



Application for new licence

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

Licence Number	L9423/2024/1
Licence Holder	Golden Grove Operations Pty Ltd
ACN	114 868 325
File Number	DWERVT13704~23
Premises	Scuddles & Gossan Hill Mine YALGOO WA 6635 Legal description – Part of Mining Tenements: M59/3, M59/90, M59/195, M59/227, M59/361, M59/362, G59/19-23, G59/24, L59/22, L59/26 and L59/41 As defined by the premises maps in Schedule 1
Date of Report	27/03/2024
Decision	New licence granted

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1. Decision summary

This decision report documents the Delegated Officer's decision to grant licence L9423/2024/1 to Golden Grove Operations Pty Ltd (licence holder) on Scuddles & Gossan Hill Mine (the premises), located at Part of Mining Tenements: M59/3, M59/90, M59/195, M59/227, M59/361, M59/362, G59/19-23, G59/24, L59/22, L59/26 and L59/4, Yalgoo, Western Australia.

2. Scope of assessment

2.1 Regulatory Framework

In completing the assessment documented in this decision 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 14 December 2023, the licence holder submitted an application to the department to amend and renew licence L8593/2011/2. The proposed amendments included:

- Construction of a fourth tailings storage facility (TSF4) given the existing TSF3 is predicted to be at capacity by the end of 2024;
- Construction of a seepage collection dam (dam 3) next to the upgraded waste rock landform (WRL);
- Amending the prescribed premises boundary to incorporate the new TSF4 on mining tenements M59/363 and M59/89; and
- Removal of several grounds monitoring bores in the vicinity of the run-of-mine pad and WRL coffer dams.

In considering the application submission date, scope of proposed amendments and licence expiry date the Delegated Officer determined that there is insufficient time to complete a comprehensive assessment of the risks associated with emissions and discharges from the proposed activities prior to the existing licence expiring. Therefore, the scope of this application is limited to assessing an extension to the licence expiry date and no additional risk assessment was undertaken. The licence holder is advised to apply for the proposed amendments via a new works approval application.

The Delegated Officer has also identified an administrative error in the existing licence dates and as a result has determined to issue a new licence, rather than renew the existing licence L8593/2011/2.

3. Considerations for issuing a new licence

3.1 Licence duration

The mine is expected to be operational for at least another ten years, while TSF4 is expected to be operational for at least 11 years. In determining the licence duration, the Delegated Officer has given consideration to the *Guidance Statement – Licence Duration* (DWER 2016) which provides guidance on the department's application of licence duration under Part V of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The department has a preference for longer term (20-year) licences under Part V, Division 3 of the EP Act to provide greater certainty to industry and reduce the administrative burden on both industry and the department.

4. Consultation

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

Table 1 Consultation

Consultation method	Comments received	Department response
Licence application advertised on the Department website on 08 March 2024 for 7 days.	None Received	N/A
Licence Holder was provided with a copy of the draft new licence for comment on 14 Month 2024.	None Received	N/A

5. Conclusion

The Delegated Officer has determined that a new licence will be granted for a period of 20 years. Existing licence conditions have been transferred to the new licence from licence L8593/2011/2.

6. References

1. Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) 2016, *Guidance Statement – Licence Duration*.