

Notice

Environmental Protection Act 1994

Notice of decision – Temporary emissions licence

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

Orion Mining Pty Ltd
Blair Athol Mine Access Road
Clermont QLD 4721

dyacoub@terracon.au

ATTN: Daniella Yacoub, Environmental Specialist

Our reference: EPML00876713

1 Application details

Application for temporary emissions licence (TEL) to authorise release of mine water at Blair Athol Coal Mine from new (temporary) release point.

2 Decision

Thank you for your application for a temporary emissions licence. Your application, which was received by this office on 06/03/2026, has been granted as submitted

3 Reason for the decision

The department has determined a period of 2 months for the TEL. This should provide sufficient coverage for the remainder of the wet season.

4 Human rights

A human rights assessment was carried out in relation to this decision/action and it was determined that no human rights are engaged by the decision.

5 Temporary emissions licence

This temporary emissions licence commences on 6 March 2026 and ends at 11:59PM on 6 May 2026.

The licence permits the following emission:

The licence overrides the following conditions of your environmental authority, approval number EPML00876713:

- Condition C2 (replaced by TEL C2)

- Condition C4 (replaced by TEL C4)
- Condition C5 (replaced by TEL C5)
- Condition C6 (replaced by TEL C6)
- Condition C7 (replaced by TEL C7)
- Condition C8 (replaced by TEL C8)
- Condition C9 (replaced by TEL C9)
- Condition C10 (replaced by TEL C10)
- Condition C11 (replaced by TEL C11)
- Condition C13 (replaced by TEL C13)
- Condition C14 (replaced by TEL C14)
- Condition C15 (replaced by TEL C15)
- Condition C17 (replaced by TEL C17)
- Table C1 (replaced by TEL Table C1)
- Table C2 (replaced by TEL Table C2)
- Table C3 (replaced by TEL Table C3)
- Table C4 (replaced by TEL Table C4)
- Table C8 (replaced by TEL Table C8)

The following conditions apply to this licence:

CONDITION NUMBER	CONDITION
TEL C2	Unless otherwise permitted under the conditions of this environmental authority, the release of mine affected water to waters must only occur from the release points specified in Table TEL C1 Mine affected release points, Sources and Receiving Waters and depicted in Figure TEL1.
TEL C4	The release of mine affected water to waters in accordance with condition TEL C2 must not exceed the release limits stated in Table TEL C2 Mine affected release limits when measured at the monitoring points specified in Table TEL C1 Mine affected release points, sources and receiving waters for each quality characteristic.
TEL C5	The release of mine affected water to waters from the release points must be monitored at the locations specified in Table TEL C1 Mine affected release points, sources and receiving waters for each quality characteristic and at the frequency specified in Table TEL C2 Mine affected release limits and Table TEL C3 Release contaminant trigger investigation levels .
TEL C6	If quality characteristics of the release exceed any of the trigger levels specified in Table TEL C3 Release contaminant trigger investigation levels during a release event, the environmental authority holder must compare the downstream results in the receiving waters to the trigger values specified in Table TEL C3 Release contaminant trigger investigation levels and;

	(1) where the trigger values are not exceeded then no action is to be taken. (2) where the downstream results exceed the trigger values specified Table TEL C3 Release contaminant trigger investigation levels for any quality characteristic, compare the results of the downstream site to the data from background monitoring sites; (a) if the result is less than the background monitoring site data, then no action is to be taken. (b) if the result is greater than the background monitoring site data, complete an investigation into the potential for environmental harm and provide a written report to the administering authority within 90 days of receiving the result, outlining (i) details of the investigations carried out; and (ii) actions taken to prevent environmental harm.
TEL C7	If an exceedance in accordance with condition TEL C6(2)(b) is identified, the holder of the authority must notify the administering authority within 24 hours of receiving the result.
TEL C8	Mine affected water release events The holder must ensure a stream flow gauging station/s is installed, operated and maintained to determine and record stream flows at the locations and flow recording frequency specified in Table TEL C3 Release contaminant trigger investigation levels.
TEL C9	Notwithstanding any other condition of this environmental authority, the release of mine affected water to waters in accordance with condition TEL C2 must only take place during periods of natural flow in accordance with the receiving water flow criteria for discharge specified in Table TEL C4 Mine affected water release during flow events for the release point(s) specified in Table TEL C1 Mine affected release points, sources and receiving waters .
TEL C10	The release of mine affected water to waters in accordance with condition TEL C2 must not exceed the Maximum Release Rate for each receiving water flow criterion for discharges specified in Table TEL C4 Mine affected water release during flow events when measured at the monitoring points specified in Table TEL C1 Mine affected release points, sources and receiving waters .
TEL C11	The daily quantity of mine affected water released from each release point must be measured and recorded at the monitoring points in Table TEL C1 Mine affected release points, sources and receiving waters .
TEL C13	Notification of release event The authority holder must notify the administering authority via WaTERS as soon as practicable (no later than 24 hours of having commenced releasing mine affected water to the receiving environment). Notification must include the submission of written verification to the administering authority of the following information: (a) release commencement date/time (b) expected release cessation date/time (c) release point/s (d) release volume (estimated) (e) receiving water/s including the natural flow rate (f) any details (including available data) regarding likely impacts on the receiving water(s).

TEL C14	The authority holder must notify the administering authority as soon as practicable (nominally within 24 hours after cessation of a release) of the cessation of a release notified under condition TEL C13 and within 28 days provide the following information in writing: (a) release cessation date/time (b) natural flow volume in receiving water (c) volume of water released (d) details regarding the compliance of the release with the conditions of Department Interest: Water of this environmental authority (i.e. contamination limits, natural flow, discharge volume) (e) all in-situ water quality monitoring results (f) any other matters pertinent to the water release event.
TEL C15	Notification of release event exceedance If the release limits defined in Table TEL C2 Mine affected release limits are exceeded, the holder of the environmental authority must notify the administering authority within 24 hours of receiving the results.
TEL C17	Receiving Environment Monitoring and Contaminant Trigger Levels The quality of the receiving waters must be monitored at the locations specified in Table TEL C8 Receiving water upstream background sites and downstream monitoring points for each quality characteristic and at the monitoring frequency stated in Table C7 (Receiving waters contaminant trigger levels).

Table TEL C1 Mine affected release points, sources and receiving waters

Release Point (RP)	Latitude (GDA2020)	Longitude (GDA2020)	Mine affected water source and location	Monitoring Point	Receiving waters description
RP 1	-22.68623	147.51158	Industrial Dam – Workshop/Wash Bay Area	MP3 and MP4	Western Creek Diversion

Table TEL C2 (Mine affected release limits)		
Quality Characteristic	Release limits	Monitoring frequency
Electrical conductivity ($\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$)	7000	Daily during release (the first sample must be taken within 2 hours of commencement of release).
pH (pH Unit)	6.5 (minimum) 9.0 (maximum)	Daily during release (the first sample must be taken within 2 hours of commencement of release).
Suspended Solids (mg/L)	1000	Daily during release (first sample within 2 hours of commencement of release). [laboratory analysis]
Sulfate (mg/L)	1910	Daily during release (first sample within 2 hours of commencement of release). [laboratory analysis]

Table TEL C3 Release contaminant trigger investigation levels			
Quality Characteristic ^{1,2}	Trigger Levels (µg/L)	Comment on Trigger level ^{3,4}	Monitoring Frequency
Aluminium	100	For aquatic ecosystem protection, based on SMD guideline	Commencement of release and thereafter weekly during release
Arsenic	13		
Cadmium	0.2		
Chromium	1		
Copper	2	For aquatic ecosystem protection, based on LOR for ICPMS	
Iron	300	For aquatic ecosystem protection, based on low reliability guideline	
Lead	4	For aquatic ecosystem protection, based on SMD guideline	
Mercury	0.2	For aquatic ecosystem protection, based on LOR for CV FIMS	
Nickel	28	Site specific release trigger	
Zinc	99	Site specific release trigger	
Boron	940	For aquatic ecosystem protection, based on SMD guideline	
Cobalt	90	For aquatic ecosystem protection, based on low reliability guideline	
Manganese	1900	For aquatic ecosystem protection, based on SMD guideline	
Molybdenum	34	For aquatic ecosystem protection, based on low reliability guideline	
Selenium	10	For aquatic ecosystem protection, based on LOR for ICPMS	
Silver	1		
Uranium	1		
Vanadium	10		
Ammonia	900	For aquatic ecosystem protection, based on SMD guideline	
Nitrate	2600		
Petroleum hydrocarbons (C6-C9)	20	For aquatic ecosystem protection, based on LOR for GCMS	
Petroleum hydrocarbons (C10-C36)	100		
Fluoride (total)	2000	Protection of livestock and short term irrigation guideline	

Notes:

- (1) All metals and metalloids must be measured as total (unfiltered) and dissolved (filtered). Trigger levels for metal/metalloids apply if dissolved results exceed trigger.
- (2) The quality characteristics required to be monitored as per **Table TEL C3 Release contaminant trigger investigation levels** can be reviewed once the results of **two years** monitoring data is available, or if sufficient data is available to adequately demonstrate negligible environmental risk, and it may be determined that a reduced monitoring frequency is appropriate or that certain quality characteristics can be removed from **Table TEL C3 Release contaminant trigger investigation levels** by amendment.
- (3) SMD - slightly moderately disturbed level of protection, guideline refers **ANZG (2018)**.
- (4) LOR - typical reporting for method stated. ICPMS/CV FIMS/GCMS – analytical method required to achieve LOR.

Table C4 (Mine affected water release during flow events)

Receiving water description	Release Point	Gauging station description	Latitude (GDA94)	Longitude (GDA94)	Minimum Flow in Receiving Water Required for a Release Event	Maximum release rate	Flow recording Frequency
Western Creek Diversion	RP 1	Gauging Station 2	22.713819	147.52205	0.5m³/s	0.05m³/s	Continuous (minimum daily)

Table C8 (Receiving water upstream background sites and downstream monitoring points)

Monitoring point	Receiving Waters Location	Latitude	Longitude	Monitoring frequency
Upstream Background Monitoring Points				
Monitoring Point 3	Breaker Creek	-22.686139	147.511306	Daily during release
Downstream Monitoring Points				
Monitoring Point 4	Breaker Creek Diversion	-22.714722	147.521389	Daily during release

Figure TEL1 Surface water monitoring points



Should you have any questions about the notice, please contact Alison Cummings using the details provided below.

Signature

6 March 2026

Date

Alison Cummings

Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation
Delegate of the administering authority
Environmental Protection Act 1994

Enquiries:

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