

Permit

Environmental Protection Act 1994

Environmental Authority EPML00772413

This environmental authority is issued by the administering authority under Chapter 5 of the Environmental Protection Act 1994.

Environmental authority number: EPML00772413

Environmental authority takes effect on 24 March 2026. This is the take effect date.

The anniversary date of this environmental authority is the 28 September each year.

The payment of the annual fee will be due each year on this day.

An annual return will be due each year on 1 April.

Environmental authority holder(s)

Name(s)	Registered address
Solomons Gold Pty Ltd	Unit Suite 1, 588 Mulgrave Road WOREE QLD 4868

Environmentally relevant activity and location details

Environmentally relevant activity/activities	Location(s)
Mining - ML gold ore - 16, Site Specific 08-(1) Chemical storage >50t class 1 or 2 30-(a) Metal smelting & refining >1t but <100t yr gold 31-(2)(b) Mineral processing <100000t yr 60-(1)(d) Waste disposal >200000t yr 63-(1)(b)(i) Sewage treatment >100 but <1500EP 64-(2)(a) Water Treatment >0.5ML but <5ML	ML1079

Additional information for applicants

Environmentally relevant activities

The description of any environmentally relevant activity (ERA) for which an environmental authority (EA) is issued is a restatement of the ERA as defined by legislation at the time the EA is issued. Where there is any inconsistency between that description of an ERA and the conditions stated by an EA as to the scale, intensity or manner of carrying out an ERA, the conditions prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.

An EA authorises the carrying out of an ERA and does not authorise any environmental harm unless a condition stated by the EA specifically authorises environmental harm.

A person carrying out an ERA must also be a registered suitable operator under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (EP Act).

Contaminated land

It is a requirement of the EP Act that an owner or occupier of land give written notice to the administering authority if they become aware of the following:

- the presence of, or happening of an event involving, a hazardous contaminant on the land that is causing, or is reasonably likely to cause, serious or material environmental harm (notice must be given within 24 hours); or
- if the land is contaminated land – a change in the condition of the land that is causing, or is reasonably likely to cause, serious or material environmental harm (notice must be given within 24 hours); or
- a notifiable activity (as defined in Schedule 3) having been carried out, or is being carried out, on the land (notice must be given within 20 business days).

For further information, including the form for giving written notice, refer to the Queensland Government website www.qld.gov.au, using the search term 'duty to notify'.

Take effect

Please note that, in accordance with section 200(1) of the EP Act, an EA has effect:

- (a) if the authority is for a prescribed ERA and it states that it takes effect on the day nominated by the holder of the authority in a written notice given to the administering authority—on the nominated day; or
- (b) if the authority states a day or an event for it to take effect—on the stated day or when the stated event happens; or
- (c) otherwise—on the day the authority is issued.

However, in accordance with section 200(2) of the EP Act, the day that the EA takes effect may not be before:

- (a) if the authority is for a resource activity—the day the relevant tenure is granted to the applicant; or
- (b) if a development permit for a material change of use of premises under the *Planning Act 2016* is necessary for carrying out an activity that related to the authority—the day the development permit takes effect; or
- (c) if an SDA Approval under the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971* is necessary for carrying out an activity that relates to the authority—the day the approval takes effect.

If this EA takes effect when the additional authorisation takes effect, you must provide the administering authority written notice within 5 business days of receiving notification of the related additional authorisation taking effect.

The anniversary day of this EA is the same day each year as the effective date. The payment of the annual fee will be due each year on this day.

If you have incorrectly claimed that an additional authorisation is not required, carrying out the ERA without the additional authorisation is not legal and could result in your prosecution for providing false or misleading information or operating without a valid EA.



Signature

Sarah De Vries

Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation

Delegate of the administering authority

Environmental Protection Act 1994

24 March 2026

Date

Enquiries:

Minerals Business Centre

PO Box 7230, Cairns QLD 4870

Phone: (07) 4222 5352

Email: ESCairns@detsi.qld.gov.au

Obligations under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*

In addition to the requirements found in the conditions of this EA, the holder must also meet their obligations under the EP Act, and the regulations made under the EP Act. For example, the holder must comply with the following provisions of the Act:

- general environmental duty (section 319)
- duty to restore the environment (section 319C)
- duty to notify environmental harm (section 320-320G)
- offence of causing serious or material environmental harm (sections 437-439)
- offence of causing environmental nuisance (section 440)
- offence of depositing prescribed water contaminants in waters and related matters (section 440ZG)
- offence to place contaminant where environmental harm or nuisance may be caused (section 443).

Obligations under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act)

Matters of national environmental significance (MNES) are regulated under the Commonwealth EPBC Act rather than under state legislation. You may need to submit a referral if your project potentially impacts any matters protected under the EPBC Act. For more information on self-assessments, and referral and assessment processes, please visit the Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water's website at www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/epbc/advice.

Obligations under the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* and *Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003* (the Cultural Heritage Acts)

The Cultural Heritage Acts require anyone who carries out a land-use activity to exercise a duty of care. This 'duty of care' means land users must take all reasonable and practicable measures to ensure their activity does not harm Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage, and applies to any activity where Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage is located. For more information on your obligations under this legislation, please visit the Department of Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Multiculturalism webpage at, www.dwatsipm.qld.gov.au.

Conditions of environmental authority

Schedule A General

Maintenance of measures, plant and equipment

(A1-1) The environmental authority holder must ensure:

- that all measures, plant and equipment necessary to ensure compliance with the conditions of this environmental authority are installed; and
- that such measures, plant and equipment are maintained in a proper condition; and
- that such measures, plant and equipment are operated in a proper manner.

Monitoring

(A2-1) Record, compile and keep for a minimum of five years all monitoring results required by this environmental authority and make available for inspection all or any of these records upon request by the administering authority.

(A2-2) Where monitoring is a requirement of this environmental authority, ensure that a competent person(s) conducts all monitoring.

Storage and handling of flammable and combustible liquids

(A3-1) Spillage of all flammable and combustible liquids must be contained within an on-site containment system and controlled in a manner that prevents environmental harm (other than trivial harm) and maintained in accordance with section 5.9 of AS 1940 – Storage and Handling of Flammable and Combustible Liquids of 1993.

Definitions

(A4-1) Words and phrases used throughout this EA are defined in the Definitions section of this authority. Where a definition for a term used in this EA is sought and the term is not defined within this EA, the definitions in the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, its Regulations and Environmental Protection Policies must be used.

Schedule B – Air

There are no conditions prescribed for this Schedule

Schedule C – Water

Release to waters

(C1-1) Receiving waters affected by the release of process water or storm water contaminated by the mining activities or both must be monitored at the locations and frequencies defined in Schedule C – Table 1 and comply with the contaminant limits defined in Schedule C – Table 2.

Schedule C – Table 1

(Receiving water monitoring locations and frequency)

Monitoring point	AMG North	AMG East	Monitoring frequency
SW1 – Tailings dam spillway	7663974	526752	Monthly when flowing
SW2 – Tailings dam runoff dam	7664998	526747	Monthly when flowing
Tailings dam ponded water	7664832	527793	Six Monthly
SW4 – Rosetta Creek	7665490	524242	Monthly when flowing
SW5 – Sugar Bag Creek	7665405	526557	Monthly when flowing
Sugar Bag Creek (Release Point 1)	7665700	526350	Opportunistic rising stage sampler at 1.8 m.
Drainage to Pit (Release Point 2)	7665094	527800	Monthly when flowing

NOTE: This does not apply to dams containing hazardous waste

Schedule C – Table 2

(Receiving water contaminant limits)

Parameter	Units	Limit Type	Contaminant Limits
pH		Range	6 – 9
Total Dissolved Solids	mg/L	Maximum	4000
Sulfate	mg/L	Maximum	1000 ¹
Arsenic	mg/L	Maximum	0.5 ¹
Cadmium	mg/L	Maximum	0.01 ¹
Copper	mg/L	Maximum	0.5 ¹
Lead	mg/L	Maximum	0.1 ¹
Mercury	mg/L	Maximum	0.002 ¹
Molybdenum	mg/L	Maximum	0.05 ¹
Selenium	mg/L	Maximum	0.02 ¹
Zinc	mg/L	Maximum	20 ¹
WAD Cyanide	mg/L	Maximum	0.2

¹ Measured as a total unfiltered concentration

NOTE: This does not apply to dams containing hazardous waste

Stream sediment contaminant levels

- (C2-1) All reasonable and practicable erosion protection measures and sediment control measures must be implemented and maintained to minimise erosion and the release of sediment.
- (C2-2) The bed of the receiving waters, affected by the release of process water and storm water contaminated by the mining activities must be monitored at the locations and frequencies defined in Schedule C – Table 3.

Schedule C – Table 3**(Receiving stream sediment monitoring locations and frequency)**

Monitoring point	AMG North	AMG East	Monitoring frequency
Sugar Bag Creek	7665702	526345	Annually
Rosetta Creek (upstream)	7668809	526448	Annually
Rosetta Creek (downstream)	TBA	TBA	Annually

- (C2-3) Subject to Condition (C2-2), if the stream sediment contaminant trigger levels defined in Schedule C - Table 4 are exceeded then environmental authority holder must complete an investigation into the potential for environmental harm and notify the administering authority within 3 months of receiving the analysis results.

Schedule C – Table 4**(Receiving stream sediment contaminant trigger levels)**

Parameter	Units	Contaminant Limits
Antimony	mg/kg	25
Arsenic	mg/kg	70
Cadmium	mg/kg	10
Chromium	mg/kg	370
Copper	mg/kg	270
Lead	mg/kg	220
Mercury	mg/kg	1
Nickel	mg/kg	52
Zinc	mg/kg	410

- (C2-4) All stream sediment sampling must be undertaken in accordance with AS 5667.1 Guidance on Sampling of Bottom Sediments 1998.

Sewage Effluent

- (C3-1) All effluent released from the treatment plant must be monitored at the frequency and for the parameters specified in Schedule C - Table 5.

Schedule C - Table 5**(Sewage effluent quality targets for dust suppression and irrigation)**

Quality characteristics	Release limit	Units	Limit type	Monitoring frequency
pH	6.5 – 8.5		range	Biannually
Free Chlorine Residual	2	mg/L	max	Biannually

Faecal Coliforms, based on the average of a minimum of five samples collected	1000	Colonies /100mL	max	Biannually
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- (C3-2) Sewage effluent used for dust suppression or irrigation must not exceed sewage effluent release limits defined in Schedule C – Table 5.
- (C3-3) Subject to Conditions (C3-1) and (C3-2), sewage effluent from sewage treatment facilities must be reused or evaporated and must not be directly released from the sewage treatment plant to any waterway.

Groundwater

- (C4-1) Groundwater, affected by the mining activities must be monitored at the locations and frequencies defined in Schedule C – Table 6.

Schedule C – Table 6
(Groundwater Monitoring Locations and Frequency)

Monitoring point	AMG North	AMG East	Surface RL(m)	Monitoring frequency
Tailings Dam monitoring bore (to be replaced)	7664981	526642	TBA	Six Monthly

- (C4-2) Subject to Condition (C4-1), groundwater contaminant limits must not exceed the contaminant limits defined in Schedule C – Table 7.

Schedule C – Table 7
(Groundwater Contaminant Trigger Levels)

Parameter	Units	Limit Type	Contaminant Limits
pH		Range	6 – 9
Total Dissolved Solids	mg/L	Maximum	4000
Sulfate	mg/L	Maximum	1000 ¹
Arsenic	mg/L	Maximum	0.5 ¹
Cadmium	mg/L	Maximum	0.01 ¹
Copper	mg/L	Maximum	0.5 ¹
Lead	mg/L	Maximum	0.1 ¹
Mercury	mg/L	Maximum	0.002 ¹
Molybdenum	mg/L	Maximum	0.05 ¹
Selenium	mg/L	Maximum	0.02 ¹
Zinc	mg/L	Maximum	20 ¹
WAD Cyanide	mg/L	Maximum	0.2

¹ Measured as a total unfiltered concentration

- (C4-3) Subject to Condition (C4-1), groundwater levels must be monitored and groundwater draw down fluctuations in excess of 2m per year, not resulting from the pumping of licensed bores, must be notified within 14 days to the administering authority following completion of monitoring.

- (C4-4) The method of water sampling required by this environmental authority must comply with that set out in the latest edition of the Environmental Protection Agency's Water Quality Sampling Manual.

Schedule D – Noise and vibration

There are no conditions prescribed for this Schedule

Schedule E – Waste

Storage of tyres

- (E1-1) Tyres stored awaiting disposal or transport for take-back and, recycling, or waste-to-energy options – should be stockpiled in volumes less than 3m in height and 200m² in area and at least 10m from any other tyre storage area.
- (E1-2) All reasonable and practicable fire prevention measures must be implemented, including removal of grass and other materials within a 10m radius of the scrap tyre storage area.

Disposal of tyres

- (E2-1) Disposing of scrap tyres resulting from the mining activities in spoil emplacements is acceptable, provided tyres are placed as deep in the spoil as reasonably practicable.
- (E2-2) Scrap tyres resulting from the mining activities disposed within the operational land must not impede saturated aquifers or compromise the stability of the consolidated landform.

Schedule F – Land

Rehabilitation landform criteria

(F1-1) All areas significantly disturbed by mining activities must be rehabilitated to a stable landform with a self-sustaining vegetation cover in accordance with Schedule F – Table 1.

Schedule F – Table 1
(Final Land Use and Rehabilitation Approval Schedule)

Tenure ID	Disturbance type	Projected surface area (ha)	Final Land Outcome
ML1107	Tailings dam	73.6	Grassland
	Infrastructure	76.5	Low Intensity Grazing
	Waste Dump	24.1	Grassland
	Exploration	26.9	Low Intensity Grazing
	Open Cut Pit	22.2	NUMA
	Stockpile Area	9.6	Low Intensity Grazing
	Village	8.4	Low Intensity Grazing
	Processing Plant	1.4	Low Intensity Grazing
	Runoff dam	5.4	Water Storage
	ROM Pad	1.9	Low Intensity Grazing

(F1-2) Progressive rehabilitation must commence when areas become available within the operational land.

(F1-3-) Complete an investigation into rehabilitation of disturbed areas and submit a report to the administering authority proposing acceptance criteria to meet the outcomes in Schedule F – Table 1 by March 2004.

Residual void outcome

(F2-1) Residual voids must not cause any serious environmental harm to land, surface waters or any recognised groundwater aquifer, other than the environmental harm constituted by the existence of the residual void itself and subject to any other condition within this environmental authority.

Dams containing hazardous waste

(F3-1) The construction or operation of any dam containing hazardous waste within the operational land must comply with Schedule F – Table 2.

Schedule F - Table 2
(Size and purpose of dams containing hazardous waste)

Name of dam containing hazardous waste⁽¹⁾	Maximum surface area of dam (ha)	Maximum surface area of dam (m³)	Maximum depth of dam (m)⁽²⁾	Purpose of dam⁽³⁾
Tailings Storage	71	9,300,000	26	Containment of tailings
Wirralie Run-off Dam	4.7	450,000	7	Run-off from catchment containing plant site
Pit A	10.8	1,500,000	75	Containment of pit water
Pit B	5.3	250,000 (approx)	20	Containment of pit water

(F3-2) Any dam containing hazardous waste constructed or operated within the operational land must be located within the control points defined in Schedule F – Table 3.

Schedule F – Table 3
(Location of dams containing hazardous waste)

Name of dam containing hazardous waste⁽¹⁾	Latitude⁽⁴⁾ (GDA 94)	Longitude⁽⁴⁾ (GDA 94)
Tailings Storage	7664832 Additional boundary points to be identified	527793 Additional boundary points to be identified
Wirralie Run-off Dam	7665011 Additional boundary points to be identified	526713 Additional boundary points to be identified
Pit A	7665172 Additional boundary points to be identified	527128 Additional boundary points to be identified
Pit B	7665297 Additional boundary points to be identified	527094 Additional boundary points to be identified

Note⁽⁴⁾: A minimum of 3 control points is required to constrain the location of all activities associated with the dam containing hazardous waste. Additional infrastructure which forms part of any dam containing hazardous waste may include appurtenant works consisting of tailings discharge pipelines, seepage collection systems, runoff diversion bunds, containment systems, pressure relief wells, decant and recycle water systems.

(F3-3) The holder of the environmental authority must design, construct and operate all high-hazard dams containing hazardous waste in accordance with the Code of Environmental Compliance for High Hazard Dams Containing Hazardous Waste.

(F3-4) The holder of the environmental authority must design, construct and operate all low-hazard dams containing hazardous waste and non-hazardous dams in accordance with the criteria outlined in Appendix B of the Code of Environmental of Mining Activities.

Infrastructure

(F4-1) All infrastructure, constructed by or for the environmental authority holder during the mining activities including water storage structures, must be removed from the site prior to mining lease surrender, except where agreed in writing by the post mining land owner / holder.

Note: This is not applicable where the landowner / holder is also the environmental authority holder.

Schedule G – Community

Complaint response

- (G1-1) All complaints received must be recorded including details of complainant, reasons for the complaint, investigations undertaken, conclusions formed and actions taken. This information must be made available for inspection by the administering authority on request.

Definitions

“acceptance criteria” means the measures by which the actions implemented to rehabilitate the land are deemed to be complete. The acceptance criteria indicate the success of the rehabilitation outcome or remediation of areas which have been significantly disturbed by the mining activities. Acceptance criteria may include information regarding:

- vegetation establishment, survival and succession;
- vegetation productivity, sustained growth and structure development;
- fauna colonisation and habitat development;
- ecosystem processes such as soil development and nutrient cycling, and the recolonisation of specific fauna groups such as collembola, mites and termites which are involved in these processes;
- microbiological studies including recolonisation by mycorrhizal fungi, microbial biomass and respiration;
- effects of various establishment treatments such as deep ripping, topsoil handling, seeding and fertiliser application on vegetation growth and development;
- resilience of vegetation to disease, insect attack, drought and fire;
- vegetation water use and effects on ground water levels and catchment yields.

“airblast overpressure” means energy transmitted from the blast site within the atmosphere in the form of pressure waves. The maximum excess pressure in this wave, above ambient pressure is the peak airblast overpressure measured in decibels linear (dB).

“ambient (or total) noise” at a place, means the level of noise at the place from all sources (near and far), measured as the Leq for an appropriate time interval.

“competent person” means a person with the demonstrated skill and knowledge required to carry out the task to a standard necessary for the reliance upon collected data or protection of the environment.

“authority” means environmental authority (mining activities) under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.

“blasting” means the use of explosive materials to fracture-

- a) rock, coal and other minerals for later recovery; or
- b) structural components or other items to facilitate removal from a site or for reuse.

“commercial place” means a work place used as an office or for business or commercial purposes, which is not part of the mining activity and does not include employees accommodation or public roads.

“dam” means a containment or proposed containment whether permanent or temporary, which is designed to contain, divert or control flowable substances. However, this does not include a fabricated or manufactured tank or container designed to a recognised standard.

“environmental authority holder” means the holder of this environmental authority.

“hazardous waste” means any substance, whether liquid, solid or gaseous, derived by or resulting from, the processing of minerals that tends to destroy life or impair or endanger health.

“ L_{A10} , adj, 10 mins” means the A-weighted sound pressure level, (adjusted for tonal character and impulsiveness of the sound) exceeded for 10% of any 10-minute measurement period, using Fast response.

“ L_A 1, adj, 10 mins” means the A-weighted sound pressure level, (adjusted for tonal character and impulsiveness of the sound) exceeded for 1% of any 10-minute measurement period, using Fast response.

“ $L_{A, max}$ adj, T” means the average maximum A-weighted sound pressure level, adjusted for noise character and measured over any 10 minute period, using Fast response.

“land” in the land schedule” of this document means land excluding waters and the atmosphere.

“land capability” as defined in the DME 1995 Technical Guidelines for the Environmental Management of Exploration and Mining in Queensland.

“land suitability” as defined in the DME 1995 Technical Guidelines for the Environmental Management of Exploration and Mining in Queensland.

“land use” term to describe the selected post mining use of the land, which is planned to occur after the cessation of mining operations.

“mandatory reporting level” means the volume below the spillway crest, equivalent to the lower of the AEP, 72 hour storm or the AEP wave allowance (AEP is the annual exceedance probability).

“mineral” means a substance which normally occurs naturally as part of the earth's crust or is dissolved or suspended in water within or upon the earth's crust and includes a substance which may be extracted from such a substance, and includes—

- a) clay if mined for use for its ceramic properties, kaolin and bentonite;
- b) foundry sand;
- c) hydrocarbons and other substances or matter occurring in association with shale or coal and necessarily mined, extracted, produced or released by or in connection with mining for shale or coal or for the purpose of enhancing the safety of current or future mining operations for coal or the extraction or production of mineral oil therefrom;
- d) limestone if mined for use for its chemical properties;
- e) marble;
- f) mineral oil or gas extracted or produced from shale or coal by in situ processes;
- g) peat;
- h) salt including brine;
- i) shale from which mineral oil may be extracted or produced;
- j) silica, including silica sand, if mined for use for its chemical properties;
- k) rock mined in block or slab form for building or monumental purposes;

but does not include—

- l) living matter;
- m) petroleum within the meaning of the *Petroleum Act 1923*;
- n) soil, sand, gravel or rock (other than rock mined in block or slab form for building or monumental purposes) to be used or to be supplied for use as such, whether intact or in broken form;
- o) water.

“noxious” means harmful or injurious to health or physical well being, other than trivial harm.

“non-standard” means a mining operation that if in the opinion of the administering authority does not have a low risk of serious environmental harm and the activities can not comply with the criteria for standard mining activities prescribed in schedule 1A of the *Environmental Protection Regulation 1998*. The standard mining activity trigger criteria are as follows;

- the mining activities do not or will not cause more than 10 ha of land to be significantly disturbed at any one time;
- the mining activities do not or will not cause more than 5 ha of land to be significantly disturbed at any one time;
 - a) in a riverine area;
 - b) because of mine workings;
- the mining activities are not or will not be carried out in, or within 2 km of a category A Environmentally Sensitive Area;
- the mining activities are not or will not be carried out in, or within 1 km of a category B environmentally sensitive area;
- the mining activities do not include a level 1 environmentally relevant activity
- no more than 20 persons are carrying out or will, at any one time, carry out the mining activities;

“offensive” means causing reasonable offence or displeasure; is disagreeable to the sense; disgusting, nauseous or repulsive, other than trivial harm.

“peak particle velocity (ppv)” means a measure of ground vibration magnitude which is the maximum rate of change of ground displacement with time, usually measured in millimetres/second (mms-1).

“protected area” means – a protected area under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*; or

- a marine park under the *Marine Parks Act 1992*; or
- a World Heritage Area.

“progressive rehabilitation” means rehabilitation (defined below) undertaken progressively or a staged approach to rehabilitation as mining operations are ongoing.

“reference site” (or analogue site) may reflect the original location, adjacent area or another area where rehabilitation success has been completed for a similar biodiversity. Details of the reference site may be as photographs, computer generated images and vegetation models etc.

“rehabilitation” the process of reshaping and revegetating land to restore it to a stable landform and in accordance with the acceptance criteria set out in this environmental authority and, where relevant, includes remediation of contaminated land.

“representative” means a sample set which covers the variance in monitoring or other data either due to natural changes or operational phases of the mining activities.

“residual void” means an open pit resulting from the removal of ore and/or waste rock which will remain following the cessation of all mining activities and completion of rehabilitation processes.

“self sustaining” means an area of land which has been rehabilitated and has maintained the required acceptance criteria without human intervention for a period nominated by the administering authority.

“sensitive place” means;

- a dwelling, residential allotment, mobile home or caravan park, residential marina or other residential premises; or
- a motel, hotel or hostel; or
- an educational institution; or
- a medical centre or hospital; or
- a protected area under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, the *Marine Parks Act 1992* or a World Heritage Area; or
- a public park or gardens.

“significant disturbance” — includes land

- a) if it is contaminated land; or
- b) it has been disturbed and human intervention is needed to rehabilitate it.
 - i. to a state required under the relevant environmental authority; or
 - ii. if the environmental authority does not require the land to be rehabilitated to a particular state —to its state immediately before the disturbance.

Some examples of disturbed land include:

- areas where soil has been compacted, removed, covered, exposed or stockpiled;
- areas where vegetation has been removed or destroyed to an extent where the land has been made susceptible to erosion; (vegetation & topsoil)
- areas where land use suitability or capability has been diminished;
- areas within a watercourse, waterway, wetland or lake where mining activities occur;
- areas submerged by tailings or hazardous contaminant storage and dam walls in all cases;
- areas under temporary infrastructure. Temporary infrastructure includes any infrastructure (roads, tracks, bridges, culverts, dams, bores, buildings, fixed machinery, hardstand areas, airstrips, helipads etc) which is to be removed after mining activities have ceased; or
- areas where land has been contaminated and a suitability statement has not been issued.

However, the following areas are not included:

- areas off lease (e.g. roads or tracks which provide access to the mining lease);
- areas previously significantly disturbed which have achieved the rehabilitation outcomes;
- by agreement with the EPA, areas previously significantly disturbed which have not achieved the rehabilitation objective(s) due to circumstances beyond the control of the mine operator (such as climatic conditions);
- areas under permanent infrastructure. Permanent infrastructure includes any infrastructure (roads, tracks, bridges, culverts, dams, bores, buildings, fixed machinery, hardstand areas, airstrips, helipads etc) which is to be left by agreement with the landowner. The agreement to leave permanent infrastructure must be recorded in the Landowner Agreement and lodged with the EPA;
- disturbances that pre-existed the grant of the tenure unless those areas are disturbed during the term of the tenure.

“spillway” means passage or outlet from the dam through which surplus water flows.

“stable” means geotechnical stability of the rehabilitated landform where instability related to the excessive settlement and subsidence caused by consolidation settlement of the wastes deposited, and sliding / slumping instability has ceased.

“trivial harm” means environmental harm which is not material or serious environmental harm and will not cause actual or potential loss or damage to property of an amount of, or amounts totalling more than \$5,000.

“watercourse” - Means a river, creek or stream in which water flows permanently or intermittently in a visibly defined channel (natural, artificial or artificially improved) with:

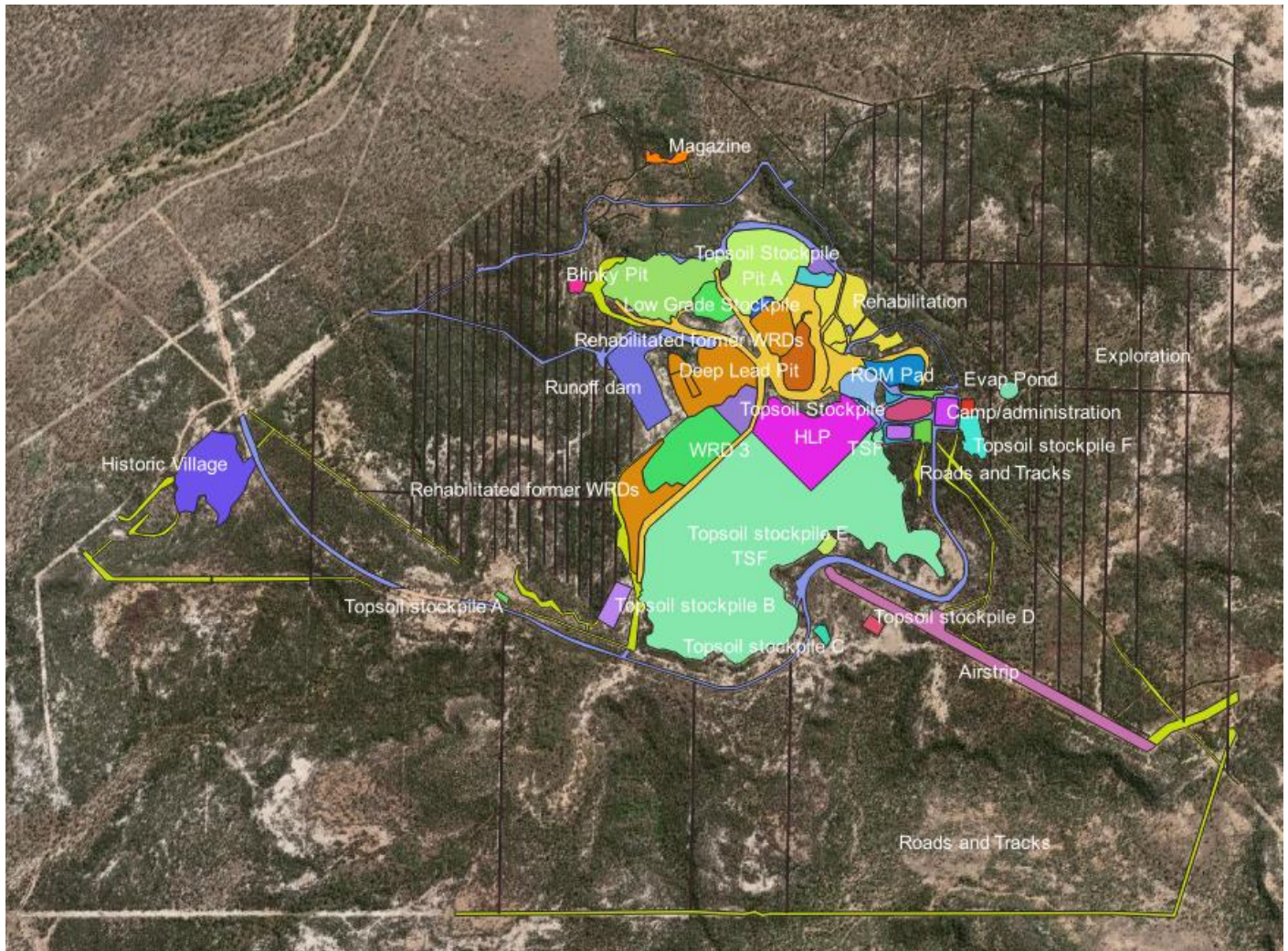
- a) continuous bed and banks;
- b) And extended period of flow for some months after rain ceases, and
- c) An adequacy of flow that sustains basic ecological processes and maintains biodiversity.

“waters” includes river, stream, lake, lagoon, pond, swamp, wetland, unconfined surface water, bed and bank of any waters, dams, non-tidal or tidal waters (including the sea) or any part thereof.

Appendices

Appendix 1 Maps

Figure 1 - Authorised disturbance areas



END OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORITY