

Environmental authority EPVX00515113

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

Permit¹ number: EPVX00515113

Environmental authority takes effect 5 May 2015

The anniversary date of the environmental authority is 29 January

Environmental authority holder(s)

Name	Registered address
Springsure Mining Pty Limited	Suite C2, The Boardwalk 1 Honeysuckle Drive NEWCASTLE NSW 2300

Environmentally relevant activity and location details

Environmentally relevant activity(ies)	Location(s)
Mining – Exploration Permit Coal Mining – Mineral Development License	EPC1674 MDL3002

Additional information for applicants

Environmentally relevant activities

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

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

¹ Permit includes licences, approvals, permits, authorisations, certificates, sanctions or equivalent/similar as required by legislation

Contaminated land

It is a requirement of the EP Act that if an owner or occupier of land becomes aware a notifiable activity (as defined in Schedule 3 and Schedule 4) is being carried out on the land, or that the land has been, or is being, contaminated by a hazardous contaminant, the owner or occupier must, within 22 business days after becoming so aware, give written notice to the chief executive.


Signature

Christopher Loveday
Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
Delegate of the administering authority
Environmental Protection Act 1994


Date

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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); and
- offence to place contaminant where environmental harm or nuisance may be caused (section 443).

Conditions of environmental authority

With the exception of any variations, the conditions of approval for this environmental authority include standard conditions contained within the:

- *Code of environmental compliance for exploration and mineral development projects (EM586)*.

Variations to the standard conditions include:

- Condition 13

The environmentally relevant activity(ies) conducted at the location as described above must be conducted in accordance with the following site specific conditions of approval:

Agency interest: General	
Condition number	Condition
A1	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.
A2	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 rehabilitation conditions specified in this environmental authority.
A3	For exploration activities the environmental authority holder must comply with each of the standard environmental conditions contained in the <i>Code of Environmental Compliance for Exploration and Mineral Development Projects (EM586)</i> , except Condition 13, which is replaced by the conditions of this authority.
A4	If there is any inconsistency between a standard environmental condition and an additional condition in this environmental authority, the additional condition prevails to the extent of any inconsistency.

Agency interest: Land	
Condition number	Condition
B1	The environmental authority holder must not carry out activities in a Category A or B Environmentally Sensitive Areas. Activities involving machinery must not be carried out within 1km of a Category A Environmentally Sensitive Areas.
B2	Exploration Drilling Program – within 500m of any Category B Environmentally Sensitive Areas The environmental authority holder is authorised to carry out exploration mining activities on EPC1674 and MDL3002 within 500 metres of any Category B Environmentally Sensitive Areas in accordance with Table B1: Authorised disturbance within 500m of any Category B Environmentally Sensitive Areas and illustrated in Attachment 1 – Location of drill holes (EPC1674 and MDL3002) within 500m of any Category B Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA).

Table B1: Authorised disturbance within 500m of any Category B Environmentally Sensitive Areas

Activity	Limitation of activity within 500m buffer of Category B Environmentally Sensitive Area	Maximum footprint of disturbance permitted for each activity within 500m buffer of Category B Environmentally Sensitive Area	Maximum disturbance authorised within 500m of Category B Environmental Sensitive Area
Exploration Drill Holes	15	625m² per drill pad 200mm diameter per drill pad 10m² sumps	0.9375ha

B3	The environmental authority holder must avoid clearing mature trees when undertaking drilling activities within 500m buffer of any Category B ESA.
B4	Seismic surveys The environmental authority holder is not authorised to undertake seismic surveying within the 500m buffer of any Category B ESA.
B5	Access tracks and roads Existing access and fence line tracks must be used when entering 500m buffer of any Category B ESA. New tracks may only be constructed with approval of the administering authority.
B6	Tracks constructed within 500m buffer of any Category B ESA must be less than 3m in width.

B7	No clearing of trees for access tracks to boreholes will take place within the 500m buffer of any Category B ESA.
B8	Authorised track construction within the 500m buffer of any Category B ESA must involve only blade clearing of established vegetation.
B9	Tracks should not be used when soil is saturated and prone to displacement or erosion by vehicle movement.
B10	Other land disturbance Activities must not include costeaning or bulk sampling.
B11	All equipment such as earthmoving and drilling equipment must be used in a manner which prevents the spread of weeds and minimises unnecessary disturbance of topsoil and ground cover vegetation.
B12	Prior to entering any area which is within the 500m buffer of any Category B ESA all vehicles, machinery and equipment must be washed down and hold a current Weed Hygiene Declaration.
B13	Campsites must not be established within a Category B ESA or within the 500m buffer of any Category B ESA.
B14	All waste must be removed and disposed of offsite.
B15	Burning of vegetation is not permitted.
B16	Rehabilitation & reporting Rehabilitation of areas disturbed within the 500m buffer of a Category B ESA must commence as soon as practicable to the extent that erosion impacts are minimised, and be completed as soon as practicable but no longer than three (3) months after completion of the disturbance activity.
B17	Rehabilitation must be undertaken in accordance with requirements of the <i>Code of Environmental Compliance for Exploration and Mineral Development Projects (EM586)</i> , and to the satisfaction of the administering authority.
B18	An annual report must be prepared each year and submitted with each annual return. The report must include a map identifying all exploration activities undertaken within 500m of any Category B ESA to date. The map is to clearly distinguish between proposed, completed and rehabilitated mining activities to demonstrate compliance with this environmental authority.

Definitions

Words and phrases used throughout this environmental authority are defined in the Definitions section of this authority. Where a definition for a term used in this environmental authority is sought and the term is not defined within this environmental authority, the definitions in the *Code of Environmental Compliance for Exploration and Mineral Development Projects (EM586)* and the definitions in the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, its regulations and policies must be used.

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

“borehole” means either an artesian bore or a subartesian bore.

“costeaning” The digging of a trench or pit across the seam or ore body for exposing, sampling and mapping of the ore body.

“endangered regional ecosystem” means a regional ecosystem identified as endangered in the database maintained by the administering authority called ‘Regional ecosystem description database’ containing regional ecosystem numbers and descriptions.

“environmental authority” means a licence or approval issued by the administering authority under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.

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

“Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA)” refers to locations, however large or small, that have environmental values that contribute to maintaining biological diversity and integrity have intrinsic or attributed scientific, historical or cultural heritage value, or are important in providing amenity, harmony or sense of community. Refer to Appendix A of *Code of Environmental Compliance for Exploration and Mineral Development Projects*.

“general waste” Schedule 12 of the *Environmental Protection Regulation 2008* defines general waste as “means waste other than regulated waste”. Waste rock, overburden and the contents of tailings dams are not included in the definition of general waste for the purposes of these conditions.

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

“rehabilitation processes” The measures and actions taken to achieve rehabilitation outcomes, including any or all of the following:

- removing all unwanted infrastructure;
- backfilling mine excavations (e.g. pits) and capping drill holes;
- reshaping the land surface to a stable landform similar to that of surrounding undisturbed areas;
- spreading of topsoil;
- spreading seed or planting seedlings to promote revegetation;
- benching ridge cuts and removing any overhanging material.

“subartesian bore” includes a shaft, well, gallery, spear or excavation, and any works constructed in connection with the shaft, well, gallery or excavation, that taps an aquifer and the water does not flow and never has flowed naturally to the surface.

“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.

END OF PERMIT

Attachments

- *Code of environmental compliance for exploration and mineral development projects (EM586)*



Attachment 1 – Location of drill holes (EPC1674 and MDL3002) within 500m of any Category B Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA)

