

Ass # 715

Bull # 846

State # 461



MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT;
EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

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

LIMESTONE MINE, QUICKLIME PLANT
AND USE OF EXISTING PORT FACILITY (POINT MURAT)
SHIRE OF EXMOUTH (715)

WHITECREST ENTERPRISES PTY LTD

This proposal may be implemented subject to the following conditions:

1 Proponent Commitments

The proponent has made a number of environmental management commitments in order to protect the environment.

- 1-1 In implementing the proposal, the proponent shall fulfil the commitments made in the Public Environmental Review and in response to issues raised following public submissions, as subsequently modified on 31 October 1996 and 2 October 1997; provided that the commitments are not inconsistent with the conditions or procedures contained in this statement.

In the event of any inconsistency, the conditions and procedures shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.

The consolidated environmental management commitments (October 1996 and October 1997) are attached.

2 Implementation

Changes to the proposal which are not substantial may be carried out with the approval of the Minister for the Environment.

- 2-1 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.

Published on
- 6 NOV 1997

2-2 Where, in the course of the detailed implementation referred to in condition 2-1, the proponent seeks to change the designs, specifications, plans or other technical material submitted to the Environmental Protection Authority 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 Proponent

These conditions legally apply to the nominated proponent.

3-1 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.

4 Environmental Management Plan

An Environmental Management Plan detailing the methods and procedures which the proponent will use in achieving environmental protection of the project site is required.

4-1 Prior to construction, the proponent shall prepare the Environmental Management Plan referred to in commitment 1, to the requirements of the Environmental Protection Authority on advice of the Department of Environmental Protection.

4-2 The proponent shall make the draft Environmental Management Plan required by condition 4-1 available for public review and comment, prior to finalisation of the Environmental Management Plan.

4-3 The Environmental Management Plan required by condition 4-1 shall detail the methods and procedures which the proponent will use in meeting the environmental commitments and objectives for the mine site, port facility and transport route and shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1 Significant caves

Incorporation of a protocol for notification, documentation and management of large or significant caves encountered during mining operations;

2 Subterranean fauna

Incorporation of the subterranean fauna programme required by condition 6;

3 Marine monitoring and reporting;

4 Product containment measures and contingencies for product spillage;

5 Protection of flora and fauna, including fire and weed management;

6 Greenhouse gas emissions (quicklime plant)

Addressing the following matters relating to greenhouse gas emissions, at appropriate times:

- (1) calculation of the greenhouse gas emissions associated with the proposal (using the generally accepted methods);
- (2) indication of the measures adopted to limit greenhouse gas emissions for that project;
- (3) estimation of the greenhouse gas efficiency of this project (per unit of product and/or other agreed performance indicators) and comparison with the efficiencies of other comparable projects producing a similar product; and
- (4) consideration of entry (whether on a project-specific basis, company-wide arrangement or within an industrial grouping, as appropriate) into the Commonwealth Government's "Greenhouse Challenge" voluntary co-operative agreement programme.

The agreement would include, an inventory of emissions; opportunities for abating greenhouse gas emissions in the organisation; a greenhouse gas mitigation action plan; regular monitoring and reporting of performance; and independent performance verification.

7 Surface water monitoring and management;

8 Dust

- (1) Dust management measures for the mine, port facility and transport route, including quicklime spillage procedures; and
- (2) A monitoring and audit programme for dust emissions as a means of gauging the effectiveness of dust control measures;

9 Noise

- (1) Noise management measures for the mine, port facility and transport route; and
- (2) A monitoring and audit programme for noise emissions as a means of gauging the effectiveness of noise control measures;

10 Rehabilitation of disturbed areas;

11 Social impacts

Maintenance of formal liaison and monitoring processes at appropriate times with the Shire of Exmouth, to reduce social disruption to the Town of Exmouth;

12 Commonwealth jetty (Point Murat) and associated land and waters; and

13 Development of a comprehensive monitoring, management and reporting programme for the above.

4-4 The proponent shall implement the Environmental Management Plan referred to in condition 4-1.

5 Quicklime Plant

Alternative sites for the location of the quicklime plant should be investigated to ensure protection of the groundwater resource.

- 5-1 Prior to construction of the quicklime processing facility, the proponent shall undertake a study:
- 1 which identifies and evaluates alternative sites with a primary objective of protecting groundwater values;
 - 2 which includes public and government agency consultation; and
 - 3 whose findings, including an indication of a preferred site(s) which meet(s) relevant environmental objectives, are reported to the Environmental Protection Authority for consideration and, if required, assessment, to the requirements of the Environmental Protection Authority on advice of the Department of Environmental Protection and the Water and Rivers Commission.

6 Subterranean Fauna

The proponent should develop and implement a subterranean fauna programme to ensure that mining does not result in a loss of species diversity.

- 6-1 Prior to commencement of mining, the proponent in liaison with the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Conservation and Land Management shall prepare a subterranean fauna programme to the requirements of the Minister for the Environment on advice of the Environmental Protection Authority and the Department of Conservation and Land Management.

This programme shall address but not be limited to:

- (1) prior to mining in any area, adequate stratified sampling for subterranean fauna to be undertaken to determine the array of subterranean fauna species inhabiting that area;
 - (2) further stratified sampling for subterranean fauna to be carried out by the proponent in other areas to assist in the determination of any potential uniqueness of subterranean fauna species located within the areas proposed for mining; and
 - (3) mining to only proceed in areas where the Environmental Protection Authority, after receiving a report from the proponent and advice from the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Conservation and Land Management, is satisfied that there is no significant risk of any species of subterranean fauna becoming extinct as a result of that mining.
- 6-2 The proponent shall implement the subterranean fauna programme referred to in condition 6-1.

7 Export of Product from Point Murat Port Facility

A limit on the amount of product exported from the Point Murat port facility should be imposed to encourage investigation of alternative port sites and restrict the number of truck movements through the town of Exmouth.

- 7-1 The proponent shall refer any proposal to increase the export of limestone and/or quicklime from the Point Murat port facility beyond 1 million tonnes per annum to the Environmental Protection Authority.

8 Decommissioning

8-1 The proponent shall achieve the satisfactory decommissioning of the project, removal of plant and installations and rehabilitation of the site and its environs.

8-2 To achieve the objective of condition 8-1, within five years following commissioning of the project, or at such later time considered appropriate by the Minister for the Environment on advice of the Environmental Protection Authority, the proponent shall prepare a plan which:

- 1 describes the process for the decommissioning and rehabilitation of the project area; and
- 2 provides for the development of a 'walk away' solution for the decommissioned mine site, the quicklime plant, haul road, port site and associated infrastructure,

to the requirements of the Environmental Protection Authority on advice of the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Minerals and Energy and the Water and Rivers Commission.

Note: A 'walk away' solution means that the site shall either no longer require management at the time the proponent ceases operations, or if further management is deemed necessary, the proponent shall make adequate provision so that the required management is undertaken with no liability to the State.

8-3 The proponent shall implement the plan required by condition 8-2.

9 Environmental Management System

The proponent should exercise care and diligence in accordance with best practice environmental management principles.

9-1 In order to manage the environmental impacts of the project/proposal and to fulfil the requirements of the conditions and procedures in this statement, prior to construction, the proponent shall prepare environmental management system documentation with components such as those adopted in Australian Standards AS/NZS ISO 14000 series, in consultation with the Department of Environmental Protection.

9-2 The proponent shall implement the environmental management system referred to in condition 9-1.

10 Time Limit on Approval

The environmental approval for the substantial commencement of the proposal is limited.

10-1 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.

Where the proponent demonstrates to the requirements of the Minister for the Environment on advice of the Department of Environmental Protection that the environmental parameters of the proposal have not changed significantly, then the Minister may grant an extension not exceeding five years.

11 Compliance Auditing

To help determine environmental performance and compliance with the conditions, periodic reports on the implementation of the proposal are required.

- 11-1 The proponent shall submit periodic Performance and Compliance Reports, in accordance with an audit programme prepared by the Department of Environmental Protection in consultation with the proponent.

Procedure

- 1 Unless otherwise specified, the Department of Environmental Protection is responsible for assessing compliance with the conditions contained in this statement and for issuing formal clearance of conditions.
- 2 Where compliance with any condition is in dispute, the matter will be determined by the Minister for the Environment.

Note

- 1 The Environmental Protection Authority reported on the proposal in Bulletin 846 (March 1997).
- 2 The proponent is required to apply for a Works Approval and Licence for this project under the provisions of Part V of the Environmental Protection Act.


CHERYL EDWARDES (Mrs) MLA
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

- 4 NOV 1997

Proponent's Environmental Management Commitments

October 1996 and October 1997

**LIMESTONE MINE, QUICKLIME PLANT
&
USE OF EXISTING PORT FACILITY (POINT
MURAT)
SHIRE OF EXMOUTH (715)**

WHITECREST ENTERPRISES PTY LTD

Commitments (715)

(30 October 1997)

This section lists all of the proponent's commitments made in the PER together with those subsequently provided to the Department of Environmental Protection, the Water & Rivers Commission and the Water Corporation in order to manage the potential environmental impacts of the project. Each commitment is numbered to assist with referencing during the implementation and management of the project.

Pre-construction Phase

1. An Environmental Management Plan (EMP) will be prepared and submitted to meet the requirements of the DEP and WRC. This will be implemented during the construction and operational phases of the project. Issues addressed will include procedures for monitoring and reporting. A separate Environmental Management Plan will be prepared for the quicklime processing plant prior to its establishment. In addition to providing detailed design of the facility and outlining a plan to limit potential environmental impacts of the processing plant to the satisfaction of all regulatory authorities, the plan will include an inventory of all chemicals to be used and management of any wastes.
2. A Mine Management Plan (MMP) will be prepared and submitted to meet the requirements of the DEP, DME and WRC. Issues addressed will include site preparation, haul road construction and maintenance, materials management, surface water management, containment of potentially contaminated or turbid stormwater, and details of the sequence of mining together with procedures for progressive rehabilitation of the mine site.
3. An Oil Spill Contingency Plan will be prepared and submitted to the DEP after review by AMSA. This will complement the existing RAN oil spill contingency plan in place for operations at the Point Murat jetty and provide for special procedures to be followed for the protection of Bundegi Reef.
4. A Ballast Water Management Plan will be prepared and submitted to the DEP after review by AQIS. This will be incorporated within Compliance Arrangements to be established between Whitecrest's shipping operators and AQIS.
5. The proponent will consult with the Shire of Exmouth, Main Roads Western Australia and the Royal Australian Navy in respect of use and maintenance of Murat Road (refer commitments 54 and 55).
6. The proponent will establish an agreement with the Royal Australian Navy for the construction, operation and maintenance of product storage and shiploading facilities at the Point Murat jetty incorporating appropriate environmental management and monitoring procedures on advice from the WA EPA.
7. The proponent will establish a deed of agreement with the Water Corporation of Western Australia guaranteeing the Exmouth town water supply against loss, damage or impact caused by the proponents operations. This will be extended to any other future operator of the town water supply.
8. The proponent will be an equal opportunity employer. Preference will be given to local labour and subcontractors whenever they are competitive with alternative service providers.

9. The proponent will construct a new private jetty in Exmouth Gulf opposite the mine near latitude 22° 00' 30" ("Mowbowra Creek") when, and if, total shipments over the Point Murat jetty exceed 1.0 Mtpa. Trucking operations to Point Murat will cease as soon as the new jetty is operational.

Construction Phase

10. The proponent will employ a suitably qualified part time project officer during construction to liaise with the local community. This officer will also be responsible for liaison with the Shire of Exmouth, DEP, CALM, DME, WRC, Water Corporation, WA Museum and the RAN so as to ensure project construction complies with the proponent's commitments in respect of environmental management and monitoring.
11. The mine will be designed and operated so that it will not be visible from Murat Road or the Town of Exmouth. The quicklime plant will be constructed on the mine floor so that the plant is also concealed from view except for the upper section of the discharge stacks.
12. Construction activities will be confined within specified limits as defined in the EMP. All construction vehicle movements outside of the construction areas will be restricted, where practicable, to designated roads and tracks. Appropriate dust control measures, such as water suppression, will be implemented during construction.
13. Clearing activities for construction, mining and port storage requirements will be minimised and confined to areas designated in the EMP. Vegetation shall only be removed if it is essential for construction purposes or the safe operation of the mine and port facilities and associated infrastructure.
14. Should any declared rare flora or threatened fauna species be located during clearing or mining activities, discussions will be held with CALM in respect of appropriate management procedures.
15. All construction and mining activities shall comply with the requirements of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 (as amended) and the approval granted by the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs on 25 January, 1996. All contractors will be instructed in respect of their obligations under the Act and the project approval.
16. Wherever possible, construction personnel shall be accommodated within existing short term accommodation facilities in Exmouth. If necessary, a construction camp will be constructed in accordance with the requirements of the Shire of Exmouth.
17. Firearms, pets and feral fauna will not be permitted in the project area. Burning will not be permitted in the project area, without prior approval from CALM.
18. All waste materials generated during construction activities will be disposed of in a manner approved by the Shire of Exmouth and DME.

Operational Phase

- *Environmental Issues*

19. All mining activities will be undertaken in accordance with the tenement conditions imposed by DME.

20. The mining area will be progressively cleared, mined and rehabilitated in accordance with the MMP with the active area of operations kept to a practical minimum.
21. No activity shall be undertaken that will adversely affect any bore or well or damage any associated equipment or infrastructure without prior written permission of the Water Corporation. The proponent undertakes to replace any bore or well or associated equipment and infrastructure that may become unusable as a result of the proponents operations with a new bore providing water of acceptable quantity and quality. The proponent shall have the right to supply this water by any alternative means acceptable to the Water Corporation and WRC.
22. No mining shall be carried out within 400 metres of any existing or proposed bore or well or associated equipment located on the Exmouth Water Reserve, without the prior written permission of the Water Corporation.
23. No mining shall be carried out within 50 m of the groundwater table, without the prior written permission of WRC.
24. Drainage from the mining area will, as far as possible, follow existing natural drainage paths on the Water Reserve.
25. There shall be no storage of surface waters on the tenement, except within silt traps and containment bunds as approved by WRC and DME. These silt traps and containment bunds will be maintained to enable their effective operation to the satisfaction of DEP.
26. No activity shall be undertaken that will adversely affect groundwater or surface water quality or quantity.
27. Surface drainage will be diverted away from any significant cavern uncovered during mining operations with the likelihood of allowing rapid infiltration of potential contaminants to the groundwater table. This requirement shall not apply to any cavern that is filled with soil and not capable of carrying significant flow to the water table. The MMP will document procedures to prevent influx of potential contaminants during mining operations including, if necessary, plugging of the cavern.
28. All plant and storage areas on the mining tenement will be constructed on elevated foundations within flood protection bunds. These bunds will be designed in accordance with the requirements of the DEP, WRC and DME. Wherever practical, mobile machinery and plant will be housed on a bunded impermeable hardstand when not in use. The entire quicklime processing operation will be carried out on a bunded, impermeable hardstand constructed to conform with the requirements of the WRC and the DEP.
29. On-site delivery and storage of fuel, lubricants and explosives will be limited to that required to operate and service mining plant and equipment on a weekly basis with maximum fuel storage on the tenement of 10,000 litres. There will be no additional fuel storage for the quicklime plant. All fuel will be stored in elevated tanks within lined and bunded containment areas which shall be fenced and locked. The bunded area will be constructed to contain 110% of the total volume of fuel stored with provision for jetting. The bund area will be roofed to limit the potential for rainfall to enter the bunded area. Storage tanks will not be located within 400 m of any bore or well. This commitment is to be fulfilled to the requirements of the DEP.
30. The storage tank refuelling area will be sealed and bunded with provision for the collection of stormwater and separation of any hydrocarbons. Refuelling of mobile plant operating on the site will be undertaken to the satisfaction of the DEP, WRC and DME.

31. ANFO explosive will be pre-mixed in an appropriate location off the Water Reserve and stored in a magazine on the mining tenement, in accordance with the requirements of DME and to the satisfaction of WRC.
32. Spillage of any potential contaminant of soil or groundwater will be immediately cleaned up and the contaminated material removed from the Water Reserve and treated in accordance with DME and DEP regulations. The proponent will maintain sufficient equipment and absorbent material on-site for the immediate clean up of any spills. The Water Corporation and WRC will be immediately informed of any spillage.
33. Groundwater quality will be monitored in accordance with procedures agreed with the DEP, WRC and the Water Corporation and documented in the EMP. This will incorporate procedures to respond to any impacts on groundwater quality observed in the monitoring bores. In the event of groundwater contamination occurring, a clean-up programme will be implemented to the satisfaction of the DEP, WRC and the Water Corporation.
34. Haul trucks will be re-fuelled and serviced off the Water Reserve. Major servicing of mine equipment will also be undertaken off the Water Reserve.
35. The right of access to any existing or proposed production and monitoring well, tank, main, pipeline or associated infrastructure shall be preserved at all times to authorised officers of the Water Corporation and WRC. Any Water Corporation or WRC access tracks required for servicing water supply facilities shall be maintained in a trafficable condition at all reasonable times.
36. Authorised officers of the Water Corporation and WRC shall have rights of access onto the tenement at all times for the purposes of water resources investigations.
37. The proponent will undertake an ongoing programme of sampling, identification and documentation of troglobitic fauna on and in the vicinity of the mining tenement. This programme will be based on insitu sampling of boreholes ahead of mining operations. The programme shall be implemented in accordance with agreed standards and procedures to the satisfaction of the DEP.
38. Prior to the commencement of mining, the proponent will develop a practicable protocol for the notification, documentation and management of any large or significant caverns that may be encountered during mining operations. This protocol will be enacted for any open cavern larger than 1.2 m equivalent diameter with the likelihood of extending any significant distance either vertically or horizontally.
39. The works at Point Murat shall be constructed so as to be freely draining. All fuel, oil and lubricants shall be stored within lined and bunded containment areas. All fuel shall be stored in elevated tanks.
40. The proponent will undertake a marine survey in the vicinity of the Point Murat jetty prior to operations commencing. This will include preparation of a photographic record for future reference and establishment of current levels of TBT, metals and hydrocarbons. Shiploading equipment will be designed to minimise the risk of product spillage.
41. Marine operations at Point Murat will be monitored in respect of TBT levels, ballast water discharge and general pollution in accordance with procedures detailed in the EMP.

• *Noise, Dust, Emissions and Waste Products*

42. Appropriate dust control measures, such as the spraying of exposed surfaces with water, will be implemented as necessary during mining, transport and shiploading operations in accordance with the MMP.
43. Quicklime will be protected with dust and waterproof covers during all trucking operations. In the event of any spillage during trucking operations, the area will be immediately cordoned off from public access and the spillage cleaned up and disposed of in the Shire of Exmouth landfill site.
44. Any spillage of limestone or quicklime during production, storage or transport will be cleared immediately and disposed of in accordance with the requirements of the Shire of Exmouth, DEP and DME.
45. Dust levels will be monitored adjacent to the mine and port area to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of the Environmental Protection Authority and the Royal Australian Navy.
46. All mining, processing and shiploading activities will be designed and operated in accordance with the noise, dust and emission provisions required by the Noise Abatement (Neighbourhood Annoyance) Regulations and the DEP with appropriate monitoring as necessary.
47. All trucks operating on Murat Road shall comply with the Australian Design Role noise emissions ADR 28/01. The proponent will monitor noise and dust levels associated with the trucking operation along Murat Road to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of Main Roads WA and the Road Traffic Code (1975). The proponent undertakes to take any action necessary to ensure compliance.
48. Any solid and liquid wastes generated during operation and maintenance activities, including any washdown products from maintenance carried out on site, will be collected and disposed of in accordance with the requirements of the Shire of Exmouth, DEP and DME.
49. All sanitary wastes generated on-site will be collected and trucked off-site for disposal at an approved site.
50. Only dust suppressants that do not pose a contamination risk to groundwater will be used.

• *Site Management*

51. Signs shall be erected to the satisfaction of WRC and DME to state that the mine is located within the Exmouth Water Reserve and that restrictions apply to protect water resources and that access is restricted to authorised personnel only.
52. Information to the satisfaction of WRC and DME shall be included in the site induction programme for all staff and contractors outlining site management practices in place to protect the water resource. Local representatives of the Water Corporation, CALM and the Shire of Exmouth will be invited to attend site induction programmes.
53. Vehicle and plant movements on the tenement shall be restricted to designated routes wherever possible.

• *Social Issues*

54. The proponent will consult with the Shire of Exmouth, MRWA and RAN to ensure that procedures are put in place to ensure traffic safety. The proponent will contribute towards the cost of such procedures which will include:
- 1 progressive widening of Murat Road at key intersections, installing turning lanes at these intersections, installing islands and signage as necessary to improve traffic and pedestrian safety;
 - 2 extension of the existing footpath alongside Murat Road;
 - 3 construction of acceleration and deceleration lanes where the mine haul road meets Murat Road;
 - 4 appropriate signage where the mine haul road joins Murat Road advising the public that the haul road is a private road subject to use by heavy vehicles and that regular trucking movements can be expected;
 - 5 ensuring trucks adhere to all road rules, including observation of all speed restrictions;
 - 6 ensuring trucks maintain regular separation distances to ensure that other road users are not inconvenienced; and
 - 7 appropriate signage at both the Naval Communications Station and the Milyering turn-off advising the public of the presence of heavy vehicles.
55. The proponent will contribute towards any additional maintenance of Murat Road required as a result of its trucking operations. The proponent will consult with the Shire of Exmouth in respect of these maintenance requirements.
56. The proponent recognises the role of other industries in the area and will endeavour to operate the project with minimum impact on these other industries.