**Environmental Conditions for Exploration Licence 74/135**



WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

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

APPLICATION FOR EXPLORATION LICENCE 74/135,  
RAVENSTHORPE RANGE (546)

OUTOKUMPU EXPLORATION AUSTRALIA PTY LTD

This proposal may be implemented subject to the following conditions:

1. The proponent shall ensure that no ground-disturbing activity occurs until such activity has been referred to the Environmental Protection Authority and approved by the Minister for the Environment.

The following activities would not result in significant ground-disturbance:

- all airborne surveys;
- reconnaissance in a light vehicle, including limited off-road access where approved by the management authority;
- geophysical work, for example, magnetometer surveys, especially if on foot, by helicopter or with limited off-road access where approved by the management authority;
- geochemical work including collection of small samples (<20 kg) especially if on foot, by helicopter or with limited off-road access where approved by the management authority; and
- scout drilling on existing roads, tracks and approved management access routes (firebreaks, etc).

2. 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.

Procedure

The detailed implementation of this project shall be controlled via the attached list of conditions to be imposed on the exploration licence by the Minister for Mines under the Mines Act.

Bob Pearce, MLA  
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

13 NOV 1991

Published on

14 NOV 1991

SCHEDULE OF ENDORSEMENTS/CONDITIONS - EXPLORATION LICENCE  
74/135

ENDORSEMENTS

1. The land the subject of this licence does not include land the subject of Prospecting Licence 74/132, Mineral Lease 74/485 and Mining Lease 74/63 and rights of ingress and egress are to be preserved at all times to the licensee/lessee.

CONDITIONS

1. Compliance with the provisions of the Aboriginal Heritage Act, 1972 to ensure that no action is taken which would interfere with or damage any Aboriginal site.
2. All surface holes drilled for the purpose of exploration are to be capped, filled or otherwise made safe after completion.
3. All costeans and other disturbances to the surface of the land made as a result of exploration, including drill pads, grid lines and access tracks, being backfilled and rehabilitated to the satisfaction of the District Mining Engineer. Backfilling and rehabilitation being required no later than 6 months after excavation unless otherwise approved in writing by the District Mining Engineer.
4. All waste materials, rubbish, plastic sample bags, abandoned equipment and temporary buildings being removed from the mining tenement prior to or at the termination of exploration programme.
5. Unless the written approval of the District Mining Engineer, Department of Mines, is first obtained, the use of scrapers, graders, bulldozers, backhoes or other mechanised equipment for surface disturbance or the excavation of costeans is prohibited. Following approval, all topsoil being removed ahead of mining operations and separately stockpiled for replacement after backfilling and/or completion of operations.
6. No mining on Water Supply Reserve 11577 and Steere River without the prior written consent of the Minister for Mines.
7. The grant of this licence not inferring automatic approval to mine or the subsequent grant of a mining lease in accordance with Section 75 of the Mining Act unless and until a proposal is referred to the Environmental Protection Authority under Part IV Section 38 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986.

8. Prior to any significant ground-disturbing activity, as defined by the State Mining Engineer, in the designated environmentally sensitive area, the licensee preparing a detailed programme for each phase of proposed exploration for approval of the State Mining Engineer in agreement with the Regional Manager, Department of Conservation and Land Management, the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority and for referral to the Environmental Protection Authority. This programme to include:
- i) Maps and/or aerial photographs showing the proposed locations of all roads, tracks, camps, costeans and other disturbances;
  - ii) The purpose, specifications and life of such roads, tracks, disturbances, etc;
  - iii) Descriptions of all vegetation types (in general terms), land forms, and unusual features likely to be disturbed by such proposed disturbances. The Regional Manager, Department of Conservation and Land Management specifying the level of vegetation description;
  - iv) Proposals which may disturb any declared rare or geographically restricted flora and fauna;
  - v) Techniques, prescriptions, and timetable for rehabilitation of all proposed disturbances;
  - vi) Undertaking for corrective measures for failed rehabilitation;
  - vii) Details of water requirements from within the reserve;
  - viii) Details of refuse disposal;
  - ix) Proposals for instruction and supervision of personnel and contractors in respect to environmental conditions; and
  - x) Description of the environmental impacts and programmes for their management.
9. Unless the written approval of the State Mining Engineer, Department of Mines, is first obtained, the use of scrapers, graders, bulldozers, backhoes or other mechanised equipment for surface clearing or the excavation of costeans is prohibited. Following approval, all topsoil being removed ahead of mining operations and separately stockpiled for replacement after backfilling and/or completion of operations.



10. The licensee, at his expense, capping or filling all holes drilled, rehabilitating all areas cleared or otherwise disturbed and backfilling all volumes excavated during the term of the licence to the satisfaction of the State Mining Engineer in agreement with the Regional Manager, Department of Conservation and Land Management. Backfilling and rehabilitation being required no later than six months after excavation unless otherwise approved in writing by the State Mining Engineer. Drill holes are to be capped or filled immediately after completion.
11. The lessee submitting to the State Mining Engineer, in February of each year, a brief annual report in triplicate for review outlining the operations and rehabilitation work undertaken in the previous 12 months and the proposed operations and rehabilitation programmes for the next 12 months.
12. The Regional Manager, Department of Conservation and Land Management, being supplied with an itinerary and programme of the locations of operations on the licence area and informed at least seven days in advance of any changes to that itinerary.
13. The licensee complying with and ensuring that all persons under its control operating in the licence area are aware of and comply with the provisions of:-
  - i) the Conservation and Land Management Act 1984, and the Regulations thereunder,
  - ii) the Bush Fires Act, 1954-77, and the Regulations thereunder; and
  - iii) the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950, as amended, and the Regulations thereunder (excepting the Regulations 46 a, b, c, d, g 1, L and O, insofar as non-compliance occurs as an unavoidable incident or reasonable consequence in the performance of the approval exploration programme).
14. Prior to accessing the licence area, the licensee shall consult with the Regional Manager, Department of Conservation and Land Management, and ensure that where required all vehicles and equipment entering the designated environmentally sensitive area are washed down to remove soil and plant propagules and adhering to such conditions specified by the Regional Manager, Department of Conservation and Land Management, for the prevention of the spread of soil-borne diseases.

15. Access to and from and the movement of vehicles within the licence area being restricted to ground or seasonal conditions and routes approved under the programme or otherwise agreed by the Regional Manager, Department of Conservation and Land Management.
16. Prior to the cessation of the exploration/prospecting activity in the environmentally sensitive area, the licensee notifying the State Mining Engineer, the Regional Manager, Department of Conservation and Land Management, and the Chairman of the Environmental Protection Authority and arranging an inspection as required.
17. All waste material, rubbish, plastic sample bags, abandoned equipment and temporary buildings being removed from the mining tenement prior to or at the termination of the exploration programme.
18. The licensee making provisions to prevent spillage of fuel and discharge of pollutants generally and for all exploration sites being kept free from any rubbish and being left in a clean and tidy state.
19. The licensee not establishing any camp, base works or area, fuelling depot or similar establishment on the licence area unless the site and access has received prior approval of the Regional Manager, Department of Conservation and Land Management.
20. No soap, detergent or other foaming agent being used in any watercourse or rockhole nor any rubbish or other polluting material being deposited in any watercourse or rockhole.
21. Domestic animals, traps or firearms not being taken onto the designated environmentally sensitive area.
22. Such further conditions for protection of the land environment and rehabilitation of the land as the Minister for Mines may from time to time impose.
23. The licensee submitting the programme for ground-disturbing activity cited in condition 8 for the whole of the area of Exploration Licence 74/135.