



Application for Works Approval Amendment

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

Works Approval Number	W6805/2023/2
Works Approval Holder	Matsa Gold Pty Ltd
ACN	613 060 352
File Number	APP-0032972
Premises	Devon Gold Project
	Legal description – Part of mining tenements M39/500 and M39/1077 As defined by the coordinates in Schedule 2
Date of Report	4 March 2026
Decision	Revised works approval granted

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1. Decision summary

Works Approval W6805/2023/1 is held by Devon Gold Project Pty Ltd (Devon Gold) for the Devon Gold Project (the Premises), located within part of mining tenements M39/500 and M39/1077. This amendment includes a transfer of works approval holder from Devon Gold to Matsa Gold Pty Ltd (the Applicant), with an update of the Works Approval number to W6805/2023/2.

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 construction and operation of the Premises. As a result of this assessment, Revised Works Approval W6805/2023/2 has been granted.

The Revised Works Approval consolidates and supersedes the existing Works Approval 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 / background

On 18 December 2025, the Applicant submitted an application (APP-0032974) under section 59B of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* to transfer the works approval from Devon Gold Project Pty Ltd to Matsa Gold Pty Ltd who is now the sole operator of the project. The transfer of company has been included in this amendment with the version of works approval number updated from W6805/2023/1 to W6805/2023/2.

On the same date, the Applicant submitted an application to the department to amend Works Approval W6805/2023/2 under section 59 and 59B of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The following amendments are being sought:

- Removal of the 'sedimentation tank' from the list of infrastructure outlined in Condition 1 – Table 1 and Condition 6 – Table 2 of the works approval.
- Change the location of the 'settling pond' as outlined in Condition 1 – Table 1 and Condition 6 – Table 2 of the works approval.
- Expansion of the prescribed premises boundary to incorporate new settling pond location.
- Extension of time limited operations duration.
- Transfer of works approval from Devon Gold Project Pty Ltd to Matsa Gold Pty Ltd.

This amendment is limited only to changes as listed above. No changes to the assessed production / design capacity have been requested by the Applicant.

Works approval W6805/2023/1 was granted on 17 July 2023 for the construction and time limited operations of Category 6, mine dewatering activities at the Devon Gold Project. The works approval authorises discharge of up to 1,100,000 tonnes per annual period of dewater effluent onto Lake Carey.

Devon Gold commenced dewatering operations in October 2025, following the construction of Stage 1 dewatering infrastructure. Stage 2 dewatering infrastructure (including the settling pond) is yet to be constructed due to the need to relocate the location of the settling pond as specified in the works approval.

2.2.1 Relocation of settling pond

The original Stage 2 dewatering strategy involved using in-pit sumps to manage water as mining progressed, with water pumped to a settling pond located either within the pit shell or on the eastern side adjacent to the abandonment bund. However, updated resource estimates and an increased gold price led to a revised pit design that no longer allows adequate space for the settling pond in the originally proposed locations.

The settling pond has therefore been relocated outside the updated pit shell and revised abandonment bund. The redesigned structure consists of two compartments: a smaller “dirty water” pond (approx. 953 m³) and a larger “clean water” pond (approx. 3,858 m³) connected by a spillway in the central wall. Clean water will be pumped to the mine dewater discharge outfall and will also be used for onsite dust suppression, with the larger pond functioning as a turkey’s nest. The new proposed location of the settling pond is approximately 100 m south-west from the original location, slightly further away from Lake Carey.

The Stage 2 dewatering approach has also been updated. In-pit sumps will still be used, as well as dewatering bores that will be installed as the pit extends below the water table, allowing for dewatering below the pit floor. These bores will aim to improve dewatering efficiency, maintain safe dry mining conditions, and reduce sediment in the discharge water. These bores are regulated under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*, under groundwater licence GWL181591(2) with an allocated abstraction of 1,100,000 kL.

2.2.2 Extension of time limited operation duration

The Applicant has also requested the extension of time limited operations (TLO) for the Stage 1 dewatering infrastructure, and the mine dewater discharge outfall to allow for sufficient time to construct the Stage 2 dewatering infrastructure before the expiry of the TLO for Stage 1. The mine dewater discharge outfall will be utilised during Stage 1 and 2 dewatering, therefore an extension of TLO to 480 calendar days has been proposed for the discharge outfall. An extension to 300 calendar days has been requested for the time limited operations of the Stage 1 dewatering infrastructure.

2.2.3 Removal of sedimentation tank

The sedimentation tank is no longer required because the revised Stage 2 dewatering strategy incorporates dewatering bores, which reduce the amount of sediment entrained in the dewater discharge. Therefore, the removal of the sedimentation tank from the works approval has been requested.

3. Risk assessment

The department assesses the risks of emissions from prescribed premises and identifies the potential source, pathway and impact to receptors in accordance with the *Guideline: Risk assessments* (DWER 2020).

To establish a Risk Event there must be an emission, a receptor which may be exposed to that emission through an identified actual or likely pathway, and a potential adverse effect to the receptor from exposure to that emission.

3.1 Source-pathways and receptors

3.1.1 Emissions and controls

The key emissions and associated actual or likely pathway during premises construction and operation which have been considered in this Amendment Report are detailed in Table 1 below. No additional controls have been provided with this works approval amendment application. Table 1 details the existing control measures that were proposed during the original works approval application and conditioned under W6805/2023/1.

Table 1: Works Approval Holder controls

Emission	Sources	Potential pathways	Existing controls
Construction			
Dust	Construction of settling pond	Air/windborne pathway	None
Noise		Overland runoff during rainfall events	
Time limited operation			
Hypersaline mine dewater	Transfer of mine dewater from mine pit to settling pond	Pipeline leak or rupture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pipeline will be inspected daily; • Pipeline will be installed within the abandonment/flood bund or within road infrastructure corridor (e.g., road windrows and v-drain).
	Operation of settling pond	Overtopping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum freeboard of 500 mm will be maintained; • Pond will be inspected daily for structural integrity and freeboard; • Settling pond will be located adjacent to the pit.
		Vertical infiltration and lateral migration of stored water	None

3.1.2 Receptors

In accordance with the *Guideline: Risk assessments* (DWER 2020), the Delegated Officer has excluded employees, visitors and contractors of the Applicant's from its assessment. Protection of these parties often involves different exposure risks and prevention strategies, and is provided for under other state legislation.

Table 2 below provides a summary of potential environmental receptors that may be impacted as a result of activities upon or emission and discharges from the prescribed premises (*Guideline: Environmental siting* (DWER 2020)). There are no human receptors present therefore these receptors have been excluded from this risk assessment.

Table 2: Sensitive environmental receptors and distance from prescribed activity

Environmental receptors	Distance from prescribed activity
Native vegetation	<p>Native vegetation surrounds the premises boundary, comprising of saltbush and bluebush with scrub or open scrubs (e.g., <i>Atriplex maireana</i>, <i>Acacia aneura</i>, <i>Acacia</i> spp), with the north-eastern portion being the bare and poorly vegetated claypan of Lake Carey. Based on aerial imagery, remnant native vegetation abuts the western, northern and north-western portions of the premises boundary.</p>
Conservation significant flora	<p>While no sightings were recorded around the premises on Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attraction's (DBCA) Threatened and Priority Flora database, a 2022 flora survey identified two priority flora species around the premises.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Eremophila</i> sp. Lake Carey (Priority 1) – approximately 2,300 individuals across 10 populations were found directly northeast, south and south-west of the premises boundary. The closest population abuts the south-western portion of the expanded premises boundary near the proposed settling pond location. • <i>Calandrinia quartztica</i> (Priority 1) – approximately five individuals in one population were found approximately 700 m north of the premises boundary. The population was found within a population of <i>Eremophila</i> sp. Lake Carey. <p>A complete source-pathway-receptor linkage was not considered to exist for <i>C. quartztica</i> due to distance from the prescribed activities and was not considered in the risk assessment (i.e., only <i>Eremophila</i> sp Lake Carey was considered).</p>
Fauna	<p>Regional birdlife, especially waterfowl, are potential faunal receptors at the premises, as they may feed upon aquatic biota (e.g., fairy shrimp) during intermittent wetted periods at Lake Carey (MLC 2023). No sightings were recorded around the premises on DBCA's Threatened/ Priority Fauna database.</p> <p><i>This receptor has been screened out of this assessment as a source-pathway-receptor linkage has not been determined for the proposed amendment activities.</i></p>
Surface water bodies	<p>The premises is located on the western shore of Lake Carey, a large ephemeral salt lake in the region, with an area of approximately 750 km² (Figure 1). The lake bed is typically dry, with regional-scale surface water flows entering the lake from its internally draining catchment only occasionally filling the lake to a depth of <0.5 m (John 1999).</p> <p>The lake currently receives mine dewater discharges from various mining operations further upstream of the premises.</p> <p>Numerous natural drainage lines drain into the clay pan throughout the length of Lake Carey, including at the southern portion of the premises.</p>

Environmental receptors	Distance from prescribed activity
Groundwater aquifer	<p>The premises is located within the Goldfields Groundwater Area, within the Carey Paleochannel. The paleochannel consists of paleodrainage networks eroded into weathered Archaean bedrock and filled with basal Eocene fluvial channel sands, subsequently overlain by lacustrine clay.</p> <p>Groundwater at the premises is very shallow and hypersaline, due to its close proximity to Lake Carey. Groundwater was encountered during the excavation of a pit at depths shallower than 1 metre below ground level (mbgl). Local drilling data suggests that the mine pit is located on the western edge of the paleovalley, with only approximately 3 metres of lake sediment overlying the bedrock. Groundwater flow direction appears to be to the east, towards Lake Carey.</p> <p>Ionic groundwater composition is dominated by sodium and chlorine ions (Magee 2009). Water quality of Lake Carey is thought to be similar to the source of mine dewater, based on sampling works undertaken on the latter in 2022 and 2023.</p>

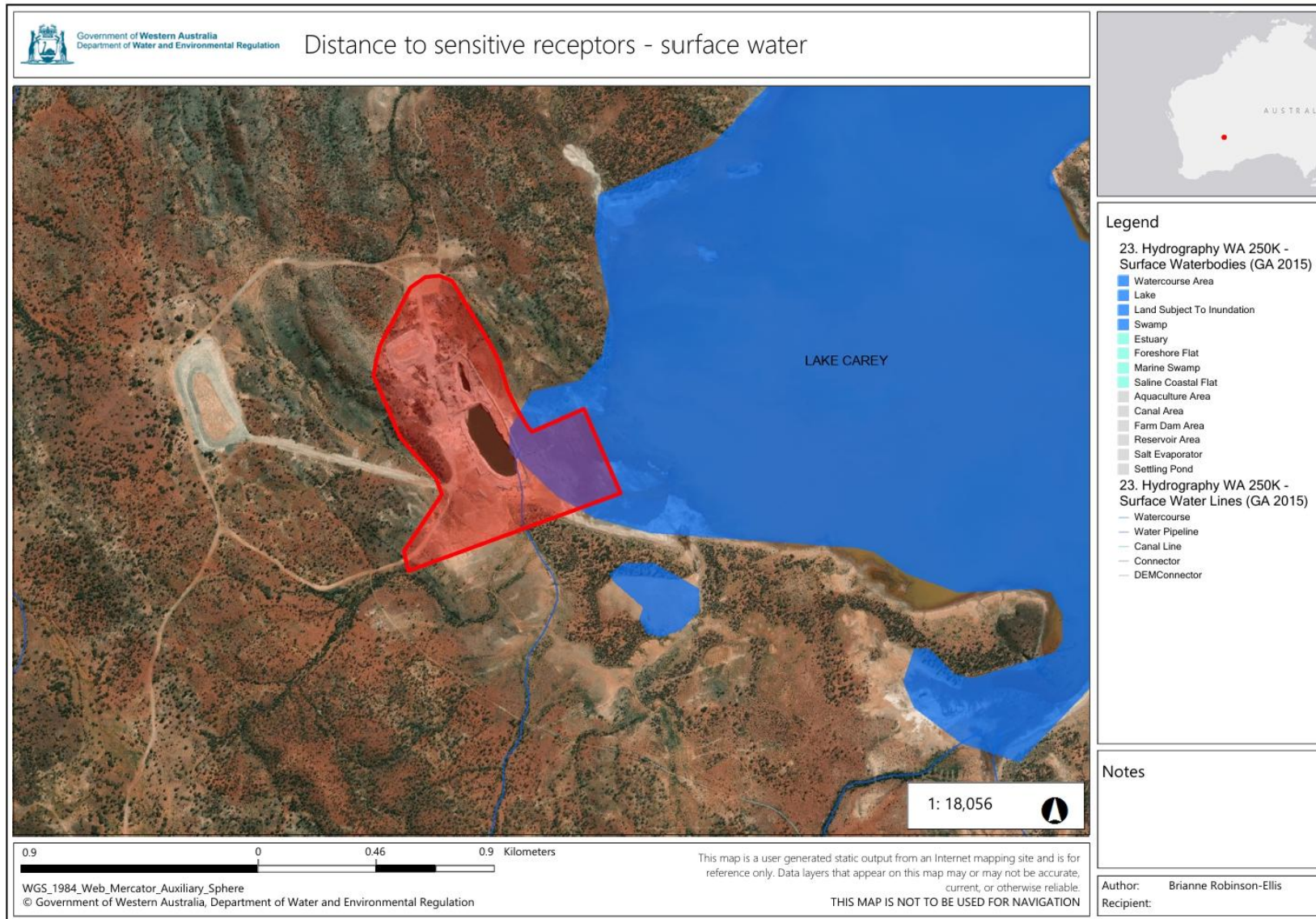


Figure 1: Distance to sensitive receptors – surface water

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IR-T15 Amendment report template v3.0 (May 2021)

3.2 Risk ratings

Risk ratings have been assessed in accordance with the *Guideline: Risk Assessments* (DWER 2020) for those emission sources which are proposed to change and takes into account potential source-pathway and receptor linkages as identified in Section 3.1. Where linkages are incomplete they have not been considered further in the risk assessment.

Where the Works Approval Holder has proposed mitigation measures/controls (as detailed in Section 3.1), these have been considered when determining the final risk rating. Where the Delegated Officer considers the Works Approval Holder’s proposed controls to be critical to maintaining an acceptable level of risk, these will be incorporated into the works approval as regulatory controls.

Additional regulatory controls may be imposed where the Works Approval Holder’s controls are not deemed sufficient. Where this is the case the need for additional controls will be documented and justified in Table 3.

The Revised Works Approval W6805 that accompanies this Amendment Report authorises construction and time-limited operations. The conditions in the Revised Works Approval have been determined in accordance with *Guidance Statement: Setting Conditions* (DER 2015).

A licence is required following the time-limited operational phase authorised under the works approval to authorise emissions associated with the ongoing operation of the Premises i.e. mine dewatering activities. A risk assessment for the operational phase has been included in this Amendment Report, however licence conditions will not be finalised until the department assesses the licence application.

Table 3. Risk assessment of potential emissions and discharges from the Premises during construction and operation

Risk Event					Risk rating ¹ C = consequence L = likelihood	Works Approval Holder’s controls sufficient?	Conditions ² of works approval	Justification for additional regulatory controls/ DWER comments
Source/Activities	Potential emission	Potential pathways and impact	Receptors	Works Approval Holder’s controls				
Construction								
Construction of settling pond	Dust	Pathway: Air/windborne pathway Impact: Ecological health and amenity	Native vegetation, including priority flora	None proposed	C = Slight L = Unlikely Low risk	Y	None	N/A
	Sediment laden stormwater	Pathway: Overland runoff during rainfall events Impact: Impact to ecological health	Surface water bodies (Lake Carey)	None proposed	C = Slight L = Rare Low risk	Y	None	N/A

Risk Event					Risk rating ¹ C = consequence L = likelihood	Works Approval Holder's controls sufficient?	Conditions ² of works approval	Justification for additional regulatory controls/ DWER comments
Source/Activities	Potential emission	Potential pathways and impact	Receptors	Works Approval Holder's controls				
Operation (including time-limited-operations operations)								
Operation of settling pond	Hypersaline mine dewater	Pathway: Overtopping of settling pond Impact: Direct discharge to land, resulting in impact to ecological health	Native vegetation, including priority flora Surface water bodies (Lake Carey)	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Moderate L = Unlikely Medium Risk	Y	Condition 1: Construction requirements Condition 6: Operational requirements	The consequence has been determined as moderate in regard to the new location of the settling pond and therefore the risk is medium. However, the Delegated Officer notes that existing conditions 1 and 6 are satisfactory and no changes to conditions are required.
		Pathway: Vertical infiltration and lateral migration of stored water Impact: Impact to quality of groundwater resources and aquifer regime	Groundwater aquifer	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Slight L = Rare Low Risk	Y	Condition 1: Construction requirements Condition 6: Operational requirements	The Delegated Officer notes that existing conditions 1 and 6 are satisfactory and no changes to conditions are required.
		Pathway: Pipeline leak or rupture Impact: Direct discharge to land, resulting in impact to ecological health	Native vegetation, including priority flora Surface water bodies (Lake Carey)	Refer to Section 3.1	C = Moderate L = Unlikely Medium Risk	Y	Condition 1: Construction requirements Condition 6: Operational requirements	The consequence has been determined as moderate in regard to the new location of the settling pond and therefore the risk is medium. However, the Delegated Officer notes that existing conditions 1 and 6 are satisfactory and no changes to conditions are required.

Note 1: Consequence ratings, likelihood ratings and risk descriptions are detailed in the *Guideline: Risk assessments* (DWER 2020).

Note 2: Proposed Works Approval Holder's controls are depicted by standard text. **bold and underline text** depicts additional regulatory controls imposed by department.

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4. Consultation

Table 4 provides a summary of the consultation undertaken by the department.

Table 4: Consultation

Consultation method	Comments received	Department response
Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration (DMPE) was advised of proposal on 17 February 2026	On 18 February 2026, DMPE confirmed that they had not yet received a Mining Development and Closure Plan for the proposed changes to the Devon Gold Project Mining Proposal (REG ID 118701).	The Department notes that the onus rests on the Works Approval Holder to ensure compliance with all relevant regulatory bodies.
The applicant was provided with draft amendment on 25 February 2026	On 27 February 2026, the applicant provided updated coordinates, reflecting the expanded prescribed premises boundary and waived the consultation period.	The new coordinates are noted in the works approval and the consultation period waived.

5. Conclusion

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

5.1 Summary of amendments

Table 5 provides a summary of the proposed amendments and will act as record of implemented changes. All proposed changes have been incorporated into the Revised Works Approval as part of the amendment process.

Table 5: Summary of works approval amendments

Condition no.	Proposed amendments
Cover Page	Amendment of works approval holder information as works approval was transferred from Devon Gold Project Pty Ltd to Matsa Gold Pty Ltd
Works approval history table	Amendment details added to works approval history table.
Condition 1 Table 1	Sedimentation tank removed from Condition 1 Table 1 – Construction Requirements.
Condition 5 Table 2	Amendment of Condition 5(a) to specify time limited operations durations listed in Table 2. The addition of Table 2, specifying the different time limited operation durations for each infrastructure item.
Condition 6 Table 3	Sedimentation tank removed from Condition 6 Table 3 – Time Limited Operation Requirements.
Table Numbering	Updated table numbering throughout works approval.
Schedule 1: Maps	Updated / replaced each of the maps in Schedule 1.
Schedule 2	Updated premises boundary coordinates to reflect expanded prescribed premises boundary.

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. Mine Lakes Consulting (MLC) 2023, *Devon Mine Dewatering Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA)*. Perth, Western Australia.
5. John, J. 1999, *Limnology of Lake Carey with special reference to primary producers*, Proceedings of the Salt Lake Ecology Seminar, Perth, Western Australia.
6. Magee, J. 2009, *Paleovalley groundwater resources in arid and semi-arid Australia – a literature review*, National Water Commission, Geoscience Australia, Perth, Western Australia.