

STATEMENT OF REASONS

Issued for a decision made to amend under Section 93 of the *Water Act 1992* (Water Act)

Licensee	Groote Eylandt Mining Company Proprietary Limited (GEMCO) ABN 26 004 618 491 ACN 004 618 491
Waste Discharge Licence Number	WDL256-01
Licensed Action	The controlled discharge of mine influenced water collected on MLN951, MLN956, MLN957 and MLN958 into the Angurugu River via the authorised discharge points and subject to the conditions of this licence.
Application	Application by GEMCO to amend WDL256.
Decision	I amend and restate WDL256 as WDL256-01 in accordance with section 93(1) of the Water Act.
Decision-maker	Tess Cole-Adams Executive Director Environmental Regulation Delegate of the Controller of Water Resources
Signature	
Date	28 May 2026

In making the decision to amend a waste discharge licence, the following matters have been considered:

A. BACKGROUND

1. Groote Eylandt Mining Company Proprietary Limited (GEMCO) operates the GEMCO Manganese mine on Groote Eylandt and is the holder of Waste Discharge Licence (WDL) 256.
2. WDL256 authorises the controlled discharge of wastewater (mine influenced water) collected on mineral leases MLN951, MLN956, MLN957 and MLN958 into the Angurugu River via the authorised discharge point.
3. The relevant declared beneficial uses area is Groote Eylandt Area Marine Waters declared in Gazettal notices No. G9, 11 March 1998, No. G11 25 March 1998 and No. G20 27 May 1998. The following beneficial uses are prescribed:
 - Aquatic ecosystem protection, and
 - Recreational water quality and aesthetics.

B. APPLICATION

4. On 14 April 2026, GEMCO applied under section 93(1) of the Water Act to amend WDL256.
5. The applicant's requested amendments to WDL256 are as follows:
 - 5.1. Allow the annual *Monitoring Report*, prescribed under condition 40 and the *Biological and Sediment Monitoring Program Annual Report* to be combined into one report.
 - 5.2. Alter the due date for the now combined annual monitoring report from 1 June each year to 31 July each year effective immediately.

C. AMENDMENTS

6. These are administrative amendments that will be implemented by making the following changes to the existing conditions:
 - 6.1. The typographical error in special condition 43 at Item 15(d), Schedule 1 to be edited to change reference to 'Schedule 1' to 'Table 1' and the title of the table inserted at Item 15(d) to be relabelled 'Table 1'.
 - 6.2. A new part to special condition 43 to be inserted at Item 15(e), Schedule 1 to state: The biological and sediment monitoring program annual report (Item 15b) may be submitted as part of the Monitoring Report (condition 39).
 - 6.3. The date prescribed at Item 13 for condition 39 (Monitoring Report) to be changed from 1 June to 31 July, effective upon approval of this amendment.
 - 6.4. The date prescribed at Item 15(d) for submission of the *Biological and Sediment Monitoring Program Annual Report* to be changed from 1 June to 31 July, effective upon approval of this amendment.
 - 6.5. The date prescribed at Item 12 (condition 38) as the due date for submitting the Annual Return to be changed from 1 June to 31 July, effective upon approval of this amendment.

D. REASONS FOR DECISION

General Considerations

7. This is an administrative amendment. There will be no impact to the environmental requirements of the existing licence conditions.
8. The current reporting requirements do not provide sufficient time to analyse and interpret the data and finalise the report after the last sampling event for the reporting period.
9. The application for amendment has been submitted prior to the WDL256 reporting deadline on 1 June 2026.
10. In addition to amending the due date for the annual monitoring reports (to be combined into one), the due date for the annual return (AR) is also proposed to be amended from 1 June as prescribed by condition 38 (Item 12) to 31 July (effective upon approval of this amendment), because the AR must consider the findings of the now combined monitoring report.

Matters considered under section 90 of the Water Act

11. This is administrative in nature and does not result in any material change to the matters considered by the Controller of Water Resources in deciding to grant WDL256 on 6 February 2025 to grant.
12. The factors set out in section 90(1) of the Water Act were considered in that decision. The Statement of Reasons for that decision, which addresses those factors, is published on the public register at: [Groote Eylandt Mining Company Proprietary Limited | NTEPA](#).
13. I am satisfied that this amendment does not alter the assessment of those factors.

Compliance

14. The applicant has generally complied with the conditions of the existing WDL256.

Assessment under the *Environment Protection Act 2019* (NT) or the *Environmental Assessment Act 1982* (repealed)

15. There are no changes to the wastewater activities approved for discharge under WDL256.

E. CONSULTATION

16. Draft amended waste discharge licence (WDL256-01) was provided to the applicant, GEMCO, for review and comment.
17. The applicant reviewed and accepted the draft WDL on 7 May 2026.

F. MATERIAL CONSIDERED

- Application submitted by GEMCO to amend Waste Discharge Licence WDL256 dated 14/04/2026.
- Amended Waste Discharge Licence WDL256
- Notice of Amendment for Waste Discharge Licence WDL256
- Applicant comments on the draft WDL256-01
- Statement of Reasons for granting the original WDL256 on 6/02/2025

G. CONCLUSION AND FINAL DECISION

Based on the above reasons, I have decided:

18. To amend the terms and conditions of WDL256 as per the Notice of Amendment and the revised and restated WDL256-01.