

# Permit

*Environmental Protection Act 1994*

**Environmental authority EPPR00826013**

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

**Environmental authority number: EPPR00826013**

**Environmental authority takes effect on 04 September 2020**

**Environmental authority holder(s)**

Name(s)	Registered address
Mt Coolon Gold Mines Pty Ltd	Endeavour Corporate, Suite 8 7 The Esplanade MOUNT PLEASANT WA 6153

**Environmentally relevant activity and location details**

Environmentally relevant activity/activities	Location(s)
Schedule 3 09: A mining activity involving drilling, costeaning, pitting or carrying out geological surveys causing significant disturbance	EPM15902

**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 contaminated land give written notice to the administering authority if they become aware of the following:

- the happening of an event involving a hazardous contaminant on the contaminated land (notice must be given within 24 hours); or
- a change in the condition of the contaminated land (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 contaminated land (notice must be given within 20 business days);

that is causing, or is reasonably likely to cause, serious or material environmental harm.

For further information, including the form for giving written notice, refer to the Queensland Government website [www.qld.gov.au](http://www.qld.gov.au), using the search term 'duty to notify'.

#### Take effect

Please note that, in accordance with section 200 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, if the EA is authorising an activity that requires an additional authorisation (a relevant tenure for a resource activity, a development permit under the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009* or an SDA Approval under the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971*), this EA will not take effect until the additional authorisation has taken 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.

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 environmental authority.

Rebecca McAuley  
Department of Environment and Science  
Delegate of the administering authority  
*Environmental Protection Act 1994*

**Enquiries:**  
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**Date issued: 04 September 2020**

**Obligations under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994***

In addition to the requirements found in the conditions of this environmental authority, 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 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)

## Schedule A – General

- (A1) The environmental authority does not take effect until the grant of the tenure to the environmental authority holder, or until each environmental authority holder has become a holder, under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989*, of each of the relevant mining tenements.
- (A2) The conditions of this environmental authority are in force until a surrender of the authority is accepted pursuant to the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*. The conditions apply unless an amendment is approved pursuant to the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.
- (A3) The environmental authority holder must comply with each of the Standard Environmental Conditions contained in the *Code of Environmental Compliance for Exploration and Mineral Development Projects* (January 2001), except Condition 13, and only to the extent permitted by the conditions in this environmental authority.
- (A4) If there is any inconsistency between a standard environmental condition referred to in (A3) and an additional condition in this environmental authority, the additional condition prevails to the extent of inconsistency.

### **Financial assurance**

- (A5) Provide a financial assurance in the amount and form required by the administering authority prior to the commencement of activities proposed under this environmental authority.

NOTE: The calculation of financial assurance for condition (A5) must be in accordance with Guideline 17 and may include a performance discount. The amount is defined as the maximum total rehabilitation cost for complete rehabilitation of all disturbed areas, which may vary on an annual basis due to progressive rehabilitation. The amount required for the financial assurance must be the highest Total Rehabilitation Cost calculated for any year of the Plan of Operations and calculated using the formula: (Financial Assurance = Highest Total Annual Rehabilitation Cost x Percentage Required).

- (A6) The financial assurance is to remain in force until the administering authority is satisfied that no claim on the assurance is likely.

NOTE: Where progressive rehabilitation is completed and acceptable to the administering authority, progressive reductions to the amount of financial assurance will be applicable where rehabilitation has been completed in accordance with the acceptance criteria defined within this environmental authority.

### **Maintenance of measures, plant and equipment**

- (A7) 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**

- (A8) 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.
- (A9) 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**

(A10) 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**

(A11) Words and phrases used throughout this EA are defined in Schedule H – Definitions. 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.

**Exception Reporting**

- (A12) The administering authority must be notified by telephone or facsimile as soon as practicable after becoming aware of:
- any emergency or incident which results in the release of contaminants not in accordance, or reasonably expected to be not in accordance with the conditions of this environmental authority; or
  - any monitoring result that indicates an exceedance of any limit specified in this environmental authority.
- (A13) The holder of this authority must notify the administering authority in writing of any monitoring result which indicates an exceedance of any limit within seven (7) days of completion of analysis.
- (A14) The written notification required by condition (A13) must include:
- the full analysis results; and
  - details of investigation or corrective actions taken; and
  - any subsequent analysis.

**Schedule B – Air****Dust nuisance**

- (B1) All drilling equipment will be fitted with appropriate dust control devices such as cyclone extractors and bag filters to minimise fugitive dust emissions and to protect the health and safety of drilling contractors.
- (B2) Any dust nuisance complaint will be investigated by conducting appropriate air quality monitoring in accordance with AS 3580.10.1 : 2003; *Methods for sampling and analysis of ambient air – Determination of particulates – Deposited Matter – Gravimetric Method*. Background and impact levels will be measured and compared taking account of prevailing weather conditions throughout the monitoring period.

**Schedule C – Water****Release to waters**

- (C1) Receiving waters affected by the exploration activities 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	Latitude (GDA 94)	Longitude (GDA 94)	Monitoring frequency
Eugenia U/S	541274	763822	Each flow event and monthly during sustained flows
Eugenia D/S	538433	763794	Each flow event and monthly during sustained flows

Schedule C - Table 2 (Receiving water contaminant limits)

Parameter	Units	Maximum
Oil and Grease	mg/L	10
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	mg/L	Background + 10%

- (C2) No trenching will be conducted within three metres of the crest of the bank of a water course indicated on the relevant 1:100 000 topographical mapsheet. Drill pads will be kept to the practical minimum to accommodate the drilling rig and ancillary equipment and will be accessed from existing disturbed areas.
- (C3) Upslope surface runoff will be diverted around drill pads and other disturbed areas, and runoff from the disturbed areas will be directed through constructed brush barriers to filter out transported material.
- (C4) Drilling contractors will be required to carry spill kits to deal with hydraulic hose failures and spillage of fuels and lubricants.

### Schedule D – Noise and Vibration

Nil.

### Schedule E – Waste

- (E1) All wastes generated in course of exploration program must be recovered and properly disposed of at a licensed landfill.

## Schedule F – Land

- (F1) The holder of this environmental authority must rehabilitate all areas disturbed under Exploration Permits for Minerals (EPM) 9080, 9981, 11814, 12112, 12257, 12526, 9310, 13114, 13155 & 13156 that has occurred since the granting of these tenures under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989*, prior to the surrender of this environmental authority.
- (F2) The following conditions apply to standard mining activities conducted within the areas of EPM15902:
- (F3) The environmental authority holder is authorised, subject to conditions of this authority, to carry out standard mining activities on the relevant tenement in, or within 500m of, any endangered regional ecosystems.
- (F4) Where carrying out activities in endangered regional ecosystems as permitted by (F3) the environmental authority holder must do so in accordance with the following conditions:

### **Disturbance Area**

1. ERE Remnant Patch
  - 1.1 within the relevant exploration tenement the total disturbance area within an ERE remnant patch is to constitute a loss of no more than 1% of the relevant ERE remnant patch; or
  - 1.2 within the relevant exploration tenement activities are to disturb no more than 10% of the relevant ERE remnant patch and disturbance areas are to be rehabilitated in accordance with EPA rehabilitation requirements.

### **Site Access**

2. Drilling or Seismic Grid
  - 2.1 spacing of gridlines is such that compliance with the above Disturbance Area / ERE Remnant Patch criteria is attained.
3. Drill sites
  - 3.1. operational area is no greater than 1000m<sup>2</sup>.
  - 3.2. sump size is no greater than 10m<sup>2</sup>.
  - 3.3. topsoil stripping is limited to sump area.
  - 3.4. clearing of mature trees is prevented or minimised.
4. Tracks
  - 4.1. spacing between tracks must not be less than 250m.
  - 4.2. existing access and fence line tracks are used where possible and any new tracks are constructed by linking natural clearings where possible.
  - 4.3. track construction involving blade clearing of established ground cover vegetation and/or clearing of mature trees is prevented or minimised.
  - 4.4. line of sight clearing is prevented or minimised.
  - 4.5. construction of new crossings of major natural drainage lines is prevented or minimised.
5. Other Land Disturbance
  - 5.1. exploration does not involve costeaning or bulk sampling in areas of EREs except within pre-existing gridlines.
  - 5.2. establishing exploration camps will not involve clearing of EREs.

### **Equipment use**

6. Rubber tyred low ground pressure vehicles and machinery is used where possible.
7. Transport of weeds on vehicles and machinery is prevented.

- (F5) In regard to complying with Standard Environmental Condition 42, the environmental authority holder must spread seeds or plant species that will promote vegetation of a similar species and density of cover to that of the pre disturbed areas, within the areas identified as endangered regional ecosystem.
- (F6) Vegetation removed in the course of exploration activities will be windrowed to intercept runoff and filter out transported soil material, and will later be respread to facilitate the rehabilitation of the sites. As necessary, “whoa-boys” will be constructed at regular intervals along access tracks which are of sufficient grade to promote accelerated erosion. Mature trees that will serve the role of a natural seed source will be actively protected (marked and instructions given) to ensure their survival to facilitate natural regeneration of the areas.
- (F7) No activity, other than minimal impact manual sampling etc., will be carried out within ERE areas without first acquiring the approval from the relevant Authorities of submitted management plans. The plans must provide for the protection of ERE values consistent with the current policy as outlined in the Information Sheet titled “Mining in or Near Endangered Regional Ecosystems”.
- (F8) All management plans will be based on site specific maps of local ecosystem resources developed at an appropriate scale, and of sufficient detail, to ensure the optimum protection of those resources. All ERE areas subjected to minor, recoverable impacts will be rehabilitated in a manner to restore the ERE values by using flora species that comprise the major components of the ERE, such as brigalow and Dawson gum.
- (F9) Mining activities undertaken must be consistent with the “*Environmental Management Plan EPM 15902 December 2007*” and with the schedule of works proposed in the figure entitled “*Plan of Proposed Drill Holes at Eugenia Prospect*”.
- (F10) Areas disturbed in the course of conducting exploration will be rehabilitated within 12 months of completion of the exploration activities.
- (F11) All areas disturbed by the exploration activities must be rehabilitated to a stable landform with a self-sustaining cover of similar species composition and density of ground cover to that of surrounding undisturbed areas.

## Schedule G – Community

### *Complaint response*

- (G1) 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.



## Schedule H - 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 been 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.

“**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.

“**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.

“**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<sub>A</sub> 10, 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<sub>A</sub> 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<sub>A, max adj, T</sub>**” 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 exceedence 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 ( $\text{mms}^{-1}$ ).

“**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 center 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) an 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.

## END OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORITY