



Ass # 996
Bull # 826
State # 428

MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT WESTERN

**STATEMENT THAT A PROPOSAL MAY BE IMPLEMENTED
(PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1986)**

**BULONG NICKEL-COBALT LATERITE PROJECT
30 KM EAST OF KALGOORLIE (996)**

RESOLUTE RESOURCES LIMITED

This proposal may be implemented subject to the following conditions:

1 Proponent Commitments

The proponent has made a number of environmental management commitments in order to protect the environment.

- 1-1 In implementing the proposal, the proponent shall fulfil the commitments made in the Consultative Environmental Review and in response to issues raised following public submissions; provided that the commitments are not inconsistent with the conditions or procedures contained in this statement.

The environmental management commitments were published in Environmental Protection Authority Bulletin 826 (Appendix 4) and a copy is attached.

2 Implementation

Changes to the proposal which are not substantial may be carried out with the approval of the Minister for the Environment.

- 2-1 Subject to these conditions, the manner of detailed implementation of the proposal shall conform in substance with that set out in any designs, specifications, plans or other technical material submitted by the proponent to the Environmental Protection Authority with the proposal.
- 2-2 Where, in the course of the detailed implementation referred to in condition 2-1, the proponent seeks to change the designs, specifications, plans or other technical material submitted to the Environmental Protection Authority in any way that the Minister for the Environment determines, on the advice of the Environmental Protection Authority, is not substantial, those changes may be effected.

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3 Proponent

These conditions legally apply to the nominated proponent.

- 3-1 No transfer of ownership, control or management of the project which would give rise to a need for the replacement of the proponent shall take place until the Minister for the Environment has advised the proponent that approval has been given for the nomination of a replacement proponent. Any request for the exercise of that power of the Minister shall be accompanied by a copy of this statement endorsed with an undertaking by the proposed replacement proponent to carry out the project in accordance with the conditions and procedures set out in the statement.

4 Location of Leach Residue and Evaporation Pond Storage Facilities

The leach residue and evaporation pond storage facilities should be located, constructed and operated so that the environment is protected as far as practicable.

- 4-1 Prior to construction of leach residue and evaporation pond storage facilities, the proponent shall prepare a strategy for disposal of process residue which identifies and demonstrates that the location, construction and operation of the facilities achieve short and long term environmental objectives, including best practice environmental management and meet the intent of condition 7, to the requirements of the Environmental Protection Authority on advice of the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Minerals and Energy and the Water and Rivers Commission.
- 4-2 The proponent shall implement the strategy required by condition 4-1 to the requirements of the Department of Environmental Protection on advice of the Department of Minerals and Energy and the Water and Rivers Commission.

5 Management of Leach Residue and Evaporation Pond Storage Facilities

The leach residue and evaporation pond storage facilities should be managed to protect the environment and facilitate rehabilitation and decommissioning.

- 5-1 Within five years following commencement of the operation of the leach residue and evaporation pond storage facilities, the proponent shall submit a report which includes, but is not necessarily limited to the following:

- 1 a description of the development of the leach residue and evaporation pond storage facilities;
- 2 details of the operation of the leach residue and evaporation pond storage facilities and issues arising from and variations required to their operations; and
- 3 monitoring results,

to the requirements of the Environmental Protection Authority.

The reporting required by this condition shall be repeated thereafter at five-yearly intervals to the requirements of the Minister for the Environment.

Note: The Environmental Protection Authority will advise the Minister for the Environment on the need for further five-yearly reports.

6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Greenhouse gas emissions should be addressed in the Environmental Management Plan.

6-1 At appropriate times, the proponent shall address, in the Environmental Management Plan to be prepared under commitment 1, the following additional matters relating to greenhouse gas emissions:

- 1 calculation of the greenhouse gas emissions associated with the proposal (using the generally accepted methods);
- 2 indication of the measures adopted to limit greenhouse gas emissions for the project; and
- 3 estimation of the comparative greenhouse gas efficiency of the project (per unit of product and/or other agreed performance indicators) with the efficiency of other comparable projects producing a similar product;

to the requirements of the Environmental Protection Authority on advice of the Department of Environmental Protection.

6-2 Consider entry (whether on a project specific basis, company wide arrangement or within an industrial grouping as appropriate) into the Commonwealth Government's "Greenhouse Challenge" voluntary co-operative agreement programme. The agreement would include, an inventory of emissions; opportunities for abating greenhouse gas emissions in the organisation; a greenhouse gas mitigation action plan; regular monitoring and reporting of performance; and independent performance verification.

7 Decommissioning

7-1 The proponent shall achieve the satisfactory decommissioning of the project, removal of plant and installations and rehabilitation of the site and its environs.

7-2 To achieve the objectives of condition 7-1, within five years following commissioning, or at such later time considered appropriate by the Minister for the Environment on advice of the Department of Environmental Protection, the proponent shall prepare a plan which:

- 1 describes the process for the decommissioning and rehabilitation of the project area;
- 2 provides for the long term management of ground and surface water systems affected by the leach residue and evaporation pond storage facilities; and
- 3 provides for the development of a 'walk away' solution for the decommissioned mine pits, the process plant, leach residue and evaporation pond storage facilities, and all associated infrastructure,

to the requirements of the Environmental Protection Authority on advice of the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Minerals and Energy and the Water and Rivers Commission.

Note: A 'walk away' solution means that the site shall either no longer require management at the time the proponent ceases operations, or if further management is deemed necessary, the proponent shall make adequate provision so that the required management is undertaken with no liability to the State.

7-3 The proponent shall implement the plan required by condition 7-2.

8 Time Limit on Approval

The environmental approval for the proposal is limited.

- 8-1 If the proponent has not substantially commenced the project within five years of the date of this statement, then the approval to implement the proposal as granted in this statement shall lapse and be void. The Minister for the Environment shall determine any question as to whether the project has been substantially commenced.

Any application to extend the period of five years referred to in this condition shall be made before the expiration of that period to the Minister for the Environment.

Where the proponent demonstrates to the requirements of the Minister for the Environment on advice of the Department of Environmental Protection that the environmental parameters of the proposal have not changed significantly, then the Minister may grant an extension not exceeding five years.

9 Compliance Auditing

To help determine environmental performance and compliance with the conditions, periodic reports on the implementation of the proposal are required.

- 9-1 The proponent shall submit periodic Performance and Compliance Reports, in accordance with an audit programme prepared by the Department of Environmental Protection in consultation with the proponent.

Procedure

- 1 Unless otherwise specified, the Department of Environmental Protection is responsible for assessing compliance with the conditions contained in this statement and for issuing formal clearance of conditions.
- 2 Where compliance with any condition is in dispute, the matter will be determined by the Minister for the Environment.

Note

The proponent is required to apply for a Works Approval and Licence for this project under the provisions of Part V of the Environmental Protection Act.

Hon Peter Foss QC MLC
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

21 OCT 1996

Proponent's Environmental Management Commitments

July 1996

**BULONG NICKEL-COBALT LATERITE PROJECT
30 KM EAST OF KALGOORLIE (1996)**

RESOLUTE RESOURCES LIMITED

PROPONENT'S COMMITMENTS (996)

- 1 An Environmental Management Plan, as outlined in Chapter Five of the Consultative Environmental Review, which details the procedures, practices and timing for protection of the environment, including monitoring and reporting requirements, will be prepared to the requirements of the Department of Environmental Protection on advice of the Department of Minerals and Energy, the Department of Conservation and Land Management, the Water and Rivers Commission, the Water Corporation and the Shire of Kalgoorlie.

- 2 The Environmental Management Plan referred to in commitment 1 will be implemented to the requirements of the Department of Environmental Protection on advice of the Department of Minerals and Energy, the Department of Conservation and Land Management, the Water and Rivers Commission, the Water Corporation and the Shire of Kalgoorlie.

- 3 The proponent will specify emissions criteria in tender documents for the supply of equipment for the Plant.

- 4 Compliance testing will be carried out by the proponent during the commissioning of the Plant to confirm that the emissions from the plant equipment are within the specified limits.

This commitment will be implemented to meet the requirements of the Department of Environmental Protection.