

Notice

Environmental Protection Act 1994

Notice of decision - Temporary emissions licence

This statutory notice is issued by the administering authority pursuant to section 357E of the Environmental Protection Act 1994, to advise you of a decision or action.

Mount Rawdon Operations Pty Ltd
Level 24, 175 Liverpool Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Attention: Paul Wright
Email: Paul.Wright@evolutionmining.com

Your reference: EPML00712113; A-TEL-NEW-100280473
Our reference: 101/0008040

A-TEL-NEW-1002680473

Application for temporary emissions licence A-TEL-NEW-100260073 for discharge of water from waste rock dump containment dam 1 (WD1), waste rock dump containment dam 2 (WD2), waste rock dump containment dam 3 (WD3) and waste rock dump containment dam 4 (WD4) via WD1 into the Perry River to minimise the risk of an uncontrolled release and at the Mount Rawdon Operations Mine, Mining Lease (ML) 1259 and ML500119.

Application

Mount Rawdon Operations Pty Ltd application for a temporary emissions licence was received by the Department of Environment and Science (the administering authority) via email on 5 July 2022 at 5.40pm (the application). The application fee of \$2,832.00 must be paid to the administering authority.

Decision

Pursuant to section 357E(1)(a)(ii) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, the application has been granted subject to different terms than those requested by Mount Rawdon Operations Pty Ltd.

Temporary emissions licence approval

- (a) This temporary emissions licence (TEL) commences on 6 July 2022 and ends on 20 August 2022 or earlier if the conditions of the TEL cannot be achieved (TEL period).
- (b) This TEL overrides the following conditions of environmental authority EPML00712113 dated 16 August 2021 for the TEL period:
 - E4 Stormwater impacted by the mining activities may only be discharged from the Containment locations listed in Table E1 and must comply with the contaminant limits defined in Table E2.

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Table E2 – Containment Dams Contaminant release limits ('Table E2')

Water quality parameter	Units	Release Limit for WD1, WD2, WD3, WD4, and Spillway of Sediment Dam 3.	Release Limits for West Dam
Total Suspended Solids	mg/L	Must not exceed 1200 mg/L or 10% greater than a background value ¹ of the receiving waters whichever is the greater.	Within 10% greater than background value of the receiving water.
pH	pH units	6.0 – 9.0 (range)	6.0 – 9.0 (range)
Total Dissolved Solids	mg/L	<1000	<900
Sulfate	mg/L	<100	<100
Copper	mg/L	<0.04	<0.0025
Zinc	mg/L	<0.15	<0.031
Arsenic	mg/L	<0.05	<0.01
Cadmium	mg/L	<0.005	<0.0008
WAD Cyanide	mg/L	<0.007	<0.007

(c) The following conditions apply to this TEL:

Condition TEL1 All conditions of the EA continue to apply unless otherwise specified in this TEL.

Condition TEL2 Water must only be released from WD1, WD2, WD3 and WD4 via WD1 into the Perry River Dam, upstream of the weir.

Condition TEL3 Water released to the location specified in **Condition TEL2** must not exceed a maximum discharge rate of 50 litres per second or 4.32ML/day.

Condition TEL4 Water must be released in a controlled manner to prevent erosion of the bed or banks of the Perry River.

Condition TEL5 Water must be released in a controlled manner to ensure sufficient mixing and dispersion in the Perry River.

Condition TEL6 The following information must be recorded daily when releases are occurring and provided to the administering authority upon request:

1. The water level in WD1, WD2, WD3 and WD4; and
2. Contaminant monitoring results required by **Condition TEL8**; and
3. The volume of the release to the Perry River; and
4. The background flow rate in the Perry River.

Condition TEL7 Water released from the locations specified in **Condition TEL2** must comply with the contaminant limits prescribed in **TEL Table 1 – Contaminant release limits**:

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TEL Table 1 – Contaminant release limits

Contaminant parameters	Contaminant Limits
Electrical Conductivity (EC)	4000 uS/cm (maximum)
pH (pH units)	6.0-9.0
Total Suspended Solids	Interpretation purposes only
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	Interpretation purposes only
Sulfate	Interpretation purposes only
Copper ¹	Interpretation purposes only
Zinc ¹	Interpretation purposes only
Arsenic ¹	Interpretation purposes only
Cadmium ¹	Interpretation purposes only
WAS Cyanide	Interpretation purposes only

1. Total and dissolved metals must be monitored.

Condition TEL8 Monitoring for the contaminants listed in **TEL Table 1 – Contaminant release limits** must be conducted when water is being released from the locations specified in **Condition TEL2** at the monitoring locations and frequencies specified in **TEL Table 2 – Monitoring locations and frequencies**:

TEL Table 2 – Monitoring locations and frequencies

Monitoring location	Coordinates	Monitoring frequency
WD1	376002; 7205529	Daily (within 2 hours of the release starting) and every 24hrs thereafter during the release.
Upstream Perry River	374746; 7207281	
Downstream Perry River (as close as reasonably practical to the weir)	378842; 7208200	
Downstream Perry River (within 3 km of the weir)	<i>Within 3km of the weir</i>	

Note - The GPS locations of monitoring sites must be recorded at the first monitoring event and monitoring maintained consistently at these specific locations for all subsequent monitoring events.

Condition TEL9 Releases from WD1, WD2, WD3 and WD4 via WD1 must immediately cease after becoming aware of any release not in accordance with, or reasonably expected to not be in accordance with, the conditions of this TEL.

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- Condition TEL10** Stock access to the area immediately downstream of the discharge point must be restricted until water quality objectives (total) as specified in **TEL – Table 3 – Receiving waters quality objectives** are complied with.
- Condition TEL11** While discharging under this TEL, visual monitoring must occur twice every day to verify that discharges in the Perry River comply with the requirements of this TEL and the other EA conditions. The records of this visual monitoring must be recorded and maintained onsite for the term of this TEL.
- Condition TEL12** Releases from WD1, WD2, WD3 and WD4 via WD1 must cease when flows in the Perry River fall below 0.9m³/s at the Perry River Weir.
- Condition TEL13** The quality of receiving waters must be monitored at the locations and at the frequency specified in **TEL – Table 2– Monitoring locations and frequencies**, for the contaminants specified in **TEL – Table 3– Receiving waters quality objectives**

TEL Table 3 – Receiving waters quality objectives

Contaminant ¹	Water quality (mg/L unless specified otherwise)	
	Water quality objectives (totals) for Perry River	Water quality objectives (dissolved) for Perry River
pH (pH units) ⁹	6.5 (minimum) or 5 th percentile ² of reference sites ³ , whichever is higher 8.5 (maximum) or 95 th percentile ² of reference sites ³ , whichever is lower	
Electrical Conductivity	1,000 ⁶ µS/cm or 95 th percentile ² of reference sites ³ , whichever is lower	
Total dissolved solids	600 ¹⁵ or 95 th percentile ² of reference sites ³ , whichever is higher	<i>Refer to water quality objectives (totals)</i>
Sulfate (SO ₄ ²⁻)	250 ⁶ or 95 th percentile ² of reference sites ³ , whichever is higher	<i>Refer to water quality objectives (totals)</i>
Arsenic	0.05 ⁴	0.013 ⁵ or 95 th percentile ² of reference sites ³ whichever is higher
Cadmium	0.005 ⁴	0.0002 ⁵ or 95 th percentile ² of reference sites ³ whichever is higher

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Copper	0.04 ⁴	0.0014 ⁵ or 95 th percentile ² of reference sites ³ , whichever is higher
Zinc	0.15 ⁴	0.008 ⁵ or 95 th percentile ² of reference sites ³ whichever is higher
Cyanide ⁸	Not applicable	0.007 ⁵

Notes:

1. For water quality, all metals and metalloids must be measured as both 'total' (from analysis of an unfiltered sample) and 'dissolved' (from analysis of a field filtered sample).
2. Percentiles (5th, 80th and 95th) of reference site contaminant concentration applied as trigger levels/water quality objectives must be calculated in accordance with QWQG (2009) and ANZECC (2000) methodology. The environmental authority holder must maintain a database documenting all relevant water quality monitoring data and calculation of percentiles adopted as trigger levels/water quality objectives.
3. The relevant reference site for Perry River is specified in Schedule E – Table 3 of the environmental authority
4. ANZECC (2000) stock limits.
5. ANZECC (2000) 95% species protection, Table 3.4.1.
6. Dunlop et al 2016 "Ecosystem protection trigger values for sulfate in hard waters of the Fitzroy River basin"
7. Analysis for metals/metalloids concentrations in sediment must be conducted on the <2mm fraction of the sample and measured as a dilute acid extractable concentration in a manner consistent with the Revision of the ANZECC/ARMCANZ Sediment Quality Guidelines, CSIRO (May 2013).
8. Cyanide is to be measured with pH and temperature in accordance with ANZECC (2000) methodology
9. pH limits from ANZECC (2000) Table 4.4.2

Condition TEL14 The contaminant concentrations measured at **TEL Table 2 - monitoring locations and frequencies** "Downstream Perry River (within 3 km of the weir)" in receiving waters must not exceed any total water quality objective specified in **TEL – Table 3– Receiving waters quality objectives**.

Condition TEL15 Should any contaminant measured at **TEL Table 2 - monitoring locations and frequencies** "Downstream Perry River (within 3 km of the weir)" in receiving waters exceed the dissolved water quality objective specified in **TEL – Table 3– Receiving waters quality objectives**, the environmental authority holder must immediately undertake an investigation as required under condition **E10** of the environmental authority.

Condition TEL16 The holder of the environmental authority must notify the administering authority by phone call within six (6) hours, followed by written notification within twenty-four (24) hours, after becoming aware of any release not in accordance, or reasonably expected to not be in accordance with, the conditions of this TEL.

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Grounds for the decision

In deciding to grant the TEL subject to different terms than those requested by Mount Rawdon Operations Pty Ltd, the administering authority has had regard to the criteria specified under section 357D of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.

The conditions imposed on the granted TEL are considered necessary and desirable to ensure all environmental values of the receiving environment are protected during the TEL Period.

Should you have any queries in relation to this notice, please contact the department using the details provided below.



Signature

6 July 2022

Date

Teale Gibbs
Delegate of the Chief Executive
Environmental Protection Act 1994

Enquiries:
Department of Environment and Science
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