

**Application for mining lease 70/423,
Bullsbrook**

Westralian Sands Ltd.

**Report and recommendation
of the Environmental Protection Authority**

**Environmental Protection Authority
Perth, Western Australia
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Introduction

This proposal is one of a group of applications for mineral production tenements for which a formal level of assessment was set by the Environmental Protection Authority under the Government's former policy (known as "Balancing the Scales", 1988) on mining in environmentally sensitive areas. The former policy has now been replaced by a new policy entitled "Resolution of Conflict - A Clear Policy for National Parks", 1990.

The Environmental Protection Authority is now in a position to process the proposal.

The proposal

The Environmental Protection Authority has assessed a proposal to grant mining lease 70/423, just north of Bullsbrook. The lease covers the whole of two reserves, a Recreation Reserve (27583) and a Travellers and Stock Reserve (C1654).

A mining lease (described in Part IV, Sections 71 - 85 of the Mining Act, 1978) allows the lessee to mine the land for any minerals for an initial period of 21 years. The Minister for Mines may renew the lease for further periods of 21 years and may set conditions for the prevention of injury to the land and other matters related to mining activities.

On the grant of the lease the Department of Mines has regulatory power via conditions on the lease and may require a bond to ensure that rehabilitation is completed to an acceptable standard. Many of the conditions relate to environmental protection issues.

Assessment and recommendation

Mining lease 70/423 is within the Environmental Protection Authority's Red Book Recommendation area System 6, M14 (Reserve C1654) in an area of current and former mining activity. The recommendation is for the purpose of Reserve C1654 to be amended to Conservation of Flora and Fauna. The lease is a transition from prospecting licences (under the former Mining Act, 1904). Recommendation M14 also recommends that access to the reserve (if created) be allowed for the exploration and evaluation of mineral deposits in such a way as to protect the area's conservation values.

The Environmental Protection Authority has concluded, following consultation with various public and government agencies, that mining lease 70/423 could be granted, subject to no significant ground-disturbing activity occurring on the environmentally sensitive area, with provision for specific consideration of the plans for mining or other ground-disturbing activities at a later date.

Recommendation 1

The Environmental Protection Authority concludes that the proposal to grant mining lease 70/423 could be environmentally acceptable and recommends that the lease could be granted subject to the imposition of a no mining condition by the Minister for Mines. The proponent should not undertake any significant ground disturbing activity, unless and until approval has been granted by the Minister for the Environment on the advice of the Environmental Protection Authority, the Departments of Mines and Conservation and Land Management and the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority.