



## Application to renew a licence

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

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<b>Licence Number</b>	L8787/2013/2
<b>Licence Holder</b>	Sinosteel Midwest Corporation Limited
<b>ACN</b>	009 224 800
<b>File Number</b>	2013/003905-1~4
<b>Premises</b>	Blue Hills Iron Ore Project Mining Tenement M59/595 and M59/596 Perenjori WA 6620 As defined by the Premises map and coordinates depicted in Schedule 1 and 2.
<b>Date of Report</b>	10/11/2022
<b>Decision</b>	To grant a licence

Senior Environmental Officer, Industry Regulation

An officer delegated by the CEO under section 20 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*

## 1. Decision summary

Under the regulatory framework the Delegated Officer decided to process the application to renew licence L8787/2013/2 without conducting additional risk assessment.

The licence can be issued for 4 years, which is consistent with the Mining Tenement tenure and in line with the *Guidance Statement on Licence Duration 2016*. The Mining Tenement tenure expires in 2026 and the licence mirrors this duration and has been approved by the Senior Manager of Resource Industries. In renewing the licence the Delegated Officer has determined to:

- incorporate licence amendment/s issued prior to the replacement licence;
- remove redundant conditions;
- include conditions considered necessary for the effective administration of the licence (i.e. record keeping and reporting requirements);
- revise licence conditions and consolidate existing pollution control conditions;
- include all infrastructure into condition 1, Table 1: infrastructure and equipment requirements;
- correct clerical mistakes and unintentional errors; and
- transfer all existing regulatory controls and conditions to the new licence.

As a result of the above, the Delegated Officer decided to grant Licence L8787/2013/2, subject to conditions set out in the attached licence.

## 2. Scope of assessment

### 2.1 Application summary

On 24 August 2022, Sinosteel Midwest Corporation Limited (licence holder) applied to renew licence L8787/2013/1, as the licence is due to expire on 10 November 2022. The licence was granted to the licence holder for the premises located at M59/595 and M59/596 known as the Blue Hills Iron Ore Project (Premises) located at Perenjori.

The licence relates to prescribed premises categories as described in Table 1.

**Table 1: Premises category description and production design capacity**

<b>Prescribed premises category description (Schedule 1, <i>Environmental Protection Regulations 1987</i>)</b>	<b>Production / design capacity</b>
Category 5: Processing or beneficiation of metallic and non-metallic ore	2,000,000 tonnes per annual period

The Premises are located approximately 225 km southeast of Geraldton and 80 km east of Morawa. The licence holder commenced mining of hematite in 2014. The project was placed under care and maintenance in April 2015. On 26 August 2019 the licence holder applied to amend the Licence to bring the Premises out of care and maintenance and increase the production rate to 2,000,000 tonnes per annual period.

The licence holder operates a semi-mobile crushing and screening plant to process hematite into lump and fine products. The mobile plant is located in the footprint of M59/595 where it crushes and screens material for the Mungada East projects.

The main activities occurring on the Premises include the processing and beneficiation of

hematite ore via crushing and screening operation.

### 3. Regulatory framework

The Delegated Officer has not conducted a full review and risk assessment of emissions and discharges from the Premises in line with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's (department) *Work Instruction: Regulatory Services, COVID-19 licensing position* October 2021.

In granting the licence, the Delegated Officer has considered and given due regard to the department's regulatory framework and relevant policy documents which are available at <https://dwer.wa.gov.au/regulatory-documents>.

### 4. Considerations for issuing a new licence

#### 4.1 Compliance and enforcement actions

There have been no incidents identified at the Premises by the department in the last five years.

There has been one complaint which occurred on 17/9/2021 in relation to compliance with condition 3 and 6 of the licence L8787/2013/1. Following investigation, the licence holder implemented alternative actions that adequately addressed the construction requirements required by these conditions. Condition 6 can now be removed from the renewed licence and condition 3 be converted to describing the infrastructure and equipment located at the premises.

There were two other incidents recorded in 2014 and 2015 when the Premises was in care and maintenance which were addressed by the licence holder and have been closed with no enforcement actions by the Department.

#### 4.2 Legal occupancy

The licence holder has demonstrated legal occupancy of the Premises by holding mining tenement M59/595 until 24 January 2026 and M59/596 until 27 April 2026. Search of records held by the Australian Securities and Investment Commission confirm the licence holders name and ACN.

The requested categories and the corresponding maximum production capacities for the renewal of the licence are consistent with the categories for which the licence holder currently holds a licence, and which was previously assessed and authorized via a licence amendment issued on 9 December 2020.

#### 4.3 Planning approval

As the mining activity operates under the Mining Act there is no legal requirement to hold a planning approval for this project.

#### 4.4 Other approvals

The licence holder has been granted approval under Ministerial Statement (MS) 811 and 1071 for Koolanooka/Blue Hills Direct Shipping Ore Mining Project to mine hematite ore including the crushing and screening of ore plus the Blue Hills Mungada East expansion, respectively.

MS1071 approves the construction and operation of the hematite mine pit, waste dump, ore processing infrastructure, haul road and access road. MS1071 details an additional ore processing area for the project located within tenement M59/596. MS1071 was subsequently transferred to KMG in October 2021 therefore this activity is not within the scope of this licence renewal.

The EPA report 1328 described the assessed project and the environmental values protected

by the Ministers approval. The report also included the impact of dust emissions on vegetation complex Priority Ecological Community (PEC), conservation significant flora and the management, monitoring and reporting of any impacts due to the operation of this project.

## 5. Summary of changes to the licence conditions

Section 62 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) provides the legal power to attach conditions to licences. Most licences are issued with conditions as per *Guidance Statement – Setting Conditions* (October 2015) to prevent, control, abate or mitigate pollution or environmental harm as a result of the emissions and/or discharges from the premises in question.

Table 2 summarises the changes from the expiring licence into the new licence including changes made to licence conditions where required and the rationale for changes made.

**Table 2: Licence conditions changes, description and rationale**

Current condition / table	New condition / table (if relevant)	Description and rationale
Cover page – Licence duration	Duration	Licence duration will be from 11/11/2022 to 10/11/2026.
Condition 11		Removed AER condition as approved by the Notice of Amendment for 'licence reporting requirements' issued on 16 May 2022.

## 6. Consultation

The Delegated Officer undertook the consultation for the application to renew the licence as per Table 1.

**Table 1: Consultation**

Consultation method	Comments received	Delegated Officer's response
Application advertised on the department's website on 5 October 2022	Submissions closed on 1 November 2022 with no submissions received.	N/A
Local Government Authority advised of application on 15 September 2022	LGA submission closes on 13 October 2022 with no submission received.	N/A
Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) advised of application on 15 September 2022.	DMIRS submission closed on 6 October 2022 with no submission received.	N/A
Licence holder was provided with draft licence and decision report on 18 October 2022	Apart from clarification of matters of fact within the decision report the Licence holder had no further comment and accepted the draft licence for endorsement on 3 November 2022.	N/A