



## Application for Licence Amendment

### Part V Division 3 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*

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<b>Licence Number</b>	L6453/1990/12
<b>Licence Holder</b>	BHP Billiton Nickel West Pty Ltd
<b>ACN</b>	004 184 598
<b>File Number</b>	2011/009443
<b>Premises</b>	Mt. Keith Operations WILUNA WA 6646  Legal description –  Mining tenements M36/294, M36/467, M36/658, M36/677, M53/56-57, 165-167, 187, 208, 215-217, M53/218, 327-328, M53/489, General purpose lease G53/11-14 and Miscellaneous licence L36/206
<b>Date of Report</b>	04/05/2021
<b>Decision</b>	Revised licence granted

**A/Manager, Resource Industries  
REGULATORY SERVICES**

an officer delegated under section 20 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (WA)

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## 1. Decision summary

The Delegated Officer has determined to make amendments to Licence L6453/1990/12. The amendments are administrative in nature therefore they do not alter the risk profile of the Premises, providing that activities, emissions and receptors as stated in existing approvals remain unchanged.

This Amendment Report documents the amendments made pursuant to section 59 and 59(B) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act).

The decision report for the Existing Licence will remain on the department's website for future reference and will act as a record of the department's decision making.

## 2. Scope of assessment

### 2.1 Regulatory framework

In amending the licence, the department has considered and given due regard to its Regulatory Framework and relevant policy documents which are available at <https://dwer.wa.gov.au/regulatory-documents>.

### 2.2 Amendment summary

Licence L6453/1990/12 is held by BHP Billiton Nickel West Pty Ltd (BHP) (Licence Holder) for the Mt. Keith Operations (the Premises), located in Wiluna WA.

The Premises relates to the categories and the assessed production capacity under Schedule 1 of the *Environmental Protection Regulations 1987* (EP Regulations) which are defined in existing Licence L6453/1990/12.

On 23/11/2020, the Licence Holder submitted an application to the department to amend Licence L6453/1990/12 under section 59B of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The amendment is limited only to a change in the premises boundary.

The Licence Holder operates four evaporation pond facilities at the Premises: Southern Dam, North West Dam, South Turkey's Nest and North Turkey's Nest, to store mine dewater removed from the open pit and from the adjacent Cliffs operation. This mine dewater is stored in surface dams at the Premises for use in the open pit, waste dumps and haul roads for dust suppression, and can also be transferred to the process ponds to be used in the Concentrator Plant.

The Licence Holder is constructing an overland pipeline to transfer mine dewater from the Southern Dam at the Premises to the Mt Keith Satellite operation (MKS) for dust suppression activities. MKS is located 15km south of the Premises and consists of two open pits, a waste rock dump (incorporating landfill), dewatering facilities and ancillary infrastructure. Ore from MKS is transported to the Premises for processing via a dedicated haul road.

Works Approval W6385/2020/1 was issued for the MKS in June 2020 authorising construction and time limited operations of a category 12 crushing and screening plant, category 57 used tyre storage and category 89 putrescible landfill.

Mine dewater transferred from the Premises will be stored in the MKS Turkey's Nest to be used for dust suppression related to mining activities. All pipeline infrastructure will be located within the disturbance footprint of the haul road used to transport ore from MKS to the Premises. As the mine dewater generated at MKS is insufficient to supply the water requirements for the mine, it needs to be supplemented by mine dewater from the Premises, with this surplus water supplied via the pipeline.

The installation and operation of the pipeline infrastructure is approved under Mining Proposals ID 76846 and ID 84527 (*Mining Act 1978*).

The haul road corridor between MKS and the Premises included provision for the installation of water transfer pipeline. The pipeline will be 355mm in diameter with 20m lengths of HDPE piping welded together. The pipeline will include either, telemetry systems and pressure sensors along pipelines to allow the detection of leaks and failures, automatic cut-outs in the event of a pipe failure, or have secondary containment sufficient to contain any spills.

Licence L6453/1990/2 condition 1 specifies operational requirements for saline water pipelines on the Premises, namely, all pipelines must be equipped with telemetry systems and pressure sensors and/or secondary containment and equipped with automatic cut-outs in the event of a pipe failure. No changes to licence conditions are required to authorise operation of the pipeline. The Premises map has been updated to incorporate the pipeline route from Mount Keith Operations to MKS

The proposed activities will result in no changes to the assessed design capacity of the licence and no change to any emissions.

### 3. Consultation

The Licence Holder was provided with the draft Amendment Report on 23 March 2021. Comments received from the Licence Holder on 19 April 2021 have been considered by the Delegated Officer as detailed in Appendix 1.

### 4. Conclusion

Based on the assessment in this Amendment Report, the Delegated Officer has determined that an amended licence will be granted, subject to conditions commensurate with the determined controls and necessary for administration and reporting requirements.

#### 4.1 Summary of amendments

Table 1 below provides a summary of the proposed amendments and will act as a record of implemented changes. All proposed changes have been incorporated into the Revised licence as part of the amendment process.

**Table 1: Summary of licence amendments**

Condition no.	Proposed amendments
Cover page	Included M36/294, M36/467, M36/658, M36/677, M53/218, M53/489, and Miscellaneous licence L36/206 onto Legal Description.
Introduction	Deleted.
Condition 1.3.1	Moved into Table 1
Definitions	Definitions updated: 'CEO'
	Definitions removed: 'Act', 'Licensee', 'Schedule 1' and 'Schedule 2'.
	Definitions added: 'books', 'Department', 'EP Act', 'EP Regulations', 'licence holder', 'prescribed premises', and 'waste'.
Schedule 1: Figure 1	Updated to more recent aerial photo containing the additional mining leases.
Schedule 1: Figure 3	Updated to more recent aerial photo containing correct premises boundary.
Schedule 2: Reporting & notification forms	Removed as considered redundant.

## Appendix 1: Summary of Licence Holder's comments on draft amendment

Condition	Summary of Licence Holder's comment	Department's response
Table 4	The Licence Holder requested an addition to Table 4 to include a 95% compliance level to inspection frequencies.	<p>This request was not part of the original amendment application. As such, DWER cannot make the changes without undertaking a risk assessment.</p> <p>The Licence Holder has been notified that they will need to apply for an amendment to this application or submit a separate licence amendment application.</p>
Schedule 1 Figure 3	The Licence Holder has supplied an updated map of emissions that shows a correct premises boundary.	Figure 3 replaced.