



Ass # 607  
Bull # 583  
State # 214

WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

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

**ALLUVIAL DIAMOND MINE EXPANSION,  
SMOKE CREEK, ARGYLE (607)**

**ARGYLE DIAMOND MINES PTY LIMITED**

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. Where, in the opinion of the Environmental Protection Authority, natural regeneration of native vegetation is inadequate in areas under rehabilitation, the proponent shall supplement the vegetative cover with seeds or plants, to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority in consultation with the Department of Mines.
4. The proponent shall be responsible for decommissioning and removal of the plant and installations and rehabilitating the site and its environs, to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority. At least six months prior to decommissioning, the proponent shall prepare and subsequently implement a decommissioning and rehabilitation plan, to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority.
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.

Published on

28 JAN 1992

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).
7. 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. The proponent shall subsequently implement the approved Audit Programme, to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority. The proponent may include the compliance reporting as part of its environmental reporting obligations pursuant to the Diamonds (Argyle Diamond Mines Joint Venture) Agreement Act.

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Bob Pearce, MLA  
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

28 JAN 1992

## MANAGEMENT COMMITMENTS

Major commitments to environmental management by Argyle Diamond Mines Pty Limited are summarised as follows:

1. A continuous monitoring programme will be carried out to determine the effectiveness of measures taken for protection and rehabilitation of the environment. Reports will be submitted to the Minister for State Development when reasonably required by the Minister.  

Argyle Diamond Mines currently submits environmental reports on an annual and triennial basis, and this procedure will be continued for this proposed programme.
2. Clearing of vegetation, stockpiling of topsoil, and stockpiling of barren overburden, will be carried out progressively and in accordance with the rate of mining.
3. The amount of land cleared in advance of the mining face will be restricted to that necessary for a practical but efficient operation.
4. Individual trees and clumps of trees, where appropriate, will be identified and retained as part of the rehabilitation programme.
5. As the mining face advances, reject material from the alluvial process plant will be returned to the mined area and re-spread to form an undulating surface.
6. The Smoke Creek drainage line will be reinstated by either re-shaping and construction, or by modifying the mining operation so that the mining face lies parallel to the direction of stream flow. In this latter situation, complete backfilling will not occur and a channel will be created by the void. Application of this technique will be subject to the need for practical and efficient movement of ore trucks in the mining operation.
7. On completion of backfilling, alluvial overburden will be re-spread if it has been stockpiled, and topsoil will then be re-spread across the surface.
8. Deep ripping will be carried out where practicable to break down areas compacted during the backfilling operation and to incorporate the surface material into the upper surface of the gravels.
9. Vegetation material cleared in the site preparation operation will be returned to the area and re-spread to provide the basis for habitat restoration.
10. If erosion control works or absorption banks are required as part of the rehabilitation process, these will be designed and installed prior to the onset of the wet season.
11. Monitoring of revegetation work carried out as part of the current mining programme suggests that seeding and fertiliser application may not be a worthwhile strategy within the overall rehabilitation programme. However, a seeding and fertilising trial will be carried out in areas suitable and this operation will be generally timed to coincide with the onset of the wet season.
12. During the wet season, specific monitoring programmes will be carried out to confirm hydrologic design parameters and to assess the overall performance of techniques being utilised.
13. The rehabilitation programme commences immediately after mining with re-shaping of backfilled gravels. Re-spreading of topsoil and vegetation material generally occurs within several weeks, and earthworks will be constructed before the onset of the wet season.
14. The environmental management programme and associated works will be carried out to the satisfaction of the EPA on advice from the Department of Mines, and in accordance with practices relevant at the time.

## **RESPONSIBILITY**

Argyle Diamond Mines Pty Limited will carry out the proposed alluvial mining operation using a reputable mining and earth-moving contractor. Conditions relating to environmental protection will be developed by ADM and will form part of all contracts for the programme.

Environmental staff at Argyle diamond mine will supervise all aspects of the operation that relate to environmental management including review of contractor performance.

Detail design work will be carried out by staff of the Environmental section who will also supervise construction and be accountable for the implementation and completion of rehabilitation programmes.

Consultation is carried out on a regular basis with officers of the Department of Agriculture in Kununurra, and these consultations and inspections will continue through the proposed programme. Similarly, appropriate officers within the EPA will be expected to visit the operation and contribute to environmental management strategies being implemented or proposed.

The proposed alluvial mining operation will be continually monitored and evaluated by site personnel. This action is necessary to ensure the adequacy of site-specific design and, in terms of overall environmental management, to ensure that strategy goals will be achieved.