

Notice

Environmental Protection Act 1994

Environmental Evaluation

Notice to conduct or commission an environmental evaluation

This notice to conduct or commission an environmental evaluation is issued by the administering authority pursuant to section 326B of the Environmental Protection Act 1994.

Carpentaria Gold Pty Ltd
4th Floor, BGC Centre
28 The Esplanade
Perth WA 6000

Your reference: EPML00979013 (formerly MIN102515111)

Our reference: STAT1103; 101/0008140

Take notice: that under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (the Act) a notice to conduct or commission an environmental investigation is issued to Carpentaria Gold Pty Ltd (you) by the administering authority. The administering authority is the Chief Executive of the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (the department).

The notice to conduct or commission an environmental investigation is issued in respect of the activities of Carpentaria Gold Pty Ltd at the Ravenswood Mine Site on land described as mining leases (ML) 1337, ML1338, ML1379, ML1380, ML1394, ML1395, ML1412, ML1416, ML1417, ML1418, ML1435, ML1451, ML1452, ML1532, ML1574, ML1639, ML1640, ML1682, ML1692, ML1722, ML1736, ML1753, ML10039, ML10040, ML10041, ML10170 and ML10237 (the **Mine**).

A. Grounds

The notice to conduct or commission an environmental investigation is issued on the following grounds:

- Under section 326B of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, it has been determined that an activity is causing, or is likely to cause environmental harm.

The facts and circumstances forming the basis for these grounds are:

- Carpentaria Gold Pty Ltd (**CG**) holds environmental authority EPML00979013 (**EA**) which authorises mining activities on mining leases (ML) 1337, ML1338, ML1379, ML1380, ML1394, ML1395, ML1412, ML1416, ML1417, ML1418, ML1435, ML1451, ML1452, ML1532, ML1574, ML1639, ML1640, ML1682, ML1692, ML1722, ML1736, ML1753, ML10039, ML10040, ML10041, ML10170 and ML10237 (the **Mine**).
- An environmental investigation (**EI**) report completed by CG was accepted by the department on 12 July 2013. This EI related to identifying the source, cause and extent of contamination in Sandy Creek resulting from activities conducted at the Mine. The EI focussed on and further confirmed the occurrence of contaminated seepage from the Nolans Tailings Storage Facility (**NTSF**) to Sandy Creek.

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3. The department considers that the activities conducted at the Mine have caused or are likely to cause the release of contaminants to receiving waters including groundwater, based on the facts and circumstances detailed below:
 - a) Supporting information provided by CG accompanying an environmental authority amendment application lodged on 30 September 2016 (the **Application**) indicated that contaminated seepage is being or has been released from the NTSF to groundwater.
 - b) Review of groundwater monitoring data provided by CG to the department in support of the Application identifies a number of trends in contaminant concentrations that indicate contamination of groundwater due to activities undertaken at the Mine both in the vicinity of the NTSF and at other locations where mine waste is stored.
 - c) Review of the aforementioned groundwater quality data identified elevated concentrations of sulfate, TDS, boron, manganese, uranium, cyanide and copper that exceeded water quality indicators values from published guidelines including the *Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality* (2000) stock drinking water or aquatic ecosystem 95% species protection levels.
 - d) The contaminants specified above have the potential to cause environmental harm if applicable guideline levels are exceeded by adversely impacting upon environmental values of waters, including groundwater.

Based on the facts and circumstances detailed above, the department considers that an environmental investigation is necessary to determine the source, cause and extent of groundwater contamination caused by the mining activity; the potential for environmental harm; and the remedial measures necessary to prevent or minimise impacts to environmental values. |

B. Requirements

The report on the environmental |investigation| must address the following relevant matters:

1. |Identify the source of all contaminants that are being or have been released from the Mine to the receiving environment. This investigation must include but not be limited to the following areas at the Mine:
 - a) All tailings storage facilities, including the Nolans Tailings Storage Facility* and the Sandy Creek Tailings Storage Facility*; and,
 - b) All dams, storages and ponds containing contaminated water, including the Sarsfield Pit*, Nolans Pit* and Process water pond*; and,
 - c) All waste rock dumps, including the Sarsfield waste rock dump* and Nolans waste rock dump*.

*Note: These areas/infrastructure are defined in the EA.
2. Determine the types and concentrations of contaminants that are being or have been released to receiving waters due to activities conducted at the Mine.
3. Identify and describe the pathways/mechanisms for release of contaminants to receiving waters due to activities conducted at the Mine.
4. Determine the lateral and vertical geographical extents of contaminants released to receiving waters due to activities conducted at the Mine.
5. Identify all environmental values applicable to receiving waters in accordance with the EPP Water.

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6. Determine the potential or actual impacts to environmental values of receiving waters due to contaminants released from the Mine in accordance with the EPP Water and published water quality guidelines.
7. Identify all potential options and estimate corresponding implementation timeframes and cost estimates for:
 - a) The prevention of further contaminant releases from the Mine to receiving waters not in accordance with the EA; and
 - b) Remedial measures to reduce contaminant concentrations in receiving waters and ensure all environmental values are protected.
8. Where actual and potential impacts to an environmental value/s of receiving waters are identified, propose sufficient preventive and remedial measures to ensure protection of all environmental values in accordance with the EPP Water.
9. Review conditions of the EA in consideration of the findings from this environmental investigation and determine:
 - a) Appropriate monitoring requirements, including proposed monitoring bore locations in accordance with ANZECC 2000 methodology, to enable any potential impacts to waters from activities conducted at the Mine to be identified; and
 - b) Water quality objectives and trigger levels that can be applied at monitoring bore locations to ensure protection of all environmental values of receiving waters in accordance with the EPP Water and ANZECC 2000.
10. By 17 March 2017, provide a detailed design document for the investigation including an implementation schedule.
11. From 22 December 2016, provide interim reports on the progress of the investigation with reference to the implementation schedule at a frequency of once every six months.
12. The environmental report must include:
 - a) The methodology applied in conducting this investigation, including any assumptions relied upon and their justification;
 - b) The results of any studies, assessments or analyses that were carried out during this investigation; and
 - c) The outcomes and findings of the investigation, including justification for any conclusions.
13. The requirements of this investigation must be completed in accordance with advice from a suitably qualified person.

Definitions

The following definitions apply to the requirements of this environmental investigation:

ANZECC 2000 means the 'Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality (2000)' produced by the Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council or most recent version.

contaminant is defined in the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* and may include pH, total dissolved solids, electrical conductivity, sulfate, cyanide, nitrogen, metals and metalloids.

ensure protection with regard to environmental values means to ensure protection in accordance with the provisions of the EPP Water.

EPP Water means the *Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 2009*.

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EA means the most recently approved environmental authority EPML00979013 issued to Carpentaria Gold Pty Ltd.

published water quality guidelines means the QWQ guidelines, the AWQ guidelines and any other document that meets the definition under section 7 of the EPP Water.

receiving waters means all waters potentially impacted by the mining activity, including all groundwater, Sandy Creek, Plumtree Creek, Suhrs Creek and Elphinstone Creek.

suitably qualified person means a person who has professional qualifications, training, skills or experience relevant to the nominated subject matter and can give authoritative assessment, advice and analysis on performance relating to the subject matter using the relevant protocols, standards, methods or literature.

The environmental report must be submitted to the department on or before:

- **6 January 2019;** and
- Be prepared by a suitably qualified person.

As the recipient of this notice, you are also required to provide a statutory declaration in the form attached, to accompany the environmental report submitted to the department. The suitably qualified person who prepares the environmental report must also provide a statutory declaration in the form attached to accompany the environmental report submitted to the department.

You can view an electronic version of the statutory declaration for a recipient using the following search term ([ESR/2016/1997](#)).¹

An electronic version of the statutory declaration for a suitably qualified person form is available using the search term ([ESR/2016/2266](#)).

Take notice:

1. the requirements of the notice to conduct or commission an environmental investigation take effect immediately upon service of this notice;
2. this notice remains in force until further notice from the department; and
3. you are responsible for meeting the costs of conducting or commissioning the environmental evaluation, preparing the environmental report and providing any further information as requested by the department.

C. Reviews and appeals

The provisions regarding reviews of decisions and appeals are found in sections 519 to 539 of the Act.

A person who is dissatisfied with certain decisions of the department, may be able to apply to have the department review that original decision.

Generally, a request to have a decision reviewed must be made:

- within 10 business days of the decision being notified to the person;

¹ This is the publication number. The publication number can be used as a search term to find the latest version of a publication at <www.ehp.qld.gov.au>.

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- be supported by enough information to enable the department to decide the application for review; and
- be made using the application for review of an original decision form ([ESR/2015/1573](#)).

Where an application has been made for a decision to be reviewed, the applicant may also apply to the relevant court for a stay of the decision to secure the effectiveness of the review.

Once the original decision has been reviewed, a person who is dissatisfied with the review decision may be able to appeal against that decision to the relevant court within 22 business days after receiving notice of the review decision.

A person whose interests are or would be adversely affected by a decision of the department may also be able to request a statement of reasons for a decision or a statutory order review under the *Judicial Review Act 1991*.

For further information about reviews and appeals see the:

1. Information sheet - internal review and appeal to the Planning and Environment Court ([ESR/2015/1572](#)).
2. Information sheet - internal review and appeal to the Land Court ([ESR/2015/1742](#)).

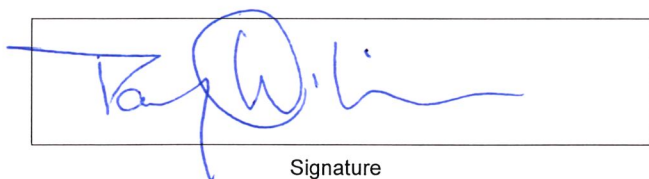
You may have other legal rights or obligations and should seek your own legal advice.

D. Penalty

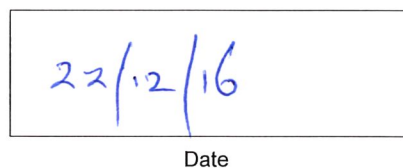
Failure to comply with a notice to conduct or commission an environmental evaluation is an offence.

1. The maximum penalty for an individual is 300 penalty units, totalling \$36,570.
2. The maximum penalty for a corporation is 1500 penalty units, totalling \$182,850.

Should you have any queries in relation to this notice, please contact Millie Grant of the department on telephone number (07) 4222 5319.



Signature



Date

Tony Williams
 Manager Compliance |
 Delegate of the Chief Executive
 Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
Environmental Protection Act 1994

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