



Application for Licence Amendment

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

Licence Number	L7465/1999/9
Licence Holder	Northern Star (Carosue Dam) Pty Ltd
ACN	116 649 122
File Number	DER2020/000690
Premises	<p>Carosue Dam Operations</p> <p>MENZIES WA 6436</p> <p>Mining tenements M28/166-168, M28/245, M28/269, M31/208-210, M31/219-220, M31/295, L28/23, L28/24, L28/25, L28/26, L28/28, L28/29, L28/30, L28/31, L28/41, L31/37 and L31/40</p> <p>As defined by the Premises map attached to the Revised Licence L7465/1999/9</p>
Date of Report	11 November 2021
Decision	Revised licence granted

A/MANAGER, RESOURCE INDUSTRIES REGULATORY SERVICES

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

Table of Contents

1. Decision summary	3
2. Scope of assessment	3
2.1 Regulatory framework.....	3
2.2 Application summary	3
2.3 Assessment and decision	3
2.4 Additional amendments	3
3. Consultation	4
4. Conclusion	4
4.1 Summary of amendments.....	4
References.....	6
Appendix 1: Summary of Licence Holder's comments on risk assessment and draft conditions	7
Appendix 2: Application validation summary.....	8
 Table 1: Consultation	4
Table 2: Summary of licence amendments	4

1. Decision summary

Licence L7465/1999/9 is held by Northern Star (Carosue Dam) Pty Ltd (Licence Holder) for the Carosue Dam Operations (the Premises) located in the Menzies area, on the mining tenements listed on the issued licence.

This Amendment Report documents the assessment of potential risks to the environment and public health from proposed changes to the emissions and discharges during the operation of the Premises. As a result of this assessment, Revised Licence L7465/1999/9 has been granted.

The Revised Licence issued as a result of this amendment supersedes the existing Licence previously granted in relation to the Premises.

2. Scope of assessment

2.1 Regulatory framework

In completing the assessment documented in this Amendment Report, 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 Application summary

On 8 August 2021, the Licence Holder submitted an application to the department to amend Licence L7465/1999/9 under section 59 and 59B of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The amendment being sought is to approve operation of TSF cell 3 stage 3.

Construction of TSF cell 3 stage 3 was approved under W5609/2021/1 (DWER 30 March 2021a). A construction compliance report was submitted on in July 2021 (Northern Star Resources Limited 21 July 2021). The compliance report was assessed by the department and the Licence Holder was notified on (DWER 28 July 2021) that they may commence time limited operations for this stage and advising them to apply for a licence amendment to authorise ongoing operation of TSF cell 3 stage 3.

2.3 Assessment and decision

The Delegated Officer has reviewed the risk assessment in the decision report for W5609/2021/1 (DWER 30 March 2021b), and existing conditions in L7465/1999/9 relating to the control of spills or seepage. The Delegated Officer is satisfied that the existing conditions are sufficient to regulate the environmental risks associated with operation of TSF cell 3 stage 3.

The Delegated Officer has therefore approved ongoing operation of TSF cell 3 stage 3. The details of all amendments are outlined in Table 2.

2.4 Additional amendments

In addition to the amendment applied for, the Delegated Officer has considered two administrative recommendations made by DWER's Compliance Branch following an inspection in 2018.

The first is to allow in-field non-NATA accredited analysis for pH monitoring of point source emissions to groundwater (now Table 10 of L7465/1999/9). The Delegated Officer considers that this is appropriate, and in line with conditions of licences for similar premises.

The second is to change the labelling of landfills in Schedule 1 (now Figure 5 of L7465/1999/9). The current map shows a putrescible landfill and a number of industrial landfills (was one in 2018, more have been approved since). This led to some ambiguity as to

the waste types approved for each landfill, where the waste management table (now Table 3 of L7465/1999/9) does not distinguish between landfill types.

Discussions with the Licence Holder and a review of the premises licence history shows no rationale between the 'putrescible' and 'industrial' landfills aside from these being the operational labels used by the Licence Holder. The putrescible landfill is used for wastes from the accommodation camp, while the industrial landfill locations receive general wastes from the mining operation. These generally do not include putrescible wastes, but the Licence Holder wishes to retain the flexibility to use dispose of putrescible wastes in these if required. Compliance branch recommended that the labelling be changed to simply number the landfills, since the licence conditions do not specify which accepted waste types may be deposited in each landfill type.

Conditions 10 and 11 of L7465/1999/9 apply equally to all landfills on the licence. There are no factors that make the 'industrial' landfills higher risk if accepting putrescibles than the existing putrescible landfill. The distance to groundwater is close to 100m below ground level. The Delegated Officer considers that the difference in labelling is purely operational and does not reflect a difference in assessed risk. The recommendation to change landfill labelling to purely numbers is therefore considered administrative and is acted upon in this amendment.

3. Consultation

Table 1 provides a summary of the consultation undertaken by the department.

Table 1: Consultation

Consultation method	Comments received	Department response
Licence Holder was provided with draft amendment on (9 November 2021)	Refer to Appendix 1	Refer to Appendix 1

4. Conclusion

Based on the assessment in this Amendment Report, the Delegated Officer has determined that a Revised 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 2 provides a summary of the proposed amendments and will act as record of implemented changes. All proposed changes have been incorporated into the Revised Licence as part of the amendment process.

Table 2: Summary of licence amendments

Condition	Proposed amendments
Licence History	Row added for this amendment
13	Table 5 row 1 updated to reference stage 3 (rather than 2), and a new height of 377.5m RL. It is noted that the previous approved height for stage 2 was listed as 378m which is the same as for stage 7 raise of cell 1/2. This appears to have been an administrative error introduced in the licence amendment issued 3 December 2019 (DWER Document A1848689), which amalgamated the previous amendment notices into the licence. Cell 3 stage 2 was approved in Amendment Notice 1, issued 8 December 2016 (DWER document A1831170) to a height of 375.5m RL
Former 14-17	Removed. Redundant construction conditions. Compliance reports received.

21 (formerly 25)	Footnote added to allow in-field non-NATA accredited analysis for pH
Schedule 1	Figure 5 updated with no distinction between putrescible and industrial landfills.

References

1. Department of Environment Regulation (DER) 2015, *Guidance Statement: Setting Conditions*, Perth, Western Australia.
2. Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) 2020, *Guideline: Environmental Siting*, Perth, Western Australia.
3. DWER 2020, *Guideline: Risk Assessments*, Perth, Western Australia.
4. DWER 30 March 2021a, *Works Approval W6509/2021/1*, DWER document A1993204.
5. DWER 30 March 2021b, *Decision Report for Works Approval W6509/2021/1*, DWER document A1993204.
6. Northern Star Resources Limited 21 July 2021, *PW21-00842 – TSF Cell 3 Stage 3 Construction Report*, DWER Document A2028627.
7. DWER 28 July 2021, *Works Approval Compliance Report – Compliance Demonstrated* (letter to Licence Holder), DWER document A2028666.

Appendix 1: Summary of Licence Holder's comments on risk assessment and draft conditions

Condition	Summary of Licence Holder's comment	Department's response
Schedule 1	Updated maps provided	Accepted. Inserted into Licence. It is noted that the landfill locations on the new map are more general (area rather than point) to maximise flexibility. This does not change the assessed risk and the Delegated Officer is comfortable with this change.
21	Table 8 formatting suggestion	Accepted
14-17	Final compliance report was submitted to DWER on the 22 Mar 2021 which satisfied conditions 14 – 17. Request removal.	The Delegated Officer has reviewed the compliance documents received and is satisfied that these conditions have been complied with, and are now redundant. Compliance documents reviewed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DWERDT430116, 22 March 2021 – 1 generator A1948862, 1 November 2021 – 5 generators DWERDT285655, 20 May 2021 – 4 generators Conditions 14-17 have been removed, and subsequent conditions are consequently renumbered.

Appendix 2: Application validation summary

SECTION 1: APPLICATION SUMMARY					
Application type					
Amendment to licence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Current licence number:	L7465/1999/8 Carosue Dam		
		Relevant works approval number:	W6509/2021/1	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Date application received		Sunday 8/8/21			
Applicant and Premises details					
Applicant name/s (full legal name/s)		Northern Star (Carosue Dam) Pty Ltd (116649122)			
Premises name		Carosue Dam Operations			
Premises location		As per existing licence - Mining tenements M28/166-168, M28/245, M28/269, M31/208-210, M31/219-220, M31/295, L28/23, L28/24, L28/25, L28/26, L28/28, L28/29, L28/30, L28/31, L28/41, L31/37 and L31/40			
Local Government Authority		Shire of Menzies and Shire of Kalgoorlie-Boulder			
Application documents					
HPCM file reference number:		DWERDT488192			
Key application documents (additional to application form):		Regional and close up location maps			
Scope of application/assessment					
Summary of proposed activities or changes to existing operations.		<i>Licence amendment:</i> Operation of the Carosue Dam Tailing Storage Facility Cell 3 (stage 3), Tailing delivery and return water pipelines and monitoring equipment as per the corresponding design and construction requirements outlined in works approval W6509/2021/1.			
Category number/s (activities that cause the premises to become prescribed premises)					
Table 1: Prescribed premises categories					
Prescribed premises category and description			Assessed production or design capacity		
Category 5: Processing and beneficiation of metallic or nonmetallic ore			4,000,000 tonnes per annual period (no change this amendment)		
Legislative context and other approvals					
Has the applicant referred, or do they intend to refer, their proposal to the EPA under Part IV of the EP Act as a significant proposal?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

Does the applicant hold any existing Part IV Ministerial Statements relevant to the application?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Has the proposal been referred and/or assessed under the EPBC Act?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Has the applicant demonstrated occupancy (proof of occupier status)?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	On file from W6509/2021/1, issued 2021
Has the applicant obtained all relevant planning approvals?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Has the applicant applied for, or have an existing EP Act clearing permit in relation to this proposal?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No clearing is proposed.
Has the applicant applied for, or have an existing CAWS Act clearing licence in relation to this proposal?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No clearing is proposed.
Has the applicant applied for, or have an existing RIWI Act licence or permit in relation to this proposal?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Licence / permit not required.
Does the proposal involve a discharge of waste into a designated area (as defined in section 57 of the EP Act)?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Is the Premises situated in a Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA)?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Is the Premises subject to any other Acts or subsidiary regulations (e.g. <i>Dangerous Goods Safety Act 2004</i> , <i>Environmental Protection (Controlled Waste) Regulations 2004</i> , <i>State Agreement Act xxxx</i>)	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mining Act 1978
Is the Premises within an Environmental Protection Policy (EPP) Area?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Is the Premises subject to any EPP requirements?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Is the Premises a known or suspected contaminated site under the <i>Contaminated Sites Act 2003</i> ?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	No relevant