



Decision Document

Environmental Protection Act 1986, Part V

Proponent: **Paddington Gold Pty Ltd**

Licence: **L8327/2008/2**

Registered office: Level 36, Exchange Plaza
2 The Esplanade
PERTH WA 6000

ACN: 008 585 886

Premises address: Rose Pit
Partial mining tenements M24/81, M24/82, M24/266, M24/227, M24/234,
M24/236, M24/265, M24/302, M24/393, M24/165 and M24/390
MOUNT PLEASANT WA 6431

Issue date: Monday, 24 February 2014

Commencement date: Sunday, 2 March 2014

Expiry date: Friday, 1 March 2019

Decision

Based on the assessment detailed in this document, the Department of Environment Regulation (DER) has decided to issue an amended licence. DER considers that in reaching this decision, it has taken into account all relevant considerations and legal requirements and that the licence and its conditions will ensure that an appropriate level of environmental protection is provided.

Decision Document prepared by: **Fiona Sharpe**
Licensing Officer

Decision Document authorised by: **Danielle Eyre**
Delegated Officer



Contents

1	Purpose of this Document	2
2	Administrative summary	2
3	Executive summary of proposal and assessment	3
4	Decision table	4
5	Advertisement and consultation table	8
6	Risk Assessment	9

1 Purpose of this Document

This decision document explains how DER has assessed and determined the application and provides a record of DER's decision-making process and how relevant factors have been taken into account. Stakeholders should note that this document is limited to DER's assessment and decision making under Part V of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. Other approvals may be required for the proposal, and it is the proponent's responsibility to ensure they have all relevant approvals for their Premises.

2 Administrative summary

Administrative details		
Application type	Works Approval <input type="checkbox"/>	
	New Licence <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Licence amendment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Works Approval amendment <input type="checkbox"/>	
Activities that cause the premises to become prescribed premises	Category number(s)	Assessed design capacity
	6	1 400 000 tonnes per year
	12	1 000 000 tonnes per year
Application verified	Date: N/A	
Application fee paid	Date: N/A	
Works Approval has been complied with Compliance Certificate received	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Commercial-in-confidence claim	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Commercial-in-confidence claim outcome		
Is the proposal a Major Resource Project?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Was the proposal referred to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) under Part IV of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> ?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Referral decision No: Managed under Part V <input type="checkbox"/> Assessed under Part IV <input type="checkbox"/>
Is the proposal subject to Ministerial Conditions?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Ministerial statement No: EPA Report No:
Does the proposal involve a discharge of waste into a designated area (as defined in section 57 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i>)?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Department of Water consulted Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
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"/>



3 Executive summary of proposal and assessment

Paddington Gold Pty Ltd (Paddington) is owned by Norton Gold Fields Ltd. Paddington's operations include Mt Pleasant operation which is comprised of the satellite pits Quarters, Golden Flag, Violet and Rose East. The Mount Pleasant operation is located 28km north-west of Kalgoorlie Boulder. Paddington has been assessed as "prescribed premises" category numbers 6 and 12 under Schedule 1 of the *Environmental Protection Regulations 1987*.

Paddington includes a screening facility that crushes and screens waste rock from the Homestead underground mine for use as road base in its underground network. The crushing and screening activities take place adjacent to the underground portal at the bottom of Quarters pit. Works approval 4986/2011/1 was issued for the screening plant dated 29 August 2011 and a compliance certificate was received on 6 September 2011.

Paddington is licensed to dewater the Quarters pit, Homestead underground mine and Violet and Golden Flag pits, discharging to Rose East and Violet pits. In 2011/12 47,150 tonnes of water was extracted from Quarters pit to Rose East pit to allow for the continued Homestead underground mining operations. A licence amendment dated 7 November 2012 allowed for mine dewatering to occur from Quarters pit to Rose East pit and from Violet pit to the existing Quarters to Rose East pit pipeline for final discharge into Rose East pit. No works approval was required for the construction of this dewatering pipeline, however in accordance with licence L8327/2008/1 construction conditions; a compliance certificate was received on 5 December 2012. A licence amendment in April 2013 allowed dewatering from Golden Flag pit to Rose East pit. The expected timeframe for mine dewater discharge to occur is eight months; however this is subject to change through additional exploration drilling. The total amount of water anticipated to be extracted from Golden Flag pit is 20,736kL. An additional licence amendment in August 2013 allowed Violet pit to be licenced as a back-up discharge point. Violet pit has a total volumetric capacity of 2,159,685kL. Discharge into Rose and Violet pits is anticipated to be between 100,000kL and 500,000kL per year.

The Paddington Mill is subject to the Environmental Protection (Gold Extraction Operations) Order 1993, meaning the site does not need to be licensed as a category 5 premises under Sections 52 to 64 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. The site is still required to meet the other obligations of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, including in particular section 72 requiring notification to DER when wastes are discharged in a manner that may cause environmental harm or pollution.

This licence amendment is to allow dewatering from Quarters 040 open cut mine and Tuart underground into the existing discharge points that are Rose East and Violet open pits. The addition of these pits will include the installation of approximately 1 km of HDPE pipeline from Quarters 040 to which it will then connect via the currently installed Quarters to Rose East pit pipeline. Dewatering from Tuart underground will not require pipeline modifications.

This amendment is also to increase the approved design capacity for category 12 (crushing and screening) to 1 000 000 tonnes per annum. Norton are proposing to re-establish a crushing and screening plant within the Quarters waste rock dump. Material will be crushed and used as road base for nearby open pit operations and also for the proposed Tuart underground project.

The intent of this Decision Document is to assess potential environmental impacts of emissions and discharges associated with the dewatering pipeline infrastructure and the operation of the screening facility.



4 Decision table

All applications are assessed in line with the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, the *Environmental Protection Regulations 1987* and DER's Operational Procedure on Assessing Emissions and Discharges from Prescribed Premises. Where other references have been used in making the decision they are detailed in the decision document.

DECISION TABLE			
Works Approval / Licence section	Condition number W = Works Approval L = Licence	Justification (including risk description & decision methodology where relevant)	Reference documents
General conditions	L1	Definitions	General provisions of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i>
Premises operation	L1.2.1 – 1.2.4	<p>Construction Condition 1.2.4 has been added to the Licence to ensure the Licensee constructs their new infrastructure associated with dewatering pipelines and the crusher and screener in accordance with their supporting documentation.</p> <p>Abnormal Operation <u>Emission Description</u> <i>Emission:</i> Hypersaline mine dewater is transported in pipelines through areas of native vegetation. Emissions will occur if the pipeline were to rupture or leak. <i>Impact:</i> Contamination of surrounding soils with dissolved solids can affect groundwater quality and cause vegetation stress or even death if exposure is for a prolonged period. <i>Controls:</i> Paddington has committed to regular monitoring of the pipeline through visual inspections, bunding of pipelines and monthly water level monitoring within the two approved discharge points.</p> <p><u>Risk Assessment</u> <i>Consequence:</i> Minor <i>Likelihood:</i> Unlikely</p>	<p>Application supporting documentation</p> <p>General provisions of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i></p>



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		<p><i>Risk Rating: Moderate</i></p> <p><u>Regulatory Controls</u> Conditions exist in the Licence to ensure adequate management of mine dewater discharging to the receiving environment including 12 hourly visual inspections of dewatering pipelines.</p> <p><u>Residual Risk</u> <i>Consequence: Minor</i> <i>Likelihood: Rare</i> <i>Risk Rating: Low</i></p>	
Emissions general	L2.1.1	Standing water level limit will be set through condition 3.2.1 of the licence and therefore condition regarding recording and investigation of exceedances of limits has been included.	N/A
Point source emissions to air including monitoring	No conditions	No significant point source air emissions are expected from the construction or operation of the screening facility or dewatering infrastructure. No specified conditions relating to point source emissions to air or the monitoring of these emissions are required to be added to the licence.	General provisions of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i>
Point source emissions to surface water including monitoring	No conditions	There will be no point source emissions to water during operation of the screening facility or dewatering pipelines. No specified conditions relating to point source emissions to water or the monitoring of such emissions are required to be added to the works approval or licence.	General provisions of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i>
Point source emissions to groundwater including monitoring	No conditions	There will be no point source emissions to groundwater during the operation of the processing screening plant or dewatering pipelines. No specified conditions relating to point source emissions to land or the monitoring of such emissions are required to be added to the licence. At Violet pit the natural water table depth is 330m AHD (28m below ground level).	General provisions of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i>



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Works Approval / Licence section	Condition number W = Works Approval L= Licence	Justification (including risk description & decision methodology where relevant)	Reference documents
Emissions to land including monitoring	L2.2.1 – 2.2.2 L3.2.1	Licence condition 2.2.1 lists the approved discharged points of Rose East pit and Violet pit and has been amended to include Quarters 040 open cut and Tuart underground project as sources of dewater. Licence condition 2.2.2 will prevent the licensee from exceeding the approved production capacity of mine dewater. Monitoring condition 3.2.1 has been included to capture monitoring of groundwater levels due to rising groundwater from mine dewater discharge. Parameters to be monitored include pH and electrical conductivity of the water.	Application supporting documentation General provisions of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i>
Fugitive emissions	No conditions	Fugitive dust conditions have been removed as this condition is not risk-based. The substantive offences of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> provide enforceable prohibitions for dust emissions that result in pollution or environmental harm.	General provisions of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i>
Odour	No conditions	No odour emissions are expected during the operation of the screening facility or dewatering pipelines. No specified conditions relating to odour are required to be added to the licence.	General provisions of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i>
Noise	No conditions	During operation some noise emissions may be generated from the screening facility and dewatering pumps, however, it is not expected to have a significant impact offsite as the nearest sensitive receptor is 28 km south-east from the site. No specified conditions relating to noise are required to be added to the licence.	Application supporting documentation Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997
Monitoring general	L3.1.1 – 3.1.2	Standard general monitoring has been included to ensure appropriate monitoring standard techniques are used during sampling. All sampling needs to be in accordance with Australian/New Zealand Standard (AS/NZ) 5667 and laboratory samples will need to be submitted to a laboratory with NATA accreditation.	



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Monitoring of inputs and outputs	No conditions	Monitoring of inputs and outputs is not required to ensure efficient operation of the plant and dewatering, therefore, no specific conditions relating to monitoring of inputs and outputs are required to be added to the licence.	N/A
Process monitoring	L3.3.1	Process monitoring conditions have been added to the licence to ensure the licensee does not exceed the nominated dewatering throughput.	N/A
Ambient quality monitoring	No conditions	Potential emissions from the site such as dust and noise are not expected to be significant due to the remoteness of the site. No specific conditions will be included in the licence.	General provisions of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i>
Meteorological monitoring	No conditions	Monitoring of meteorological conditions is not required to adequately manage emissions from this proposal and have therefore not been added to the licence.	N/A
Improvements	No conditions	No specific improvements are required by DER. It has been assessed that the management measures committed to by Paddington are adequate to manage the potential emissions and discharges produced by the site. No specific conditions relating to improvements are required to be added to the licence.	N/A
Information	L4.1.1 – 4.1.3 L4.2.1 – 4.2.2 L4.3.1	Standard conditions relating to the management of records and complaints, notification requirements and the submission of an annual audit compliance report and annual environmental report will be added to the licence.	N/A
Licence Duration	No conditions	This Licence has an expiry date of 1 March 2019. This has not been extended during this amendment.	N/A



5 Advertisement and consultation table

Date	Event	Comments received/Notes	How comments were taken into consideration
27/11/2015	Proponent sent a copy of draft instrument	No comments received	N/A



6 Risk Assessment

Note: This matrix is taken from the DER Corporate Policy Statement No. 07 - Operational Risk Management

Table 1: Emissions Risk Matrix

Likelihood	Consequence				
	Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Major	Severe
Almost Certain	Moderate	High	High	Extreme	Extreme
Likely	Moderate	Moderate	High	High	Extreme
Possible	Low	Moderate	Moderate	High	Extreme
Unlikely	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	High
Rare	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate	High