



WESTERN AUSTRALIA
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

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

Tailings pond rehabilitation project and effluent management system upgrade, Baldivis

Western Mining Corporation Ltd

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 and in responses to issues raised during the assessment (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 be responsible for decommissioning the upgraded effluent management system and rehabilitating its site and environs, to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority. At least six months prior to cessation of operation of the upgraded effluent management system, the proponent shall prepare and subsequently implement a decommissioning and rehabilitation plan, to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority.
4. 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.

Published on

31 MAY 1991

5. 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).

Bob Pearce, MLA
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

30 MAY 1991

**TAILINGS POND REHABILITATION PROJECT AND EFFLUENT
MANAGEMENT SYSTEM UPGRADE, BALDIVIS**

PROPONENT'S COMMITMENTS

The proponent, Western Mining Corporation Limited (WMC) has provided the following commitments to the Environmental Protection Authority in the CER on its Tailings Pond Rehabilitation Project at Baldivis and Effluent Management System Upgrade at Baldivis and Kwinana.

General Commitments

- (1) The proponent will adhere to the proposals as described in the CER and as assessed by the Environmental Protection Authority and will fulfil the commitments made therein and summarized below.

- (2) The groundwater pollution resulting from the leaking tailings pond will be rectified as specified in the CER, to the satisfaction of all relevant Government agencies' including the following -
 - . EPA;
 - . Water Authority of WA;
 - . Department of Conservation and Land Management; and
 - . Mines Department.

- (3) The proposed new effluent pond structure will be constructed, operated and managed to the satisfaction of -
 - . EPA;
 - . Water Authority of WA;
 - . Mines Department; and
 - . The Health Department.

- (4) The proposed liquid, slurry and solid waste management practices will be carried out, where relevant, to the satisfaction of -
 - . Environmental Protection Authority;
 - . Water Authority of WA;
 - . Mines Department;
 - . The Health Department.

- (5) If the EPA identifies an environmental impact on Lake Cooloongup or surrounding area resulting from polluted groundwater generated by the proponent, the proponent will take all reasonable remedial action to the satisfaction of the EPA and all other relevant Government agencies.

Existing Tailings Pond

- (6) The environmental management programme will be modified where practicable to reduce the impact of pollution on the environment to the satisfaction of the EPA.
- (7) The proponent will cease discharging effluent to the existing tailings pond as soon as the proposed new effluent pond structure and upgraded effluent treatment plant are commissioned. Construction and commissioning of the new effluent pond structure and upgraded effluent treatment plant will be carried out as soon as possible after all statutory approvals have been granted, and will be to the satisfaction of the EPA.
- (8) The proponent will, at least six months prior to decommissioning the existing tailings pond, prepare a decommissioning and rehabilitation plan to the satisfaction of the EPA.
- (9) The proponent will commence to dewater the existing leaking tailings pond immediately after cessation of effluent disposal and at the time of commissioning the new effluent pond structure. Dewatering will be carried out as quickly as is practical and to the satisfaction of the EPA. The recovered water will be treated or disposed of to the satisfaction of the EPA.
- (10) Rehabilitation of the existing tailings pond site will be carried out to the satisfaction of the EPA, Health Department, Water Authority, the Department of State Development and any other relevant agency.
- (11) During rehabilitation, the leaking tailings pond will be stabilized to minimize leakage as far as possible, even during periods of high rainfall, and this will be done to the satisfaction of the EPA and the Water Authority of Western Australia.

Upgrading of Wastewater Treatment Plant

- (12) The proponent will upgrade its reverse osmosis wastewater treatment plant to a level which will enable processing of contaminated groundwater at the treatment rates indicated in the CER. The proponent will undertake further upgrading of the wastewater treatment plant if treatment of the contaminated groundwater is not progressing at a reasonable rate to the satisfaction of the EPA.
- (13) The proponent will operate and manage its wastewater treatment plant to the satisfaction of the EPA.
- (14) The proponent will monitor the performance of its wastewater treatment plant so that waste recovery can be continually optimized, and this will be done to the satisfaction of the EPA.
- (15) The proponent will continue to investigate new technology and improvements to improve its wastewater treatment plant to optimize recovery of pollutants and this will be done to the reasonable satisfaction of EPA.

New Effluent Pond Structure: Construction and Management

- (16) The proposed new effluent pond structure will be constructed to the satisfaction of the EPA, Water Authority and the Health Department and any other relevant statutory agency.
- (17) The proposed new effluent pond structure will be operated and managed to the satisfaction of the EPA, Water Authority, the Health Department and any other relevant statutory agency.

New Effluent Pond Structure: Effluent and Slurry

- (18) To ensure that the final residue in the new effluent pond structure conforms to predicted specifications for future management, the plant effluent, slurry and solid residue quality and discharge rates, will be monitored to the satisfaction of the EPA. If the quality or quantity of effluent does not conform to predicted specifications and is unacceptable to the EPA, the effluent will be retreated or otherwise disposed of to EPA's satisfaction.

New Effluent Pond Structure: Leakage

- (19) If leakage were detected from the proposed new effluent pond structure, EPA will be notified immediately. The proponent will take immediate action to recover leakage and mend the leak and this will be done to the satisfaction of the EPA.

New Effluent Pond Structure: Solids Buildup

- (20) Solid residues building up in the new effluent pond structure over the lifetime of the ponds would be managed to the satisfaction of the EPA and Health Department.

New Effluent Pond Structure: Decommissioning and Rehabilitation

- (21) The proponent will be responsible for decommissioning the new effluent pond structure and rehabilitating the site to the satisfaction of the EPA.
- (22) The proponent will, at least six months prior to decommissioning the new effluent pond structure, prepare a decommissioning and rehabilitation plan to the satisfaction of the EPA.
- (23) Upon decommissioning, the proponent will cease discharge to and dewater the new pond structure. This will be carried out to the satisfaction of the EPA. The recovered water, if any, will be evaporated or treated and disposed of, to the satisfaction of the EPA.
- (24) Rehabilitation of the new effluent pond structure site will be carried out to the satisfaction of the EPA, Health Department, Water Authority and any other relevant agency.
- (25) During rehabilitation, the new effluent pond structure will be stabilized to prevent leakage subsequently occurring even during periods of high rainfall. This stabilization will be carried out to the satisfaction of the EPA and the Water Authority.

Solid Waste Disposal From Gold Recovery Unit

- (26) The proponent will continue to transport contaminated solid waste residues, resulting from its gold recovery unit, back to its Kambalda minesite and this will be done to the satisfaction of the EPA and the Health Department. If the proponent were to change this practice and dispose of this solid waste elsewhere, it would only do so after first obtaining approval from the EPA.

Spillage at Plant

- (27) Any new operations at the existing plant will be designed and operated to contain any liquid spillages and contaminated runoff within the site boundaries to the satisfaction of the EPA.

Breakage of Effluent Pipeline

- (28) In the case of spillage to the environment resulting from effluent pipeline failure, the proponent will immediately inform the EPA of such spillage, immediately clean up the leakage and as soon as possible remediate any environmental impact to the satisfaction of the EPA.

Storage Facilities for Contaminated Liquids and Solids In the Plant

- (29) All new facilities which are used on site to hold contaminated materials associated with polluted groundwater recovery or polluted effluent/slurry or solid waste disposal will be so designed so as to contain spillage from entering the environment. The design of containment and recovery methods to be used will be to the satisfaction of the EPA.

Monitoring

- (30) Prior to construction of the new effluent pond structure, the proponent will submit and subsequently implement a monitoring programme to the satisfaction of the EPA and the Water Authority.

The monitoring programme will include -

- (30.1) · data outlining existing status of groundwater contamination so that a bench mark can be set to measure performance of recovery of polluted groundwater;
- (30.2) · proposed sampling period to determine performance in recovery of polluted groundwater;
- (30.3) · monitoring Coo loongup Lake environment for impacts;
- (30.4) · parameters to be measured;

(30.5) sampling sites and times and

(30.6) reporting times to the EPA.

(31) All samples taken in the monitoring programme will be analysed in a laboratory acceptable to the EPA.

Security

(32) The proponent will ensure that the old and new tailings ponds are fenced so as to avoid public access at all times and that this will be done to the satisfaction of the EPA.

Other Commitments

(33) The proponent will control insects and weeds around the tailings ponds (evaporation ponds) to the satisfaction of the EPA, the Health Department and the City of Rockingham.

(34) The proponent will modify its polluted groundwater recovery programme and its tailings pond management procedures, if it cannot meet licence conditions placed on it by EPA. Such modifications will be to the satisfaction of the EPA.

(35) The proponent will not transfer ownership, control or management responsibility of groundwater cleanup, tailings ponds management, solid waste disposal or tailings dams rehabilitation without prior consultation and arrangements being made which are to the satisfaction of the EPA and The Hon. Minister for Environment.

General Reporting

(36) Reports will be provided to the EPA as directed by the EPA. Reporting will include advice to the EPA on the fulfilment of any Ministerial Conditions and Commitments given by the proponent at relevant project stages and of works approval and licencing conditions.