



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 08/121,  
ASHBURTON RIVER, MINDEROO

K M POWNALL AND C R LADYMAN

This proposal may be implemented subject to the following conditions:

1. 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. (A copy of the commitments is attached).
2. 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 on the advice of the Environmental Protection Authority, is not substantial, those changes may be effected.
3. The proponent shall refer any subsequent proposal to conduct productive mining within the river bed to the Environmental Protection Authority.
4. The proponent shall be responsible for decommissioning and removal of the dredge and installations and rehabilitating the site and its environs, to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority. At least two months prior to cessation of operations, the proponent shall prepare and subsequently implement a decommissioning and rehabilitation plan, to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority upon advice from the Department of Mines.
5. 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.

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6. 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).

Procedure

The detailed implementation of this project will also be controlled by conditions to be imposed on the Exploration Licence by the Minister for Mines under the Mines Act.

Attached is a copy of the conditions proposed by the Minister for Mines.

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Bob Pearce, MLA  
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

15 MAY 1991

## **EXPLORATION LICENCE 08/121, ASHBURTON RIVER, MINDEROO**

### **PROPONENT'S COMMITMENTS**

The applicants are committed to the following:

1. Liaison with the pastoral leaseholder to decide crossover points on the river, gate usage and access routes.
2. To maintain the peaceful access of stock to drinking.
3. Clearing up of any spills via physical removal or chemical dispersal immediately (e.g. oil failure in hydraulic line on drill).
4. Minimisation of access points to the river to prevent further erosion.
5. Prevention of damage to native trees, particularly on the river banks, to prevent further erosion.
6. Ponding of dredge activity to prevent any disturbance of drinking water.
7. The maintenance of buffer zones for dredging operations and when building crossings.
8. Avoidance of camp created problems by remote accommodation.
9. Removal of any drilling wastes and elimination of holes after drilling.
10. Removal of all equipment from the river in the event of storm or water run-off, so that no pollution can occur.

**MINISTER FOR MINES - PROPOSED CONDITIONS**  
**FOR EXPLORATION LICENCE 08/121, ASHBURTON RIVER,**  
**MINDEROO**

1. Compliance with the provisions of the Aboriginal Heritage Act, 1972, to ensure that no action is taken which is likely to interfere with, or damage, any Aboriginal site.
2. All surface holes drilled for the purpose of exploration after completion, being capped, filled or otherwise made safe to protect domestic stock and indigenous fauna.
3. Retaining walls or bunds to be constructed with earth-fill and maintained around dredge ponds to prevent the escape of turbid water. (These walls are to conform to specifications relative to location near flowing or still water).
4. No disturbance of permanent water holes.
5. Buffer zones are to be delineated and maintained adjacent to river banks to prevent collapse of those banks and consequent erosion.
6. Existing tracks, dry river beds and river bank crossings are to be used wherever possible.
7. New tracks and river bank crossings to be kept to a minimum; and their construction and maintenance to meet the following criteria:
  - serve the maximum number of dredge ponds as practicable;
  - away from existing erosion channels;
  - shallow bank angle (less or equal to 15 degrees);
  - away from lower-storey vegetation.
8. Dredge ponds to be progressively back-filled. Final pond can be left open provided it is left in a condition for safe access by domestic stock and indigenous fauna.
9. Earth-fill river bank crossings are to be removed before the on-set of seasonal flooding to prevent the erosion of river banks.
10. 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.
11. The licensee making provisions to prevent spillage of fuel and discharge of pollutants generally, and for all rubbish to be removed from the licence area and all disturbed sites to be left in a clean and tidy state.
12. 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.
13. Notification being given to the pastoralist of Minderoo Station prior to commencement of the exploration programme.
14. Prior to commencement of exploration on this licence, the licensee providing a bank guaranteed Unconditional Performance Bond in the sum of \$10,000 for due compliance with the conditions of the licence.
15. No mining operations being carried out on Stopping Place Reserve No. 1053 which restrict the use of the reserve.

Consent to mine on Navigable Waters (Ashburton River) granted by Minister for Mines subject to :-

16. No activities being carried out that will adversely affect waters from surface and underground sources.
17. Cancellation without compensation upon notice in writing from the Minister for Mines that the ground is required for construction of water supply works or that mining operations thereon will, in his opinion, be detrimental to existing or proposed water supplies.
18. The provisions of the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914 as amended.
19. The rights in ingress to and egress from any mining operation being at all reasonable times preserved to the authorised officers of the Water Authority of Western Australia for inspection purposes.
20. Tailings dams, disposal areas and dumps being sited so as to pose no threat to water course stability or to groundwater and surface water quality, and being constructed so as to be stable on decommissioning.
21. Any application made for a mining lease in respect of ground comprised within this licence, must be accompanied by a plan of proposed mining operations and measures to safeguard the environment, and those measures must ensure that mining operations will not be detrimental to existing or proposed water supplies.