

Form 2

NOTICE OF AN APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMIT

The land affected by the application is located at:	108A Rileys Creek Road SWIFTS CREEK 3896 CA: PART 1A Sec: 20
The application is for a permit to:	Buildings and Works Associated with Mining for Prospecting / Bulk Sampling (circa 3000 tonnes).
The applicant for the permit is:	Australian Mining & Exploration Title Services Pty Ltd
The application reference number is:	5.2023.452.1

You may look at the application and any documents that support the application free of charge at: <https://www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/building-and-development/advertised-planning-permit-applications>

You may also call 5153 9500 to arrange a time to look at the application and any documents that support the application at the office of the responsible authority, East Gippsland Shire. This can be done during office hours and is free of charge.

Any person who may be affected by the granting of the permit may object or make other submissions to the responsible authority.

An objection must

- ♦ **be made to the Responsible Authority in writing,**
- ♦ **include the reasons for the objection, and**
- ♦ **state how the objector would be affected.**

The responsible authority must make a copy of every objection available at its office for any person to inspect during office hours free of charge until the end of the period during which an application may be made for review of a decision on the application.

The Responsible Authority will not decide on the application before:	Subject to applicant giving notice
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If you object, the Responsible Authority will tell you its decision.

REGISTER SEARCH STATEMENT (Title Search) Transfer of Land Act 1958

Page 1 of 3

VOLUME 08180 FOLIO 887

Security no : 124110315630K
Produced 06/11/2023 06:09 PM

CROWN GRANT

LAND DESCRIPTION

Lot 1 on Title Plan 892667X (formerly known as part of Crown Allotment 1A Section 20 Parish of Tongio-Munjie West).

REGISTERED PROPRIETOR

Estate Fee Simple
Joint Proprietors

ENCUMBRANCES, CAVEATS AND NOTICES

Any crown grant reservations exceptions conditions limitations and powers noted on the plan or imaged folio set out under DIAGRAM LOCATION below. For details of any other encumbrances see the plan or imaged folio set out under DIAGRAM LOCATION below.

Any encumbrances created by Section 98 Transfer of Land Act 1958 or Section 24 Subdivision Act 1988 and any other encumbrances shown or entered on the plan set out under DIAGRAM LOCATION below.

DIAGRAM LOCATION

SEE TP892667X FOR FURTHER DETAILS AND BOUNDARIES

ACTIVITY IN THE LAST 125 DAYS

NIL

-----END OF REGISTER SEARCH STATEMENT-----

Additional information: (not part of the Register Search Statement)

Street Address: 108A RILEYS CREEK ROAD SWIFTS CREEK VIC 3896

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTICES

NIL

eCT Control 21210T WARREN GRAHAM AND MURPHY PTY LTD
Effective from 10/08/2021

DOCUMENT END

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Imaged Document Cover Sheet

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Number of Pages (excluding this cover sheet)	2
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IP 892667X

TITLE PLAN

EDITION 1

Location of Land

Parish : TONGIO – MUNJIE WEST
Township: -
Section: 20
Crown Allotment: 1A (PT)
Crown Portion: -

Last Plan Reference : -
Derived From : VOL. 8180 FOL. 887

Depth Limitation : 50 FEET BELOW THE SURFACE

SUBJECT TO THE RESERVATIONS, EXCEPTIONS, CONDITIONS AND POWERS CONTAINED IN CROWN GRANT VOL. 8180 FOL. 887 AND NOTED ON SHEET 2 OF THIS PLAN

ANY REFERENCE TO MAP IN THE TEXT MEANS THE DIAGRAM SHOWN ON THIS TITLE PLAN

Description of Land/ Easement Information

THIS PLAN HAS BEEN PREPARED BY
LAND REGISTRY, LAND VICTORIA FOR
TITLE DIAGRAM PURPOSES

COMPILED: Date 11/07/07

VERIFIED: A. DALLAS

Assistant Registrar of Titles

COLOUR CODE
Y = YELLOW

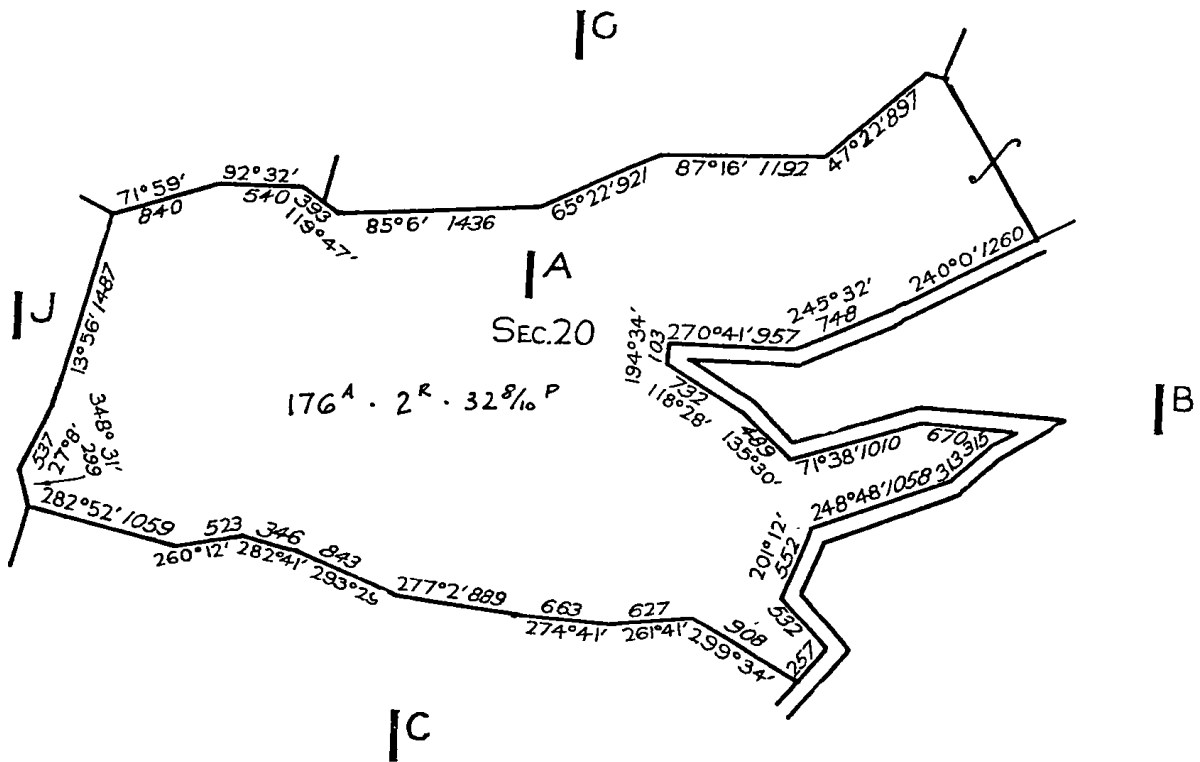


TABLE OF PARCEL IDENTIFIERS

WARNING: Where multiple parcels are referred to or shown on the Title Plan this does Not imply separately disposable parcels under Section 8A of the Sale of Land Act 1962

LOT 1 = CA 1A (PT)

LENGTHS ARE IN
LINKS

Metres = 0.3048 x Feet
Metres = 0.201168 x Links

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Sheet 1 of 2 Sheets

TP 892667X

TITLE PLAN

LAND DESCRIPTION INCLUDING RESERVATIONS EXCEPTIONS
CONDITIONS AND POWERS AS SHOWN ON THE CROWN GRANT

containing **two hundred and seventy-one acres three roods and thirty-nine perches more or less being Allotments one^A and one^B of Section twenty in the Parish of Tongio-Munjie West County of Dargo**—

All THAT PIECE OF LAND in the said State

delimited and colored yellow in the map in the margin hereof TOGETHER with the right to sink wells for water and to the use for all purposes of any wells and springs now or hereafter upon the said land as though this Grant had been made without any limitation as to depth PROVIDED that this Grant is made subject to—

- (a) the reservation to Us Our heirs and successors of—
- (i) all gold silver petroleum uranium thorium and minerals within the meaning of the Mines Acts (hereinafter called “the reserved minerals”);
 - (ii) rights of access for the purpose of searching for and obtaining the reserved minerals in any part of the said land;
 - (iii) rights for access and for pipe-lines works and other purposes necessary for obtaining and conveying on and from the said land any of the reserved minerals which is obtained in any part of the said land;
- (b) the right to resume the said land for mining purposes pursuant to section 168 of the *Land Act 1928*;
- (c) the right of any person being the holder of a miner's right or of a mining lease or mineral lease under the *Mines Act 1928* or any corresponding previous enactment to enter on the said land and to mine for gold or minerals within the meaning of that Act and to erect and occupy mining plant or machinery thereon in the same manner and under the same conditions and provisions as those under which such a person has now the right to mine for gold and silver in and upon Crown lands provided that neither the grantee nor anyone claiming through or under him shall be entitled to any compensation in respect of any damage done to the said land or any improvements thereon by mining therein or thereon within the meaning of the *Mines Act 1928* or of any Act for the time being in force relating to mining or by the cutting or removing of any timber thereon or therefrom for the purpose of mining as aforesaid or for any purpose authorized by that Act.

LENGTHS ARE IN
LINKS

Metres = 0.3048 x Feet
Metres = 0.201168 x Links

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Sheet 2 of 2 Sheets

PLANNING PROPERTY REPORT

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From www.planning.vic.gov.au at 06 November 2023 02:59 PM

PROPERTY DETAILS

Address: **108A RILEYS CREEK ROAD SWIFTS CREEK 3896**
 Lot and Plan Number: **Lot 1 TP892667**
 Standard Parcel Identifier (SPI): **1\TP892667**
 Local Government Area (Council): **EAST GIPPSLAND**
 Council Property Number: **74170**
 Planning Scheme: **East Gippsland**
 Directory Reference: **Vicroads 66 C6**

www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au

[Planning Scheme - East Gippsland](#)

UTILITIES

Rural Water Corporation: **Southern Rural Water**
 Urban Water Corporation: **East Gippsland Water**
 Melbourne Water: **Outside drainage boundary**
 Power Distributor: **AUSNET**

STATE ELECTORATES

Legislative Council: **EASTERN VICTORIA**
 Legislative Assembly: **GIPPSLAND EAST**

OTHER

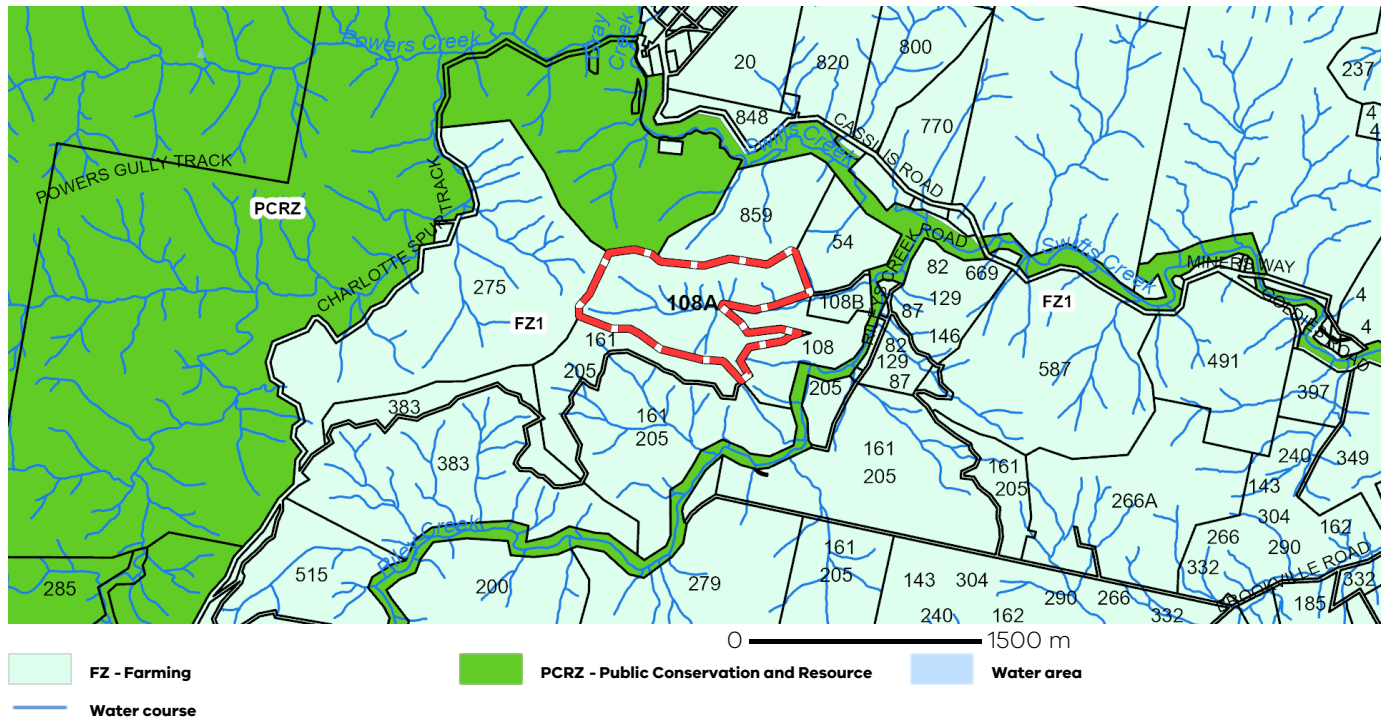
Registered Aboriginal Party: **Gunaikurnai Land and Waters
 Aboriginal Corporation**

[View location in VicPlan](#)

Planning Zones

[FARMING ZONE \(FZ\)](#)

[FARMING ZONE - SCHEDULE 1 \(FZ1\)](#)



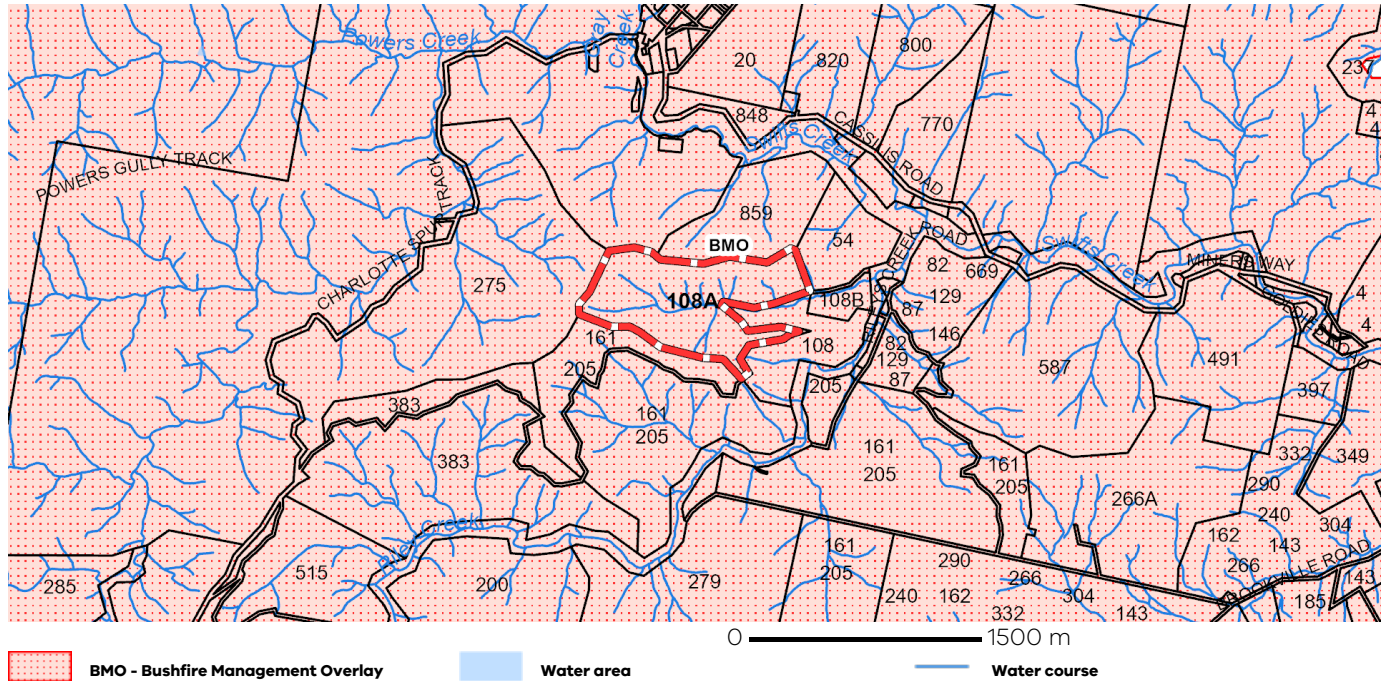
Note: labels for zones may appear outside the actual zone - please compare the labels with the legend.

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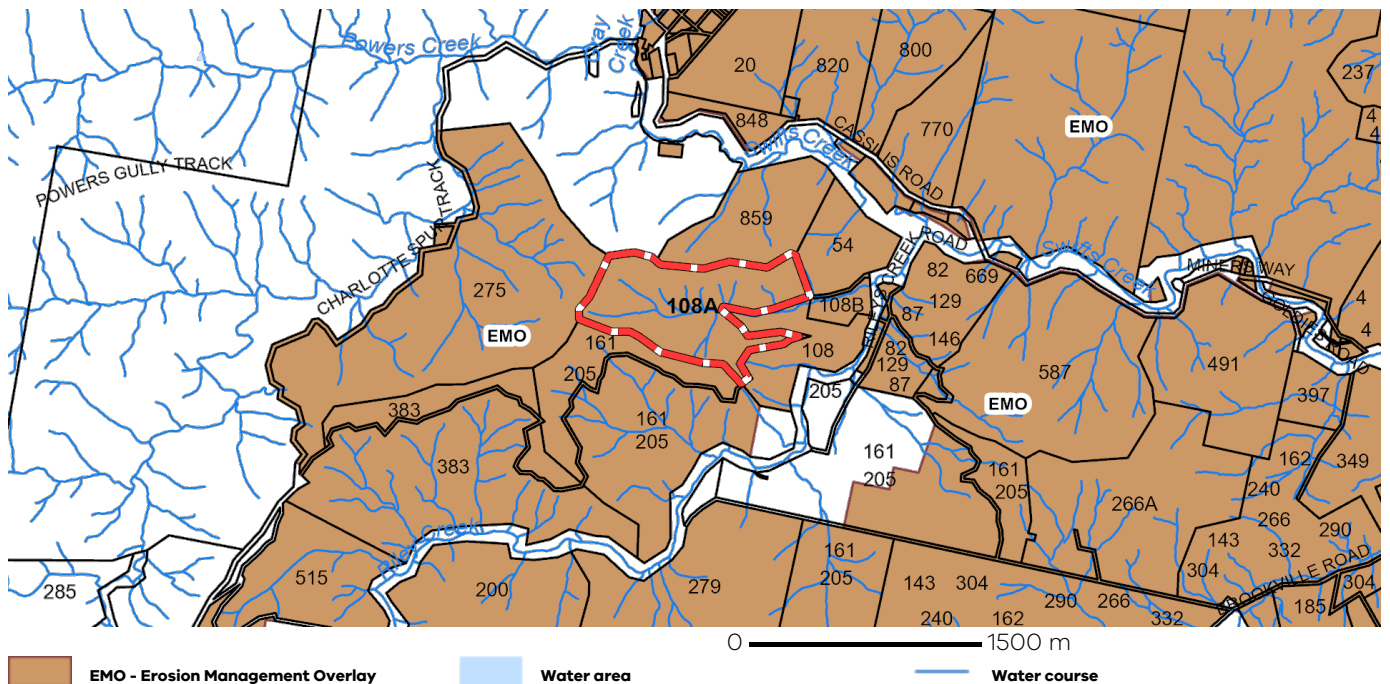
Planning Overlays

BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT OVERLAY (BMO)



EROSION MANAGEMENT OVERLAY (EMO)

EROSION MANAGEMENT OVERLAY SCHEDULE (EMO)



PLANNING PROPERTY REPORT

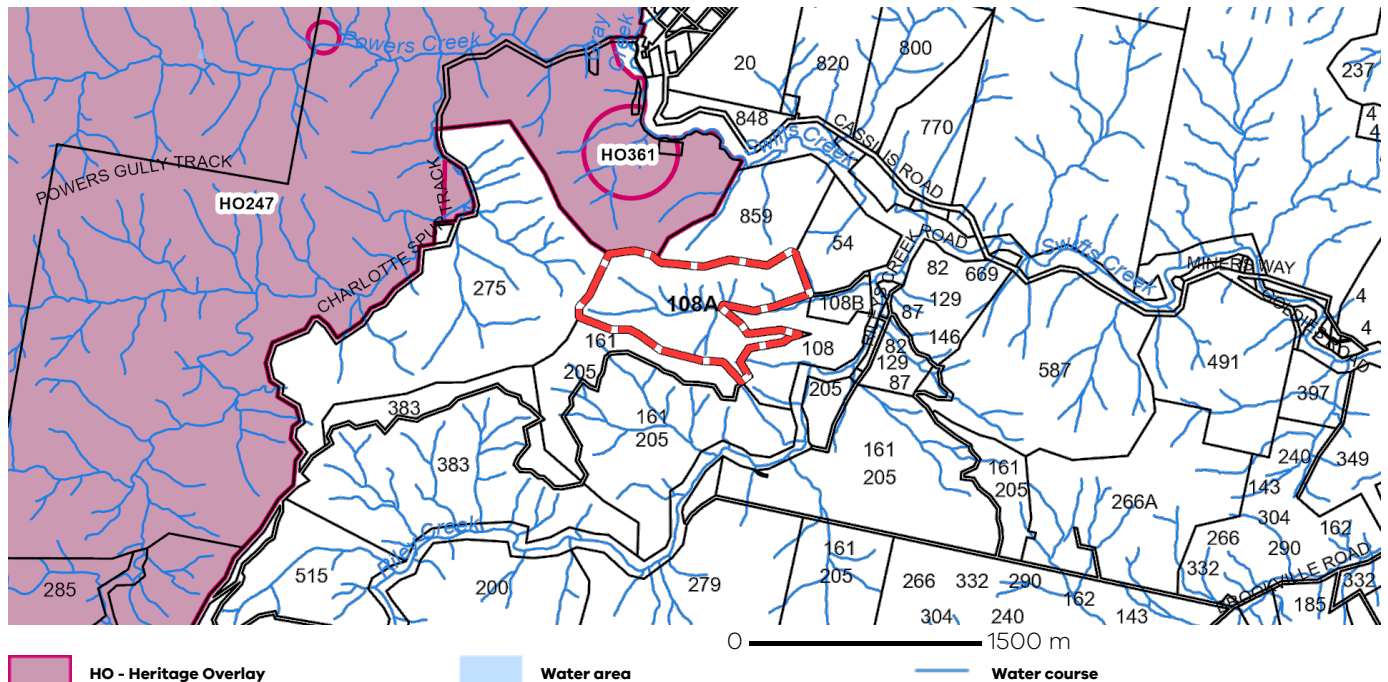
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Planning Overlays

OTHER OVERLAYS

Other overlays in the vicinity not directly affecting this land

HERITAGE OVERLAY (HO)



Further Planning Information

Planning scheme data last updated on 2 November 2023.

A **planning scheme** sets out policies and requirements for the use, development and protection of land. This report provides information about the zone and overlay provisions that apply to the selected land. Information about the State and local policy, particular, general and operational provisions of the local planning scheme that may affect the use of this land can be obtained by contacting the local council or by visiting <https://www.planning.vic.gov.au>

This report is NOT a **Planning Certificate** issued pursuant to Section 199 of the **Planning and Environment Act 1987**. It does not include information about exhibited planning scheme amendments, or zonings that may affect the land. To obtain a Planning Certificate go to Titles and Property Certificates at Landata - <https://www.landata.vic.gov.au>

For details of surrounding properties, use this service to get the Reports for properties of interest.

To view planning zones, overlay and heritage information in an interactive format visit <https://mapshare.maps.vic.gov.au/vicplan>

For other information about planning in Victoria visit <https://www.planning.vic.gov.au>

PLANNING PROPERTY REPORT

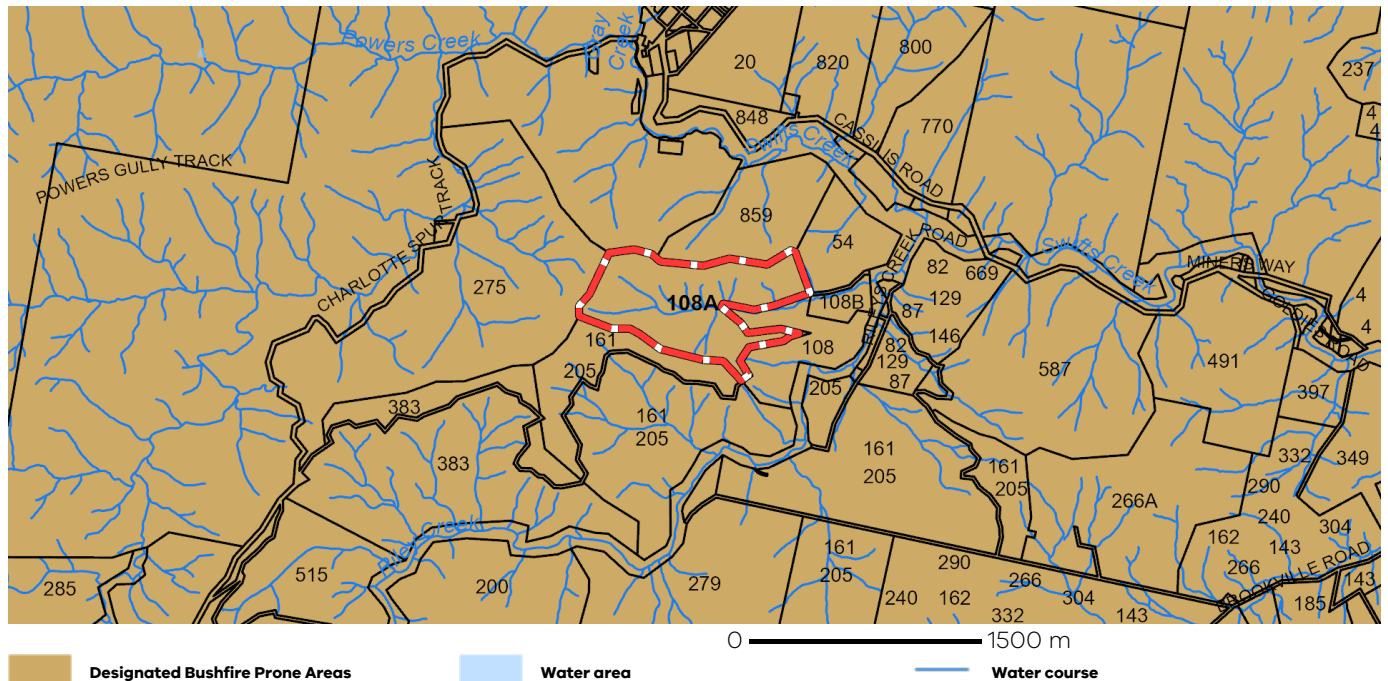
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Designated Bushfire Prone Areas

This property is in a designated bushfire prone area. Special bushfire construction requirements apply to the part of the property mapped as a designated bushfire prone area (BPA). Planning provisions may apply.

Where part of the property is mapped as BPA, if no part of the building envelope or footprint falls within the BPA area, the BPA construction requirements do not apply.

Note: the relevant building surveyor determines the need for compliance with the bushfire construction requirements.



Designated BPA are determined by the Minister for Planning following a detailed review process. The Building Regulations 2018, through adoption of the Building Code of Australia, apply bushfire protection standards for building works in designated BPA.

Designated BPA maps can be viewed on VicPlan at <https://mapshare.vic.gov.au/vicplan/> or at the relevant local council.

Create a BPA definition plan in [VicPlan](#) to measure the BPA.

Information for lot owners building in the BPA is available at <https://www.planning.vic.gov.au>.

Further information about the building control system and building in bushfire prone areas can be found on the Victorian Building Authority website <https://www.vba.vic.gov.au>. Copies of the Building Act and Building Regulations are available from <http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au>. For Planning Scheme Provisions in bushfire areas visit <https://www.planning.vic.gov.au>.

Native Vegetation

Native plants that are indigenous to the region and important for biodiversity might be present on this property. This could include trees, shrubs, herbs, grasses or aquatic plants. There are a range of regulations that may apply including need to obtain a planning permit under Clause 52.17 of the local planning scheme. For more information see [Native Vegetation \(Clause 52.17\)](#) with local variations in [Native Vegetation \(Clause 52.17\) Schedule](#)

To help identify native vegetation on this property and the application of Clause 52.17 please visit the Native Vegetation Information Management system <https://nvim.delwp.vic.gov.au/> and [Native vegetation \(environment.vic.gov.au\)](https://www.environment.vic.gov.au) or please contact your relevant council.

You can find out more about the natural values on your property through NatureKit [NatureKit \(environment.vic.gov.au\)](https://www.environment.vic.gov.au)



Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action

Earth Resources Regulator

STATUTORY ENDORSEMENT INFORMATION FOR COUNCIL

APPLICANT NAME(S): (Tenement holder name)	Mines of Stirling Pty Ltd
LAND STATUS: <input type="checkbox"/> Crown <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Crown & Private	
SITE/PIT NAME: PL007319	MUNICIPALITY/SHIRE: East Gippsland Shire Council
PHYSICAL ADDRESS OF SITE/LOCALITY (local area name) and Property Parcel Reference: Lot and Plan Number: Lot 1 TP892667 Address: 108A RILEYS CREEK ROAD SWIFTS CREEK 3896 Standard Parcel Identifier (SPI): 1\TP892667	

A copy of the draft work plan has been given to the referral authorities identified on the attached referral consultation checklist. The referral authorities have provided consent to statutory endorsement of the work plan.

Work plan specific conditions have been applied to the statutorily endorsed work plan to address the referral authority conditions and comments.

Additional agency comments were provided in response to the referral which were endorsed as work plan specific conditions, these can be referenced in the agency referral responses attached for your information

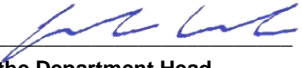
Standard conditions to manage the risk of mining have been applied to the licence.

In accordance with the requirements of Clause 66 of the Victorian Planning Provisions, the responsible authority is advised of the following:

- The application is for the use or development of land for extractive industry or mining and a copy of a work plan or variation to an approved work plan accompanying the application was given to the referral authority (other than the Head, Transport for Victoria) under section 77TE of the Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990.
- The Department (in its capacity as a Determining Authority under Section 55 of the Planning & Environment Act 1987) has considered the proposal within the last three months prior to the date of this letter and **does not object to the grant of a planning permit** subject to the following condition:
 1. Any planning permit conditions imposed do not duplicate or copy the requirements contained within the attached Statutorily Endorsed Work Plan and accompanying conditions.

Prospecting Licence PL007319 Work Plan (Minerals) PLN-001755

Licence Ownership Details	
Licensee	Mines of Stirling Pty Ltd
Registered Address	Suite 27, 401 Pacific Highway ARTARMON NEW SOUTH WALES 2064

Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990	
Tenement Number:	PL007319
Plan Number:	PLN001755
Work Plan Statutorily Endorsed	
Signed:	
Delegate of the Department Head	
Date:	27/10/2023

Plan Summary Details	
Project Name	Snowstorm
Plan Description	please refer document titled "PL007319_Snowstorm_Mining Work Plan_v4"

Area Details	
Property Name	Snowstorm
Address	108A Riley's Creek Rd
Suburb / Town	Swifts Creek
Postcode	3896

Land Tenure (ownership) details	
Land Tenure Type	
Depth Limitations	No
Depth Limits	

Resource Type	
Commodity to which the plan pertains	Gold
Primary Commodity	Gold
Minerals Total Estimated Ore	3,000.00

Unit of Measure	Tonnes
-----------------	--------

Proposed Final Depth of Extraction	
Estimated Max Terminal Depth	N/A
Batter Slope Angle	N/A

Top soil, overburden and subsoil disturbance	
Est Volume of Top Soil	44.70
Unit of Measure Top Soil	Cubic metres
Est Depth of Top Soil	0.15 metres
Est Volume of Sub Soil	N/A
Unit of Measure Sub Soil	N/A
Est Depth of Sub Soil	N/A
Est Volume of Overburden	N/A
Unit of Measure Overburden	N/A
Est Depth of Overburden	N/A
Area of Disturbance	0.06 hectares

Operation Type	
Operation Type	Underground
Operation Type – Other	

Plant, Equipment and Method
refer document titled "PL007319_Snowstorm_Mining Work Plan_v4"

Mineral Recovery Method	
Mineral Recovery method	Other
Mineral Recovery method - Other	all ore processing offsite

Operating Hours (24 Hour)				
	Above Ground Operations	Below Ground Operations	Sales	Processing
Mon-Fri Start	N/A	6:00	N/A	N/A
Mon-Fri End	N/A	18:00	N/A	N/A

Sat Start	N/A	6:00	N/A	N/A
Sat End	N/A	18:00	N/A	N/A
Sun Start	N/A	6:00	N/A	N/A
Sun End	N/A	18:00	N/A	N/A
Public Holiday Activity	No	No	No	No
Operational hours Clarification	0600-1800 Mon-Sun, no work on public holidays			

Attachments Provided (as part of) Work Plan

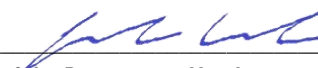
Work Plan Variation Specific Conditions - 20231027
PL007319 Snowstorm_Location Plan – 17/04/2023
PL007319 Snowstorm_Regional Plan_v2 – 27/06/2023
PL007319_Snowstorm_Mining Work Plan_v4 – 04/08/2023
PL007319_Snowstorm_Risk Register_v3 – 04/08/2023
PL007319_Snowstorm_Risk Treatment Plan_v3 – 04/08/2023
PL007319_Snowstorm_Rehabilitation Plan_v3 – 04/08/2023
PL007319_Snowstorm_Community Engagement Plan_v2 – 27/06/2023

Appendices

Appendix F_PL007319 Ecological Assessment – 17/04/2023
Appendix G_PL007319 Snowstorm_ARD CoA – 17/04/2023
LoC-Lynch-Darby – 17/04/2023
Planning Permit for existing Processing Plant – 20/04/2023
108A-Rileys-Creek-Road-Swifts-Creek-(ID45517975)-Detailed-Property-Report – 17/04/2023
108A-Rileys-Creek-Road-Swifts-Creek-(ID45517975)-Vicplan-Planning-Property-Report – 17/04/2023
108A-Rileys-Creek-Road_Certificate of Title – 17/04/2023
108A-Rileys-Creek-Road_Plan of Title – 17/04/2023

WORK PLAN SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

Prospecting Licence PL007319

Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990	
Tenement Number:	PL007319
Plan Number:	PLN001755
Work Plan Statutorily Endorsed	
Signed:	
Delegate of the Department Head	
Date:	27/10/2023

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION (FORMALLY DELWP)

Notification of permit conditions

- Before works start, the license holder must advise all persons undertaking the vegetation removal works on site of all Work Plan conditions pertaining to native vegetation protection.

Protection of native vegetation to be retained

- Before works start, a native vegetation protection fence must be erected around all native vegetation to be retained within 15 metres of the works area.

This fence must be erected at:

- a radius of 12 times the diameter of the tree trunk at a height of 1.4 metres to a maximum of 15 metres but no less than 2 metres from the base of the trunk of the tree; and
 - around the patch(es) of native vegetation at a minimum distance of 2 metres from retained native vegetation.
- The fence must be constructed of star pickets and paraweb or similar to the satisfaction of the responsible authority. The protection fence must remain in place until all works are completed to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.
 - Except with the written consent of the responsible authority, within the area of native vegetation to be retained and any tree protection zone associated with the permitted use and/or development, the following is prohibited:
 - vehicular or pedestrian access;
 - trenching or soil excavation;
 - storage or dumping of any soils, materials, equipment, vehicles, machinery or waste products;
 - construction of entry and exit pits for underground services, or
 - any other actions or activities that may result in adverse impacts to retained native vegetation.

Native vegetation offsets

5. The total area of native vegetation permitted to be removed is 0.042 hectares, described in the Native Vegetation Removal Report CUM_2023_001.
6. To offset the removal of 0.042 hectares of native vegetation the permit holder must secure a native vegetation offset(s) that meets all the following:
 - a. general offset of 0.010 general habitat units located within the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority boundary or East Gippsland Shire Council;
 - b. have a Strategic Biodiversity Value score of at least 0.512.

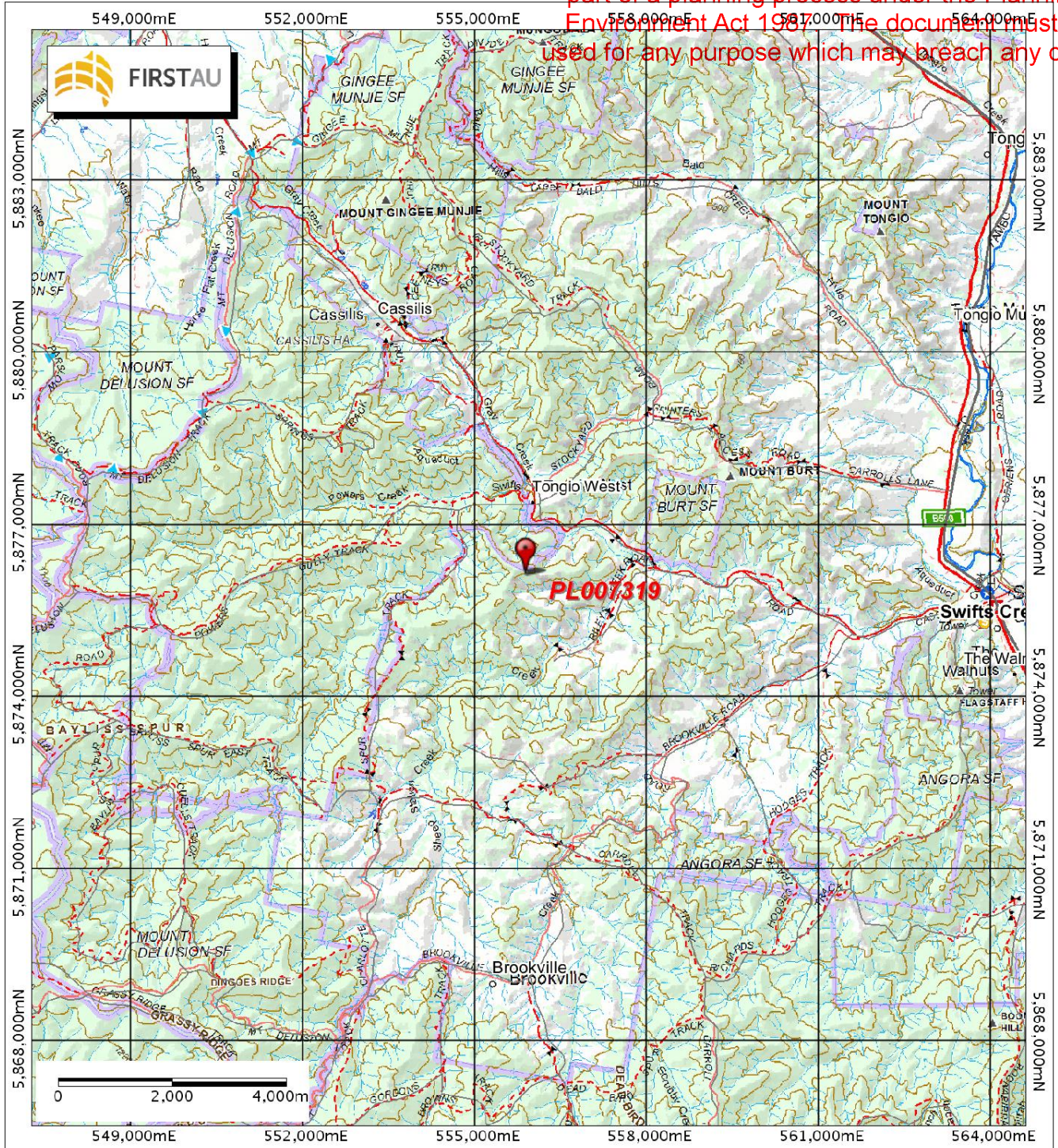
Offset evidence

7. Before any native vegetation is removed, evidence the required offset for the project has been secured must be provided to the satisfaction of the responsible authority in consultation with DEECA. This evidence is one or both of the following:
 - a. An established first party offset site including a security agreement signed by both parties, and a management plan detailing the 10-year management actions and ongoing management of the site and/or
 - b. Credit extract(s) allocated to the permit from the Native Vegetation Credit Register.
8. A copy of the offset evidence will be endorsed by the responsible authority and form part of this Work Plan. Within 30 days of endorsement of the offset evidence by the responsible authority, the applicant must provide a copy of the endorsed offset evidence DEECA via gippsland.planning@delwp.vic.gov.au

EAST GIPPSLAND CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

1. All works within 30 metres of a designated waterway require a Works on Waterways permit from the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority issued under the Water Act 1989.

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Mines of Stirling Pty Ltd

PL007319

Date: 09/12/20

Author: AJK

Office:

Drawing: A4 P

Scale: 1:100K Projection: MGA Zone 55 (GDA 94)

Mines of Stirling Pty Ltd

G:\Page Hatching & Co.
17/88 Alfred St • St Albans Vic 3021
+61 3 92 9922 7744
+E: info@pagehatching.com.au

"Snowstorm" Project

Location Plan



Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act

MGA 94

Zone 55

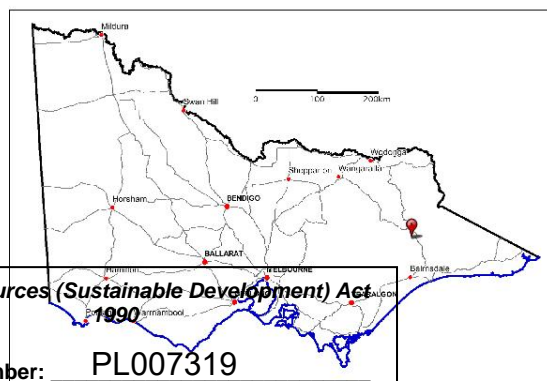
Tenement Number: PL007319

Plan Number: PLN001755

Work Plan Statutorily Endorsed

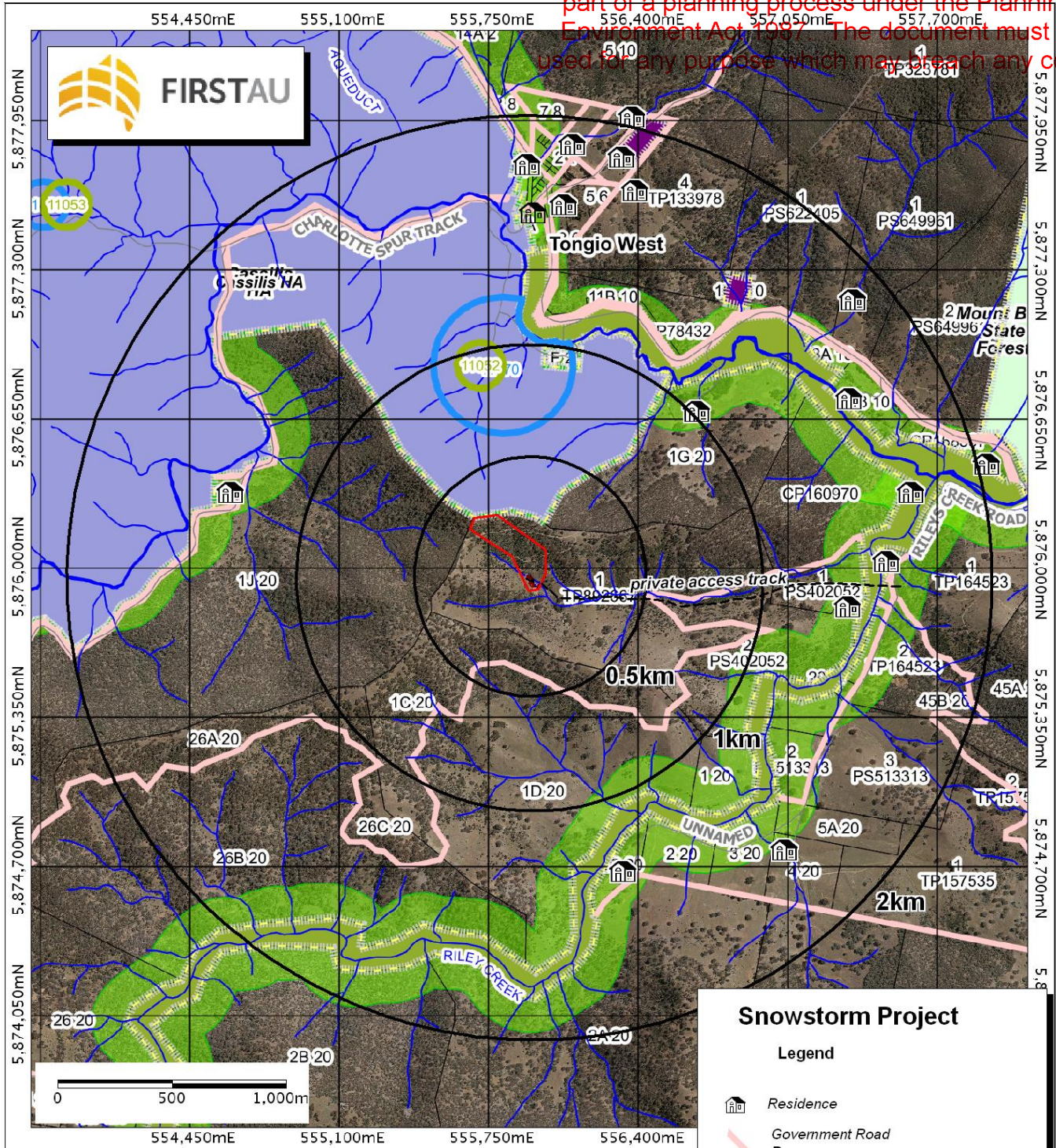
Signed:
Delegate of the Department Head

Date: 27/10/2023



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Snowstorm Project

Legend

- Residence
- Government Road Reserve
- Road
- Heritage Register site
- Heritage Inventory site
- Cassilis Historic Area (Restricted Crown Land)
- Swifts Creek Water Frontage Reserve (unrestricted)
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity
- Crown Allotment
- PL007319

Mines of Stirling Pty Ltd

PL007319

Date: 22/06/23

Author: AJK

Office:

Drawing: A4 P

Scale: 1:25k

Projection: MGA Zone 55 (GDA 94)

Mines of Stirling Pty Ltd

c/- Page Harrison & Co.
11/66 Alfred St • Watsons Point NSW 2061
P: 02 9922 7799
E: info@pageharrison.com.au

Underground Bulk-Sample

Regional Plan

Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990

Tenement Number: PL007319

Plan Number: PLN001755

Work Plan Statutorily Endorsed

Signed:

Delegate of the Department Head

Date: 27/10/2023

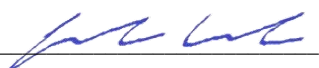


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FIRST AU LTD
under Option Agreement with Mines of Stirling Pty Ltd



SNOWSTORM PROJECT
PL007319

<i>Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990</i>	
Tenement Number:	PL007319
Plan Number:	PLN001755
Work Plan Statutorily Endorsed	
Signed:	
Delegate of the Department Head	
Date:	27/10/2023

MRSD Act (1990) & MRSD (MI) Regulations (2019)
Regulation 40(b) & 40(c)

SNOWSTORM
UNDERGROUND MINING & BULK
SAMPLING

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0.1 Introduction

First Au Ltd (“the Proponent”), under Option Agreement with Mines of Stirling Pty Ltd (the “Licensee”) proposes underground bulk sampling and mining in order to evaluate viability of a commercial underground mining operation at the “Snowstorm” Project located on PL007319. The active area described in this Programme is located on freehold land approximately 9km east of Swifts Creek in eastern Victoria (refer Figure 1).

This Work Plan has been designed to accord with the requirements of Section 40(3) of the Mineral Resources (Sustainable) Development Act 1990 (the ‘Act’) and with current Earth Resources Regulation (ERR) Guidelines (*Preparation of Work Plans and Work Plan Variations - Guidelines for Mining Projects*, September 2019).

The Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) (Mining Industry) Regulations 2019 (the “Regulations”) prescribes the information to be provided in a Work Plan. Specifically, Regulations 42, 43, 44, 45 & 46 are relevant to the proposed work.

This Work Plan document has been structured to accord with the requirements of Regulation 42.

In addition, this Work Plan:

- describes a rehabilitation proposal for the site that contains the information prescribed in r.43(4). Note that a *Rehabilitation Plan* is provided as a discrete document apart from this document (refer Rehabilitation Plan).
- identifies risks and hazards associated posed by the proposed work (r.44). Note that a *Risk Register* is provided as a discrete document apart from this document (refer Risk Register).
- describes a methodology for managing the risks and hazards as identified (r.45). Note that a *Risk Treatment Plan* is provided as a discrete document apart from this document (refer Risk Treatment Plan).
- describes a methodology for consulting with and engaging the local community (r.46). Note that a *Community Engagement Plan* is provided as a discrete document apart from this document (refer Community Engagement Plan).

This Work Plan is consistent with statutory obligations of the General Environmental Duty (GED) enshrined in the Environment Protection Act 2017.

This Work Plan describes a mode of mine operation and rehabilitation outcome that is consistent with an objective to minimise, as far as is practicable, deleterious impact to waterways, natural and cultural assets during the operating lifetime of the mine and restoration of landscape and vegetation at mine closure.

1 Description of Proposed Work

Gold was first won from the Cassilis area in the 1850's. Historic mining at the Snowstorm Project area dates to the late 19th Century and consists of a series of shallow shafts and short adits in the hillside. Further work, including batch sampling, was undertaken by the current landowner under former PL1004.

First Au proposes to construct a new underground access (ramp) and associated infrastructure located within existing cleared areas in order to extract circa 3,000 tonnes of mineralised rock for metallurgical testing and determination of the economics of ongoing commercial extraction. The proposed work does not constitute sustained commercial mining.

Whilst previous drilling and geological modelling at the Snowstorm Project suggests the presence of economic gold mineralisation, the observed structural complexity of the mineralising systems and refractory nature of the ore means that estimating ore tonnages and recovered grades from drill-data alone is potentially unreliable and misleading. In order to gain a more detailed understanding of the geological controls and metallurgical characteristics of the "ore", an underground bulk-sampling program comprising approximately 3,000 tonne of ore is proposed.

The narrow and steeply dipping nature of the ore-body and the rugged topography within which it is located renders extraction of a surface bulk sample infeasible. The sample must, therefore, be extracted via underground access.

1.1 Regional Setting

The Snowstorm Project is located on freehold land approximately 9km east of Swifts Creek in eastern Victoria (refer Figure 1.1a). The licence (PL007319) encloses an area of 4.7Ha comprising a mixture of open grazing land and relict patches of native vegetation in steep terrain of mountainous relief (circa 600mAHD). The owner of the property is a director of Mines of Stirling Pty Ltd and is a signatory to a Letter of Consent executed 01/08/2021 granting Mines of Stirling Pty Ltd and First Au Ltd permission to enter the site and carry out exploration and mining work. The expected surface arrangement is indicated in Figure 1.1c. No work is proposed on the adjoining public land.

The local area was extensively mined for both placer and orogenic ("hard-rock") gold from the mid-19th century through to the 1930's. De-forestation and modification of natural drainage was a feature of this exploitation.

The licence is located on freehold land comprising Crown Allotment 1\TP892667 Parish of Tongio-Munjie West in the East Gippsland (1:100k mapsheet 8423 Omeo). The location of the project area is indicated in Figure 1.1b.

The area is zoned Farming (FZ1) under the East Gippsland Shire Planning Scheme. The proposed active area is subject to a Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO) and Erosion Management Overlay (EMO).

The proposed disturbance is not in an area indicated as of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity. There is no proposal to remove any of the relict patches of native

vegetation. The proposed disturbance area has been assessed for presence of native vegetation (refer Section 4.5 and Appendix B).

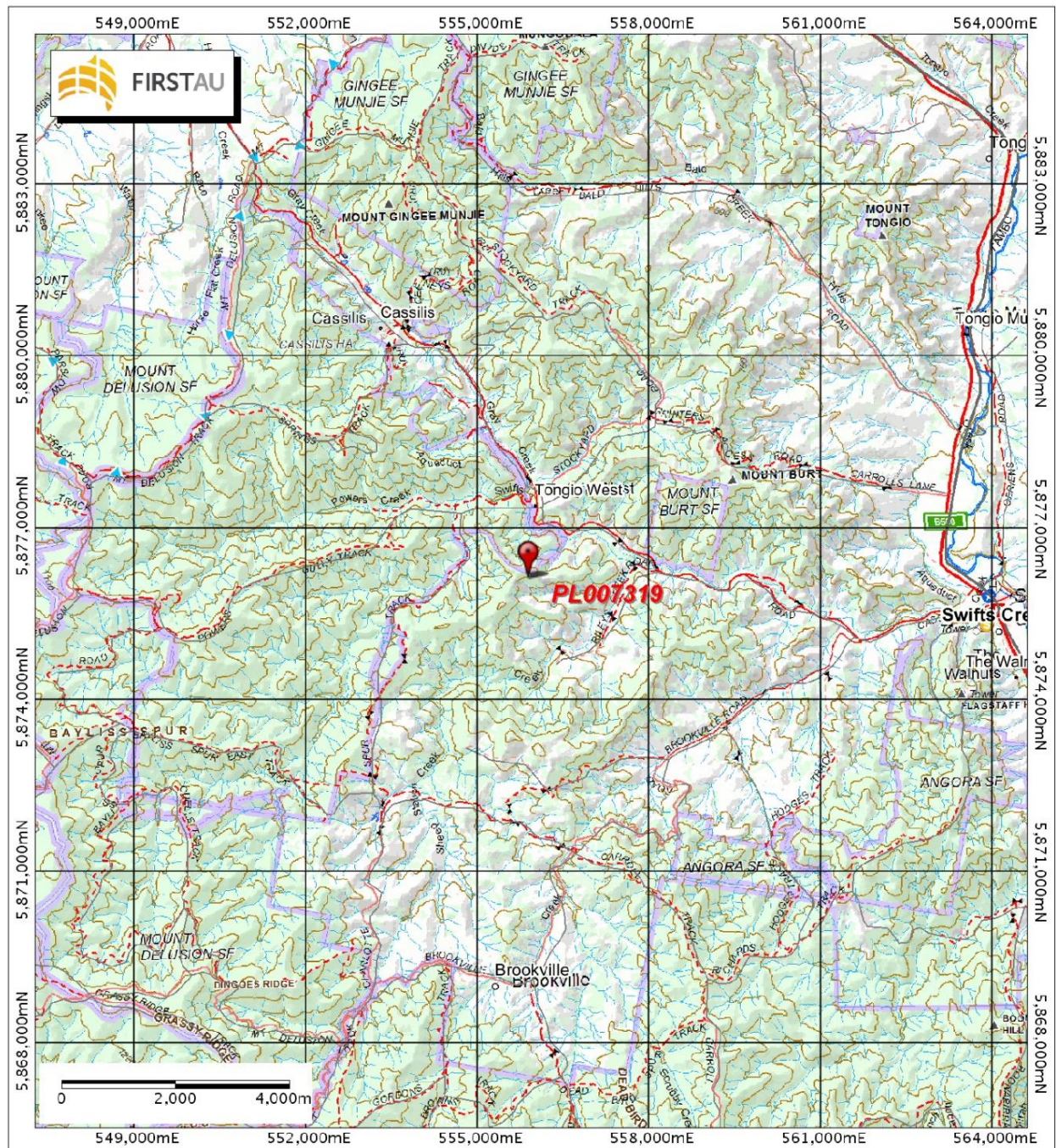
There is no entry in either the Heritage Inventory or Heritage Register (both maintained by the Heritage Council of Victoria) pertaining to the proposed area of disturbance. The boundary of the Cassilis Historic Area (managed by Parks Victoria) is approximately 250m north of the proposed active area and over a high ridgeline. The proposed work, as described in this Work Plan, will have no impact on the Cassilis Historic Area

The site is isolated but is accessible via the Cassilis Road and Riley's Creek Road. These roads are maintained by the East Gippsland Shire. There is no residential development in the immediate vicinity. The nearest residence (rural property) is located 0.9km to the east-north-east of the proposed operational area and on the other side of a high wooded ridge. Another residence exists 1.4km east on the banks of Riley's Creek.

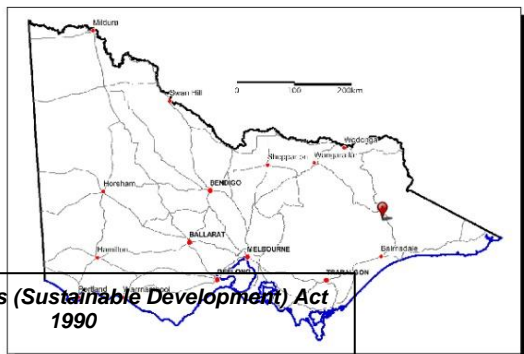
The site has been previously developed for mining purposes by the current landowner. This included refurbishment of an existing adit (Darby's Adit) and erection of a small ore processing plant (under auspices of an existing Planning Permit). This work included the construction of new roads and hillside terraces upon which the processing plant was erected as well as the installation of storage sheds (sea containers). The new work will utilise existing site infrastructure.

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Mines of Stirling Pty Ltd	
PL007319	
Date: 09/12/20	"Snowstorm" Project
Author: AJK	
Office:	
Drawing: A4 P	
Location Plan	
Scale: 1:100k	Projection: MGA Zone 55 (GDA 94)
Mines of Stirling Pty Ltd	
<small> c/- Page Harrison & Co. 1190 Alfred St - Melbourne Port NSW 2067 P: 02 9532 7744 E: info@pageharrison.com.au </small>	



Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990
Zone 55

Telement Number: **PL007319**

Plan Number: **PLN001755**

Work Plan Statutorily Endorsed

Signed: _____
 Delegate of the Department Head

Date: **27/10/2023**

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Figure 1.1a: Snowstorm Project General Location Plan

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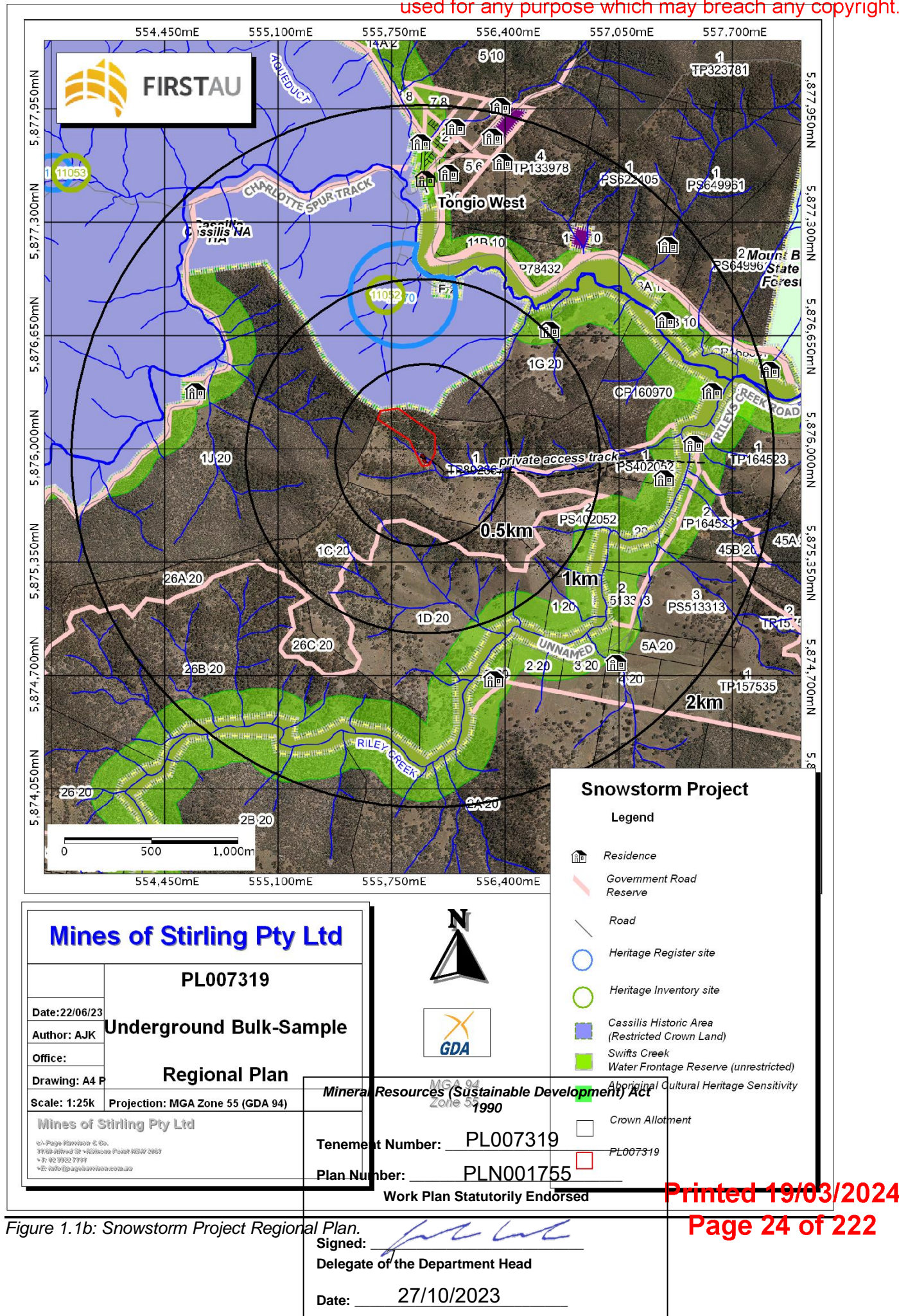
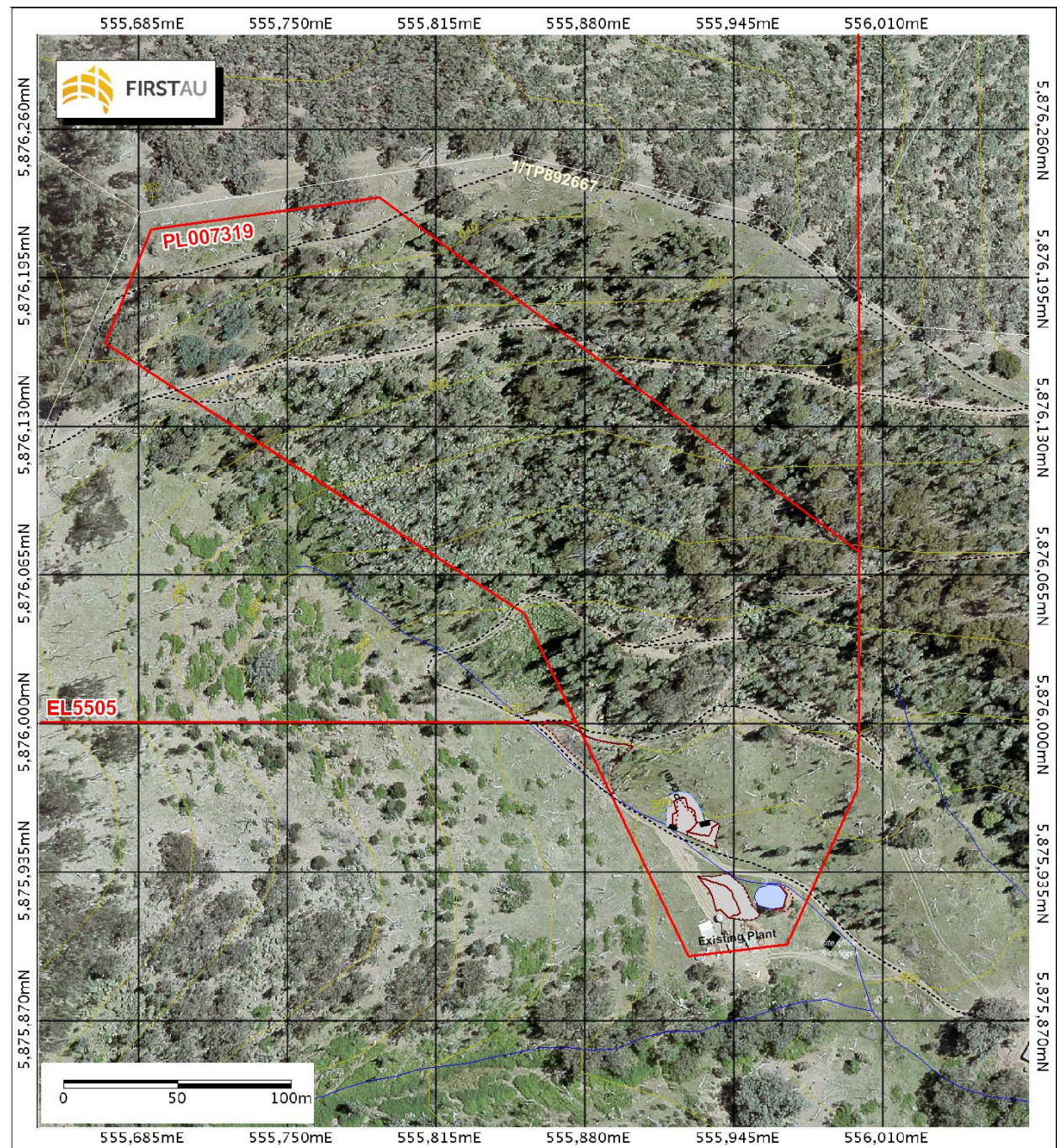


Figure 1.1b: Snowstorm Project Regional Plan.

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Mines of Stirling Pty Ltd

PL007319

Date: 08/11/22

Author: AJK

Office:

Drawing: A4 P

Scale: 1:2.5k

Projection: MGA Zone 55 (GDA 94)

Mines of Stirling Pty Ltd

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MGA 94
Zone 55

Snowstorm Project

Ramp Access Site Legend

- Cut-off Drain
- Tenements
- Disturbance Area
- Settling Pond
- Contour (10m Cl)
- - - Track
- Watercourse
- Crest & Toe

Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990

Tenement Number: PL007319

Plan Number: PLN001755

Work Plan Statutorily Endorsed

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Signed: _____
Delegate of the Department Head

Date: 27/10/2023

Figure 1.1c: Snowstorm Project Design Surface Arrangement.

1.2 Local Geology & Geomorphology

Gold mineralisation at the Snowstorm prospect is hosted in steeply dipping mineralised quartz veins striking in a general east-west direction with evidence of cross-cutting NW-SE vein sets all hosted in sheared and folded Ordovician sediments. The Snowstorm project area is adjacent the mapped Cassilis Shear Zone and altered sediments exposed in historic workings and diamond drill core highlight strain partitioning into black shale bands. Best gold grades are found in mullioned quartz veins intimately associated with the black shales in refolded hinge zones. This results in a series of steeply plunging poddy shoots each of limited strike and depth extent.

Mafic dykes are observed in the footwall of historically worked reefs and may act as a “marker” for mineralised horizons. Gold is present in quartz veins in native form and in intimate association with pyrite and arsenopyrite. Accessory minerals include galena, sphalerite and zinc all in low proportions.

The host-sediments consist of variably altered sandstones, silts and shales of Ordovician age. Greenschist facies alteration is pervasive with some fine-grained lithologies displaying mylonitic textures indicating a high strain environment. Some less plastic lithologies and bedded quartz veins are mullioned indicating plastic / brittle deformation. The rocks to the proposed terminal depth of the underground mining are oxidised and do not pose any acid generating potential (refer Section 4.2 and Appendix C).

Gold is present in quartz veins both in free state and in complexes with sulphide minerals (mainly pyrite and lesser arsenopyrite). Mineral assemblages include minor chalcopyrite with lesser galena, sphalerite and trace stibnite. Sulphide volume in ore material is up to 2.6% but typically less than 0.5%. Arsenic ranges up to 15,200ppm with a median of 60ppm. Elevated carbonate levels indicate that the host rocks have a natural acid neutralising capacity. This is confirmed by ARD testing (see Section 4.2 and Appendix C).

Whilst drilling and geological modelling at the Snowstorm Project suggests the presence of economic gold mineralisation, the observed structural complexity of the mineralising systems and refractory nature of the ore means that estimating ore tonnages and recovered grades from drill-data alone is potentially unreliable and misleading. In order to gain a more detailed understanding of the geological controls and metallurgical characteristics of the “ore”, an underground bulk-sampling program is considered necessary.

The geomorphic landform of the site and environs is mountainous East Victorian Dissected Uplands (Deeply dissected ridge and valley landscapes on Palaeozoic rocks - GMU 1.4.4).

Thin, stony soils are weakly developed on hill-tops and along ridgelines within the project environs and are often entirely absent. Well-drained stony loams are occasionally observed in gully deposits but soil structure has been largely destroyed by historic ground disturbance and tree clearing.

Local geology is illustrated in Figure 1.2 below.

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1.3 Development Proposal

The underground development proposal calls for construction of a ramp (decline) at an average gradient of 1-in-9 down, as primary access. Some minor remediation of an existing adit portal (Darby's Adit) will also be required. This shall entail replacement of timber lagging at the portal. The key parameters are as tabled:

Development Type	Profile	Extent
Ramp	2.2mW x 2.8mH, arch profile	92m from new box-cut; first 6m (to Sump 1) at 1 in 8 thence 81m at 1:9.85 (to Sump 2) thence circa 3.8m (till reef is struck) flat
Level Drive in Ore	1.2mW x 1.8mH, shanty-back	22m (sub-level), 6m (adit level)
Rise in Ore	1.2m x 1.2m square	Adit level - 27m (1 rise) at 60° to surface, Sub-level - 72m at 70° to adit level
Stoping	T-Bone (variable width)	2,628 tonnes (assume SG 2.4)
Boxcut	Open cast	80.5m ³ (loose volume), steepest batter 60° over 3.8m (slope), surface footprint 102.5m ²
New Disturbance	Surface Footprint	253m ² (existing disturbance circa 0.25Ha)
Top Soil	Typically 150mm thick	44.7m ³ (loose volume)
Total Waste Rock	Deposited at natural angle of repose (circa 50°)	741.5m ³ (loose volume including allowance for overbreak) over an area of 399.3m ² including 661m ³ (loose) over 296.8m ² of existing disturbed land.

Table 1: Development Statistics

The work includes extending a short drive (6m) from the existing adit level to the south (on ore) and rising to surface (approximately 27m on ore) in order to provide through ventilation and secondary egress. When rising from the sub-level breaks through to the adit level, a vent-wall will be established in the existing adit in order to force air down the ramp and up through the vent rise from the sub-level. This will ventilate the main travel-way (ramp) and the stopes ensuring timely dispersal of smoke and fumes from blasting. Note that personnel access to the stopes during periods when the underground loader is in use will be via Darby's adit (and the connecting rise between the adit level and sub-level).

All development will be hand-held drill & blast. Broken rock from development headings will be scraped (using a pneumatic scraper) to an ore-pass where it will be loaded for conveyance to the surface via the ramp.

A LHD rubber-tyred bogger (Toro 151 or similar) will be utilised for moving both ore and waste up the ramp to the surface. An area for the stockpiling of both ore and waste will need to be constructed adjacent the portal. This will need to cater for approximately 1,978 tonnes of waste (assumed SG 2.4 and swell factor 1.4) which will be stacked at two locations in accordance with that illustrated in Figure 1.3a and will have a combined surface footprint of approximately 399.3m² of which only 102.5m² will be new disturbance. Some select waste rock will be trucked offsite for access road sheeting.

A box-cut excavation will be required at the proposed portal location to establish a secure vertical face for cutting the portal. This will involve some earthworks. The portal area is expected to be supported with shotcrete. The total expected footprint for the box-cut is approximately 142.1m² of which 89.7m² will be new disturbance. The proposed portal site is located in an existing cleared location that had previously been developed as a drill pad and laydown area. A new cut-off drain will be cut above the

portal and the spoil used as a safety bund on the high-wall side of the box-cut (as illustrated in Figure 1.3a and Section 1.3b).

The underground mining program is expected to be completed within an 18-month window. Work shall be between the hours of 6am and 6pm Monday through Sunday (excluding Public Holidays). All gates to the property shall be closed when not in use. Explosives shall not be stored on site.

Whilst groundwater is not anticipated to be intersected, seepage water (from surface ingress, blast-hole drilling and washing down of faces) will accumulate in the workings. This water will be pumped to the existing settling pond at the site. Diversion drains will be constructed on the surface to divert overland flow around the mine openings. All run-off from disturbed area and stockpiles will report to existing settling pond as illustrated in Figure 1.1c.

Ore material extracted from underground will be progressively trucked offsite site for processing under commercial arrangement with an operator of an existing facility that is licenced to process mineral ores and store the resultant tailings. No residues from the offsite treatment will be returned to the Snowstorm site. It is not expected that there will be more than 250 truck (road-tipper) movements over the duration of the programme.

Ventilation for the ramp development shall be provided by a small fan located at the portal with forced air conducted to the working face via flexible ducting. Due to the distance to nearest neighbour and intervening topography, noise from the fan will not be audible at nearest domicile.

There will be between two to three people on site during active work. Portable self-contained ablution facilities will be maintained on site. Worker and visitor vehicles will be parked in existing cleared areas.

Infrastructure onsite is expected to comprise:

1. Air Compressor – small portable unit of sufficient capacity (circa 350cfm) to supply two hand-held rock drills underground.
2. Generator – small portable 6.5kVA diesel unit to provide 240V power to site office and 440V supply to sump pumps and fan.
3. Storage Container – a lockable ISO 20' sea-container to house small items when site unattended.
4. Site Office – 6m x 3m portable building to be mounted on breeze-block (or similar) non-permanent pedestal foundations. This and the car park are located off the licence.

As described, all the powered equipment proposed to be employed onsite is small. The air-compressor and generator units will be silenced, typically rated at 70dBA at 7m. As per current EPA guidelines, the maximum allowable noise level received at domiciles proximal to the site is 45dBA. With the nearest domicile 0.9km away and screened by topography and vegetation, noise will be imperceptible (refer Risk Treatment Plan for further details). It is not anticipated that there will be any noise nuisance experienced by visitors to the Cassilis Historic Area which is located the other side of a high dividing ridgeline. Site investigation did not reveal any evidence of native fauna colonies, burrows or nests within or proximal to the proposed activity area (refer

Ecological Assessment – Appendix B). Hence, there will be no long-term noise impact to native animals, noting that the surface equipment will only operate intermittently during daylight hours only.

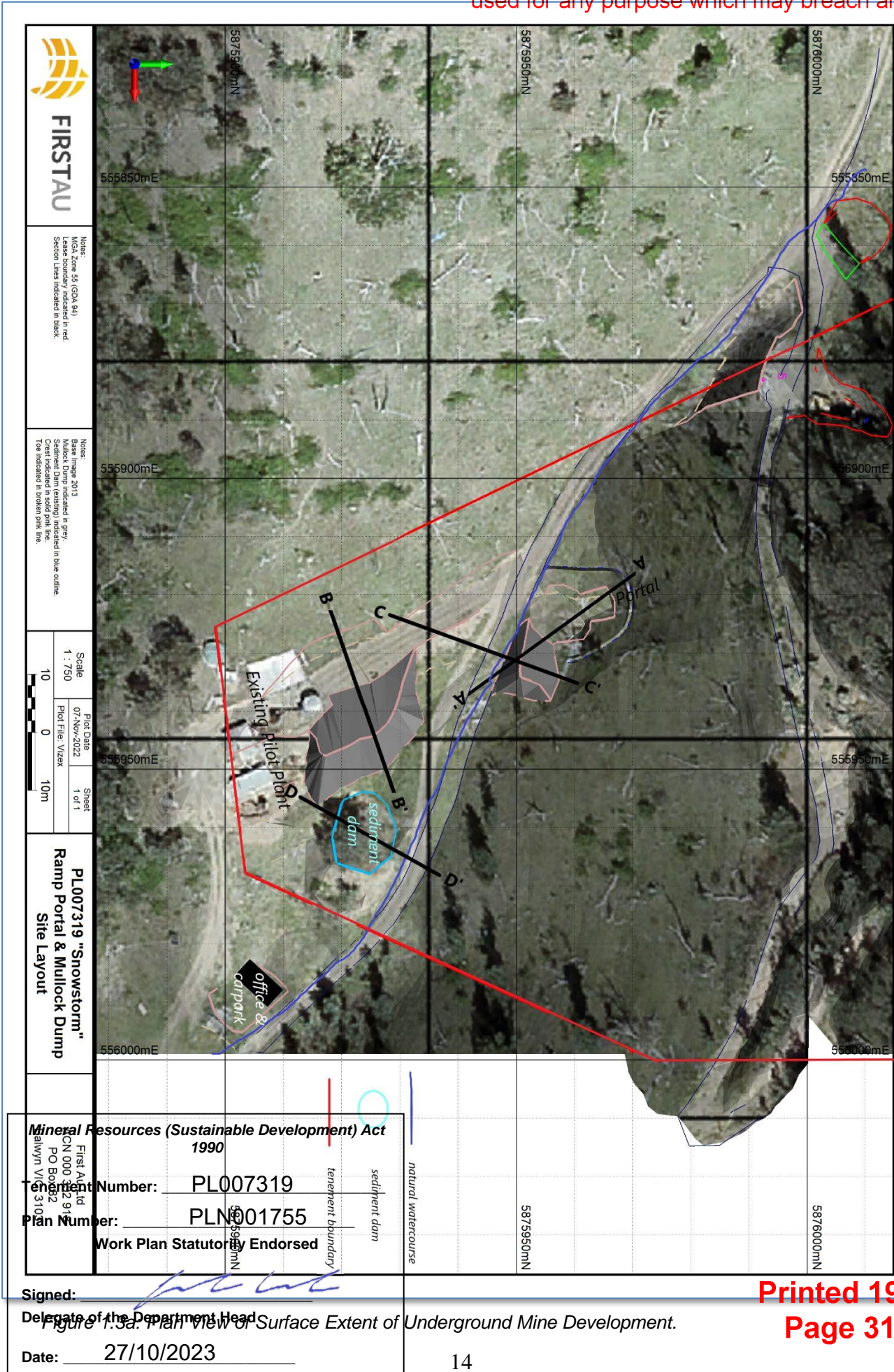
Water, for use in dust suppression both underground and on the surface, will be supplied via a water-gin (tank on trailer) parked adjacent the portal area. The water shall be sourced offsite. There is no proposal to extract water from dams extant on the site.

Ore shall be consolidated into a temporary stockpile (outside the portal) until sufficient is agglomerated to fill an 8t capacity dump truck ($\leq 12t$ GVM) for removal offsite. An ore stockpile is not anticipated to remain insitu for any period exceeding two-weeks. The ore-material is not anticipated to evolve acid drainage due to the demonstrated self-buffering capacity of the host-rocks (refer Section 4.2 and Appendix C) and the relatively oxidised nature of the ore (extracted from above the water-table). In any event, runoff from the stockpile will report to the extant settling pond.

The mine openings shall be secured against access when the site is unattended by means of locked steel gates. Appropriate warning signs shall be erected at access locations. Larger items of equipment (compressor, generator, LHD) may be temporarily removed from site during any hiatus in site activity exceeding 2 days.

The arrangement of surface installations is indicated in Figure 1.1c and 1.3a. Cross-section through portal area and initial waste dump is illustrated in Figure 1.3b. Cross-section through secondary dump area is illustrated in Figure 1.3c. Cross-section through the roadway is shown in Figure 1.3d. Cross-section through the sediment pond is shown in Figure 1.3e. Perspective view of surface arrangement is illustrated in Figure 1.3f and perspective view of underground development is illustrated in Figure 1.3g.

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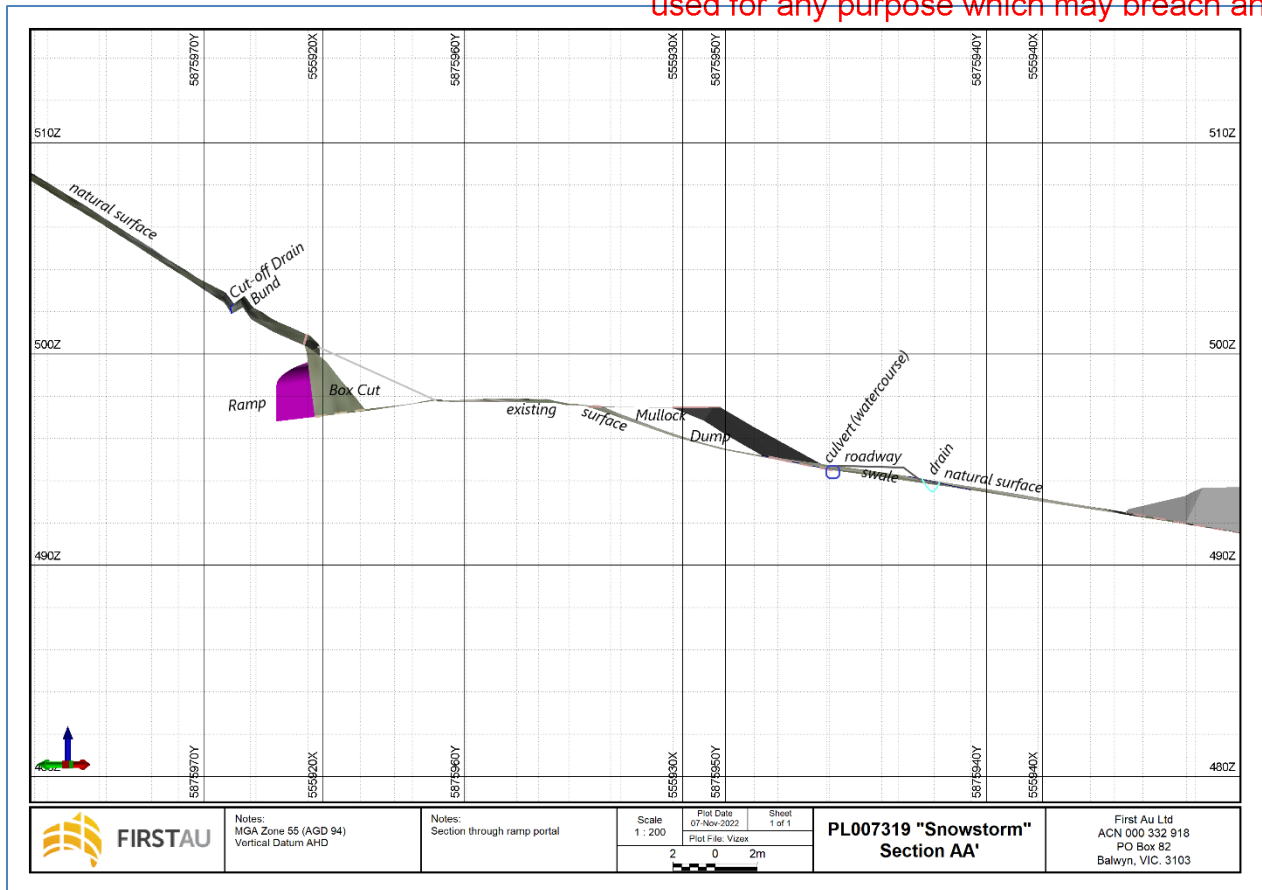


Figure 1.3b: Section AA' through surface extent of underground mine development.

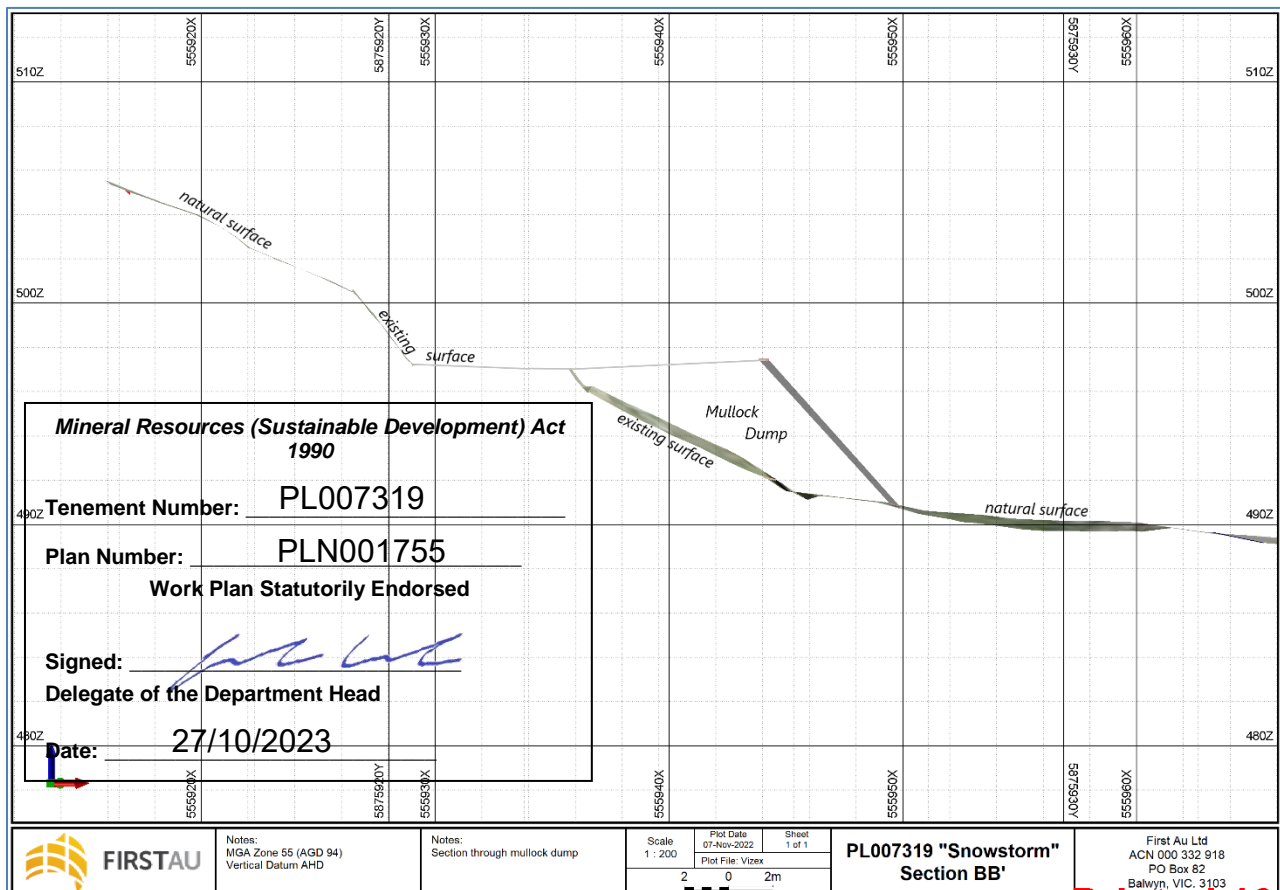


Figure 1.3c: Section BB' through surface extent of underground development.

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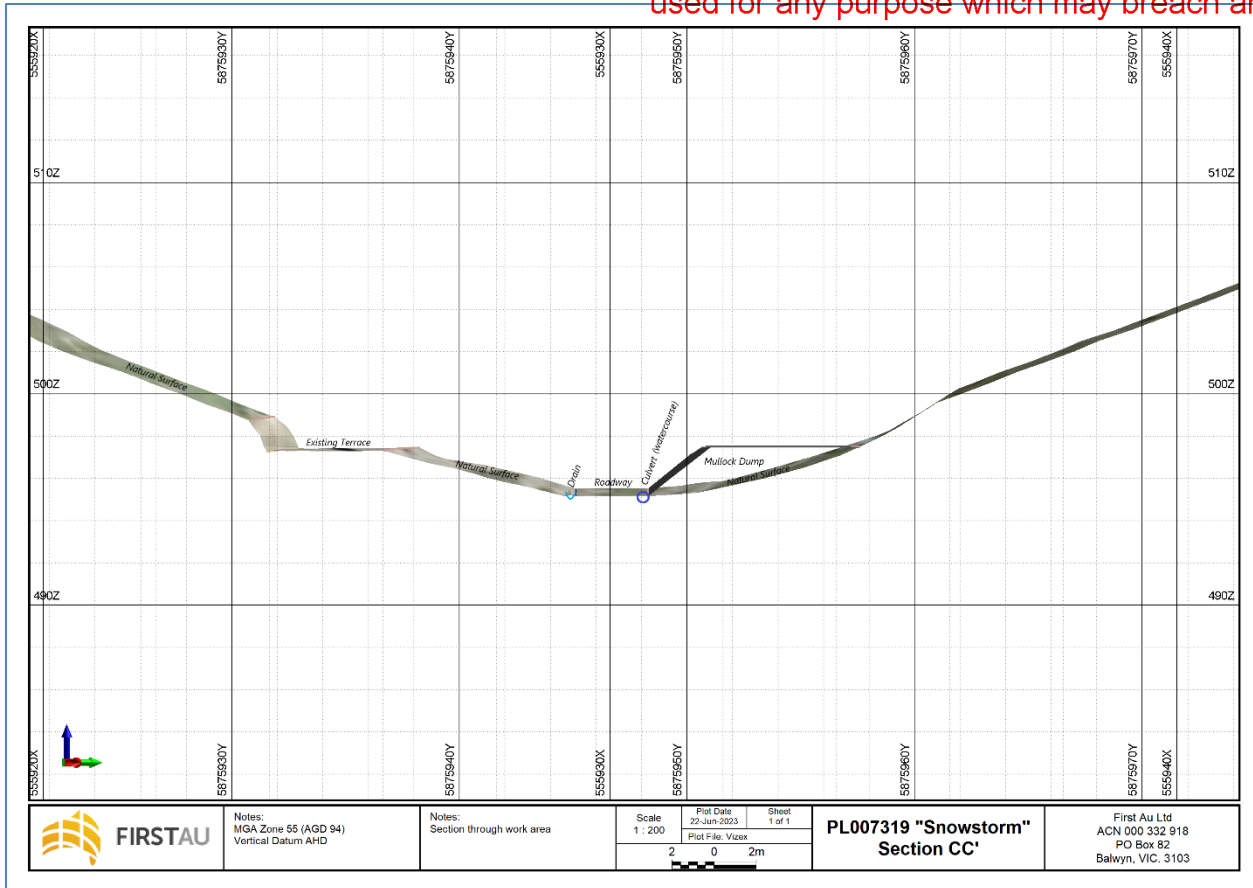


Figure 1.3d: Section CC' through roadway and watercourse.

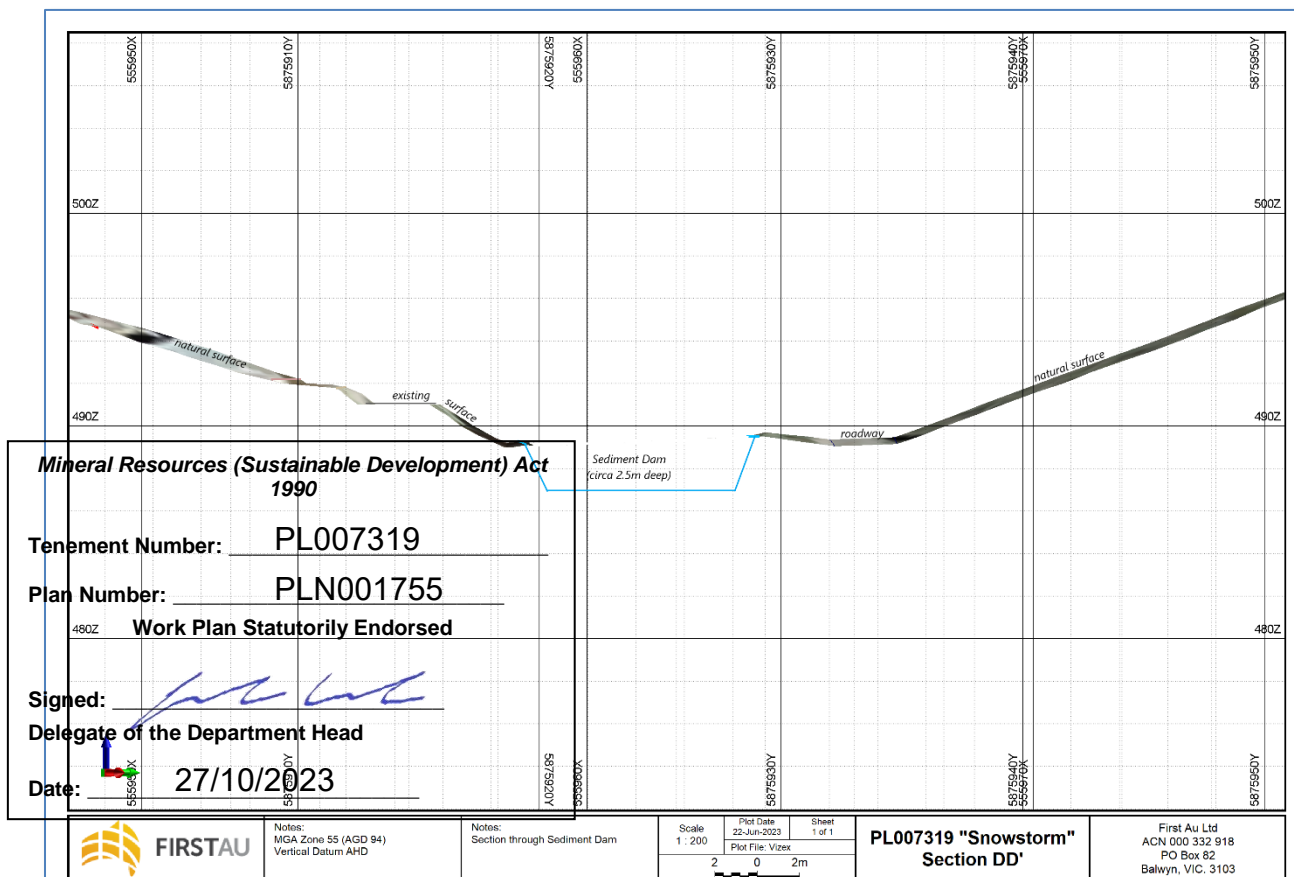


Figure 1.3e: Section DD' through sediment pond.

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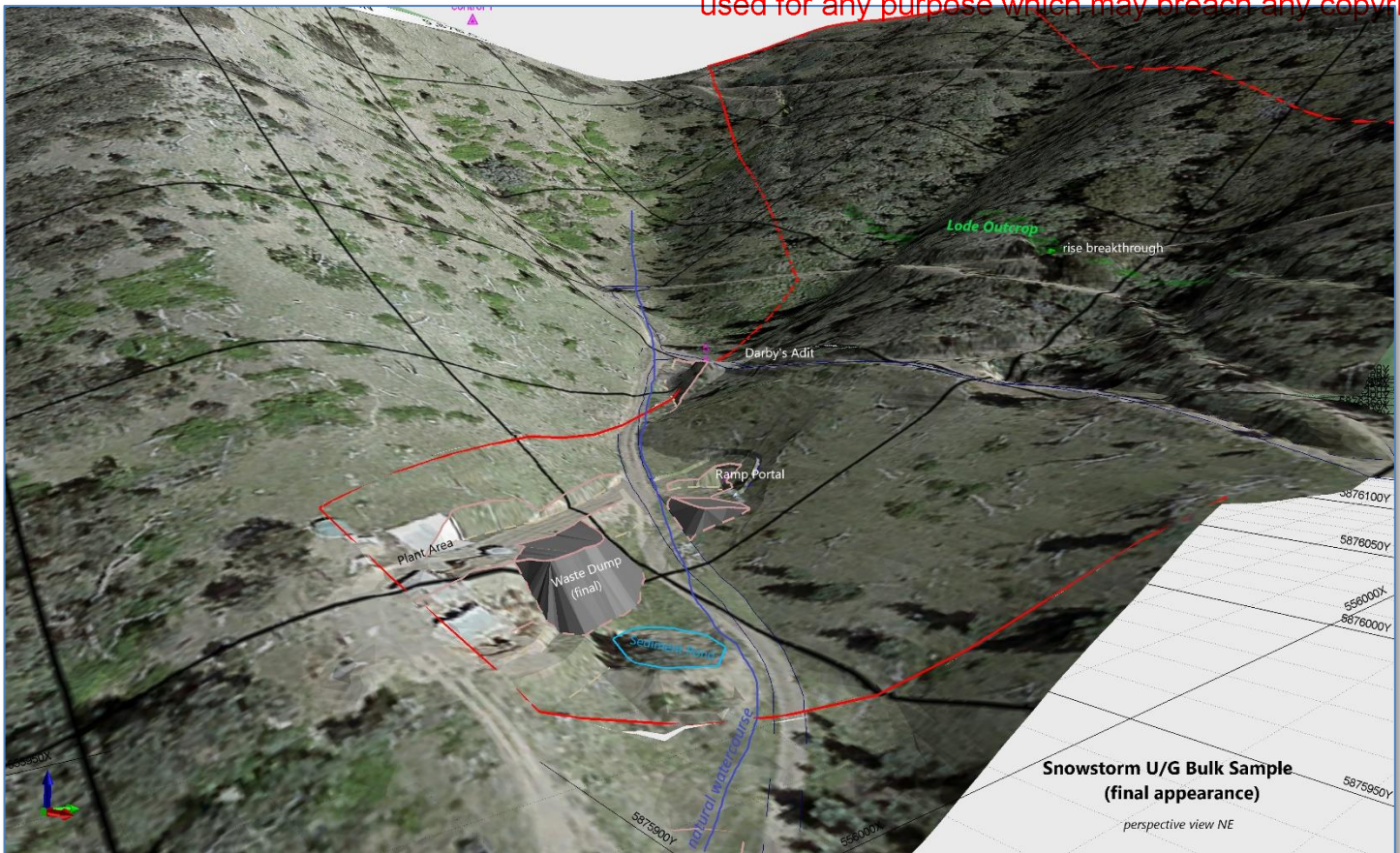


Figure 1.3f: Perspective View of Surface Extent of Underground Development (looking NE).

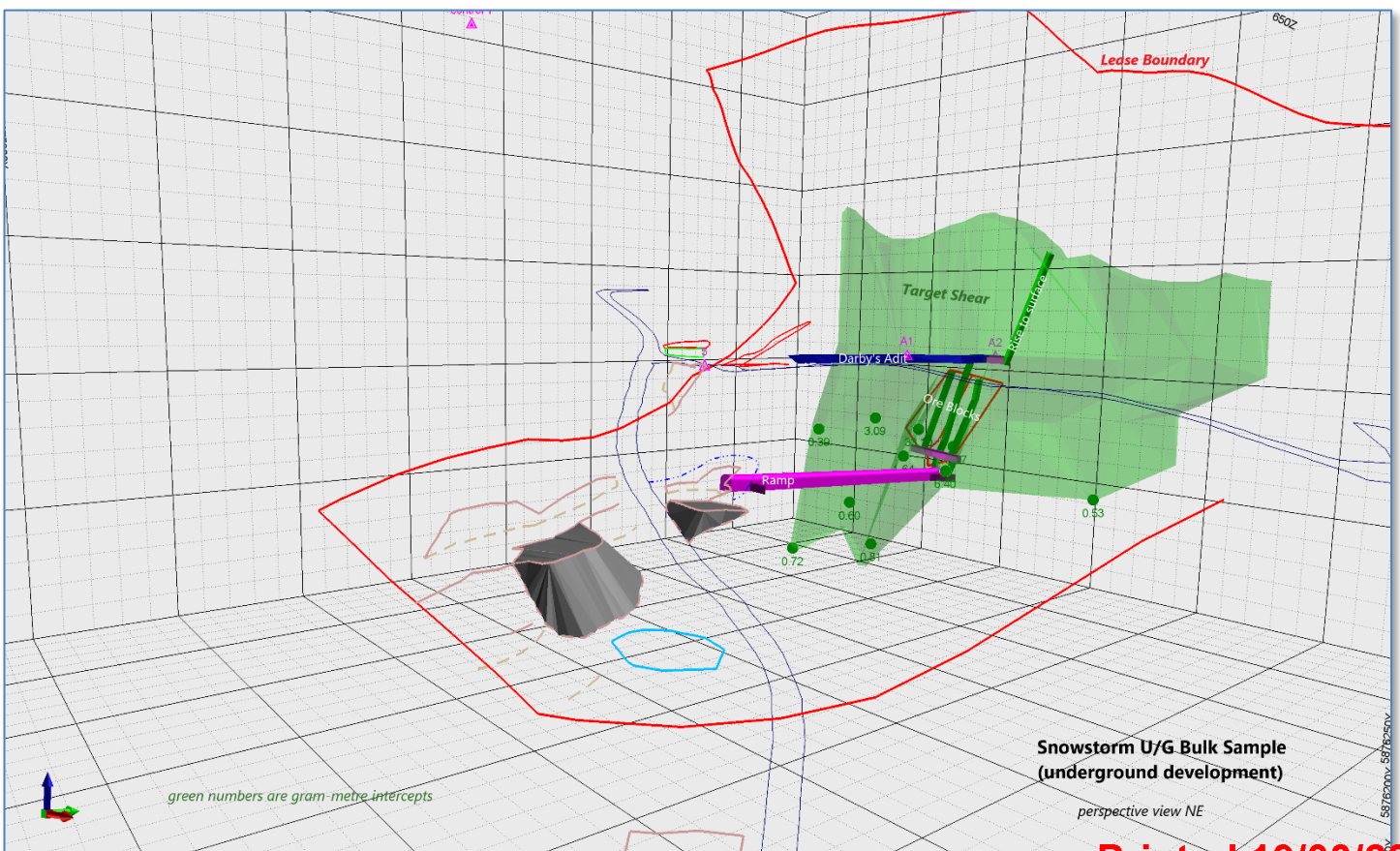


Figure 1.3g: Perspective View of Underground Development (looking NE).

Preliminary Works

- Stripping of top soil over the box-cut area and cut-off drain (cumulative area 89.7m²). The topsoil will be pushed (with a dozer or similar) uphill to create a low bund (<2m high) above the box-cut high-wall as indicated in Figures 1.3a and 1.3b. The bund serves duty as a topsoil stockpile (for re-use in rehabilitation) and as a safety feature minimizing risk of inadvertently falling into box-cut. The cut-off drain shall be immediately upslope of the earthen bund in order to divert rainfall runoff away from box-cut and ramp portal. Sediment fences, comprising staked coir mats and/or shade cloth panels shall be erected on the downslope side of the bund and at the tails of the cut-off drain. The bund will be stabilised with grass pasture species (from commercial propagule). If erosion scour is observed, additional stabilisation using polymer-based soil binding agents may be utilised. Due to extensive degradation of the site by past mining and exploration, there is an absence of defined soil structure and hence it is not possible to separately stockpile discrete soil horizons. The soil stockpile (bund) shall be recovered for re-use during site rehabilitation (refer Rehabilitation Plan for details).
- The existing road shall be utilised for access to the portal and stockpile areas. Rock sheeting may be laid on the track surface to minimize potential for rut development and subsequent erosion. The location of the access road is indicated in Figures 1.1b & 1.1c. Note that the track is *not* a public road. Existing drainage swales on the track shall maintained to a standard equivalent to a Class 5d road (Austroads 1998). Guidance for design and construction standards appropriate to Class 5d roads include “*Guide to Road Design*” (Austroads 2020) and “*Unsealed Roads Manual – Guidelines to Good Practice*” (ARRB 2009). It is not considered necessary to upgrade Riley’s Creek Rd due to the low volume of traffic (notionally 3 return movement per day) and modest Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM ≤ 12 tonne).
- The existing access gates shall be closed when not in use and appropriate warning and advisory signage affixed.

Underground Development

- Development will be undertaken using hand-held mining methods (pneumatic machine and pusher-leg) to bore out “rounds” in development face. Each round is anticipated to pull 1.4m to 1.6m lineal advance. A standardised Blast Management Plan (BMP) shall be developed that is consistent with AS2187.2 as per r.130 of the *Dangerous Goods (Explosives) Regulations* 2011. Given the dimensions of the underground development headings (hence low powder-factor), remoteness of the site and the absence of sensitive receptors that could be adversely affected by underground firing, the purpose of the BMP is to elucidate controls to ensure the safety of site personnel. Security of the site during blasting and management of explosives is further discussed in Section 4.3 below.
- Ramp development is circa 2.2m wide x 2.8m high. A portable diesel-powered air compressor will be placed at the portal to power the machine drill. Refueling shall be via a light-vehicle mounted self-contained “fuel-pod”. Hydrocarbon spill matting shall be utilised and a hydrocarbon spill kit shall be available. Water for underground use (drilling and hosing-down) is supplied via a portable water gin (tank mounted on a trailer). The gin shall be filled from an offsite source (not from dams on the property). Only potable water shall be used.

- Lateral development on ore (including adit level) shall be shanty-back profile 1.2m wide x 1.8m high. Rising, in both ore and waste, shall be 1.2 x 1.2m. Ground-support shall consist of spot-bolting (using 1.2m galvanized split-sets) where adverse structures are encountered. Galvanized mesh shall be employed where ground is blocky or friable. Geotechnical logging of drill core suggests the ground will be stable with no indicated contrary structural weakness (major faults, etc.). The box-cut walls and ramp portal shall be reinforced with shotcrete. Steel sets and timber lagging may be used elsewhere in the underground development if ground conditions warrant. Surface water is diverted away from the ramp portal to reduce potential for erosion and inundation.
- An explosives magazine shall *not* be established on the site. Packaged explosives (comprising Class 1.1B Detonators, Class 1.4S Safety Fuse and Class 1.1D packaged emulsion) shall be transported to site in a 'carry-box' ("receptacle" as defined under *Dangerous Goods (Explosives) Regulations* 2011). The carry-box shall be constructed to the standard specified in the current edition of *Australian Code for the Transport of Explosives by Road and Rail* aka "AEC" (Sect. 6.2(1)) where such construction ensures physical separation of Class 1.1B explosives (detonators) from other explosives within the 'carry-box' (r.71b). The exterior of the 'carry-box' shall be marked in accordance with r.74(2). The interior of the 'carry-box' shall be marked in accordance with r.75. The 'carry-box' shall be transported by a licensed shot-firer in quantities not exceeding that indicated in Column 2 of Table 107A of *Dangerous Goods (Explosives) Regulations* 2011 (r.107(4)(a)(2)). There may be more than one 'carry-box' in use. When on site, 'carry-box(s)' shall be secured in the underground workings in a manner which accords with r.63. The carry-boxes shall be removed when the site is unattended. It is anticipated that the combined quantities of explosive stored in the 'carry-box(s)' shall constitute "medium-scale storage" as defined in r.82 (that is quantities will not exceed those listed in Column 3 of Table 82 of the *Dangerous Goods (Explosives) Regulations* 2011 viz 30kg of Class 1.1D packaged emulsion, 5000m of Safety Fuse and 500 x Class 1.1B Detonators). Such "medium-scale storage" is not required to be licensed as a "magazine" (r.61(3)(b)). There shall be no manufacture of explosive admixtures on site.
- Underground materials handling shall be via pneumatic scraper in sub-level (and Darby's Adit) and rubber-tyred LHD on the ramp. Rock material removed from the underground workings and deposited on the surface using the LHD.
- Waste rock from underground development will be initially tipped immediately outside the ramp portal in the area indicated in Figure 1.3a. Once the initial onsite waste rock emplacement has reached design capacity (80.5 LCM), the waste shall be trammed across the access road and deposited at the existing disturbed area immediately adjacent the extant processing plant (refer Figure 1.3a). The rock material will be delivered to the surface "dry" (moisture content not exceeding 10%) and hence runoff potential from contained water ("bleed-water") is minimal but in any event will report to existing settling pond (refer Figure 1.1c).
- Ore, as extracted, will be stockpiled at the mouth of the portal for loading into a small truck (GVM $\leq 12t$) for removal to an offsite location for consolidation into larger parcels for transport a facility for treatment and testing. It is not anticipated that ore will remain stockpiled for any period exceeding two weeks.

Ancillary Equipment

- Diesel powered equipment (air-compressor, generating set and loader) shall be serviced on-site. Heavy maintenance work shall be conducted off-site.
- Machinery and vehicles shall be suitably maintained and serviced throughout the program to minimise the potential hydrocarbon spills. Hydrocarbon spill kits are available. Re-fueling of plant shall be conducted in-situ from a self-contained “pod” mounted on the tray of a utility vehicle. There shall be no onsite fuel storage. No hazardous materials are stored onsite.
- All machinery and vehicles used on site shall be fitted with operable fire suppression equipment and/or fire extinguishers and staff shall be suitably trained to use such equipment.
- Mobile earthmoving plant shall be washed prior to arriving onsite in order to reduce potential for spread of plant pathogens and weeds.
- Bins for disposal of hydrocarbon waste and general site waste shall be provided. The content of these bins shall be periodically disposed of at the municipal waste transfer facility. Note that rubbish bins shall have fitted lids that resist ingress of wildlife.

Hours of Operation

- Site activities shall be between the hours of 6:00 am and 6:00 pm Monday through Sunday. There shall be no work on public holidays. There shall be no movement of trucks on access roads when natural light is insufficient to illuminate the work area (such as early morning and late afternoon in mid-winter). The number of persons working on the site shall be in accordance with programme schedule but, in any instance, the number shall not exceed the capacity of the ablution facilities provided (1 x portable chemical toilet). Individual personnel may fill multiple roles thus limiting the number of people on site at any given moment.
- Mining is conducted on a part-time basis in accordance with programme schedule and prevailing site conditions (example: no work when fire weather prevails). It is anticipated that the mining programme will take up to eighteen (18) months to complete and rehabilitation a further three (3) months.
- Site shall be evacuated on days of extreme fire danger or when otherwise advised by the land owner and/or the local CFA.

Site Access

- Access to the active work areas shall be off Riley’s Creek Rd (refer Figure 1.1b).
- The site is located on private property and access gates shall be kept closed when not in use to preclude access by members of the public. Appropriate warning and advisory signs shall be affixed to access gate.
- There shall be no vehicular access to areas outside of the existing and new areas of disturbance.
- Worker and visitor vehicles will be parked in existing cleared area (adjacent to core shed). It is not anticipated that there will be any more than three (3) light vehicles on-site during working hours.

Stockpiling & Materials Handling

- Ore, as extracted, will be temporarily stockpiled at the mouth of the portal for loading into a small truck (GVM $\leq 12t$) for removal to an offsite location for consolidation into larger parcels for transport a facility for treatment and testing. It is not anticipated that ore will remain stockpiled for any period exceeding two weeks and that the dynamic stockpile volume will not exceed $50m^3$ or be any higher than 2m with a slope that of the natural angle of repose of the rock material (circa 50°). The ore-material is not anticipated to evolve acid rock drainage due to the demonstrated self-buffering capacity of the host-rocks (refer Section 4.2 and Appendix C) and the relatively oxidised nature of the ore (extracted from above the water-table). In any event, runoff from the stockpile will report to the extant settling pond.
- Approximately 1,978 tonnes of waste rock (assumed SG 2.4 and swell factor 1.4) will be stacked at the two locations illustrated in Figures 1.1c and 1.3a. The stockpiles will have a combined surface footprint of approximately $399.3m^2$ of which only $102.5m^2$ will be new disturbance. Some select waste rock will be utilised for sheeting the access road both onsite and offsite. The waste rock material at Snowstorm has been determined from testing to have no acid generating potential and indeed displays acid neutralising potential primarily because of the considerable carbonate content (including ankerite). There is no sulphidic material exposed in the dumps of historic workings. In any event, the material proposed to be worked is above the water table and is therefore largely oxidised thus rendering the potential for acid generation remote. Any runoff from the waste stockpiles will report to the existing settling pond.
- Water for dust suppression purposes (both surface and underground) is anticipated to be sourced from external potable supply (trailer-mounted water-gin taken offsite daily for re-filling from public stand-pipe or similar).
- Topsoil, as recovered during pre-stripping activities, shall be stockpiled in a low windrow upslope of the box-cut highwall where it shall act as a safety bund (refer Figures 1.3a and 1.3b). Sediment fences, comprising staked coir mats and/or shade cloth panels shall be erected on the downslope side of the bund. The bund will be stabilised with pasture ground cover species (from commercial propagule). If erosion scour is observed, additional stabilisation using polymer-based soil binding agents may be utilised.

1.4 Sensitive Receptors

The Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990 does not furnish a definition of the term “sensitive receptor”. Similarly, the Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) (Mineral Industries) Regulations 2019 provides no definition. The current guideline document titled *Preparation of Work Plans and Work-Plan Variations; Guideline for Mining Projects* (December 2020) provides guidance for describing sensitive receptors in the vicinity of proposed work.

- The Snowstorm project is located approximately 9 kilometres east of the township of Swifts Creek in the East Gippsland district of Victoria (Figure 1.1a). PL007319 encloses total area of 4.7Ha comprising a mixture of open grazing land and relict patches of native vegetation in steep terrain of elevated relief (circa 600mAHD). The owner of the property is a director of Minerals Pty Ltd (the licensee). The property has been the subject of historic and modern

exploration and mining. The land is not currently stocked and is not under cultivation.

- The land is zoned Farming (FZ1) under the East Gippsland Shire Planning Scheme. No Planning Overlays affect the site with the exception of a Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO) and Erosion Management Overlay (EMO). Fire protection and management is discussed further in Section 4.6. Surface water and sediment runoff management are discussed in Section 4.2.
- The proposed work area is situated on steep terrain of mountainous relief (circa 600m AHD) within the Tambo River Proclaimed Catchment (East Gippsland CMA). Soil comprises thin stony loam. There are no permanent streams proximal to the new work but an ephemeral gully (designated as a waterway by the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority) is within 30m of the new portal. The site is located on a hillside and is self-draining. Table drains extant on the site direct runoff to an existing settling pond. Another sediment pond is located further down the gully (and off the licence) in which the works are located. Aspects and impacts of water management are discussed in Section 4.2.
- The proposed work does not require the removal of native vegetation. Remnant patches of native vegetation (categorized as EVC0175 "Grassy Woodland" East Gippsland Uplands Bioregion) are evident on the licence but will not be impacted by the work. Protection of individual trees is discussed in Section 4.5.
- Scrutiny of the *Victorian Heritage Database* (Heritage Council of Victoria) suggests there are no heritage sites (either Register or Inventory) located within or adjacent the active area. The prescribed boundary of the Cassilis Historic Area (managed by Parks Victoria) is approximately 250m north of the active area and over a high ridge. The activities described in this Work Plan will in no way adversely impact heritage features and fabric associated with the Cassilis Historic Area.
- Depth to groundwater in the area is indicated by exploration drilling to be no closer to the surface than 100m. Underground development will be no deeper than 60m below the surface. The VVG (*Visualising Victoria's Groundwater*) web portal indicates the groundwater is designated Segment 'A1' (TDS <500mg/L). Environmental Values for this segment include *Water Dependent Ecosystems & Species*, *Potable Mineral Water Supply*, *Agriculture & Irrigation (Stock Watering)*, *Industrial & Commercial* and *Primary Contact Recreation*. There is no evidence that these Values are exploited within 1km of the active work area. The work will not compromise the Objectives associated with these Values as defined in the current Environment Reference Standard.
- There are no powerlines, sewers, gas mains or any other services traversing the site.
- The work site is *not* located in an area designated as of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Significance.
- The work described in this Work Plan involves the use of explosives. Risk to public safety is discussed in Section 4.3. Information regarding the transport, storage and use of explosives is given in Section 1.3 under the heading "*Underground Development*".
- The nearest residence (rural property) is located 0.9km to the east-north-east of the proposed operational area and on the other side of a high wooded ridge. Another residence exists 1.4km to the east on the banks of Riley's Creek and is screened by topography and vegetation. The mine-site is not visible from either residence.

The extent of potential impact to these receptors is described in Section 3. The mitigation of potential impact is discussed in Section 4.

2 Identification of Mining Hazards

The proposed work on PL007319, as described in Section 1.3, has the potential to evince a number of hazards that may pose a risk to people, property and the natural environment if not appropriately managed.

The following tables present possible hazards that may arise from developmental activities during the life-cycle of the programme (Construction, Operation & Closure). The hazards presented are in specific relation to the Snowstorm Project, as described in Section 1.3.

Table 2.1: Hazards during Construction Phase

ACTIVITY	HAZARD	RECEPTOR
preparing site	heavy vehicle movement, dust, erosion	land, surface water, native vegetation (individual tree)
box-cut excavation	open hole, geotechnical stability, erosion	surface water, land

Table 2.2: Hazards during Operational Phase

ACTIVITY	HAZARD	RECEPTOR
materials handling	dust, sedimentation	land, amenity (site personnel), surface water

Table 2.3: Hazards during Closure Phase

ACTIVITY	HAZARD	RECEPTOR
earthmoving	dust, heavy vehicle movement, geotechnical instability, sedimentation	land, amenity, surface water
revegetation	climatic conditions, weed competition, grazing	land
post-closure	geotechnical instability, erosion	land, surface water

Please note, only *relevant* hazards have been presented in the above tables where there is an identified apparent risk. A range of standard hazards as well as site specific hazards are detailed in the Risk Register illustrated in Section 3.2 and provided as separate document.

3 Identification and Assessment of Risk

This Section identifies and examines risks that may be posed by the Hazards identified in Section 2. The management of particular risks, including those that are identified as “Very High” or “High” are discussed in Section 4. Please refer to the current guideline document titled *Preparation of Work Plans and Work-Plan Variations; Guideline for Mining Projects* (2020) for definition of “Very High” and “High” risks.

The licensee does not consider that small-scale underground development and offsite processing of ‘bulk-sample’ poses an ongoing and unmanageable risk to the natural environment and surrounding grazing land: –

- Approximately 3,000t of 'bulk-sample' may be recovered during the underground mining programme.
- 'Ore' will be temporarily stockpiled onsite for progressive removal to offsite processing facility. Waste rock will be stockpiled adjacent the underground access during Life-of-Mine; some of which will be used to block underground access at the conclusion of active mining.
- The average number of return truck movements per week (amortised over Life-of-Mine) is 1 (one).
- It is anticipated that the mining operation and subsequent rehabilitation of the site will take up to 18 months to complete.

3.1 Risk Assessment Methodology

A modified risk matrix approach for assessing of risk using the ALARP (As-Low-As-Reasonably-Practicable) as defined in AS4801 is employed by Earth Resources Regulation for evaluation of Risk. This involves first identifying the risk, determining the likelihood and the consequence if no controls are in place and then calculating a risk score. The process is then repeated with consideration of appropriate controls and a residual risk score calculated.

The methodology for assessment of risk is described in the current guideline document titled *Preparation of Work Plans and Work-Plan Variations; Guideline for Mining Projects* (2020).

3.2 Risk Register

A register of potential hazards associated with this proposal is presented on the following page. Detail can also be found in separate *Risk Register* document.

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RISK REGISTER FOR MINING LICENCE NUMBER: PL007319					Phase of Project			Risk Assessment prior to additional risk controls - project inherent risk			Risk Assessment after including risk controls - project residual risk		
Hazard	Risk No	Risk Event	Causes/Background	Receptors	Construction	Operation	Rehabilitation	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk Rating	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk Rating
Machine Noise	1	noise affecting amenity	use of fixed & mobile plant on site creating noise and impacting neighbour amenity	nearest neighbours	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unlikely	Minor	Low	Unlikely	Minor	Low
Hazardous Material - Fuel & Oil	2	fixed & mobile plant refuelling & leakage of hydrocarbon fluids from plant	spills & leaks contaminating land and affecting water quality in designated watercourse adjacent work area	soil & designated watercourse adjacent work area	Yes	Yes	Yes	Possible	Insignificant	Low	Rare	Insignificant	Low
Air Quality - Dust	3a	raised dust affecting amenity of nearest neighbour	dust raised from: vehicle movement, wind scour of disturbed areas, handling of material, stockpiles	nearest neighbours (0.9km NNE & 1.4km E)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Possible	Insignificant	Low	Unlikely	Minor	Low
Air Quality - Dust	3b	raised dust from stockpiles and trucking of ore offsite affecting health of nearest neighbour	hot, dry and windy conditions	nearest neighbours (0.9km NNE & 1.4km E)	No	Yes	No	Unlikely	Minor	Low	Rare	Minor	Low
Erosion & Sedimentation	4	sediment depositing onsite & sediment laden water leaving site	heavy rainfall on disturbed areas and vehicular movement increasing sediment load in watercourse and depositing on land	surface water (watercourse adjacent portal) & private land	Yes	Yes	Yes	Possible	Minor	Medium	Unlikely	Minor	Low
Ground Instability	5	subsidence	failure of box-cut wall resulting in damage to land and impacting designated watercourse adjacent boxcut	private land and designated watercourse proximal to excavations	No	Yes	Yes	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Unlikely	Minor	Low
Fire	6	bush-fire	accidental ignition onsite from hot-work, vehicle fire or machinery fire	environment, members of the public, land, property and infrastructure	Yes	Yes	Yes	Possible	Critical	Very High	Possible	Moderate	Medium
Security Breach	7	injury to member of public	unauthorised public access to work areas resulting in injury from falling into mine voids	public safety	Yes	Yes	Yes	Possible	Major	High	Unlikely	Minor	Low
Pests, Weeds & Diseases	8	invasive weed species	mismanagement of disturbed areas resulting in weed infestation	land & environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	Possible	Minor	Medium	Unlikely	Minor	Low
Ground Disturbance - Native Vegetation	9	impact to biodiversity	inadvertent impact to retained native vegetation	native vegetation	Yes	Yes	No	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Unlikely	Minor	Low
Ground Disturbance - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage	10	disturbance of sites and artefacts of Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity	significant ground disturbance resulting in unexpected disturbance of cultural feature or remains	Aboriginal cultural heritage	Yes	Yes	No	Unlikely	Critical	High	Unlikely	Minor	Low
Hazardous Materials - Rock Stockpiles	11	stockpiles	ARD from stockpiling of waste rock and ore impacting soil quality and stream water quality	land & designated watercourse adjacent rock stockpiles	No	Yes	Yes	Possible	Minor	Medium	Unlikely	Minor	Low
Ground Water	12	intersection with groundwater in excavation	groundwater been intercepted in underground development	ground water	Yes	No	No	Unlikely	Minor	Low	Unlikely	Insignificant	Low
Blasting	13	dust, gases & vibration	underground blasting resulting in impact to nearby structures and amenity of nearest neighbour	nearest neighbours, structures (closest houses) and road bridge at confluence of Riley's Creek with Swifts Creek	Yes	Yes	No	Unlikely	Minor	Low	Unlikely	Minor	Low
Rubbish	14	accumulation of general rubbish	domestic rubbish and commercial packaging not been regularly removed from site	land	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unlikely	Insignificant	Low	Rare	Insignificant	Low

NOTE: For controls, please refer to Risk Treatment Plan

Accountable Personnel

List Personnel accountable for the implementation, management and review of the Risk Management Plan

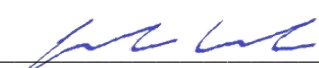
Position	Roles and Responsibilities
Site Supervisor	oversee day-to-day implementation of risk mitigation strategies & controls
All site personnel	responsible for reporting incidents / issues to Site Supervisor and rectifying problems as they arise ("see it, fix it, report it")

Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990

Tenement Number: PL007319

Plan Number: PLN001755

Work Plan Statutorily Endorsed

Signed: 

Delegate of the Department Head

Date: 27/10/2023

4 Risk Management Plan

The operators of earth resources sites in Victoria are obliged to observe statutory obligations under the General Environmental Duty (GED) as defined in Part 3.2 of the Environment Protection Act 2017 (enacted on 1st July 2021) which states:

“A person who is engaging in an activity that may give rise to risks of harm to human health or the environment from pollution or waste must minimise those risks, so far as reasonably practicable.”

Furthermore, an operator must (inter alia):

- a. *use and maintain plant, equipment, processes and systems in a manner that minimises risks of harm to human health and the environment from pollution and waste;*
- b. *use and maintain systems for identification, assessment and control of risks of harm to human health and the environment from pollution and waste that may arise in connection with the activity, and for the evaluation of the effectiveness of controls;*
- c. *use and maintain adequate systems to ensure that if a risk of harm to human health or the environment from pollution or waste were to eventuate, its harmful effects would be minimised*

Risks (and treatments thereof) described in the Risk Register (refer Section 3.2) are examined in detail in the *Risk Treatment Plan*. Some site-specific risks and risk treatments are discussed below. The evaluation of risk and management thereof as described in the Risk Treatment Plan are consistent with operator obligations under the GED.

4.1 Geotechnical Stability

The proposal calls for construction of a new underground access (2.2m x 2.8m ramp down at circa 1:10 for 92m) to a depth of 60m below ground surface where development on ore will take place. The ramp will commence from a new box-cut excavation sited on an existing excavated platform.

Geotechnical logging of drill-core from the area proposed to be developed indicates the ground is sufficiently competent to support the small openings envisaged. The shoot of auriferous stone intended to be worked does not extend to the surface. Pillars of low-grade material will be used to support the hanging-wall in stoping areas. Additional mechanical ground-support shall also be employed. The risk of surface subsidence is considered to be negligible.

Historic Voids:

It is known that historical underground mining occurred at the Snowstorm site. Examination of extant voids indicates that the mining was small-scale and of little extent along or across strike. Very limited stoping appears to have been undertaken.

Resource definition drilling did not indicate voids deeper than 30m BGL. It is acknowledged that the drill spacing is broad (in relation to the small size of historic openings) and that drilling does not always give a reliable indication of voids. Such probe drilling (using extension steels on the machine drill) shall be utilised to probe

ahead of development where historic voids could be reasonably supposed to exist. It is not anticipated that the historic voids will contain water at the level of the proposed new development. In any event, probe holes fitted with van Ruth Plugs offer a safe method of draining historic voids in a controlled manner. Because of the small-scale of historic mining at the site, any voids that may be encountered are likely to be no larger than the proposed new development in cross-section. It should be noted that “sounding” the ground during routine check-scaling can also give an indication as to proximity of historic voids.

Box-Cut Excavation:

The box-cut excavation entails the removal of 46.5m³ (bank volume) of partly weathered rock material and subsoil. The box-cut utilises an existing excavated platform in order to reduce the area of new ground disturbance. Maximum depth of the box-cut is 4m (at portal) with a maximum slope length of 4.3m at a maximum angle of 70° (the top 0.5m of the slope is laid-back at -60° giving an overall high-wall angle of -68°). The long-axis of the box-cut excavation (refer Figures 1.3a & 1.3b) is oriented at a high angle to the rock-mass fabric (bedding) thus reducing risk of wedge failures in the high wall. A drop-in pre-cast concrete (or fabricated ring segment) will be installed to reinforce the portal). Some of the previously excavated material will be used to backfill behind and above the ring segment. The box-cut walls will be covered in minimum 75mm fibre-reinforced shotcrete. The general arrangement of the box-cut and environs is illustrated in Figures 4.1a, 4.1b, 4.1c & 4.1d.

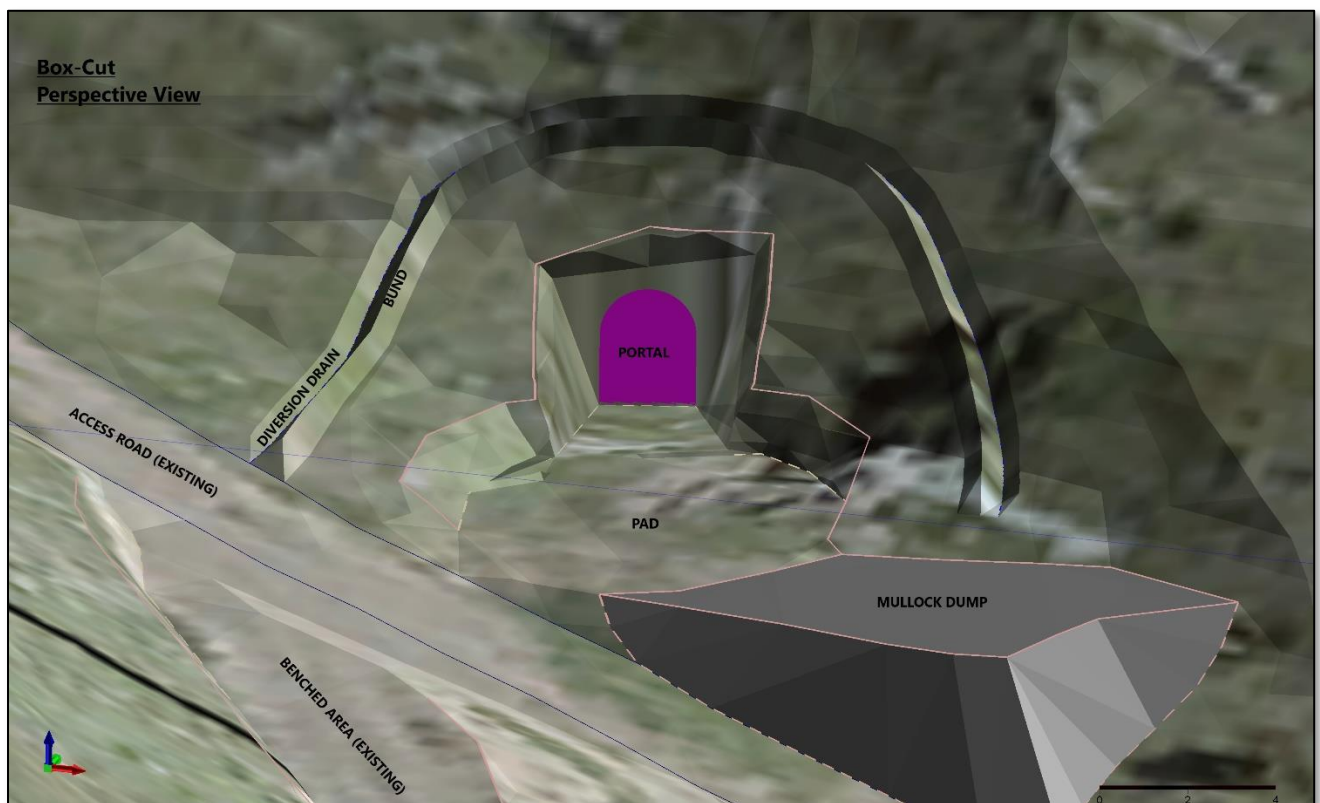


Figure 4.1a Box-Cut Perspective View (looking toward portal)



Figure 4.1d Box-Cut Cross Section View

Structure and Rock Mass Description:

Gold mineralisation at the Snowstorm prospect is hosted in steeply dipping mineralised quartz veins striking in a general east-west direction with evidence of cross-cutting NW-SE vein sets all hosted in sheared and folded Ordovician sediments. The host-sediments consist of variably altered sandstones, silts and shales of Ordovician age. Greenschist facies alteration is pervasive with some fine-grained lithologies displaying mylonitic textures indicating a high strain environment. Some less plastic lithologies and bedded quartz veins are mullioned indicating plastic / brittle deformation. Mafic dykes are observed in the footwall of reef structures.

The host-sediments are within the contact aureole of the adjacent Riley's Creek Granodiorite are subsequently more-or-less hornfelsed. The sediments to the proposed terminal depth of the new underground development are oxidised. Some clay development in the weathered dyke material is anticipated. Joints are tight and broad-spaced. Dominant structural orientation is at a high angle to the path of the ramp access.

Ground Support:

The identification and management of geotechnical risk shall be derived from the experience of the Site Manager and underground mining crew. Ground control management is proactive. Remedial work shall be conducted as a consequence of routine inspection by suitably experienced mining personnel.

Ground-support shall consist of spot-bolting (using 1.2m galvanized split-sets) where adverse structures are encountered. Galvanized mesh shall be employed where ground is blocky or friable. Grouted bars may also be installed where considered necessary. There is no indicated contrary structural weakness (major faults, etc.) in the rock strata.

The portal of the ramp shall consist of a drop-in concrete or steel ring segment which will be set on solid bedrock (pre-excavated). The ring segment will extend for a minimum of 3m. Fill (from previously excavated material) will be compacted behind the ring segment and backfilled to natural surface above it. Grout may be used to seal mating-surface between bottom lip of the ring segment and bedrock in order to reduce potential for water ingress and subsequent erosion of backfill. The ring segment shall be retained at conclusion of mining to act as a support for a bondek and steel purlin wall to be erected to prevent access to the underground workings. An earthen plug (using previously excavated material) shall be placed in front of the wall. Beyond the portal, the ramp shall be reinforced with woven wire mesh anchored with friction-bolts ("split-sets"). Timber and/or steel sets with timber lagging may be installed if considered necessary in areas where adverse structures are encountered. Alternatively, fibre-reinforced shotcrete may be installed. Note that required stand-up time for capital development (ramp and vent rise) does not need to exceed 2 years.

Surface water shall be diverted away from the box-cut to prevent potential for erosion of batters and excess water ingress into the mine opening. For this purpose, a small diversion drain shall be constructed up-slope of the box-cut high-wall. This drain shall be of shallow parabolic form (up to 37m long and 0.5m wide) and tail to sediment traps comprising sediment fences and/or coir mats.

Ground support and general ground conditions shall be inspected on a routine basis by the Site Supervisor who is an experienced underground miner. Any defects shall be remedied as expeditiously as possible.

At the conclusion of mining, all openings utilised during the programme shall be plugged and earthworks undertaken at collar areas to ensure a stable residual landform. This is discussed further in Section 5.

Waste Rock Stockpiles:

The new underground development will evolve an estimated 741.5m³ (loose) of waste rock to be deposited at two locations. The first location is immediately outside the portal and will comprise 80.5m³ (loose) of mostly weathered rock from the box-cut excavation and portal construction. The material shall be dumped from the edge of the existing platform and progress for a distance of approximately 12m down-slope and parallel to the existing access road. The completed dump will have a maximum slope length of 6.9m and a maximum batter angle of 50° which is the natural angle of repose of the waste rock material (as measured from the existing waste dump outside Darby's Adit). A section through the portal waste dump is illustrated in Figure 1.3b.

A second waste dump shall be established from the existing upper-bench level of the existing processing plant area (refer Figure 1.3a for location). This dump shall hold the balance of the expected waste rock volume (661m³ loose). The completed dump will have a maximum slope length of 8.9m at natural angle of repose (50°). A section through the secondary waste dump is illustrated in Figure 1.3c. A terrace shall be cut to relieve the slope height during rehabilitation of the dump. Rehabilitation of the dumps is described in Section 5.

4.2 Erosion and Surface Runoff Water Quality Management

The standards and protocols applicable to protection of surface and groundwater quality at the site reflect the requirements of the current Environment Reference Standard (gazetted 26th May 2021) particularly offsite protection of Environmental Values for Rivers & Streams Uplands B Segment.

The Snowstorm Project work area is situated on moderately steep terrain in an area of mountainous relief (circa 600mAHD). The new underground access is to be sited on hillside high above Riley's Creek, a tributary of Swift's Creek in the Tambo River catchment. There are no permanent streams proximal to the work area but an ephemeral gully is located 20m west of the portal site. This gully is designated by the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority as a waterway. The bed of this gully is much altered and is occupied by the existing access track. All surface drainage from the access track and the portal site reports to an existing sediment pond located approximately 50m downslope of the portal (refer Figure 1.3a). Another sediment dam exists offsite approximately 400m further downstream on the aforementioned gully. There is yet one more dam before the gully enters Riley's Creek some 1.6km downslope of the portal site. There are no farm dams on Riley's Creek downstream of the confluence with the gully in which the Snowstorm Project is located. The confluence of Riley's Creek with Swifts Creek is approximately 2.2km downstream of the portal site. The site is located within the jurisdiction the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (EGCMA). The Authority has determined that the new work is within 30m of a designated waterway and that a Works on Waterways Permit will be required.

Rainfall run-off from the thin stony loams found on the site is described as high. There is no defined drainage within the surface footprint area of the new work. The new work area is self-draining.

The footprint of new surface disturbance is small (253m²) and is located on the side of a moderately steep slope approximately 1m above (in elevation) and 20m east of the adjacent gully (designated a waterway by the EGCMA). A shallow diversion drain (swale) shall be installed on the up-hill side of the new underground opening. Sediment fences comprising coir mats and / or shade cloth shall be erected on the discharge points of the drain. Calculated rainfall for a 1hr 1% AEP event is given as 45.9mm (source: BOM IFD charts). Using a run-off co-efficient (ratio of surface run-off to infiltration) of 0.6 for the small (0.1Ha) catchment area above the portal, the volume of water reporting at the drain discharge points for the 1hr 1% AEP event is approximately 14m³. Note that a road exists approximately 26m upslope from the portal which acts as a cut-off and limits the upslope extent of the portal diversion drain catchment (the location of the road is indicated in Figure 1.3a). The catchment for the gully above the sediment pond is approximately 9.5Ha. The majority of runoff from this area is currently diverted away from the pond by an existing roadside drain. This diversion will be retained by installing a culvert 500mm diameter at the point where the portal access crosses the existing track (refer Figure 4.2) and maintaining the existing roadside drain below that point. Drainage from the portal access will be diverted across the road by a swale to a second (existing) drain which reports to the sediment pond. Staked coir mats shall be installed in this drain to arrest sediment and reduce flow velocity. Outflow from the diversion drain above the portal will report to the aforementioned roadside drain. The existing sediment pond has been in place for approximately 10 years and has proved adequate for managing sediment load from disturbed areas. The pond is approximately 11m in diameter and 2.5m deep at its deepest point. It can hold

approximately 158kL before spilling but has never been observed to hold more than 1/3rd that. The effective freeboard is thus greater than 1m and can therefore easily accommodate (by a factor of nearly 4x) the 14kL inflow expected in a 1hr 1% AEP rainfall event. The pond is periodically cleaned of sediment to maintain effective capacity. The sediment is removed offsite for disposal. Any overflow from the pond will report to the secondary pond located offsite further downstream. Figure 4.2 illustrates the site drainage arrangement.

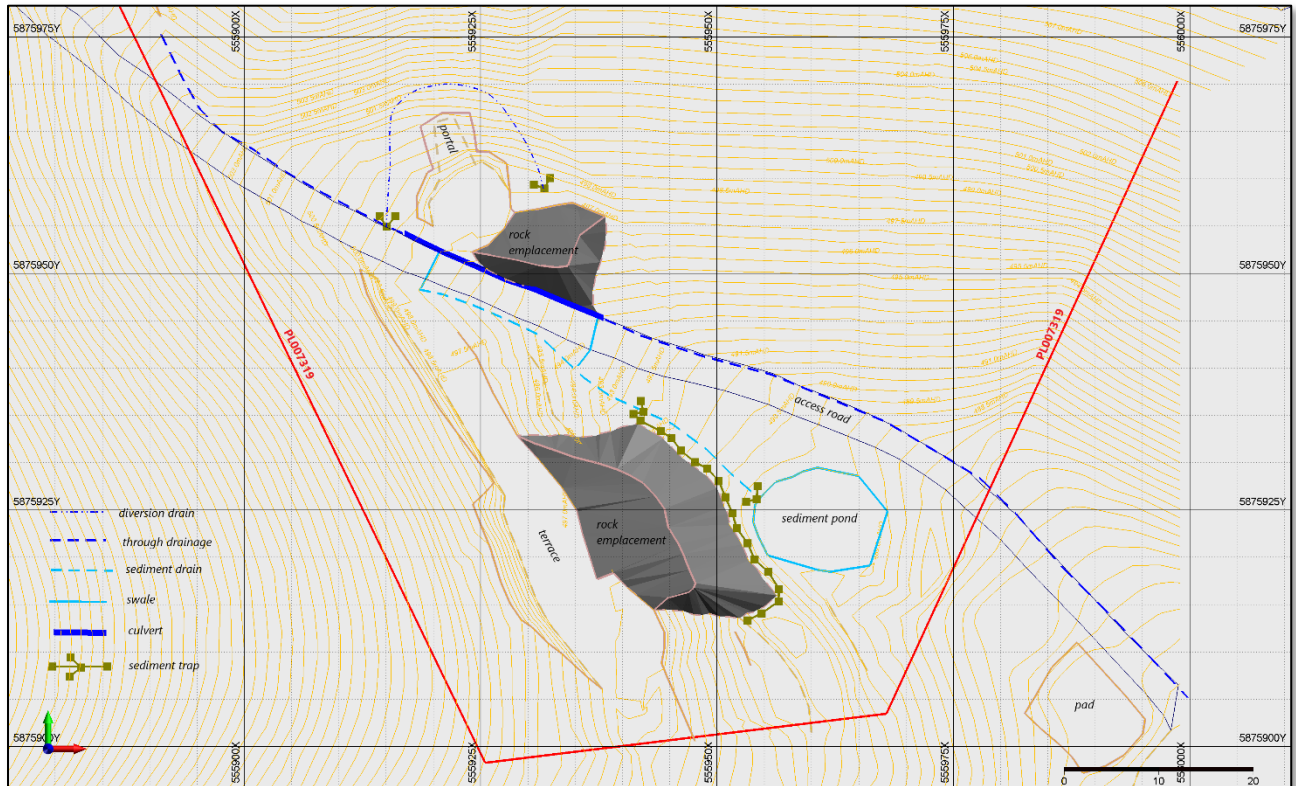


Figure 4.2 Site Drainage Plan

Any runoff from the waste rock emplacements (mullock dumps) indicated in Figure 4.2 will be captured by the existing and new drainage arrangements and diverted to the existing sediment pond. Sediment fences (coir mats and/or shade cloth) shall be installed at the toe of the rock emplacements to capture most of the coarse sediment. Fine sediment will be deposited in the sediment pond. The waste rock is deposited at a moisture content of 10% comprising, primarily, “pore” water and thus has little potential for bleed or “free” water.

Three samples of rock representing the dominant host lithologies of the Snowstorm ores were despatched to Environmental Analysis Laboratory (part of Southern Cross University) for determination of acid generating potential. EAL is NATA accredited for ARD testing in accordance with methods described in the ARD Test Handbook (AMIRA, 2002). The analytical suite undertaken is consistent with the Test Handbook for Initial ARD Screening and comprises *Chromium Reducible Sulphur* (as a measure of Potential Sulphidic Acidity), *Acid Neutralising Capacity* (% CaCO₃ equivalent), *Single Addition Net Acid Generation* (NAG) test and a calculation of *Net Acid Producing Potential* (NAPP). From these tests, the samples were classified in accordance with schema promulgated in the Test Handbook. The testing indicates that all three samples are Non-Acid Forming (NAF) and show Acid-Consuming Potential (ACM). Analytical results are tabled below:

Table 4.2: ARD Test Results

Sample_ID	CRS % S _{cr}	ANC % CaCO ₃	NAG pH	NAPP kg H ₂ SO ₄ /t	Classification
SSARD001	<0.005	0.81	7.53	-8	NAF, ACM
SSARD002	<0.005	0.64	6.57	-6	NAF, ACM
SSARD003	<0.005	0.09	6.86	-1	NAF, ACM

NOTES: SSARD001 - orange/brown partly decomposed dyke (?), limonitic, Darby's Adit dump

SSARD002 - grey schist, slightly weathered, Darby's Adit dump

SSARD003 - pale grey siltstone, limonite on fracture surfaces, moderately weathered, Darby's Adit dump

The ARD results are consistent with expectation based on observed carbonate content of host rocks. The laboratory results are given in Appendix C. Representative rock samples will be routinely analysed for ARD as part of mine development.

Any ore will be temporarily stockpiled adjacent the portal for removal offsite. Surface stockpiling of ore material will be minimised as much as possible, particularly during wet periods and every effort will be made to remove such material before a forecast rain event. It is not anticipated that the portal stockpile will exceed 50m³ at any given time nor remain static for any period exceeding two weeks thus minimising potential for development of acid drainage. Any runoff from this stockpile location will report to the sediment pond.

Inspection of active areas (including swales and drains) shall be undertaken on a routine basis and after periods of heavy rainfall in order to detect any unacceptable erosion (and/or accumulation of sediment or pooling of water). Any defects shall be immediately rectified in consultation with landowner. All inspections shall be documented. Any observed incidence of offsite discharge of sediment impacted water shall be reported to EPA and landowner and remedial action instigated as soon as practicable after event.

Groundwater:

Groundwater is not anticipated to be intersected in the new underground development based on inspection of Darby's Adit, data from exploration drill holes and historic records of the former King Cassilis mine located approximately 700m north-west. The VVG (*Visualising Victoria's Groundwater*) web portal indicates the groundwater is designated Segment 'A1' (TDS <500mg/L). Environmental Values for this segment include *Water Dependent Ecosystems & Species*, *Potable Mineral Water Supply*, *Agriculture & Irrigation (Stock Watering)*, *Industrial & Commercial* and *Primary Contact Recreation*. There is no evidence that these Values are exploited within 1km of the active work area. The work will not compromise the Objectives associated with these Values as defined in the current Environment Reference Standard. Water will accumulate in the underground workings from surface seepage and dust suppression. Some water may also enter the workings via the portal after rain events. Accumulated volumes will be small and managed by pumping. Pump discharge will report to the existing sediment pond.

4.3 Trespass & Site Security (including Blasting)

The Snowstorm Project will be operated on a part-time basis driven by Proponent requirements. Accordingly, the site will not always be attended, particularly weekends and public holidays.

There is only one access track to the site. This is a private road which features two gates. Appropriate warning and advisory signs shall be erected on the gate leading

Riley's Creek Road. The mine site is not visible from Riley's Creek Rd. Riley's Creek Rd is not a through road and sees little passing traffic.

Sturdy steel gates shall be fitted to the mine openings. These shall be maintained in serviceable condition and shall be kept locked when not in use.

During periods when truck movements are occurring (trucking of ore), warning signs shall be placed at strategic locations on the Cassilis Road either side of the Riley's Creek Road turnoff.

Blast Guards shall be posted on the access track above and below the portal site during the initial period of underground firing when there is a risk of fly-rock exiting the portal. This precaution is primarily for the safety of site personnel. There is no risk from fly-rock when the ramp has progressed more than 15m from the opening. The management of site access during blasting shall be detailed as part of a Blast Management Plan (BMP) for the site. The BMP shall be developed by the appointed licenced shotfirer and shall be consistent with the requirements of AS 2187.2: *Explosives - Storage and use. Part 2: Use of Explosives*.

All blasting shall be underground. The blasts are only required to be small in proportion to the size of the proposed openings (refer Section 1.3). Powder Factors are expected to be below 2. Total mass of explosive used per shot will be typically less than 12kg of packaged ANFO. Blast mats will be employed when the ventilation rise is to break through to surface. Independent firing shall be practiced; that is, a heading will be fired when ready rather than at any specified time of the day but it is expected that most shots will be fired at end of shift (6pm) to allow fumes to clear overnight. The shots are small and offsite impact is imperceptible. There shall be no firing outside of the specified work hours (6am-6pm Mon-Sun, no public holiday).

The small volume of explosive used in each shot yields only small volumes of deleterious gases (CO & NO_x) which will dissipate rapidly upon discharge from the shaft. The small volume of emitted gas will pose no risk to local residents. There will be no more than one shot per day (independent firing will be practiced but most shots will be fired at end of shift – 6pm – to allow fumes to clear overnight). An air-blast over-pressure risk exists at the ramp portal during development blasts. The portal area and ventilation rise collar is an exclusion zone during blasting times. There is no air-blast over-pressure risk at the nearest residence.

The small-scale of the blasting will not result in ground vibration (Peak Particle Velocity) exceeding the prescribed maxima (as per AS 2187.2: *Explosives - Storage and use*) distal from the site. It is not anticipated that blast vibration will be perceptible at greater than 500m from the detonation. There are no houses or other sensitive features within 500m of the site that could be affected by blast vibration. There is a road bridge on Cassilis Rd adjacent the intersection with Riley's Creek Rd approximately 1.8km from the site but this will not be affected by blast vibration.

The small-scale of the blasting and the containment underground will not require any specific assessment for PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, Respirable Silica or any other criteria air pollutant under *Guideline for Assessing and Minimising Air Pollution in Victoria* (EPA Publication 1961), Table 1.

As described in Section 1.3 (under the heading “Underground Development”) there shall be no storage of explosives on site in excess of the amounts prescribed in

Column 3 of Table 82 of the *Dangerous Goods (Explosives) Regulations 2011* (viz 30kg of Class 1.1D packaged emulsion, 5000m of Safety Fuse and 500 x Class 1.1B Detonators). According to prevailing regulations, “medium-scale storage” is not required to be licenced as a “magazine”. The requirements of r.83 shall be met in regard to “medium-scale storage”. To this end, the storage will consist of one or more approved “receptacles” (i.e.; “carry-boxes” constructed and labelled in accordance with r.87, r.74 & r.75) located in the underground workings. The carry-boxes shall remain locked at all times when not in use in order to achieve consistency with r.83(2)(a)(iii), that is, not accessible to the public. The carry-boxes shall be removed when the site is unattended. Signage shall be placed at the portal in accordance with r.84.

4.4 Native Vegetation

The current “*Guidelines for the Removal, Destruction and Lopping of Native Vegetation*” (DELWP 2017), describe a three-step approach to the removal of native vegetation designed to achieve no net loss to biodiversity as a result of the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation:

- a. Avoid the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation as far as is practicable.
- b. Minimise (as far as is practicable) impacts from the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation that cannot be avoided.
- c. Provide an offset to compensate for the biodiversity impact from the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation as may be required under prevailing legislation.

As specifically relates to the proposal described in this application for Work Plan:

- i. Avoid impact to native vegetation – The gold resource is located in an area with variable native vegetation cover. The location of the mine access (ramp) has been designed to avoid impact to native vegetation as far as is practicable yet still facilitate access to the ore-body in a cost-effective manner. The resource is located on a parcel of freehold grazing land (CA 1\TP892667 Parish of Tongio-Munjie West, East Gippsland Shire) owned by the licensee. The site is zoned ‘Farming’ (FZ1) under the *Planning & Environment Act 1987*.
- ii. Minimise impact where removal cannot be avoided – The surface footprint of the new development is located wholly within the footprint of historic mining activity (>100 years ago) and modern exploration drilling conducted over a period of approximately 30 years. This work has resulted in degradation of the land and the creation of numerous access tracks and pads. The new ramp portal layout has been designed to take advantage of these pre-existing tracks and pads in order to minimise the impact to remnant patches of native vegetation and lone trees. The remnant patches of native vegetation located adjacent the active area shall be protected against degradation (as far as is reasonably practicable) through the establishment of Exclusion Zones along the principles espoused in AS 4970-2009. Bunting (or similar) shall be erected at the margins of active work areas where accidental encroachment may otherwise be possible.

- iii. Offset – Although there is no native vegetation to be removed, a small lightwood tree and a dead tree may be inadvertently damaged by construction earthworks and are thus counted as a loss for purposes of establishing a vegetation offset (refer Appendix 'B').

Native vegetation exists at the margins of the proposed area of disturbance. The proposed active area and immediate environs has been assessed by a Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (DELWP) accredited assessor in accordance with current *Guidelines for the Removal, Destruction or Lopping of Native Vegetation* (DELWP, 2017). An Ecological Assessment report can be found as an appendix to the Work Plan (Appendix 'B'). A site evaluation was undertaken in December 2022. A small Lightwood tree (*Acacia implexa*) is located proximal to the diversion drain location (refer Figure 1.3a). This tree does not meet the "Large Tree" benchmark for the mapped EVC (EVC0175 "Grassy Woodland" - East Gippsland Uplands Bioregion). A small dead tree of unknown species is within the clearing area. The site is heavily infested with weeds. The investigation has not indicated any requirement for species specific offsets. A General Offset requirement has been indicated due to potential for damage to the aforementioned trees during construction earthworks.

Ecological Communities and Fauna protected under the *Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC) will not be affected by the proposal due to the small scale of disturbance and, for the EPBC listed species, lack of suitable habitat currently existing within the assessment area. No Vulnerable, Rare or Threatened (VROT) flora or fauna was observed at the site during the assessment.

There shall be no vehicular access beyond cleared area and defined access tracks. Vehicles shall not be parked under trees. Equipment shall not be stored under trees. Rock material shall not be placed under trees. Bunting (or similar) shall be used to demark an exclusion zone on hillside above portal whereupon vehicles, equipment and rock storage are prohibited.

4.5 Fire Management

Mining is conducted on a part-time basis in accordance with programme schedule and prevailing site conditions (example: no work when site is wet or fire weather prevails). The site shall be evacuated on days of extreme fire danger or when otherwise advised by the landowner or local CFA.

All machinery and vehicles used on site are fitted with operable fire suppression equipment and/or fire extinguishers. The contracted shot-firer shall act in accordance with the general fire precautions prescribed in r.86 of the *Dangerous Goods (Explosives) Regulations 2011*. Fire drill training shall be conducted by the proponent for site personnel.

4.6 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

The Crown Allotment within which PL007319 is located is not subject of Cultural Heritage Sensitivity as defined under the *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018*. Development of a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) is not mandated.

Previous engagement with the Registered Aboriginal Party for the area, GunaiKurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GKLaWAC) has provided general advice for contingency measures should suspected artefacts or human remains be found.

In specific relation to unexpected discovery of human remains.

If any suspected human remains are found during any activity, works must cease. The Victoria Police and the State Coroner's Office should be notified immediately. If there are reasonable grounds to believe the remains are Aboriginal, the *Coronial Admissions and Enquiries* hotline must be contacted immediately on 1300 888 544. This advice has been developed further and is described in the following 5-step contingency plan.

Any such discovery at the activity area must follow these steps.

1. Discovery:
 - If suspected human remains are discovered, all activity in the vicinity must stop; and,
 - The remains must be left in place and protected from harm or damage.
2. Notification:
 - If suspected human remains have been found, the State Coroner's Office and the Victoria Police must be notified immediately.
 - If there are reasonable grounds to believe the remains are Aboriginal Ancestral Remains, the Coronial Admissions and Enquiries hotline must be immediately notified on 1300 888 544.
 - All details of the location and nature of the human remains must be provided to the relevant authorities.
 - If it is confirmed by these authorities the discovered remains are Aboriginal Ancestral Remains, the person responsible for the activity must report the existence of them to the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council in accordance with section 17 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act* 2006.
3. Impact Mitigation or Salvage:
 - The Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council, after taking reasonable steps to consult with any Aboriginal person or body with an interest in the Aboriginal Ancestral Remains, will determine the appropriate course of action as required by section 18(2)(b) of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act* 2006.
 - An appropriate impact mitigation or salvage strategy as determined by the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council must be implemented by the proponent.
4. Curation and further analysis:
 - The treatment of salvaged Aboriginal Ancestral Remains must be in accordance with the direction of the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council.
5. Reburial:
 - Any reburial site(s) must be fully documented by an experienced and qualified archaeologist, clearly marked and all details provided to Aboriginal Victoria.
 - Appropriate management measures must be implemented to ensure the Aboriginal Ancestral Remains are not disturbed in the future.

In specific regard to unexpected discovery and management of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage other than human remains:

In accordance with Section 24 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* 'Reporting discovery of Aboriginal places and objects' if a person discovers an Aboriginal place or object; and the person knows that the place or object is an Aboriginal place or object the person must report the discovery to the Secretary as soon as practicable.

The notification of Aboriginal cultural heritage found during the activity must be reported, failure to report a discovery is an offence and has significant penalties. The proponent must at all times avoid unlawful harm to Aboriginal cultural heritage.

The following steps must be taken by the proponent as a minimum if suspected previously unrecorded Aboriginal cultural heritage is identified during the activity:

1. All works must cease, and temporary safety webbing or fencing erected without ground disturbance at a distance of 10 metres (buffer zone) around the location of the suspected Aboriginal cultural heritage, with signage displayed clearly identifying the location as a 'No-Go-Zone'.
2. The suspected Aboriginal cultural heritage must not be removed.
3. Work may continue in other parts of the site outside of the buffer zone.
4. A heritage advisor must be notified of the discovery by the proponent or site supervisor within two working days.
5. The heritage advisor who will, in consultation with the RAP (if appointed) or Traditional Owner Group (should they chose to participate), fully assess the Aboriginal cultural heritage and recorded the find(s).
6. If the reported discovery is confirmed to be Aboriginal cultural heritage by the heritage advisor a decision or recommendation as to the management of the Aboriginal cultural heritage must be made within three working days by the Heritage Advisor in consultation with the proponent and RAP (if appointed) or Traditional Owner Group (should they chose to participate).
7. It is the responsibility of the Heritage Advisor to ensure that all Aboriginal cultural heritage recovered from the activity area is fully documented, catalogued, bagged and labelled (with details, reference to provenance and project) packaged and securely stored with copies of the catalogue and assessment documentation.
8. Aboriginal Victoria (AV) must be advised of this through completion and submission of relevant Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register forms to the Heritage Registrar, AV, by the Heritage Advisor.
9. Once management conditions for the discovery and or salvage of the Aboriginal cultural heritage have been finished then works can commence in the area.

5 Rehabilitation Plan

The primary requirement under the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990* (the "MRSDA") for rehabilitated mining land is that it be safe, stable and sustainable. A detailed methodology for achieving these outcomes is described in the discrete *Rehabilitation Plan* document.

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Appendices:

Appendix A - *Planning Property Report*

Appendix B - *Ecological Assessment Report*

Appendix C - *Acid Rock Drainage Test Results*

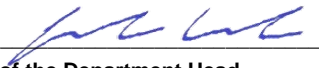
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under Option Agreement with Mines of Stirling Pty Ltd



SNOWSTORM PROJECT

PL007319

<i>Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990</i>	
Tenement Number:	PL007319
Plan Number:	PLN001755
Work Plan Statutorily Endorsed	
Signed:	
Delegate of the Department Head	
Date:	27/10/2023

MRSD Act (2010) & MRSD (MI) Regulations (2019)

Regulation 45

SNOWSTORM UNDERGROUND MINING & BULK SAMPLING

RISK TREATMENT PLAN

Version 3

August 2023

Printed 19/03/2024
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Risk Template - Form

Scope

This risk treatment plan is for the control of: [Insert Hazard]

A mining or exploration hazard means any mining or exploration activity and circumstance that may pose a risk to the environment, to any member of the public or to land, property or infrastructure in the vicinity of work carried out at a mine or exploration site.

Key sensitive receptors

Key sensitive receptors include the environment, any member of the public or land, property or infrastructure in the vicinity of a mine or exploration site that may be impacted or put at risk by the hazard associated with the mining or exploration activity.

The key sensitive receptors associated with this hazard include:

#	Details of the Sensitive Receptor	Location and proximity to site	How Hazard may harm or damage Sensitive Receptor	Evidence to support assessment
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				

[Add or delete rows from the above table as appropriate]

To determine the key sensitive receptors, consider:

- Members of the public – public health, safety, amenity and Aboriginal heritage
- Land, property and infrastructure: neighbouring property as well as nearby infrastructure such as highways, schools and hospitals
- Environment: air, water, soil, vegetation, flora and fauna outside the work area

Risk Events

These are the risk events associated with the hazard. Include an **inherent risk rating** for each event considering the design proposal of the project.

[The likelihood and consequence should be assessed using the descriptors provided by Earth Resources Regulation and the risk rating determined using Earth Resources Regulation's risk matrix.]

#	Details of the Risk Event	Phase	Consequence	Likelihood	Inherent Risk Rating
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					

[Add or delete rows from the above table as appropriate]

Objectives

The objectives are the key aims or goals of the control measures that will be out in place to eliminate or minimise, as far as reasonably practicable, the identified risk events.

[Examples of the Objectives are included in the guidance sheets for managing hazards.]

[Note: Each objective does not need to relate to all of the control measures.]

The key objectives of this risk treatment plan are to:

- *Insert Objective*
- *Insert Objective*
- *Insert Objective*

Compliance standards

The compliance standards are the key best practice standards or guidelines that will be achieved with the control measures in place. These best practice standards or guidelines may come from the EPA, State Environment Protection Policy or other regulatory agencies.

[Examples of the Compliance standards are included in the guidance sheets for managing hazards.]

[Note: Each compliance standard does not need to relate to all of the control measures.]

The compliance standards for this risk treatment plan are:

- *Insert Compliance Standard*
- *Insert Compliance Standard*
- *Insert Compliance Standard*

Acceptance criteria

The acceptance criteria are the measures by which the control measures will be deemed to be effective in achieving the objective and eliminating or minimising, as far as reasonably practicable, the identified risk events. The acceptance criteria could be to achieve a best practice standard (e.g., an EPA standard).

[Examples of the Acceptance criteria are included in the guidance sheets for managing hazards.]

[Note: Each acceptance criteria does not need to relate to all of the control measures.]

The acceptance criteria for this risk treatment plan are:

- *Insert Acceptance Criteria*
- *Insert Acceptance Criteria*
- *Insert Acceptance Criteria*

Controls to address hazard

The control measures are to be designed to eliminate or minimise, as far as reasonably practicable, the identified risk events. The numbers of the risk events being managed by each control should be recorded against the control along with how the control will be implemented.

[Examples of Controls are included in the guidance sheets for managing hazards.]

The controls for this risk treatment plan are:

#	Details of controls being used	Risk Events being managed (number from above)	Performance measures (<i>specifying how the control is being implemented – if not implicit in the control</i>)
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

[Add or delete rows from the above table as appropriate]

Residual Risk Assessment

Considering the controls being put in place the assessment of the residual risk associated with the risk events identified for this hazard is shown in the table below.

[The likelihood and consequence should be assessed using the descriptors provided by Earth Resources Regulation and the risk rating determined using Earth Resources Regulation's risk matrix.]

#	Details of the Risk Event	Phase	Consequence	Likelihood	Residual Risk Rating
1	.				
2					
3					
4					
5					

[Add or delete rows from the table below as appropriate]

Monitoring

[List the monitoring of the status or effectiveness of the controls associated with this hazard. Include the aspect being monitored and the detail of the monitoring.]

[Examples of monitoring are included in the guidance sheets for managing hazards.]

#	Aspect to be monitored	Details of monitoring
1		
2		
3		

[Add or delete rows from the table below as appropriate]

Reporting

[List the reporting of the monitoring, effectiveness or status of the controls associated with this hazard. Include to whom the reporting will be provided, the frequency of the reporting and how it will be used.]

[Examples of reporting are included in the guidance sheets for managing hazards.]

#	Aspect being reported	Who will the information be reported to and at what frequency?	How will it be used?
1			
2			
3			

[Add or delete rows from the table below as appropriate]

Relevant industry publications

[List any relevant industry publications that support the management and monitoring of this hazard]

#	Document	Source (e.g., URL, appendix number)
1		
2		
3		

[Add or delete rows from the table below as appropriate]

Operator's reference documents

[List any relevant manuals, procedures or other documents that support the management and monitoring of this hazard]

#	Document	Location (e.g., work plan appendix number)
1		
2		
3		

[Add or delete rows from the table below as appropriate]

Risk 1 - Noise

This risk treatment plan is for the control of: Noise Pollution

Key sensitive receptors

#	Details of the Sensitive Receptor	Location and proximity to site	How Hazard may harm or damage Sensitive Receptor	Evidence to support assessment
1	Residential property	Nearest residences 0.9km NNE & 1.4km E	Impact amenity	none

Risk Events

#	Details of the Risk Event	Phase	Consequence	Likelihood	Inherent Risk Rating
1	use of fixed & mobile plant on site creating noise and impacting neighbour amenity	Construction Operation Rehabilitation	minor	unlikely	low

Objectives

The key objective of this risk treatment is to *protect amenity of neighbours and adverse impact to livestock*.

Compliance standards

The compliance standards for this risk treatment plan are:

- *EPA Publication 1826.2 "Noise Limit and Assessment Protocol"*
- *Environment Reference Standard*

Acceptance criteria

The acceptance criteria for this risk treatment plan is *no persistent & unacceptable noise experienced by neighbours ($LA_{eq} = 46dB$ – emitter & receiver in FZ; day – 0700-1800 Mon-Fri & 0700-1300 Sat.) and no adverse impact to livestock behaviour*.

Controls to address hazard

#	Details of controls being used	Risk Events being managed (number from above)	Performance measures (specifying how the control is being implemented – if not implicit in the control)
1	Mobile & Fixed Plant is small and is located distal from residences.	1	Mobile & Fixed plant is as far away from neighbours as practicable and is screened by topography / vegetation. Consideration may be given to the use of temporary noise abatement structures (acoustic walls around compressor, generator and vacuum lift) if risk becomes elevated.
2	Mobile & Fixed Plant is fitted with passive noise suppression equipment as per OEM specifications. This equipment is maintained in serviceable condition.	1	Ensure noise suppressing equipment is adequately installed and is functional at all times plant is in use. This includes the use of suppressed reversing alarms.
3	Site speed limits are set as low as is practicable. Activity only occurs during the day (where 'day' is as defined in EP Regulations 2021.	1	Speed checks & disciplinary action for offenders. Erection of speed limit signage.
4	Vegetation screening surrounding active areas will assist in noise attenuation.	1	Protection of surrounding vegetation where it acts as screening on the licence area.
5	Majority of active operation within EP Regulations 2021 definition of 'day' (0700-1800 Mon-Sat)	1	Working hours stipulated in Work Plan. Any work outside these hours to be logged. Recommend liaison with landowner and nearest neighbours if work is to be carried out beyond the stipulated' hours.

Residual Risk Assessment

#	Details of the Risk Event	Phase	Consequence	Likelihood	Residual Risk Rating
1	use of fixed & mobile plant on site creating noise and impacting neighbour amenity	Construction Operation Closure	minor	unlikely	low

Monitoring

#	Aspect to be monitored	Details of monitoring
1	Site activities that generate noise.	A log of site activities shall be maintained in order to evaluate any noise complaints that may be received.

Reporting

#	Aspect being reported	Who will the information be reported to and at what frequency?	How will it be used?
1	Site activities that generate noise.	Site Manager – daily basis	Inform decision process in event of noise complaint

Relevant industry publications

#	Document	Source (e.g., URL, appendix number)
1	EPA Publication 1823.1 Mining & Quarrying – Guide to preventing harm to people & the environment	
2	EPA Publication 1826.2 "Noise Limit and Assessment Protocol"	

Operator's reference documents

#	Document	Location (e.g., work plan appendix number)
1	Site Activity Log	Work site

Risk 2 – Fuel & Oil

This risk treatment plan is for the control of: Hazardous Material – Fuel & Oil

Key sensitive receptors

#	Details of the Sensitive Receptor	Location and proximity to site	How Hazard may harm or damage Sensitive Receptor	Evidence to support assessment
1	Soil and designated watercourse adjacent work area	onsite	soaking into surface soils and runoff into designated watercourse	none

Risk Events

#	Details of the Risk Event	Phase	Consequence	Likelihood	Inherent Risk Rating
1	Fixed plant refuelling spills & leakage of hydrocarbon fluids from plant resulting in localised contamination of surface soil and / or runoff into adjacent designated waterway impacting water quality.	Construction Operation Rehabilitation	insignificant	possible	low

Objectives

The key objective of this risk treatment plan is to **minimise impact of fuel & oil leaks**.

Compliance standards

The compliance standards for this risk treatment plan are:

- *AS1940 – Storage and Handling of Flammable and Combustible Liquids*
- *Environment Reference Standard*

Acceptance criteria

The acceptance criteria for this risk treatment plan are *no significant hydrocarbon contamination of site soils (refer EPA Publication 1828.2 for petroleum hydrocarbon soil hazard categorisation – Category “Fill” is acceptance target) and no measurable impact to offsite surface water quality (benchmarked against relevant Indicators & Objectives for protection of Environmental Values associated with Rivers & Streams Uplands B Segment southern draining basins).*

Controls to address hazard

#	Details of controls being used	Risk Events being managed (number from above)	Performance measures (specifying how the control is being implemented –if not implicit in the control)
1	No hydrocarbons stored onsite.	1	Entry in Hazardous Materials Register
2	Fuelling of plant shall be via utility vehicle mounted self-contained fuel pod. Hydrocarbon spill kits will be available. Spill trays / mats shall be employed for refuelling and servicing. Major servicing / repairs to be conducted offsite.	1	Record consumption of spill kit materials
3	Spoil from clean-up of any hydrocarbon spill shall be disposed off-site at a facility approved to receive such waste.	1	Record movements to local waste disposal facility

Residual Risk Assessment

#	Details of the Risk Event	Phase	Consequence	Likelihood	Residual Risk Rating
1	Fixed plant refuelling spills & leakage of hydrocarbon fluids from plant resulting in localised contamination of surface soil and / or runoff into adjacent designated waterway impacting water quality.	Construction Operation Rehabilitation	insignificant	rare	low

Monitoring

#	Aspect to be monitored	Details of monitoring
1	<i>refuelling of plant</i>	<i>observation</i>
2	<i>Locations where plant is positioned</i>	<i>observation, post-closure soil testing where any contamination likely</i>
3	<i>Testing of offsite sediment dam</i>	<i>Benchmark analytical results against Indicators & Objectives for Uplands B segment southern draining basins (Table 5.8 of ERS). Establish baseline water quality prior to commencement of work.</i>

Reporting

#	Aspect being reported	Who will the information be reported to and at what frequency?	How will it be used?
1	Any hydrocarbon spills shall be managed using Proponents Incident Management procedures.	<i>Site Management per event</i>	<i>Inform site management practice</i>
2	Any spill that has the potential to affect both onsite and offsite receptors shall be reported to EPA and landowner.	<i>EPA and landowner per event</i>	<i>n/a</i>
3	An Incident Report Register shall be maintained in order to evaluate specific requirements for final site rehabilitation that may arise as a result of local soil contamination	<i>Closure Manager at conclusion of active mining</i>	<i>Inform site rehabilitation strategy such that areas of likely contamination can be evaluated (through soil testing) and appropriately remediated where warranted</i>

Relevant industry publications

#	Document	Source (e.g., URL, appendix number)
1	<i>EPA Publication 1823.1 Mining & Quarrying – Guide to preventing harm to people & the environment</i>	
2	<i>EPA Publication 1828.2 Waste Disposal Categories – characteristics & thresholds</i>	

Operator's reference documents

#	Document	Location (e.g., work plan appendix number)
1	<i>Site Safety Management System</i>	<i>Work site</i>
2	<i>Site Incident Register</i>	<i>Work site</i>

Risk 3 - Dust

This risk treatment plan is for the control of: Air Quality - Dust

Key sensitive receptors

#	Details of the Sensitive Receptor	Location and proximity to site	How Hazard may harm or damage Sensitive Receptor	Evidence to support assessment
1	Residential property	Nearest residences 0.9km NNE & 1.4km E	Impact amenity, impact health	none

Risk Events

#	Details of the Risk Event	Phase	Consequence	Likelihood	Inherent Risk Rating
1	dust raised from: vehicle movement, wind scour of disturbed areas & handling of soil / rock material, stockpiles affecting amenity of nearest neighbours in hot, dry and windy conditions	Construction Operation Rehabilitation	insignificant	possible	low
2	raised dust from stockpiles and trucking of ore offsite affecting health of nearest neighbour in hot, dry and windy conditions	Operation	minor	unlikely	low

Objectives

The key objective of this risk treatment plan is to protect amenity.

Compliance standards

The compliance standards for this risk treatment plan are:

- Environment Reference Standard

Acceptance criteria

The acceptance criterion for this risk treatment plan is no persistent & unacceptable nuisance dust experienced by nearest neighbours (benchmarked against Objectives listed in Table 2.2 of ERS for relevant Indicators).

Controls to address hazard

#	Details of controls being used	Risk Events being managed (number from above)	Performance measures (specifying how the control is being implemented –if not implicit in the control)
1	Ongoing use of passive and active dust suppression on access road, un-vegetated stockpiles and hardstand surfaces. This may include the use of water and soil binding agents on exposed and vulnerable surfaces.	1 & 2	Apply dust suppressing agents to disturbed ground. Dust suppression agents to be applied as soon as practicable particularly during periods of high risk.
2	Minimisation of vehicular traffic and strict adherence to adopted speed restrictions on site.	1	Speed checks & disciplinary action for offenders. Erection of speed limit signage.
3	Careful scheduling to minimise material re-handling. Daily work-flow programmed with due consideration of prevailing weather conditions (curtail surface activities on days of high wind and low humidity).	1	Reduced output on high-risk days. Don't programme pre-stripping work on windy days.
4	Surface disturbance footprint as small as practicable.	1	The operational area at any given time is to as small as practicable.
5	Use of covered trucks for transport of ore offsite.	2	Eco-fab covers (or similar) to be simulated in trucking contract.

#	Details of controls being used	Risk Events being managed (number from above)	Performance measures (specifying how the control is being implemented – if not implicit in the control)
6	Blasting is underground, of small-scale and intermittent.	1	Nil Assessment required as per EPA Publication 1961 (APAC's not applicable); refer Risk 13 for further detail.

Residual Risk Assessment

#	Details of the Risk Event	Phase	Consequence	Likelihood	Residual Risk Rating
1	dust raised from: vehicle movement, wind scour of disturbed areas & handling of soil / rock material, stockpiles affecting amenity of nearest neighbours	Construction Operation Rehabilitation	minor	unlikely	low
2	raised dust from stockpiles and trucking of ore offsite affecting health of nearest neighbour	Operation	minor	rare	low

Monitoring

#	Aspect to be monitored	Details of monitoring
1	<i>Relative dustiness</i>	<i>Qualitative assessment of relative 'dustiness' of environment (using experience of site supervisor) to inform 'real-time' dust management strategy.</i>

Reporting

#	Aspect being reported	Who will the information be reported to and at what frequency?	How will it be used?
1	A log of site activity, ambient weather conditions (qualitative) and observed dust events (incorporating management practice engaged) shall be maintained in order to inform ongoing dust mitigation strategy.	<i>Site Management – daily basis</i>	<i>Inform ongoing site management practice</i>

Relevant industry publications

#	Document	Source (e.g., URL, appendix number)
1	<i>EPA Publication 1823.1 Mining & Quarrying – Guide to preventing harm to people & the environment</i>	
2	<i>EPA Publication 1961 Guideline for Assessing & Minimising Air Pollution in Victoria</i>	

Operator's reference documents

#	Document	Location (e.g., work plan appendix number)
1	<i>Site Activity Log</i>	<i>Work site</i>

Risk 4 – Erosion & Sedimentation

This risk treatment plan is for the control of: Erosion & Sedimentation & Protection of Surface Waters

Key sensitive receptors

#	Details of the Sensitive Receptor	Location and proximity to site	How Hazard may harm or damage Sensitive Receptor	Evidence to support assessment
1	Surface Water	Onsite & offsite	sedimentation of natural areas & waterways onsite & offsite including designated waterway 20m west of portal site	none

Risk Events

#	Details of the Risk Event	Phase	Consequence	Likelihood	Inherent Risk Rating
1	Scouring of surface soils onsite and sediment laden water leaving site as a consequence of heavy rainfall, disturbance by vehicular traffic and works on waterway (installation of culverts, etc.)	Construction Operation Rehabilitation	minor	possible	medium

Objectives

The key objective of this risk treatment plan is to *minimise potential for uncontrolled release of sediment laden water offsite and damage to natural land.*

Compliance standards

The compliance standards for this risk treatment plan are:

- Environment Reference Standard*
- EPA Publication 275 Guideline Construction Techniques for Sediment Pollution Control*

Acceptance criteria

The acceptance criterion for this risk treatment plan is *no excessive erosion of surface soils, no uncontrolled flow of sediment laden water onsite and no unregulated release of sediment laden water offsite. Acceptable erosion on rehabilitated surfaces not to exceed 300mm slumping and/or 200mm deep erosion rills with no more than 2 erosion rills per linear metre across slope. Offsite water discharge quality benchmarked against Turbidity Indicator & Objective for protection of Environmental Values associated with Rivers & Streams Uplands B Segment southern draining basins.*

Controls to address hazard

#	Details of controls being used	Risk Events being managed (number from above)	Performance measures (specifying how the control is being implemented –if not implicit in the control)
1	Localised sediment fences and / or containment devices to installed to minimise generation of sediment laden water reporting offsite where such a risk is apparent (downslope of stockpiles and rock emplacements).	1	<i>Minimise sediment build-up behind fences and in sediment traps by periodic cleaning (in particular immediately prior to and just after a rain event); dispose of sediment material underground.</i>
2	Road cartage ceases in wet weather in order to reduce potential for high sediment loads.	1	<i>Avoid churning roads from vehicle movement in wet conditions.</i>
3	Rehabilitation and stabilisation of disturbed areas as quickly as practicable	1	<i>Progressive rehabilitation where practicable and full site rehabilitation at conclusion of mining.</i>

#	Details of controls being used	Risk Events being managed (number from above)	Performance measures (specifying how the control is being implemented – if not implicit in the control)
4	Surface disturbance footprint as small as practicable.	1	The operational area at any given time is to as small as practicable. Redundant disturbed areas are progressively rehabilitated.
5	Installation of culverts and swales during dry period	1	Ensure Works on Waterway completed during dry period.

Residual Risk Assessment

#	Details of the Risk Event	Phase	Consequence	Likelihood	Residual Risk Rating
1	Scouring of surface soils onsite and sediment laden water leaving site as a consequence of heavy rainfall, disturbance by vehicular traffic and works on waterway (installation of culverts, etc.)	Construction Operation Rehabilitation	minor	unlikely	low

Monitoring

#	Aspect to be monitored	Details of monitoring
1	Water quality leaving site	Quantitative assessment of relative turbidity of water leaving site benchmarked against Turbidity Indicator listed in Table 5.8 of ERS for Rivers & Streams Segment Uplands B (southern draining basins)

Reporting

#	Aspect being reported	Who will the information be reported to and at what frequency?	How will it be used?
1	A log of site activities, rain events and observed water flows (including any containment applied) shall be maintained in order to refine site water management strategy.	Site Management – daily basis	Inform ongoing site management practice
2	Significant unplanned offsite movement of sediment laden water.	EPA per event	n/a

Relevant industry publications

#	Document	Source (e.g., URL, appendix number)
1	EPA Publication 1823.1 Mining & Quarrying – Guide to preventing harm to people & the environment	
2	EPA Publication 275 Guideline Construction Techniques for Sediment Pollution Control	

Operator's reference documents

#	Document	Location (e.g., work plan appendix number)
1	Site Activity Log	Work site
2	Site Incident Register	Work site

NOTE: Further information regarding this risk (and management thereof) is given in Section 4.2 of the Work Plan.

Risk 5 – Ground Instability

This risk treatment plan is for the control of: Geotechnical Stability

Key sensitive receptors

#	Details of the Sensitive Receptor	Location and proximity to site	How Hazard may harm or damage Sensitive Receptor	Evidence to support assessment
1	private land designated watercourse	Natural surface and watercourse adjoining box-cut excavation.	Ground subsidence affecting natural surface and impacting watercourse	none

Risk Events

#	Details of the Risk Event	Phase	Consequence	Likelihood	Inherent Risk Rating
1	Failure of box-cut wall resulting in damage to land and impacting designated watercourse adjacent box-cut.	Construction Operation Rehabilitation	moderate	possible	medium

Objectives

The key objective of this risk treatment plan is to **minimise potential for damage to land from geotechnical instability**.

Compliance standards

The compliance standard for this risk treatment plan is:

- *Code of Practice for Low-Risk Mines (DEDJTR, 2014)*

Acceptance criteria

The acceptance criterion for this risk treatment plan is *no adverse slumping of active and rehabilitated land-form. Acceptable slumping is no greater than 500mm in backfilled portal area. Post rehabilitation monitoring shall consist of seasonal (quarterly) inspection for slumping and erosion. Quarterly inspection shall continue for a period of one-year post-closure. After first year, frequency of inspection shall decrease to annual for a further period of 2 years (total of 3 years post-closure) and thence biennial for one cycle (total of 5 years post-closure). Post-closure inspection may be undertaken by the landowner.*

Controls to address hazard

#	Details of controls being used	Risk Events being managed (number from above)	Performance measures (specifying how the control is being implemented – if not implicit in the control)
1	Retain integrity of ramp portal and backfilled vent rise collar. Expected ground conditions are stable with no adverse structure.	1	Monitor condition of portal ring segment and backfill; remediate immediately if defect detected.
2	No stoping within 15m of surface. Excavations are small and hanging wall conditions are stable	1	Geotechnical logging of drill core suggests hangingwall is competent. Positive rock support used in active areas (split-sets, grouted bars, etc.). Disused areas will be tight-filled with waste rock from progressive development.
5	Surface disturbance footprint as small as practicable.	1	The operational area at any given time is to as small as practicable.

Residual Risk Assessment

#	Details of the Risk Event	Phase	Consequence	Likelihood	Residual Risk Rating
1	Failure of box-cut wall resulting in damage to land and impacting designated watercourse adjacent box-cut.	Construction Operation Closure	minor	unlikely	low

Monitoring

#	Aspect to be monitored	Details of monitoring
1	Hangingwall stability and backfill stability	Qualitative assessment of ground integrity (using experience of Site Supervisor) to inform maintenance / remediation strategy and quantitative assessment (refer "Acceptance Criteria" above) for final rehabilitation. If unacceptable subsidence is observed, cause shall be investigated and appropriate remediation enacted as soon as practicable. This may entail placement of additional fill (imported, injection grouting) or other works as may be agreed with landowner (the nature of which will be determined from investigation into cause of subsidence in the first instance).

Reporting

#	Aspect being reported	Who will the information be reported to and at what frequency?	How will it be used?
1	A log of ground disturbing activity shall be maintained incorporating estimates of volumes of material excavated, stockpiled and removed offsite. The log shall include details of ground support, any observed instability and measures employed to remedy such instability.	Site Management – daily basis	The log shall be used to schedule remedial work and inform final rehabilitation landform.
2	Damage to non-licensee owned infrastructure (Jordan Road).	Crown Land Manager per event	n/a

Relevant industry publications

#	Document	Source (e.g., URL, appendix number)
1	Code of Practice for Low-Risk Mines (DEDJTR, 2014)	

Operator's reference documents

#	Document	Location (e.g., work plan appendix number)
1	Site Activity Log	Work site
2	Site Incident Register	Work site

NOTE: Further information regarding this risk (and management thereof) is given in Section 4.1 of the Work Plan.

Risk 6 – Fire

This risk treatment plan is for the control of: Fire

Key sensitive receptors

#	Details of the Sensitive Receptor	Location and proximity to site	How Hazard may harm or damage Sensitive Receptor	Evidence to support assessment
1	environment, members of the public, land, property and infrastructure	On-site and offsite	destroy structures and potentially injure or kill people; damage to native vegetation (bio-diversity) and pasture	none

Risk Events

#	Details of the Risk Event	Phase	Consequence	Likelihood	Inherent Risk Rating
1	Wild-fire from accidental ignition onsite from hot-work, vehicle fire or machinery fire	Construction Operation Closure	critical	possible	very high

Objectives

The key objective of this risk treatment plan is to *minimise potential for ignition and consequent damage to infrastructure and / or public safety from onsite fire and minimisation of potential impact from offsite fire (i.e., restrict the spread of a fire entering the site as far as can be achieved safely).*

Compliance standards

The compliance standard for this risk treatment plan is:

- *Forest (Fire Protection) Regulations 2014*
- *Planning and Environment Act 1987*

Acceptance criteria

The acceptance criterion for this risk treatment plan is *no damage to surrounding infrastructure or risk to public safety due to fire originating onsite and to minimise spread of fire entering from offsite.*

Controls to address hazard

#	Details of controls being used	Risk Events being managed (number from above)	Performance measures (specifying how the control is being implemented – if not implicit in the control)
1	Maintenance of existing firebreaks at margins of property.	1	Maintenance of existing cleared area onsite particularly prior to fire risk period.
2	Water tanker available for fire-fighting purposes.	1	Examine / test firefighting equipment on a scheduled basis; conduct periodic fire-fighting training and drills particularly in lead-up to fire season
3	Curtailment of site activities on days of high fire danger	1	No work on declared Total Fire Ban days or when otherwise directed by the landowner or CFA. No use of grinding / welding equipment outdoors on days of elevated risk.
4	Established "Hot Work" procedures	1	Eliminate possibility of ignition from site-based activities & ensure ability to respond quickly to a fire onsite and fire entering from offsite
5	Avoid accumulation of combustible material on site	1	Regularly and routinely dispose of waste material such as domestic rubbish, oily rags, redundant packaging, etc.

Residual Risk Assessment

#	Details of the Risk Event	Phase	Consequence	Likelihood	Residual Risk Rating
1	Wild-fire from accidental ignition onsite from hot-work, vehicle fire or machinery fire	Construction Operation Closure	moderate	possible	medium

Monitoring

#	Aspect to be monitored	Details of monitoring
1	Liaison with local CFA, DELWP Forest Fire Management & Parks Victoria is essential.	Development of Fire Management Plan to be incorporated into Safety Management System.
2	Potential ignition sources ("hot work")	Qualitative assessment i.e., inspection, training & remedial action

Reporting

#	Aspect being reported	Who will the information be reported to and at what frequency?	How will it be used?
1	A log of fire management activities and fire authority interaction shall be maintained.	Site Management – daily basis	The log shall be used to schedule firebreak maintenance and fire-fighting equipment readiness.
2	Damage to infrastructure.	CLM per event	n/a
3	Injury to Person	Police per event	n/a

Relevant industry publications

#	Document	Source (e.g., URL, appendix number)
1	How to Prepare Your Property	https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/how-to-prepare-your-property

Operator's reference documents

#	Document	Location (e.g., work plan appendix number)
1	Site Activity Log	Work site
2	Site Incident Register	Work site
3	Site Safety Management System	Work site

Risk 7 – Security Breach

This risk treatment plan is for the control of: Security Breach

Key sensitive receptors

#	Details of the Sensitive Receptor	Location and proximity to site	How Hazard may harm or damage Sensitive Receptor	Evidence to support assessment
1	Public Safety	Trespass onsite	Injury to unauthorised person onsite	none

Risk Events

#	Details of the Risk Event	Phase	Consequence	Likelihood	Inherent Risk Rating
1	unauthorised public access to work areas resulting in injury from falling into mine voids	Construction Operation Closure	major	possible	high

Objectives

The key objective of this risk treatment plan is to *minimise potential for unauthorised access to site by members of the public.*

Compliance standards

The compliance standard for this risk treatment plan is:

- *Occupational Health & Safety Act 2004*

Acceptance criteria

The acceptance criterion for this risk treatment plan is *avoidance of trespass resulting in injury.*

Controls to address hazard

#	Details of controls being used	Risk Events being managed (number from above)	Performance measures (specifying how the control is being implemented – if not implicit in the control)
1	Perimeter fences and gates to be maintained.	1	Boundary fence to be inspected on a periodic basis and any defects remediated as expeditiously as possible.
2	Facilities to be secured when site unattended (including securing of mine openings with locked gates)	1	Register of personnel movements; a visitor book shall be maintained. Signage directing visitors to report to Site Supervisor shall be erected. Gates (including mine access gates) to be locked when site is unattended.
3	Warning and advisory signs are to be erected on gates and fences.	1	Sign inspection on periodic basis and defects remediated as expeditiously as possible.
4	Blast guards to be posted during underground firing (initial ramp development and vent rise breakthrough only).	1	Posting of personnel on access track to shaft area to prevent (as far as practicable) entry of public during initial firing events.

Residual Risk Assessment

#	Details of the Risk Event	Phase	Consequence	Likelihood	Residual Risk Rating
1	unauthorised public access to work areas resulting in injury from falling into mine voids	Construction Operation Closure	minor	unlikely	low

Monitoring

#	Aspect to be monitored	Details of monitoring
1	Movement of personnel & visitors on site	Register of personnel movements to and from site.
2	Condition of gates and signage	Quantitative assessment through periodic inspection
3	Movement of public during initial firing events	Observation by appointed Blast Guards

Reporting

#	Aspect being reported	Who will the information be reported to and at what frequency?	How will it be used?
1	Near miss.	Site Management – per event	Incident reports shall be used to evaluate road interface layout
2	Trespass	Site Management (and ERR / emergency services if injury / property damage occurs) per event	Incident reports shall be used to improve site security
3	Theft of or unexplained loss of explosives	WorkSafe and Police	Inform and improve security arrangements and explosives inventory management
4	Movement of public during firing events	Site Supervisor	Inform and improve Blast Management Plan

Relevant industry publications

#	Document	Source (e.g., URL, appendix number)
1	Code of Practice for Low-Risk Mines (DEDJTR, 2014)	
2	Guidance Note - Blast Management Plans (WorkSafe, 2011)	
3	Guidance Note – Licence for an Explosives Vehicle (WorkSafe, 2011)	
4	Guidance Note – Licence to Store Explosives (WorkSafe, 2011)	

Operator's reference documents

#	Document	Location (e.g. work plan appendix number)
1	Site Incident Register	Work site
2	Site Safety Management System	Work site
3	Blast Management Plan	Work Site

NOTE: Further information regarding this risk (and management thereof) is given in Section 4.3 of the Work Plan.

Risk 8 – Pests, Weeds & Diseases

This risk treatment plan is for the control of: Pests, Weeds & Diseases

Key sensitive receptors

#	Details of the Sensitive Receptor	Location and proximity to site	How Hazard may harm or damage Sensitive Receptor	Evidence to support assessment
1	Land & Environment	Post-closure land use and adjacent land use	reduced quality and viability of native vegetation regeneration	none

Risk Events

#	Details of the Risk Event	Phase	Consequence	Likelihood	Inherent Risk Rating
1	Invasive weed species & pest animals	Construction Operation Closure	minor	possible	medium

Objectives

The key objective of this risk treatment plan is to *minimise potential for proliferation of invasive weeds, soil pathogens and pest animals.*

Compliance standards

The compliance standard for this risk treatment plan is:

- *Catchment & Land Protection Act 1994*
- *Planning & Environment Act 1987*

Acceptance criteria

The acceptance criterion for this risk treatment plan is *no contribution to the spread of invasive weed & pest animal species.*

Controls to address hazard

#	Details of controls being used	Risk Events being managed (number from above)	Performance measures (specifying how the control is being implemented – if not implicit in the control)
1	Identify & manage / eradicate declared weeds and pest animals within active areas.	1	Site to be routinely inspected for weeds and vermin. All identified declared weeds and pest animal habitat (e.g.; burrows) to be managed.
2	No imported soil that may contain soil pathogens / diseases.	1	Although it is anticipated that no soil will be imported, any such material shall be certified as pathogen-free before it will be accepted.
3	Earthmoving machinery from offsite locations known to host soil-borne pathogens to be cleaned and disinfected prior to use onsite.	1	Earthmoving machinery shall be cleaned prior to acceptance on site and certification of disinfection issued.
4	Surface disturbance footprint as small as practicable.	1	The operational area is to as small as practicable. Redundant disturbed areas are progressively rehabilitated.

Residual Risk Assessment

#	Details of the Risk Event	Phase	Consequence	Likelihood	Residual Risk Rating
1	Invasive weed species & pest animals	Construction Operation Closure	minor	unlikely	low

Monitoring

#	Aspect to be monitored	Details of monitoring
1	Weeds & vermin	Vigilant observation by operational staff and CLM.

Reporting

#	Aspect being reported	Who will the information be reported to and at what frequency?	How will it be used?
1	A log of weed management and vermin control activities (including weed / vermin sighting) shall be maintained.	Site Manger – daily basis landowner – agreed interval	Inform weed & pest management strategy and rehabilitation sowing

Relevant industry publications

#	Document	Source (e.g., URL, appendix number)
1	Code of Practice for Low-Risk Mines (DEDJTR, 2014)	
2	Victorian Noxious Weeds List Alphabetical by Common Name (current list)	http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds
3	Declared Pest Animals (current list)	http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds

Operator's reference documents

#	Document	Location (e.g., work plan appendix number)
1	Site Activity Log	Work site

Risk 9 – Ground Disturbance – Native Vegetation

This risk treatment plan is for the control of: Ground Disturbance – Native Vegetation

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Key sensitive receptors

#	Details of the Sensitive Receptor	Location and proximity to site	How Hazard may harm or damage Sensitive Receptor	Evidence to support assessment
1	Biodiversity (native grasses and remnant patches grassy woodland)	adjacent to work area	Inadvertent damage to surrounding native vegetation	Ecological Assessment Report

Risk Events

#	Details of the Risk Event	Phase	Consequence	Likelihood	Inherent Risk Rating
1	Inadvertent damage to native vegetation from ground disturbing activities	Construction Operation	moderate	possible	medium

Objectives

The key objective of this risk treatment plan is to:

- Avoid the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation as far as is practicable.*
- Minimise (as far as is practicable) impacts from the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation that cannot be avoided.*
- Provide an offset to compensate for the biodiversity impact from the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation as may be required under prevailing legislation.*

Compliance standards

The compliance standard for this risk treatment plan is:

- Catchment & Land Protection Act 1994*
- Planning & Environment Act 1987*
- Guidelines for the removal, destruction and lopping of native vegetation (DELWP 2017)*

Acceptance criteria

The acceptance criterion for this risk treatment plan is *minimisation of impact to native vegetation as far as is practicable without compromising the economic viability of the project and to secure offsets for impacted vegetation as may be required under prevailing legislation where such requirement is demonstrated.*

In relation to Objectives stated above:

- Avoid impact to native vegetation* – The gold resource is located in an area with variable native vegetation cover. The location of the mine access (ramp) has been designed to avoid impact to native vegetation yet still facilitate access to the ore-body in a cost-effective manner. The resource is located on a parcel of freehold grazing land (CA 1\TP892667 Parish of Tongio-Munjie West, East Gippsland Shire) owned by the licensee. The site is zoned 'Farming' (FZ1) under the *Planning & Environment Act 1987*.
- Minimise impact where removal cannot be avoided* – The surface footprint of the new development is located wholly within the footprint of historic mining activity (>100 years ago) and modern exploration drilling conducted over a period of approximately 30 years. This work has resulted in degradation of the land and the creation of numerous access tracks and pads. The new ramp portal layout has been designed to take advantage of these pre-existing tracks and pads in order to minimise the impact to remnant patches of native vegetation and lone trees. The remnant patches of native vegetation located adjacent the active area shall be protected against degradation (as far as is reasonably practicable) through the establishment of Exclusion Zones along the principles espoused in AS 4970-2009 Bushing

(or similar) shall be erected at the margins of active work areas where accidental encroachment may otherwise be possible.

- c. **Offset** - Although there is no native vegetation to be removed, a small lightwood tree and a dead tree may be inadvertently damaged by construction earthworks and are thus counted as a loss for purposes of establishing a vegetation offset (refer Ecological Assessment Report).

Controls to address hazard

#	Details of controls being used	Risk Events being managed (number from above)	Performance measures (specifying how the control is being implemented –if not implicit in the control)
1	Native vegetation proximal to the proposed surface work area shall be protected by a buffer of >12x trunk diameter (i.e., drip line + 5m) up to a maximum of 15m but not less than 2m.	1	Buffer areas adjacent scattered trees / remnant patches shall be demarked by temporary fencing / bunting and signage. These are exclusion zones whereby vehicles shall not transit nor park and materials (including plant, supplies, soil and waste) shall not be placed either temporarily or permanently.
2	Surface disturbance footprint as small as practicable.	1	The work area has been designed to minimise potential impact on native vegetation at the site.

Residual Risk Assessment

#	Details of the Risk Event	Phase	Consequence	Likelihood	Residual Risk Rating
1	Inadvertent damage to native vegetation from ground disturbing activities	Construction Operation	minor	unlikely	low

Monitoring

#	Aspect to be monitored	Details of monitoring
1	Incursion into buffer zone	Vigilant observation by operational staff and landowner.
2	Revegetation vigour	Comparative assessment against adjacent undisturbed areas

Reporting

#	Aspect being reported	Who will the information be reported to and at what frequency?	How will it be used?
1	Accidental loss or serious damage to trees and patches of native vegetation at the margins of approved active surface area	landowner per event	Inform rehabilitation strategy

Relevant industry publications

#	Document	Source (e.g., URL, appendix number)
1	Code of Practice for Low-Risk Mines (DEDJTR, 2014)	

Operator's reference documents

#	Document	Location (e.g., work plan appendix number)
1	Site Activity Log	Work site

NOTE: Further information regarding this risk (and management thereof) is given in Section 4.5 of the Work Plan and in the Ecological Assessment Report.

Risk 10 – Ground Disturbance – Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

This risk treatment plan is for the control of: Ground Disturbance – Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

Key sensitive receptors

#	Details of the Sensitive Receptor	Location and proximity to site	How Hazard may harm or damage Sensitive Receptor	Evidence to support assessment
1	Areas of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity	onsite	Significant ground disturbance in areas where Aboriginal Cultural Heritage is unexpected	ACHRIS online mapping

Risk Events

#	Details of the Risk Event	Phase	Consequence	Likelihood	Inherent Risk Rating
1	Significant ground disturbance in areas where Aboriginal Cultural Heritage is unexpected.	Construction Operation	critical	unlikely	high

Objectives

The key objective of this risk treatment plan is to *minimise potential for unregulated and uncontrolled disturbance of unexpected areas of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity.*

Compliance standards

The compliance standard for this risk treatment plan is:

- *Planning & Environment Act 1987*
- *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*
- *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018*

Acceptance criteria

The acceptance criterion for this risk treatment plan is *no unregulated and uncontrolled disturbance of areas of unexpected Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity.*

Controls to address hazard

#	Details of controls being used	Risk Events being managed (number from above)	Performance measures (specifying how the control is being implemented –if not implicit in the control)
1	If any suspected human remains are found during any activity, works must cease. The Victoria Police and the State Coroner's Office should be notified immediately. If there are reasonable grounds to believe the remains are Aboriginal, the Coronial Admissions and Enquiries hotline must be contacted immediately on 1300 888 544.	1	Contingency Plan as per Work Plan Section 4.6
2	In accordance with Section 24 of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 'Reporting discovery of Aboriginal places and objects' if a person discovers an Aboriginal place or object; and the person knows that the place or object is an Aboriginal place or object the person must report the discovery to the Secretary as soon as practicable. The notification of Aboriginal cultural heritage found during the activity must be reported, failure to report a discovery is an offence and has significant penalties. The proponent must	1	Contingency Plan as per Work Plan Section 4.6

#	Details of controls being used	Risk Events being managed (number from above)	Performance measures (specifying how the control is being implemented – if not implicit in the control)
1	at all times avoid unlawful harm to Aboriginal cultural heritage.		

Residual Risk Assessment

#	Details of the Risk Event	Phase	Consequence	Likelihood	Residual Risk Rating
1	Significant ground disturbance in areas where Aboriginal Cultural Heritage is unexpected.	Construction Operation	minor	unlikely	minor

Monitoring

#	Aspect to be monitored	Details of monitoring
1	<i>Recovery of artefacts at any location where artefacts / remains (or suspected artefacts / remains) may be unearthed</i>	<i>Undertaken by RAP representatives</i>

Reporting

#	Aspect being reported	Who will the information be reported to and at what frequency?	How will it be used?
1	<i>Artefact / Place or Human Remains discovery (as per Controls 1 & 2 above)</i>	<i>RAP and Secretary Department of Premier & Cabinet per event</i>	<i>Inform artefact / place / remains identification and recovery strategy as per Contingency Plan detailed in Section 4.6 of Work Plan.</i>
2	<i>Non - Compliance with Contingency Plans</i>	<i>AV per event</i>	<i>Verification that works undertaken onsite remains consistent with provisions of Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 and associated Regulations (2018)</i>

Relevant industry publications

#	Document	Source (e.g., URL, appendix number)
1	<i>Code of Practice for Low-Risk Mines (DEDJTR, 2014)</i>	

Operator's reference documents

#	Document	Location (e.g., work plan appendix number)
1	<i>Work Plan Section 4.6</i>	<i>Work site</i>
2	<i>Site Activity Log</i>	<i>Work site</i>

Risk 11 – Rock Stockpiles

This risk treatment plan is for the control of: Hazardous Materials – Rock Stockpile ARD

Key sensitive receptors

#	Details of the Sensitive Receptor	Location and proximity to site	How Hazard may harm or damage Sensitive Receptor	Evidence to support assessment
1	Land	onsite	ARD impacting soil quality	none
2	designated watercourse adjacent rock stockpiles	onsite	ARD impacting stream water quality	none

Risk Events

#	Details of the Risk Event	Phase	Consequence	Likelihood	Inherent Risk Rating
1	Acid Rock Drainage (ARD) affecting soil quality and water quality in designated watercourse adjacent rock stockpiles	Operation Closure	minor	possible	medium

Objectives

The key objective of this risk treatment plan is to **minimise potential for onsite stockpiles and work areas to permanently impact soil and surface water.**

Compliance standards

The compliance standard for this risk treatment plan is:

- *Environment Reference Standard*

Acceptance criteria

The acceptance criterion for this risk treatment plan is **no unmanaged stockpiles of Potentially Acid Forming (PAF) rock.**

Controls to address hazard

#	Details of controls being used	Risk Events being managed (number from above)	Performance measures (specifying how the control is being implemented – if not implicit in the control)
1	Ore stockpiles onsite are small and transitory – not exceeding 50m ³ at any given point in time and not static for any period exceeding two-weeks	1	Short time exposed to atmosphere reduces potential for acid generation.
2	Waste rock stockpiles placed (predominantly) on previously disturbed ground and all run-off reports to sediment pond.	1	Waste rock tipping in defined areas only – drains maintained to ensure all runoff reports to sediment pond. No offsite discharge of contaminated water.
3	Systematic assessment of ore and waste for ARD.	1	Ongoing independent analysis or run-of-mine samples and development waste for CRS, ANC, NAG & NAPP. If PAF categorisation revealed, review containment and management strategy proportionate to expected volume of PAF material.
4	Assessment of soil contamination at conclusion of active operations and before rehabilitation commences.	1	Assessment of soil contamination against benchmark for relevant ERS Indicators (metals & salts) for Environmental Values associated with Land Use Category "Agricultural".

Residual Risk Assessment

#	Details of the Risk Event	Phase	Consequence	Likelihood	Residual Risk Rating
1	Acid Rock Drainage (ARD) affecting soil quality and water quality in designated watercourse adjacent rock stockpiles	Operation Closure	minor	unlikely	low

Monitoring

#	Aspect to be monitored	Details of monitoring
1	ARD categorisation	Ongoing and systematic analysis of representative rock samples
2	Rock volumes	Volumetric accounting of rock volumes for indicated ARD categorisations (NAF, PAF)

Reporting

#	Aspect being reported	Who will the information be reported to and at what frequency?	How will it be used?
1	Volume of PAF material exceeding 10% of overall rock extraction volume	Site Management – periodically	Inform ongoing management of rock emplacements and rehabilitation plan

Relevant industry publications

#	Document	Source (e.g., URL, appendix number)
1	Code of Practice for Low-Risk Mines (DEDJTR, 2014)	
2	ARD Test Handbook, AMIRA International (2002)	

Operator's reference documents

#	Document	Location (e.g., work plan appendix number)
1	Complaints Register	Work site

Risk 12 – Ground Disturbance - Groundwater

This risk treatment plan is for the control of: Groundwater

Key sensitive receptors

#	Details of the Sensitive Receptor	Location and proximity to site	How Hazard may harm or damage Sensitive Receptor	Evidence to support assessment
1	Groundwater	Within underground workings	Interception of groundwater interrupting groundwater flow and potentially destabilising excavation	none

Risk Events

#	Details of the Risk Event	Phase	Consequence	Likelihood	Inherent Risk Rating
1	Underground development intercepting groundwater	Construction	minor	unlikely	low

Objectives

The key objective of this risk treatment plan is to *minimise risk to underground workings through interception of groundwater in mine development.*

Compliance standards

The compliance standard for this risk treatment plan is:

- *Planning & Environment Act 1987*
- *Water Act 1989*
- *Environment Reference Standard*

Acceptance criteria

The acceptance criterion for this risk treatment plan is *no pumping of groundwater without approval from Rural Water Authority.*

Controls to address hazard

#	Details of controls being used	Risk Events being managed (number from above)	Performance measures (specifying how the control is being implemented – if not implicit in the control)
1	If groundwater is intercepted in underground workings, work shall cease and advice be sought from Rural Water Authority	1	Work ceases upon interception of groundwater

Residual Risk Assessment

#	Details of the Risk Event	Phase	Consequence	Likelihood	Residual Risk Rating
1	Underground development intercepting groundwater	Construction	insignificant	unlikely	low

Monitoring

#	Aspect to be monitored	Details of monitoring
1	Water in underground workings	Underground workings to be examined by Site Supervisor at commencement of each shift for seepage accumulation. Underground operators to be trained to detect indications of water seepage (e.g., free water draining from face during mining, etc.)

Reporting

#	Aspect being reported	Who will the information be reported to and at what frequency?	How will it be used?
1	Water interception	Site Supervisor – per event Rural Water Authority – per event	Assist in defining a methodology for assessing impact to groundwater flow and a strategy for management. Note that this may trigger requirement for variation of Work Plan

Relevant industry publications

#	Document	Source (e.g., URL, appendix number)
1	Code of Practice for Low-Risk Mines (DEDJTR, 2014)	

Operator's reference documents

#	Document	Location (e.g., work plan appendix number)
1	Site Safety Management System	Work site
2	Site Incident Register	Work site

Risk 13 - Blasting

This risk treatment plan is for the control of: Blasting

Key sensitive receptors

#	Details of the Sensitive Receptor	Location and proximity to site	How Hazard may harm or damage Sensitive Receptor	Evidence to support assessment
1	Residential property	Nearest residences 0.9km NNE & 1.4km E	Impact amenity	none
2	Grazing livestock	Offsite	Impact livestock behaviour	none

Risk Events

#	Details of the Risk Event	Phase	Consequence	Likelihood	Inherent Risk Rating
1	Dust and gases from underground blasting venting from mine openings affecting amenity	Construction Operation	minor	unlikely	low
2	Vibration from underground blasting affecting structures and amenity	Construction Operation	minor	unlikely	low

Objectives

The key objective of this risk treatment plan is to **protect amenity**.

Compliance standards

The compliance standards for this risk treatment plan are:

- *Environment Reference Standard*
- *AS 2187.2: Explosives - Storage and Use*

Acceptance criteria

The acceptance criterion for this risk treatment plan is *no persistent & unacceptable gas and fumes experienced by nearest neighbours (benchmarked against Objectives listed in Table 2.2 of ERS for relevant Indicators) and no vibration (as measured at nearest domiciles) exceeding that stipulated in AS2187.2.*

Controls to address hazard

#	Details of controls being used	Risk Events being managed (number from above)	Performance measures (specifying how the control is being implemented –if not implicit in the control)
1	All blasting is underground	1 & 2	Nil Assessment required as per EPA Publication 1961.
2	All blasts are small (charge <12kg ANFO).	1 & 2	Small charge weight reduces vibration and volume of dust & fumes; dust and fumes vent via ramp and / or vent rise and disperse rapidly. The closest domiciles are 0.9km & 1.4km distant; no vibration will be detectable.
3	Blasting at end of shift only (no independent firing and no firing on weekends).	1 & 2	Predictable firing times can be communicated to neighbours and be posted on boundary fence for advice of passers-by.

Residual Risk Assessment

#	Details of the Risk Event	Phase	Consequence	Likelihood	Residual Risk Rating
1	Dust and gases from underground blasting venting from mine openings affecting amenity	Construction Operation	minor	unlikely	low
2	Vibration from underground blasting affecting structures and amenity	Construction	minor	unlikely	low

#	Details of the Risk Event	Phase	Consequence	Likelihood	Residual Risk Rating
		Operation			

Monitoring

#	Aspect to be monitored	Details of monitoring
1	<i>Nearest neighbours shall be apprised of planned firings and feedback sought.</i>	<i>Comment shall be sought from nearest neighbour after initial firings as to any apprehension of vibration, noise or fumes.</i>
2	<i>Gas monitoring at nearest domicile</i>	<i>Monitoring for relevant Indicators (as per ERS Table 2.2 1hr averaging) and relevant health-based APACS as per EPA Pub 1961 Table 3. Gas monitoring to be undertaken only at request of householder.</i>
3	<i>Peak Particle Velocity measurement at nearest domicile</i>	<i>PPV measurements to be undertaken only at request of householder.</i>

Reporting

#	Aspect being reported	Who will the information be reported to and at what frequency?	How will it be used?
1	A log of blasts (firing time and charge mass), ambient weather conditions (qualitative) shall be maintained in order to inform ongoing dust / vibration mitigation strategy.	<i>Site Management – daily basis</i>	<i>Inform ongoing site management practice</i>

Relevant industry publications

#	Document	Source (e.g., URL, appendix number)
1	EPA Publication 1823.1 Mining & Quarrying – Guide to preventing harm to people & the environment	
2	EPA Publication 1961 Guideline for Assessing & Minimising Air Pollution in Victoria	

Operator's reference documents

#	Document	Location (e.g., work plan appendix number)
1	<i>Site Activity Log</i>	<i>Work site</i>

Risk 14 – Rubbish

This risk treatment plan is for the control of: Rubbish

Key sensitive receptors

#	Details of the Sensitive Receptor	Location and proximity to site	How Hazard may harm or damage Sensitive Receptor	Evidence to support assessment
1	Land	onsite	Accumulation of rubbish posing fire risk	none

Risk Events

#	Details of the Risk Event	Phase	Consequence	Likelihood	Inherent Risk Rating
1	Accumulation of general rubbish	Construction Operation Rehabilitation	insignificant	unlikely	low

Objectives

The key objective of this risk treatment plan is to *minimise potential for build-up of general rubbish on site.*

Compliance standards

The compliance standard for this risk treatment plan is:

- *Catchment & Land Protection Act 1994*
- *Planning & Environment Act 1987*

Acceptance criteria

The acceptance criterion for this risk treatment plan is *no accumulation of general rubbish that could constitute a fire hazard.*

Controls to address hazard

#	Details of controls being used	Risk Events being managed (number from above)	Performance measures (specifying how the control is being implemented – if not implicit in the control)
1	Provision of rubbish bins with secure lids.	1	Bin lids to be fitted when in use.
2	Regular removal of general rubbish from site.	1	Bins to be emptied regularly and accumulated waste disposed offsite.
3	Timely collection of any general rubbish too large to fit in bins (such as equipment packing crates, old pallets, etc.).	1	Oversize rubbish to be removed as quickly as possible.

Residual Risk Assessment

#	Details of the Risk Event	Phase	Consequence	Likelihood	Residual Risk Rating
1	Accumulation of general rubbish	Construction Operation Rehabilitation	insignificant	rare	low

Monitoring

#	Aspect to be monitored	Details of monitoring
1	Rubbish removal	Manager to schedule rubbish removal and ensure bins are being used.

Reporting

#	Aspect being reported	Who will the information be reported to and at what frequency?	How will it be used?
1	Uncontained rubbish accumulation.	Site Manager – as informed	Inform rubbish removal protocol

Relevant industry publications

#	Document	Source (e.g., URL, appendix number)
1	Code of Practice for Low-Risk Mines (DEDJTR, 2014)	

Operator's reference documents

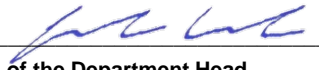
#	Document	Location (e.g., work plan appendix number)
1	Site Activity Log	Work site

FIRST AU LTD
under Option Agreement with Mines of Stirling Pty Ltd



SNOWSTORM PROJECT

PL007319

<i>Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990</i>	
Tenement Number:	PL007319
Plan Number:	PLN001755
Work Plan Statutorily Endorsed	
Signed:	
Delegate of the Department Head	
Date:	27/10/2023

MRSD Act (1990) & MRSD (MI) Regulations (2019)
Regulation 43(2)

SNOWSTORM

UNDERGROUND MINING & BULK SAMPLING

RISK-BASED REHABILITATION PLAN

v. 3

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0.1 Introduction

First Au Ltd (“the Proponent”), under Option Agreement with Mines of Stirling Pty Ltd (the “Licensee”) proposes underground mining and bulk sampling in order to evaluate viability of a commercial underground mining operation at the “Snowstorm” Project located on PL007319. The active area described in this Programme is located on freehold land approximately 9km east of Swifts Creek in eastern Victoria (refer Figure 1). The address of the site is 108A Riley’s Creek Rd, Swift’s Creek, VIC 3896.

An Initial Site Meeting was held to discuss impact and aspects of the proposal on 4th February 2022. The landowner and representatives of the proponent, Earth Resources Regulation (ERR), Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and East Gippsland Water (EGW) attended. East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority indicated that a Works on Waterway Permit would be required. Comments and advice from invitees to the site meeting have been incorporated into the Work Plan for the project.

This Rehabilitation Plan forms an element of a Work Plan that has been designed to accord with the requirements of Section 40(3) of the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable) Development Act 1990* (the ‘Act’) and with current Earth Resources Regulation (ERR) Guidelines (*Preparation of Work Plans and Work Plan Variations - Guidelines for Mining Projects*, September 2019).

The *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) (Mining Industry) Regulations 2019* (the “Regulations”) prescribes the information to be provided in a Work Plan application. Specifically, Regulations 42, 43, 44, 45 & 46 are relevant to the proposed work.

This Rehabilitation Plan document has been structured to accord with the requirements of Regulation 43 (2), viz:

- a) *proposed land uses for the affected land after it has been rehabilitated, that considers community views expressed during consultation; and*
- b) *a land form that will be achieved to complete rehabilitation, which must—*
 - i. *be safe, stable and sustainable; and*
 - ii. *be capable of supporting the proposed land uses referred to in paragraph (a); and*
- c) *objectives that set out distinct rehabilitation domains that collectively amount to the land form described in paragraph (b);*
- d) *criteria for measuring whether the objectives described in paragraph (c) have been met; and*
- e) *a description of, and schedule for, rehabilitation milestones; and*
- f) *an identification and assessment of relevant risks that the rehabilitated land may pose to the environment, to any member of the public or to land, property or infrastructure in the vicinity of the rehabilitated land, including—*
 - i. *the type, likelihood and consequence of the risks; and*
 - ii. *the activities required to manage the risks; and*
 - iii. *the projected costs to manage the risks; and*
 - iv. *any other matter that may be relevant to risks arising from the rehabilitated land.*

This Rehabilitation Plan describes a rehabilitation process that is consistent with an objective to minimise, as far as is practicable, deleterious impact to waterways, land and natural & cultural assets during the operating lifetime of the mine and restoration of landscape and vegetation at mine closure where there is a relevant risk to those features.

Relevant risk is defined at regulation 43(5), viz:

*- **relevant risks** means risks that may require monitoring, maintenance, treatment or other ongoing land management activities after rehabilitation is complete.*

First Au proposes to construct a new underground access (ramp) and associated infrastructure located within existing cleared areas in order to extract circa 3,000 tonnes of mineralised rock for metallurgical testing and determination of the economics of ongoing commercial extraction. The proposed work does not constitute sustained commercial mining.

Probable extent of development is summarised thus:

Development Type	Profile	Extent
Ramp	2.2mW x 2.8mH, arch profile	92m from new box-cut; first 6m (to Sump 1) at 1 in 8 thence 81m at 1:9.85 (to Sump 2) thence circa 3.8m (till reef is struck) flat
Level Drive in Ore	1.2mW x 1.8mH, shanty-back	22m (sub-level), 6m (adit level)
Rise in Ore	1.2m x 1.2m square	Adit level - 27m (1 rise) at 60° to surface, Sub-level - 72m at 70° to adit level
Stoping	T-Bone (variable width)	2,628 tonnes (assume SG 2.4)
Boxcut	Open cast	80.5m ³ (loose volume), steepest batter 60° over 3.8m (slope), surface footprint 102.5m ²
New Disturbance	Surface Footprint	253m ² (existing disturbance circa 0.25Ha)
Top Soil	Typically 150mm thick	44.7m ³ (loose volume)
Total Waste Rock	Deposited at natural angle of repose (circa 50°)	741.5m ³ (loose volume including allowance for overbreak) over an area of 399.3m ² including 661m ³ (loose) over 296.8m ² of existing disturbed land.

A box-cut excavation will be required at the proposed portal location to establish a secure vertical face for cutting the portal. This will involve some earthworks. The total expected footprint for the box-cut is approximately 142.1m² of which 89.7m² will be new disturbance. The proposed portal site is located in an existing cleared location that had previously been developed as a drill pad and laydown area.

An area for the stockpiling of both ore and waste rock will need to be constructed adjacent the portal. This will need to cater for approximately 1,978 tonnes of waste (assumed SG 2.4 and swell factor 1.4) which will be stacked at two locations in accordance with that illustrated in Figure 3 and will have a combined surface footprint of approximately 399.3m² of which only 102.5m² will be new disturbance. Some select waste rock will be trucked offsite for access road sheeting.

The small scale of the proposed underground mining operation entails a commensurately small surface footprint totalling approximately 550m² of which 253m² is new disturbance. Only the areas disturbed as part of the Work Plan are included in this Rehabilitation Plan. The landowner does not want existing infrastructure on the site to be removed. This includes Darby's Adit (and new vent rise), the existing processing plant, storage sheds, core shed, access road and all

associated earthworks including the new portal area, drainage structures and stabilised mullock dumps.

1 Proposed End Land Use

The primary requirement under the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990* (the “MRSDA”) for rehabilitated mining land is that it be safe, stable and sustainable.

The expression “Safe, Stable & Sustainable” is defined in *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) (Mineral Industries) Regulations 2019*, r.4; viz:

“safe, stable and sustainable means:

- a) is not likely to cause injury or illness (including to animals); and
- b) structurally, geotechnically and hydrogeologically sound; and
- c) non-polluting; and
- d) aligns with the principles of sustainable development”

Note that “*principles of sustainable development*” are elucidated in MRSDA s.2A.

The current land-use of the site is zoned Farming (FZ1) as defined under the East Gippsland Shire Planning Scheme. The actual site is use mining and mineral exploration. The Proponent does not seek to alter this land-use at the conclusion of mining activities. Accordingly, this Rehabilitation Plan describes a methodology that aims to stabilise and revegetate the land disturbed during the course of the mining activities (as described in the Work Plan).

1.1 Regional & Local Setting

The Snowstorm Project is located on freehold land approximately 9km east of Swifts Creek in eastern Victoria (refer Figure 1). The licence (PL007319) encloses an area of 4.7Ha comprising a mixture of open grazing land and relict patches of native vegetation in steep terrain of mountainous relief (circa 600mAHD). The area was extensively mined for both placer and orogenic (“hard-rock”) gold from the mid-19th century through to the 1930’s. De-forestation and modification of natural drainage was a feature of this exploitation.

Land Use

The licence is located on freehold land comprising Crown Allotment 1\TP892667 Parish of Tongio-Munjie West in the East Gippsland (1:100k mapsheet 8423 Omeo). The location of the project area is indicated in Figure 1. The area is zoned Farming (FZ1) under the East Gippsland Shire Planning Scheme. The proposed active area is subject to a Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO) and Erosion Management Overlay (EMO).

Access

The site is isolated but is accessible via the Cassilis Road and Riley’s Creek Road. These roads are maintained by the East Gippsland Shire. There is no residential development in the immediate vicinity. The nearest residence (rural property) is located 0.9km to the east-north-east of the proposed operational area and on the other side of a high wooded ridge. Another residence exists 1.4km east on the banks of Riley’s Creek.

Heritage

The proposed disturbance is not in an area indicated as of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity. Contingency measure in the event of unexpected discovery of Cultural Heritage are included in the Work Plan.

There is no entry in either the Heritage Inventory or Heritage Register (both maintained by the Heritage Council of Victoria) pertaining to the proposed area of disturbance. The boundary of the Cassilis Historic Area (managed by Parks Victoria) is approximately 250m north of the proposed active area and over a high ridgeline.

Geomorphology

The geomorphic landform of the site and environs is mountainous *East Victorian Dissected Uplands (Deeply dissected ridge and valley landscapes on Palaeozoic rocks - GMU 1.4.4)*.

Thin, stony soils are weakly developed on hill-tops and along ridgelines within the project environs and are often entirely absent. Well-drained stony loams are occasionally observed in gully deposits but soil structure has been largely destroyed by historic ground disturbance and tree clearing.

Geology

Gold mineralisation at the Snowstorm prospect is hosted in steeply dipping mineralised quartz veins striking in a general east-west direction with evidence of cross-cutting NW-SE vein sets all hosted in sheared and folded Ordovician sediments.

The host-sediments consist of variably altered sandstones, silts and shales of Ordovician age. Greenschist facies alteration is pervasive with some fine-grained lithologies displaying mylonitic textures indicating a high strain environment. The rocks to the proposed terminal depth of the trial mining are oxidised and do not pose any acid generating potential.

Gold is present in quartz veins both in free state and in complexes with sulphide minerals (mainly pyrite and lesser arsenopyrite). Mineral assemblages include minor chalcopyrite with lesser galena, sphalerite and trace stibnite. Sulphide volume in ore material is up to 2.6% but typically less than 0.5%. Arsenic ranges up to 15,200ppm with a median of 60ppm. Elevated carbonate levels indicate that the host rocks have a natural acid neutralising capacity. This has been confirmed by ARD testing.

Hydrogeology

The new underground workings will extend to a maximum depth of approximately 60m below ground level. Exploration drilling has indicated that the host rocks and mineralised structures are variably oxidised to at least this depth. Groundwater was not intercepted during the drilling campaign and is not evident in Darby's Adit.

The VVG (Visualising Victoria's Groundwater) web portal indicates the groundwater is designated Segment 'A1' (TDS <500mg/L). Environmental Values for this segment include *Water Dependent Ecosystems & Species*.

Potable Mineral Water Supply, Agriculture & Irrigation (Stock Watering), Industrial & Commercial and Primary Contact Recreation. There is no evidence that these Values are exploited within 1km of the active work area. The work will not compromise the Objectives associated with these Values as defined in the current Environment Reference Standard.

The Snowstorm Project work area is situated on moderately steep terrain in an area of mountainous relief (circa 600mAHD). The new underground access is to be sited on hillside high above Riley's Creek, a tributary of Swift's Creek in the Tambo River catchment. There are no permanent streams proximal to the work area but an ephemeral gully is located 20m west of the portal site. The bed of this gully is much altered and is occupied by the existing access track. All surface drainage from the access track and the portal site reports to an existing sediment pond located approximately 50m downslope of the portal (refer Figure 3). Another sediment dam exists offsite approximately 400m further downstream on the aforementioned gully. There is yet one more dam before the gully enters Riley's Creek some 1.6km downslope of the portal site. There are no farm dams on Riley's Creek downstream of the confluence with the gully in which the Snowstorm Project is located.

Geotechnical

Geotechnical logging of drill-core from the area proposed to be developed indicates the ground is sufficiently competent to support the small openings envisaged Mechanical ground-support (friction bolts, steel mesh and grouted bars) shall be employed. The risk of surface subsidence is considered to be negligible.

The portal of the new access ramp will be sited in a box-cut excavation approximately 8m long x 4m wide by 4m deep. The portal itself will be constructed of a pre-cast concrete or fabricated steel ring-segment. The walls of the box-cut will be battered to an overall slope angle of 68°. The walls of the box-cut will be covered in fibre-reinforced shotcrete. A water diversion drain shall be constructed above the portal to direct rainfall run-off away from the excavation. Spoil (topsoil) from the box-cut excavation and diversion drain shall be stockpiled to form a low safety bund between the diversion drain and the box-cut highwall.

Waste rock from the underground development shall be stockpiled at the locations indicated in Figure 3. The stockpile slope shall be at the natural angle of repose of the material. Maximum slope length of the waste rock emplacement shall be 8.9m at natural angle of repose (50°).

Geochemical

The rocks to the proposed terminal depth of the trial mining (60m BGL) are oxidised and do not pose any acid generating potential. This has been confirmed from ARD testing.

Gold is present in quartz veins both in free state and in complexes with sulphide minerals (mainly pyrite and lesser arsenopyrite). Mineral assemblages include minor chalcopyrite with lesser galena, sphalerite and trace stibnite. Sulphide volume in ore material is up to 2.6% but typically less.

than 0.5%. Arsenic ranges up to 15,200ppm with a median of 60ppm. Elevated carbonate levels indicate that the host rocks have a natural acid neutralising capacity. This has been confirmed by ARD testing.

There is no proposal for on-site processing of ore and hence no requirement for impoundment and post-closure management of tailings.

Native Flora & Fauna

Native vegetation (mapped as EVC0175 “Grassy Woodland” East Gippsland Uplands Bioregion) exists at the margins of the proposed area of disturbance. The proposed active area and immediate environs has been assessed by a Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (DELWP) accredited assessor in accordance with current *Guidelines for the Removal, Destruction or Lopping of Native Vegetation* (DELWP, 2017). Refer *Ecological Assessment Report*.

There shall be no vehicular access beyond cleared area and defined access tracks. Vehicles shall not be parked under trees. Equipment shall not be stored under trees. Rock material shall not be placed under trees. The remnant patches of native vegetation located adjacent the active area shall be protected against degradation (as far as is reasonably practicable) through the establishment of Exclusion Zones along the principles espoused in AS 4970-2009. Bunting (or similar) shall be erected at the margins of active work areas where accidental encroachment may otherwise be possible.

Climate

The Swifts Creek area enjoys a temperate sub-alpine climate with peak summer-time maximum temperatures averaging 27.2°C (January) with an average of 4.3 days per year exceeding 35°C. Peak winter-time minimum temperatures average 0.8°C (July) with an average of 57.9 days per year with an average minima temperature at or below freezing. Rainfall averages 675.6mm p/a mostly concentrated in May through to November with an average of 163.1 wet days per year. Intense rainfall events exceeding 70mm over 24 hours can occur during the summer months (particularly November associated with storms).

Aesthetic and Other Values

The site has been the subject of historic gold mining activities and stock grazing. The proliferation of small shafts and excavations at the location are a tangible legacy of the gold mining past. The haphazard historic mining work has resulted in a degraded landscape that is, only considered marginal grazing country.

The site is not visible from public roads or from neighbours’ property.

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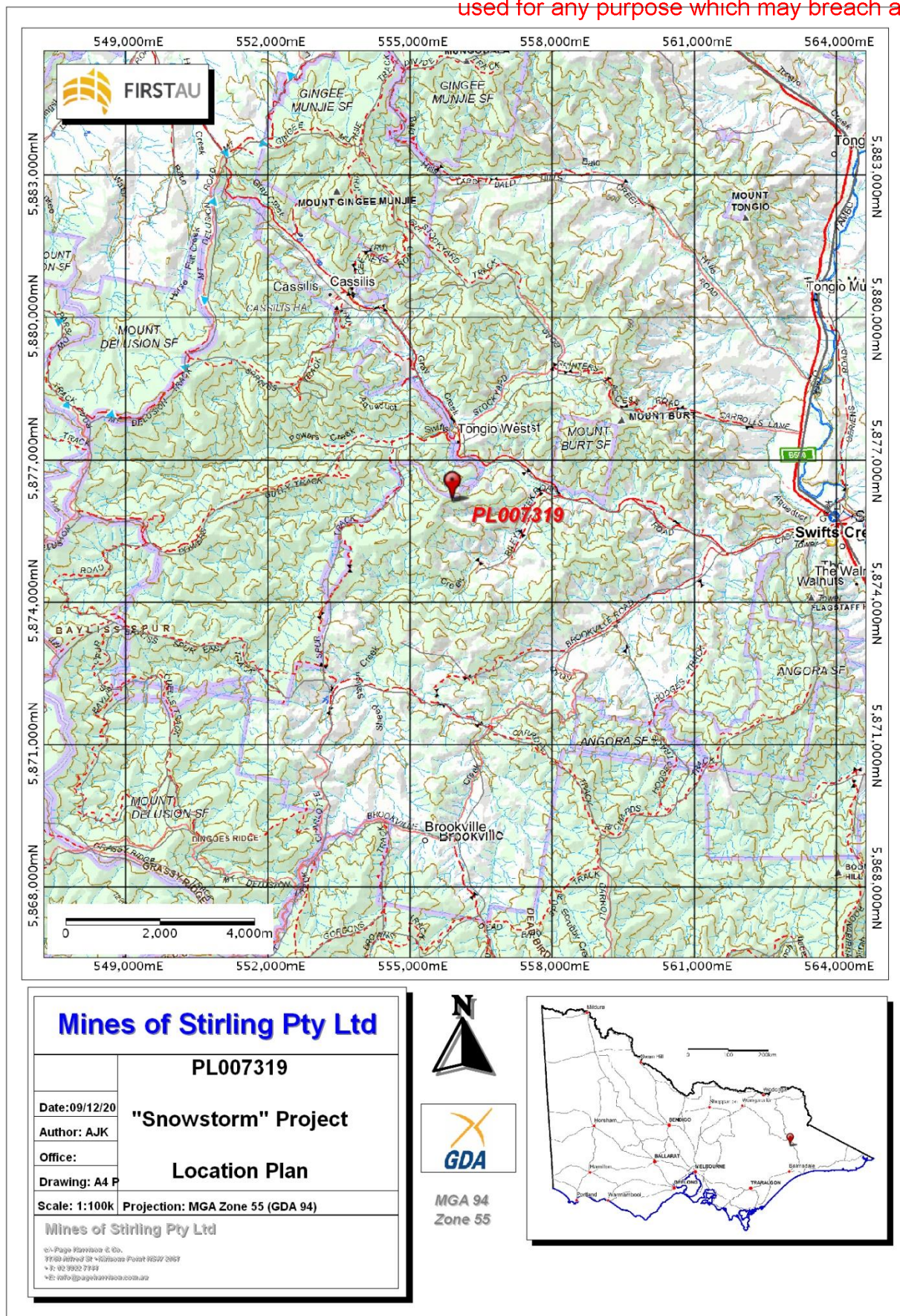


Figure 1: Snowstorm Project General Location Plan

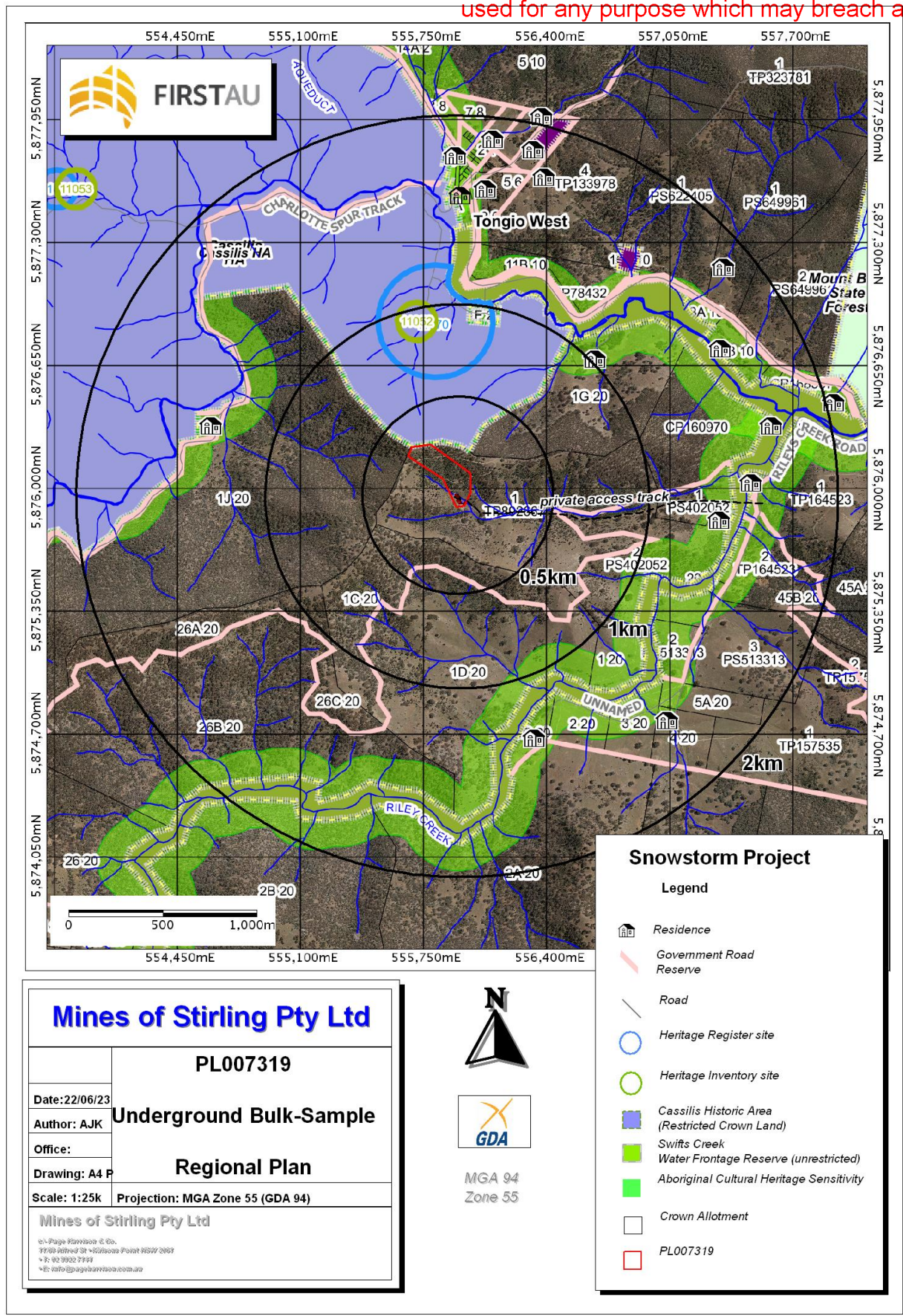


Figure 2: Snowstorm Project Regional Plan.

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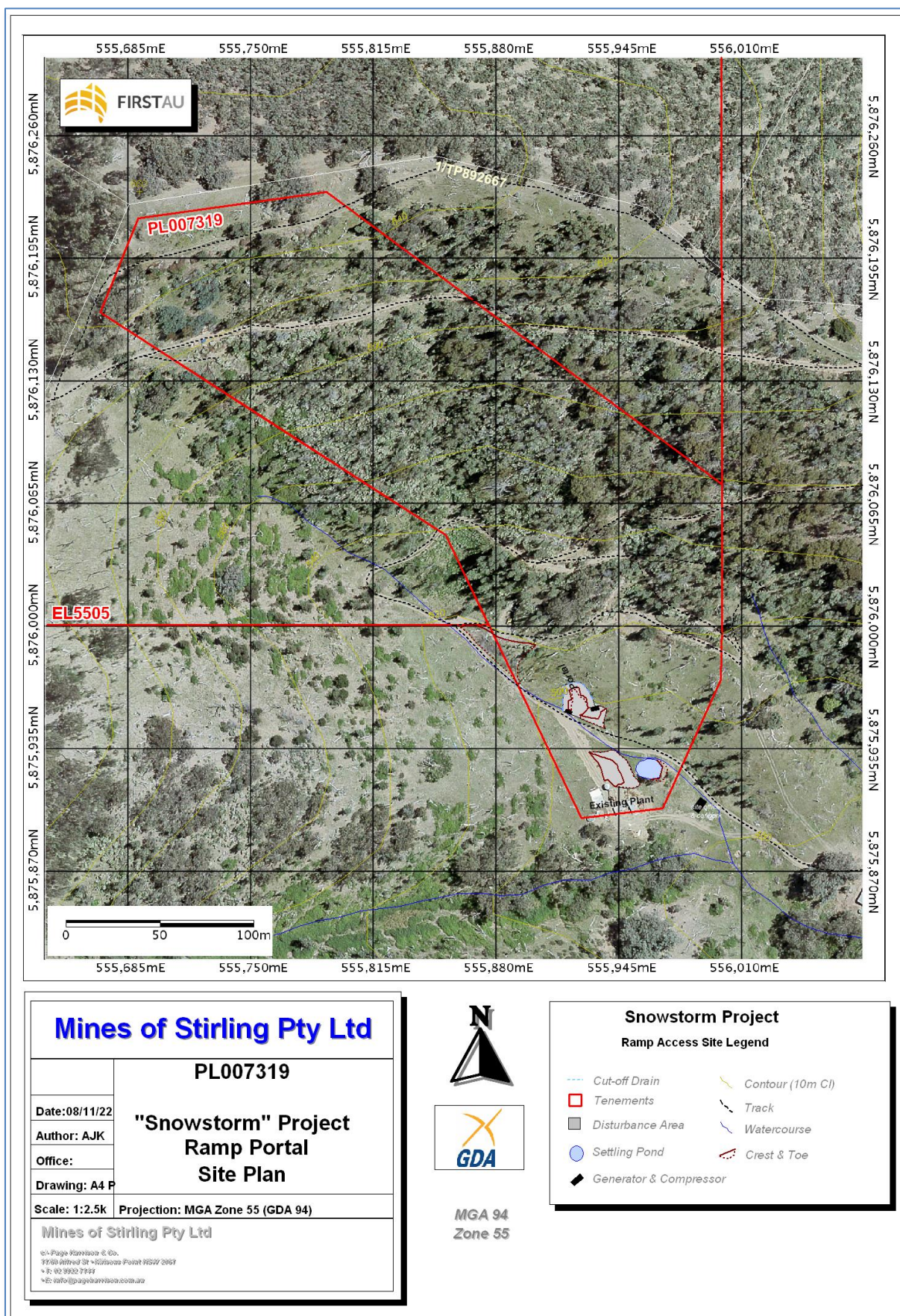


Figure 3a: Plan View of Surface Arrangement (at maximum extent).

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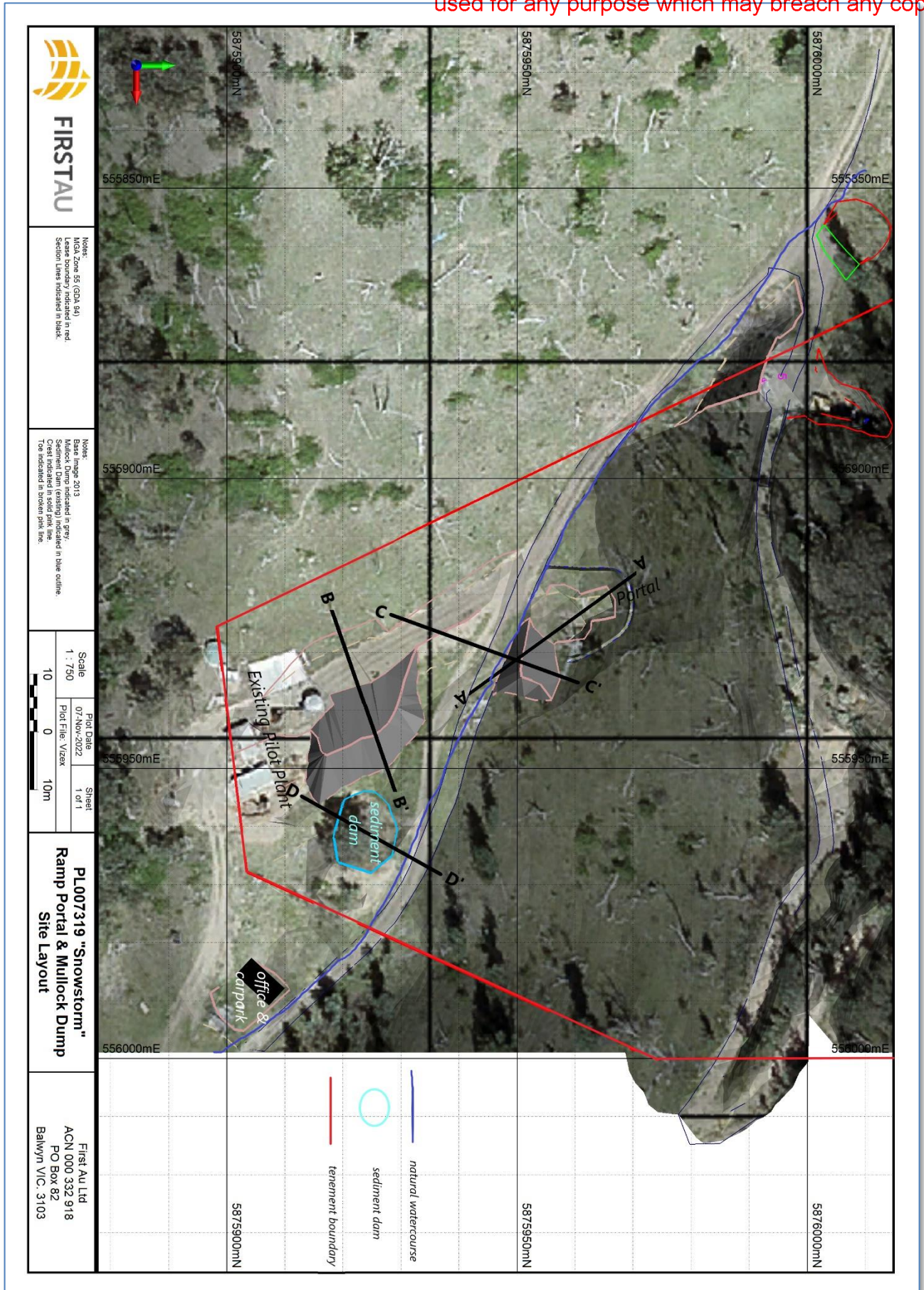


Figure 3b: Plan View (detail) of Surface Arrangement (at maximum extent).

2 Post-mining Landform

The post-mining land-form shall reflect the pre-mining landform. That is, the final contoured surface shall be consistent with the surrounding topography.

The ramp portal will be sealed at the conclusion of underground activities. A bondek wall, reinforced with steel purlins, shall be erected across the portal opening. The boxcut will then be backfilled with select oxidised waste rock that was stockpiled alongside during the mining process. The topsoil previously recovered will be used to cover the backfilled excavation. Pasture species will then be sown.

The gate across the vent rise collar above Darby's Adit will be welded shut at the conclusion of trial mining. The rise itself shall remain unsealed. Darby's Adit will be secured with a bondek wall and earthen plug of reclaimed waste rock from the existing Darby's Adit mullock heap. The existing steel and timber support at the portal shall remain insitu as is consistent with the wishes of the landowner.

At the conclusion of active mining at the site, the rock emplacements shall be contoured and a terrace cut to relieve the overall slope angle. The location of the larger of the two emplacements on previously disturbed ground precludes the recovery and re-use of topsoil. Some topsoil (circa 10m³) will be imported for purpose of creating "plots" on the surface of the emplacement into which will be planted tubestock endemic tree-species. Imported topsoil will be sourced from appropriate suppliers and must be certified weed and pathogen free. Lightwood (*Acacia implexa*), Kurrajong (*Brachychiton populneus* ssp. *Populneus*) and Black Wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*) are hardy tree-species observed elsewhere on the property growing well on stony thin soil. Natural regeneration on the rock emplacements is considered desirable because of inherent resilience. Fostering natural regrowth and recruitment is a strategy that offers the best potential for a successful and robust rehabilitation that requires minimal post-closure input and ongoing management.

The land-surface at completion of box-cut back-filling and rock emplacement contouring will appear slightly mounded with gently rounded edges at the transition between the fill and natural surface. This avoids the visual ambiguity inherent in angular unconformity. The mounding will consolidate over time resulting in a final land-form across the site that is similar to the pre-disturbance form. This final surface will shed rainfall run-off in a manner that will not result in detrimental erosion and offsite deposition of sediment.

All drainage structures described in the Work Plan shall remain in place post-closure including the existing sediment pond and sediment fences.

Visualisation of the pre, syn and post mining landform is illustrated in Figures 4, 5 & 6.

Close monitoring and management of the rehabilitated land-form in the immediate post-closure period is essential in order to avoid development of problems that may pose a substantive risk to long-term rehabilitation success. Particular attention must be paid to:

- Weeds and Pest Animals – invasive weed species are often "early colonisers" of rehabilitated land. If left unchecked, invasive weeds can out-compete both native and pasture ground cover. Pest animals can graze on new plant growth.

and create burrows resulting in degradation of the rehabilitated land. It is essential that invasive weeds and pest animals are managed to the maximum extent practicable during the first five years post-closure to ensure the best opportunity for colonisation and recruitment by native plant species and pasture alike.

- Vegetation Health and Vigour – given that the end land use is to be consistent with that of the surrounding land (i.e., stock grazing with patches of native vegetation), it is essential that the progress of regeneration is measured in a meaningful way that allows for identification of deficiencies that can be treated with targeted response. Accordingly, it is proposed that qualitative comparison of revegetation area against adjacent “undisturbed” areas elsewhere on the property be undertaken. The assistance of an agronomist may be appropriate for this type of comparative evaluation. It is desirable that sustained growth be measured for at least two consecutive reporting periods.
- Landform Stability – issues with slumping and erosion will be readily apparent within the first two years post-closure. A monitoring regime must be established that can speedily identify problem areas and inform remedial work. Any such remediation must be undertaken as soon as practicable after the issue is identified. This may entail the return of earthmoving equipment to the site.

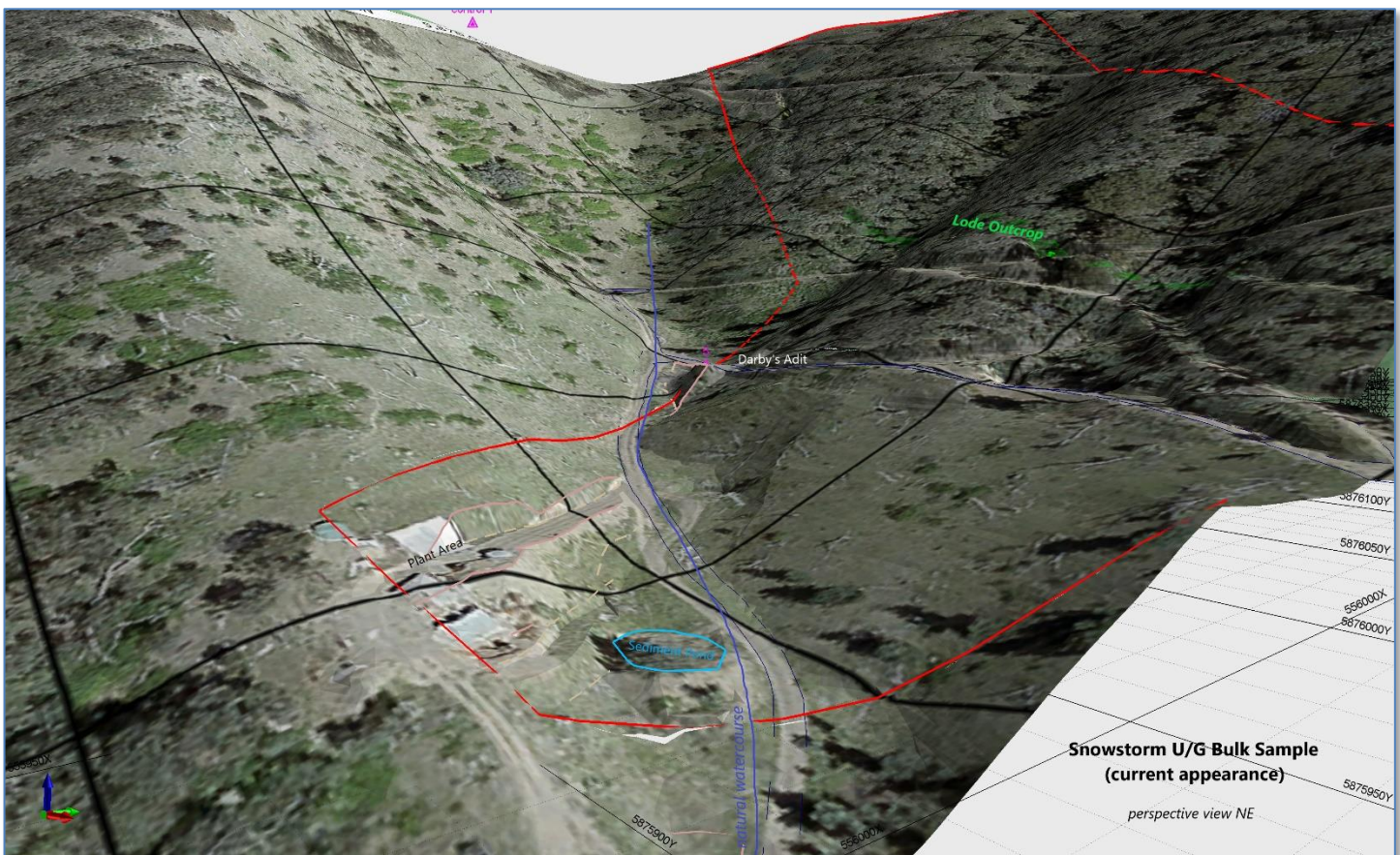


Figure 4: Perspective View of site as it currently appears (looking NE).

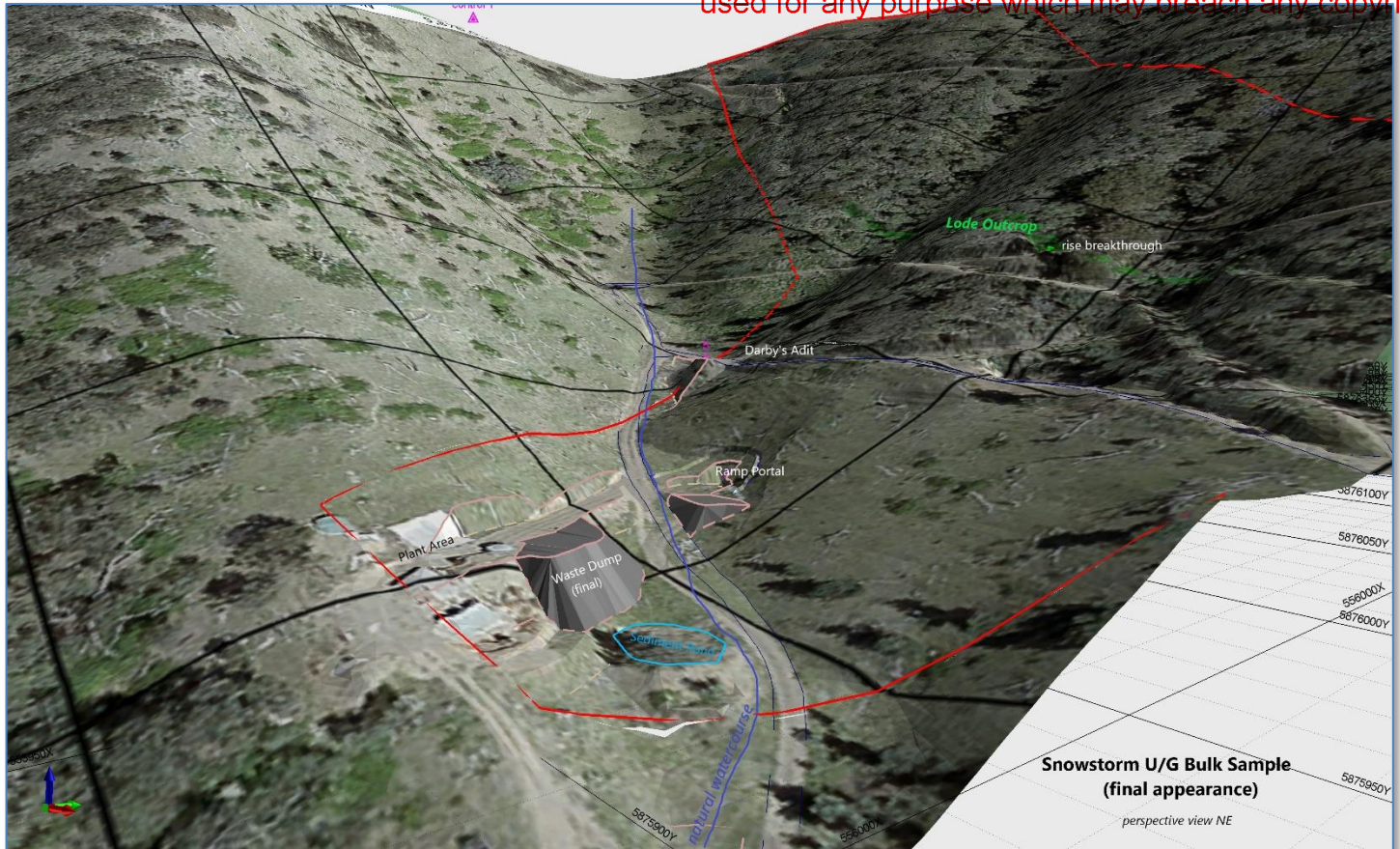


Figure 5: Perspective View of site as it will appear at conclusion of mining (looking NE).

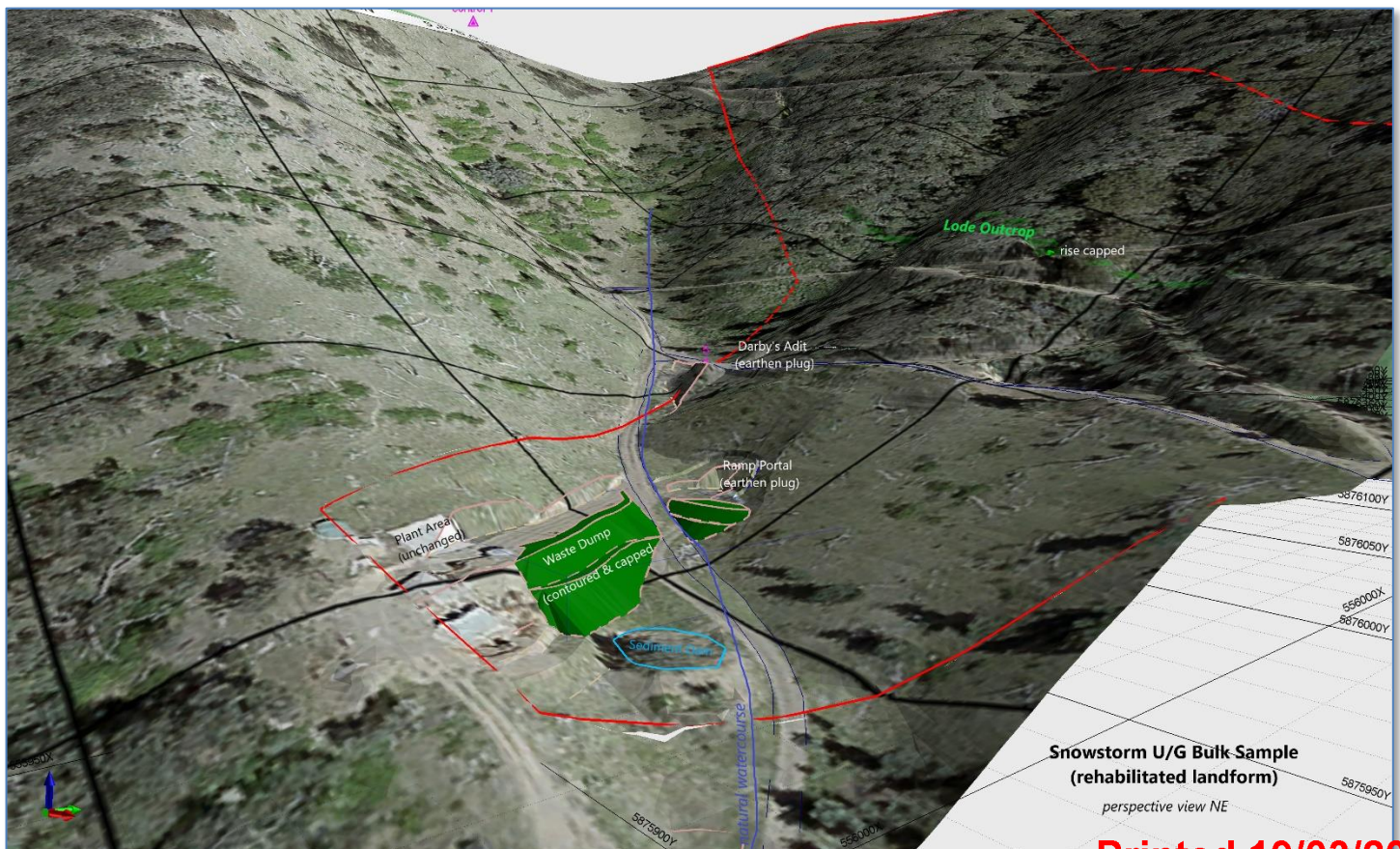


Figure 6: Perspective View of site as it will appear at completion of rehabilitation earthworks

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3 Rehabilitation Domains

The overriding objective of the rehabilitation plan is that, post-mining, the site is in harmony with surrounding landscape and can be utilised for stock grazing as is consistent with the land-use zoning. Key to this is the establishment of a stable land-form in the first instance that does not present a significant subsidence and erosion risk.

It is essential that natural resources that currently exist on the site are effectively harnessed, insofar as is practicable, to support self-sustaining re-generation of the rehabilitated land. This entails the careful collection and stockpiling of top-soil, such as it is, as an essential preliminary step. In addition, the harvesting of plant propagule and other organic matter, including previously felled trees for re-use as habitat, particularly on the slopes of the rock emplacements, will assist in recruitment and retention of native plant and animal species over time.

A defining feature of the mining proposal is that no contaminated material will be evolved that would otherwise indicate a requirement for long-term post-closure management for the protection of ecological and human health. No on-site processing of ore is proposed. The host-rocks for the gold mineralisation are oxidised and do not present any acid generating potential.

Rehabilitation is an important consideration in all planning and operational phases of the Project in recognition of the benefits to the Company and environment that are to be gained by appropriate planning. Rehabilitation strategies entail:

- Planning of final landforms - integrates land disturbance minimisation aims with concepts for safety and stability; creation of land forms that blend (as much as possible) with surrounding topography and provides for adequate drainage of the site both during and post-mining.
- Design of final landforms - addresses aspects of landscape functionality benchmarked against appropriate local analogue sites.
- Progressive rehabilitation – shall occur throughout the duration of the project as far as is practicable. Any temporary landforms that may be created during the mining process may not necessarily be *progressively* rehabilitated. This is in order to prevent unnecessary compaction and re-handling of valuable soil resources.
- Appropriate management of topsoil (containing seed and mulch) will be employed to ensure integrity and longevity of these essential resources.
- Monitoring will be employed to assess progress and status of landscape and ecosystem function, erosion rates, vermin damage, weed invasion and inform remedial activities.
- At the conclusion of mining, all plant, buildings and equipment not requested to be retained by the landowner will be removed from the site.
- All fuel and lubricants that may have been used during the course of active mining will be removed from site. Any areas where there is evidence of fuel or oil spillage will be excavated for disposal off-site in accordance with relevant published EPA guidance.
- Excavations will be backfilled and/or made safe post-mining except those requested to be retained by the landowner.

In view of the small size and simplicity of the rehabilitation proposal for PL007319, the site shall be considered as two “rehabilitation domains” comprising the box-cut area and the rock emplacements. The arrangement of the Rehabilitation Domains is indicated in Figure 7. Sections of the rehabilitated landform are illustrated in Figures 8 & 9. Although Darby’s Adit and its associated vent rise will be secured against unlawful access when the trial mining is complete, the work is not considered as a rehabilitation domain as the landowner wishes the adit and the rise to remain intact post-closure. The landowner accepts responsibility for ongoing stability of the adit portal and vent rise collar.

The estimated cost for rehabilitation of the domains is approximately \$25,000. This includes an allowance for a third-party to undertake the work and a contingency for Project Management.

The overall rehabilitation objectives and completion criteria for the site are as follows:

- Post-closure rehabilitation shall entail shallow ripping of compacted surfaces, spreading of stockpiled and introduced topsoil and fostering self-sowing of endemic native plant species and pasture grasses. Some tubestock planting of endemic native species may also be undertaken under advice and assistance of the Swifts Creek–Ensay Landcare Group and the East Gippsland CMA. Areas where rehabilitation work has been completed shall be protected against vehicular access through erection of fences / barricades. Such protection shall remain in place until revegetation is deemed sufficiently established (refer below for completion criteria). All rehabilitation earthworks will ideally be completed before expiry of the licence on 7th April 2028.
- The stripping and placing of topsoil is preferred to occur during the cooler months of the year. This is when soil moisture is at its highest and the risk of soil loss due to wind erosion is reduced (note that dust suppressing polymer agents may be placed over the stockpiles to obviate wind erosion). The placement of soil during reclamation is to be done in a way that reduces compaction from vehicular movement insofar as is practicable. Note that the relict topsoil at the work site is extremely degraded from past mining and exploration activities and has no discernible structure. As such, it is not possible to discretely stockpile (and ultimately replace) specific soil horizons (as they don’t exist). However, the topsoil, such as it is, does contain some humus and seed propagule and this shall be essential for soil vitality and spontaneous re-generation within the rehabilitated landform. It is anticipated that the rehabilitation of the box-cut site, so described, will allow even distribution of the available topsoil to an average target thickness of 20mm. This is consistent with average soil depth pre-construction. Imported topsoil shall be used at discrete “plots” on the rock emplacements where tubestock planting will allow endemic species to gain a “foothold”.
- Post rehabilitation monitoring shall consist of seasonal (quarterly) inspection for slumping, erosion, native & pasture seed germination and weed infestation. Quarterly inspection shall continue for a period of one-year post-closure. After first year, frequency of inspection shall decrease to annual for a further period of 2 years (total of 3 years post-closure) and thence biennial for one cycle (total of 5 years post-closure). Post-closure inspection may be undertaken by the landowner.
- Weeds that may be observed during inspection shall be removed as soon as is practicable. Guidance for identification and management of weeds.

is available on the Agriculture Victoria website and through the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority.

- Areas that are noted, through comparative assessment (c.f. pre-disturbance Ecological Assessment vegetation extent and diversity), as underperforming with respect to tubestock growth and self-sown seed germination may be manually seeded the following season (using commercially available endemic native plant propagule mix that adequately reflect the ground-truth EVC for the site (EVC0175 “Grassy Woodland” East Gippsland Uplands Bioregion - refer Ecological Assessment given as Appendix in the Work Plan). However, revegetation by self-sowing is considered a robust strategy that will likely yield more resilient regrowth than planting of tube-stock or artificial broadcast of native propagule.
- The re-working of soil and introduction of mulch should also be considered in an underperforming area. The wholesale use of fertilisers is not recommended on the rock emplacements but may be appropriate for the box-cut area.
- Rehabilitation shall be deemed complete (by agreement with landowner) when sustained growth on not less than 80% of the disturbed area (with not less of 70% pre-mining plant species-richness) is demonstrated for the second Spring following the completion of site earthworks *and* there is no evidence of excess slumping (refer acceptance criteria for the Domain below), localised waterlogging or progressive erosion scour. The determination of “sustained” growth may be established by qualitative comparison of revegetation area against adjacent “undisturbed” areas elsewhere on the licence. The definition of “pre-mining plant species-richness” is determined by the findings of the Ecological Assessment (provided as an Appendix to the Work Plan). The assistance of a native vegetation specialist and / or agronomist may be appropriate for this type of comparative evaluation.

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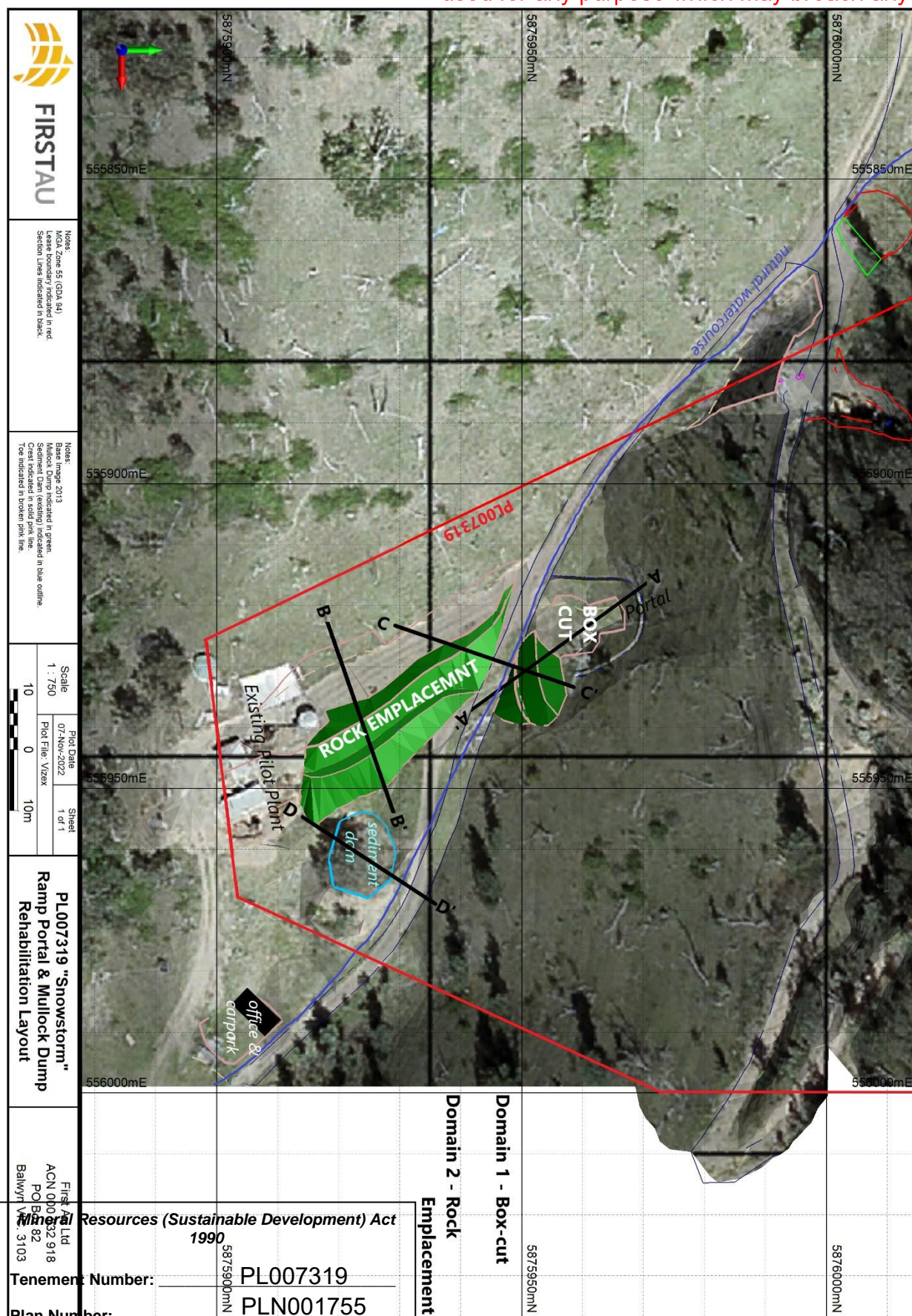


Figure 7: Snowstorm Project Rehabilitation Areas.

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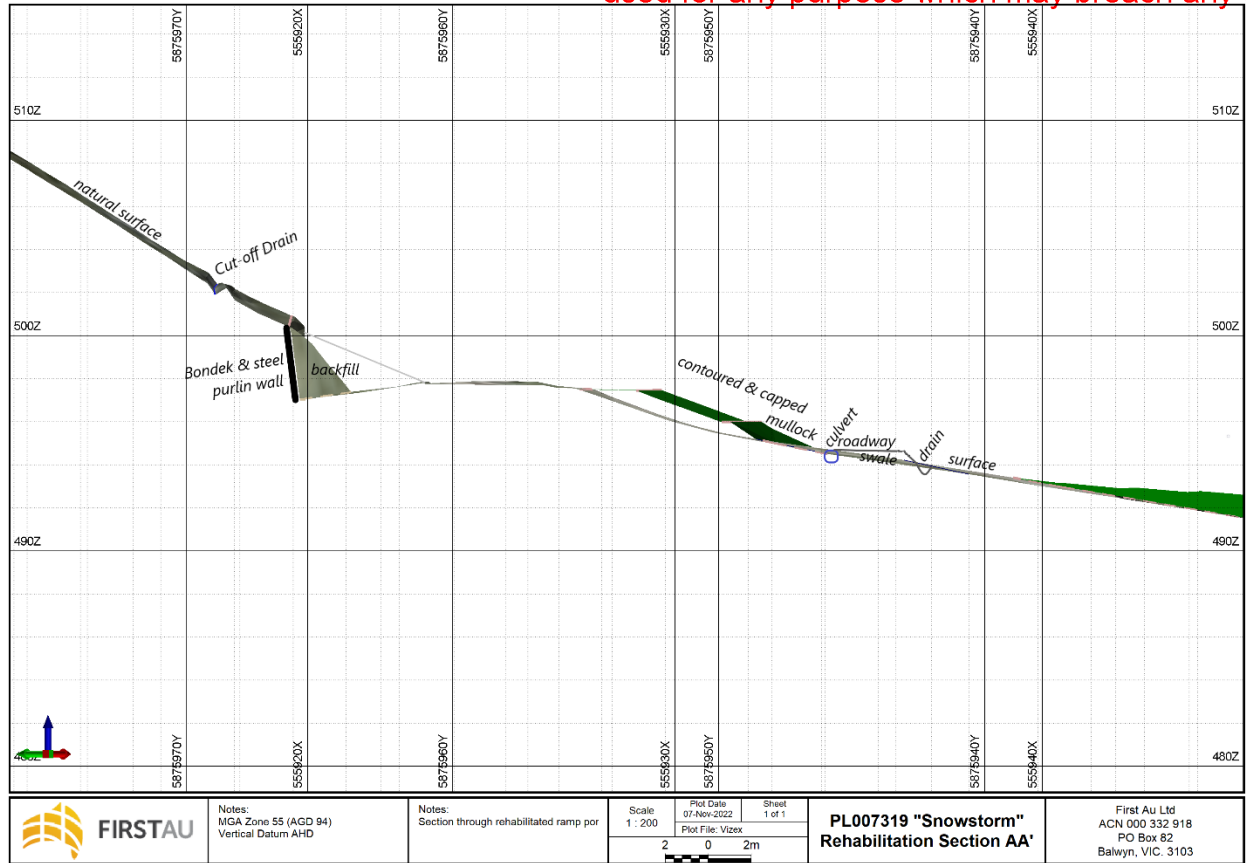
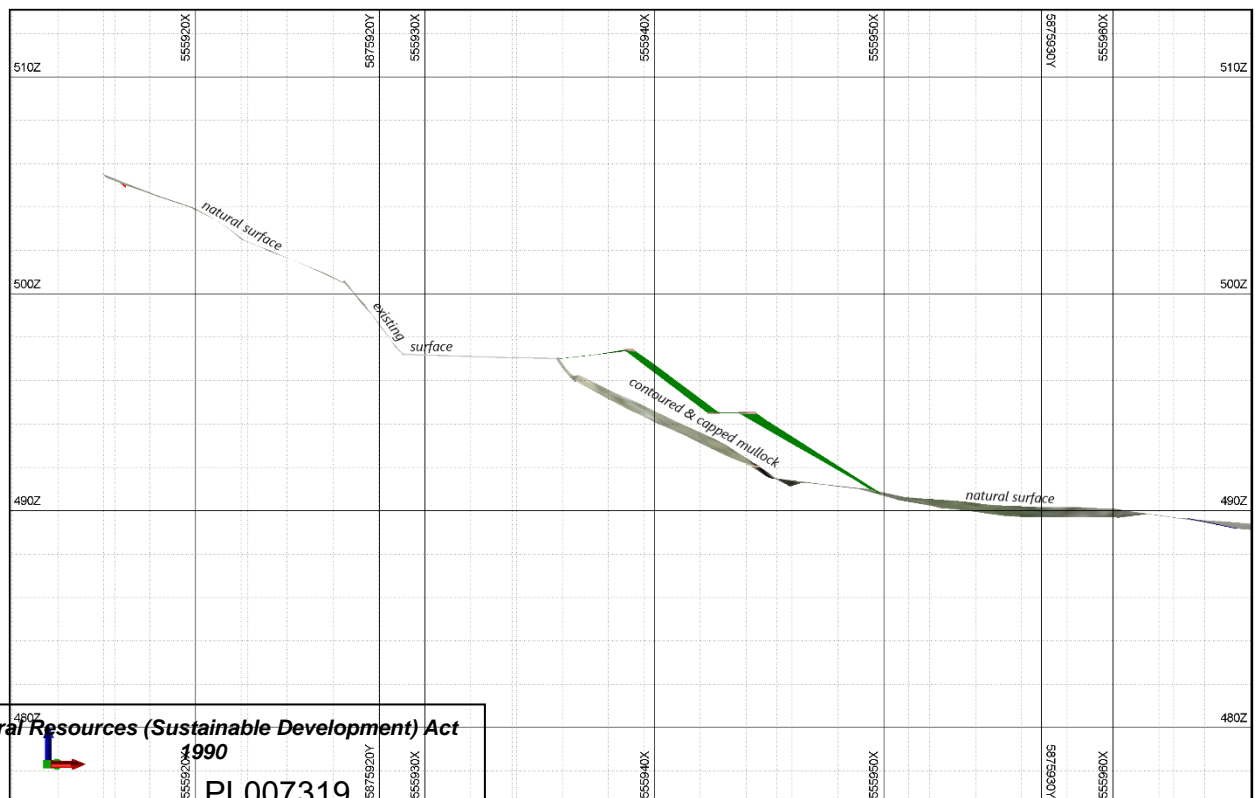


Figure 8: Snowstorm Project Rehabilitation Section AA'.



Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990 Tenement Number: PL007319 Plan Number: PLN001755 Work Plan Statutorily Endorsed		PL007319 "Snowstorm" Rehabilitation Section BB' First Au Ltd ACN 000 332 918 PO Box 82 Balwyn, VIC. 3103	
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Figure 9: Snowstorm Project Rehabilitation Section BB'.

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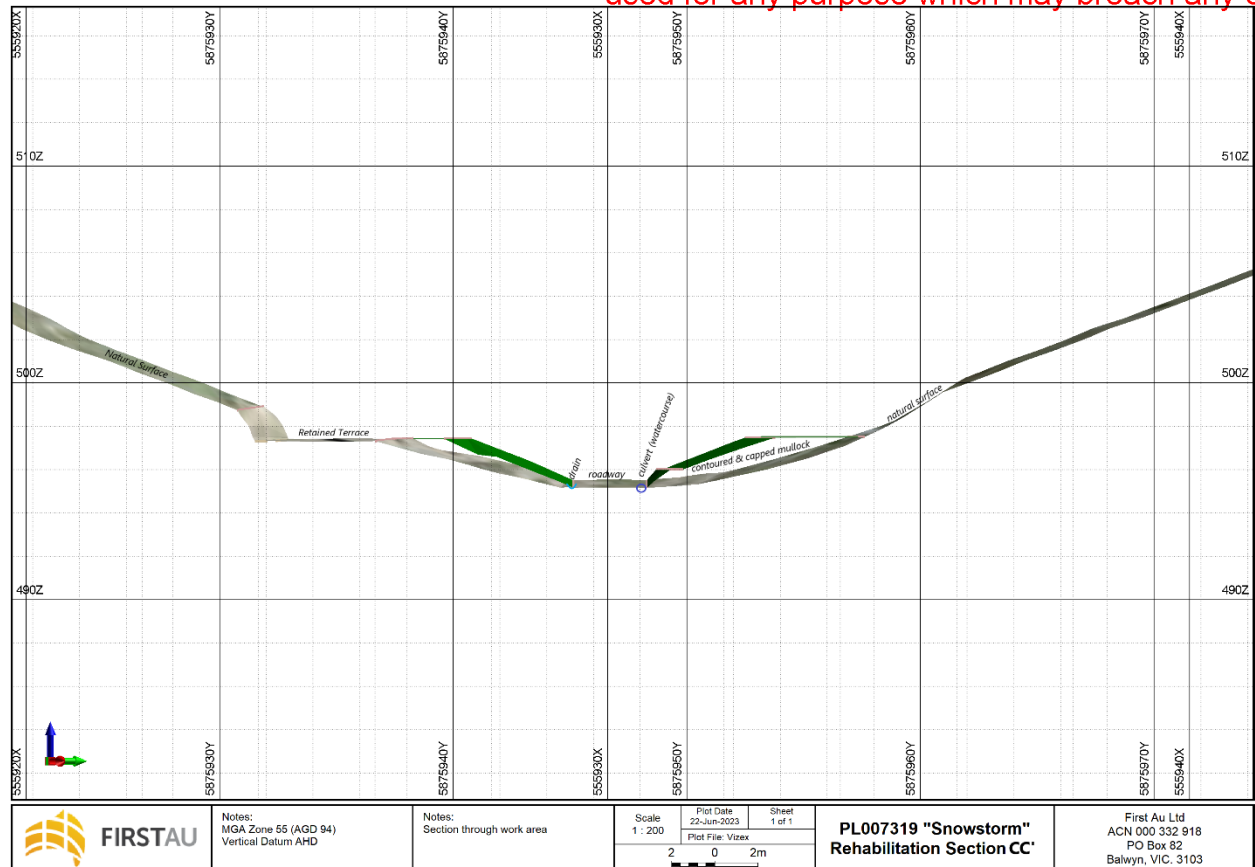


Figure 10: Snowstorm Project Rehabilitation Section CC'.

3.1 Domain 1 – Box-cut & Ramp Portal

The most complex rehabilitation domain on the site is the box-cut and ramp portal area. This comprises a surface footprint of 102.5m² including the portal itself and the diversion drain immediately uphill of it.

The expected cost for rehabilitation of this domain is approximately \$15,000.

Profile of the expected rehabilitated landform of the box-cut area is illustrated in Figure 8.

3.1.1 Domain 1 – Rehabilitation Objectives

- Secure through erection of bondek wall
- Stabilise through backfilling
- Mound backfill to harmonise with surrounding topography
- Finished slopes designed to avoid potential for localised rainfall run-off

- Provide a medium that fosters pasture re-planting

3.1.2 Domain 1 – Rehabilitation Criteria

- **Backfilling** – After erection of the bondek wall across the portal, the box-cut is backfilled with select oxidised waste rock (Preston and stockpiled as part of the underground development described in the

Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990

Tenement Number: PL007319

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Work Plan. Approximately 90m³ of the 742m³ of waste rock stockpiled on surface will be used to backfill the box-cut. All backfill volume calculations are based on loose density of the rock material (circa 30% swell). An excavator shall be used to cast the waste rock directly into the excavation from the face of the rock stockpile at the portal site. The loose rock backfill shall be to approximately 1m from the sill (top) of the shaft. Rock fill will be compacted in 500mm layers for the final metre. A small plate compactor mounted on the excavator dipper shall be used for this purpose. The concrete (or steel) ring segment, installed during construction of the portal (as described in the Work Plan), shall remain in place. The compacted rock fill shall be mounded to approximately 300mm above natural surface. This circumference of this mound shall extend to (but not fill) the up-slope diversion drain. The mounded fill over the box-cut will settle over many decades but it is not anticipated that the final land surface will ever be lower than the existing land surface. Some uneven consolidation may become apparent within a period of approximately three years post-closure and particularly after periods of protracted rainfall. This may result in localised slumping. Proposed remediation trigger for slumping is >500mm over a surface area >2m² within the box-cut footprint of 102.5m². Proposed remediation trigger for erosion rills is >100mm deep and > 1 rill per 1000mm across breadth of slope. Remediation may require return of heavy earthmoving machinery to the site.

- *Contouring* – the finished landform is to have gentle slopes no steeper than 35°. This is consistent with the surrounding topography. The transition between backfilled void and natural surface is to be smoothed to avoid angular unconformity. This strategy creates a final landform that is harmonious with the surrounding topography and is safe for humans and animals alike in-so-far that there are no steep slopes or precipices.
- *Rainfall Runoff* – The creation of gentle slopes and slope-transitions minimises potential for acceleration of rainfall runoff or the ponding of storm-water. Elevated velocity of run-off can result in the development of localised scours. Ponding can result in localised subsidence. Sufficient care will be taken in final trim of mounded back-fill (as top soil substrate) and subsequent top-soil placement to minimise the creation of runnels. Where runnels are apparent, sediment fences shall be erected to slow velocity of run-off.
- *Growth Medium* – The discrete stockpiling of pre-stripped topsoil allows reconstruction of a final-surface profile that is conducive to sustainable revegetation. The topsoil on the site, such as it is, contains humus and pasture grass propagule (as well as weeds). Soil stockpiles must be managed to minimise compaction (≤1m high & no vehicular access) and maintain soil vitality (re-use as expeditiously as possible, avoid re-handle and control weeds).

3.1.3 Domain 1 – Rehabilitation Milestones

- Ecological assessment of proposed active area – completed prior to commencement of work; provides a clear understanding of pre-existing vegetation condition and diversity that can be used to benchmark rehabilitation performance.

- Stripping of topsoil (circa 20mm depth) and discrete stockpiling for later re-use as a first-step in construction of the box-cut. This work is preferred to be conducted during the cooler months of the year in order to reduce potential for loss through wind erosion. Stockpiles must be managed to avoid compaction and degradation.
- Construction of bondek wall across portal opening after completion of active mining.
- Return of waste rock from mullock-dump to box-cut void and subsequent coarse shaping of backfilled material once Bondek wall is complete.
- Placement and careful trim of previously stockpiled topsoil over backfilled void to a target thickness of 20mm. This work is preferred to be conducted during the cooler months of the year in order to reduce potential for loss through wind erosion. Note that the previously stockpiled topsoil contains mulch and seed propagule and self-germination is the preferred re-vegetation mode. However, as discussed in Section 3 above, manual broadcast of commercial pasture propagule may be practiced if self-germination is unsatisfactory.
- Completion acceptance when:
 - i. No progressive erosion scour at 3 years post-mining (no erosion rills >100mm deep and ≤ 1 rill per 1000mm as measured across breadth of slope).
 - ii. No slumping >500mm over an area exceeding 2m^2 (within the shaft footprint of 3.1m^2) after a period of 3 years post-mining. No slumping exceeding 500mm over any areal extent within 5 years post-closure.
 - iii. No progressive accumulation of sediment at any sediment-fence locations (if installed) after a period of 3 years post-mining.
 - iv. Final landform topographical survey shows no runnels or other defects in finished land-form that are likely to create stability / erosion issues.
 - v. Sustained pasture growth on not less than 80% of the disturbed area demonstrated by the second spring following the completion of site earthworks. The determination of “sustained” growth may be established by qualitative comparison of revegetation area against adjacent “undisturbed” pasture areas elsewhere on the licence or in the immediate environs. The assistance of an agronomist may be appropriate for this type of comparative evaluation.

3.2 Domain 2 – Rock Emplacement

The rock emplacements (mullock dumps) occupy a total area of approximately 400m^2 over two sites (refer Figure 7) for an expected volume circa 742m^3 of which approximately 90m^3 will be reclaimed in backfilling of the box-cut void (refer Domain 1). The larger of the two emplacement areas is located on a previously disturbed location where topsoil is absent. Topsoil shall be recovered from the location of the smaller emplacement as a preliminary activity prior to construction of the box-cut. However, this topsoil shall be stockpiled in the safety bund above the portal site and ultimately reclaimed for rehabilitation of the box-cut area.

The waste rock at the Snowstorm site has no net acid generating potential (NAG) due to general low abundance of sulphide minerals and overall acid neutralising capacity (due to presence of carbonate minerals). Hence, the stockpiling of waste rock will not constitute a contamination risk to be managed at rehabilitation or beyond. If geochemical and physical analysis indicates the waste rock is suitable for use by East Gippsland Shire as it sees fit, the volume of residual waste rock at the conclusion of mining will be reduced or eliminated entirely. Any such geochemical testing shall be in accordance with EPA Publication 1828.2.

The estimated cost for rehabilitation of this domain is \$10,000.

Profile of the expected rehabilitated landform of the main rock emplacement area is illustrated in Figure 9.

3.2.1 Domain 2 – Rehabilitation Objectives

- Cut terrace and contour remnant stockpile to harmonise with surrounding topography
- Finished slopes designed to avoid potential for localised rainfall run-off scour
- Provide a medium that fosters natural regrowth and native plant recruitment in select “plots” on the slope face and terrace surface.

3.2.2 Domain 2 – Rehabilitation Criteria

- *Contouring* – the finished landform is to have gentle slopes no steeper than 35°. This is consistent with the surrounding topography. The transition between remnant rock emplacement and natural surface is to be smoothed to avoid angular unconformity. This strategy creates a final landform that is harmonious with the surrounding topography and is safe for humans and animals alike in-so-far that there are no steep slopes or precipices.
- *Rainfall Runoff* – The creation of gentle slopes and slope-transitions minimises potential for acceleration of rainfall runoff or the ponding of storm-water. Elevated velocity of run-off can result in the development of localised scours. Ponding can result in localised subsidence. Sufficient care will be taken in final trim of remnant waste rock stockpile (as top soil substrate) and subsequent top-soil placement to minimise the creation of runnels. Where runnels are apparent, sediment fences shall be erected to slow velocity of run-off.
- *Growth Medium* – The introduction of topsoil allows reconstruction of a sub-surface profile that is conducive to sustainable revegetation at select “plots” on the emplacement surface. The “plots” shall consist of shallow excavated hollows up to 500mm deep and 1000mm in breadth into which the imported topsoil shall be placed. The imported topsoil must be guaranteed pathogen and weed free for acceptance. Tubestock plantings of endemic native species (Lightwood - *Acacia implexa*, Kurrajong - *Brachychiton populneus* ssp. *Populneus* and Black Wattle - *Acacia mearnsii* are considered appropriate).

3.2.3 Domain 2 – Rehabilitation Milestones

- Ecological assessment of proposed active area – completed prior to commencement of work; provides a clear understanding of pre-existing vegetation condition and diversity that can be used to “benchmark” rehabilitation performance.
- Shaping and contouring of waste rock stockpile (as per included plans and sections) at the conclusion of waste rock deposition at the end of active mining.
- Placement of imported topsoil in discrete “plots”. This work is preferred to be conducted during the cooler months of the year in order to reduce potential for loss through wind erosion.
- Planting of tubestock in the topsoil plots.
- Deep ripping (to a notional depth of 100mm) of compacted areas not required for re-use by the landowner. This will be the top-surface of the completed rock emplacement.
- Completion acceptance when:
 - i. No progressive erosion scour at 3 years post-mining (no erosion rills >100mm deep and ≤ 1 rill per 1000mm as measured across breadth of slope).
 - ii. No progressive accumulation of sediment at sediment-fence locations (where installed) after a period of 3 years post-mining.
 - iii. Final landform topographical survey shows no runnels or other defects in finished land-form that are likely to create stability / erosion issues.
 - iv. Sustained native vegetation growth on not less than 30% of the disturbed area (with not less of 70% pre-mining plant species-richness) demonstrated by the second spring following the completion of site earthworks. The determination of “sustained” growth may be established by qualitative comparison of revegetation area against adjacent “undisturbed” areas elsewhere on the licence or in the immediate environs. The definition of “pre-mining plant species-richness” is determined by the findings of the Ecological Assessment (provided as an Appendix to the Work Plan). The assistance of a native vegetation specialist may be appropriate for this type of comparative evaluation.

4 Residual Risk from Rehabilitated Land

The Proponent does not consider that the rehabilitated land-form, as described, will not pose any tangible risk to human health or the natural environment, either on-site or beyond the site boundaries post-closure. The Proponent does not foresee any latent risk that will become evident beyond the 5-year post-closure monitoring and maintenance period. Rehabilitation hazard identification and management is discussed in Work Plan document.

The chemically inert nature of the rock material excavated from underground does not pose any latent AMD risk (refer Section 4.2 of Work Plan document for further detail). The placement and contouring of the excavated rock (as described in Section

3.2 above) minimises potential for erosion and sedimentation. The retention of robust drainage structures post-closure further mitigates this risk.

The absence of any residual stockpiles of ore post-closure negates any potential for mobilization of contaminants such as arsenic.

The retention of ramp portal reinforcing structures and backfilling of the box-cut excavation (as described in Section 3.1 above) negates potential for geotechnical instability at the former mine access post-closure. The sealing of the mine prevents any entrapment or suffocation risk for animals and people.

The post-rehabilitation monitoring period (as described) is of sufficient duration for any defects in the rehabilitation works to manifest and be appropriately addressed before the expiration of the monitoring period.

FIRST AU LTD
under Option Agreement with Mines of Stirling Pty Ltd



Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act
 1990

Tenement Number: PL007319

Plan Number: PLN001755

Work Plan Statutorily Endorsed

Signed: 
 Delegate of the Department Head

Date: 27/10/2023

MRSD Act (2010) & MRSD (MI) Regulations (2019)
 Regulation 46

SNOWSTORM PROJECT PL007319

SNOWSTORM UNDERGROUND MINING & BULK SAMPLING

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Version 2
 June 2023

Printed 19/03/2024
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0.1 Introduction

First Au Ltd (“the Proponent”), under Option Agreement with Mines of Stirling Pty Ltd (the “Licensee”) proposes underground bulk sampling and trial mining in order to evaluate viability of a commercial underground mining operation at the “Snowstorm” Project located on PL007319. The active area described in this Programme is located on freehold land approximately 9km east of Swifts Creek in eastern Victoria (refer Figure 1.1a).

PL007319 encloses an area of 4.7Ha comprising a mixture of open grazing land and relict patches of native vegetation in steep terrain of mountainous relief (circa 600mAHD). The licence is located on freehold comprising Crown Allotment 1\TP892667 Parish of Tongio-Munjie West in the East Gippsland (1:100k mapsheet 8423 *Omeo*). The owner of the property is a director of Mines of Stirling Pty Ltd and is a signatory to a Letter of Consent executed 01/08/2021 granting Mines of Stirling Pty Ltd and First Au Ltd permission to enter the site and carry out exploration and mining work. The area is zoned Farming (FZ1) under the East Gippsland Shire Planning Scheme. The proposed active area is subject to a Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO) and Erosion Management Overlay (EMO).

The Proponent considers that the proposed work does *not* pose a significant and unmanageable risk to the natural environment and community amenity. This Community Engagement Plan has been designed to accord with the requirements of Section 40(3)(d) of the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable) Development Act 1990* (the ‘Act’) and with current Earth Resources Regulation (ERR) Guidelines (*Preparation of Work Plans and Work Plan Variations - Guideline for Mining Projects*, January 2019).

1 Description of Proposed New Work

First Au proposes to construct a new underground access (ramp) and associated infrastructure located within existing cleared areas in order to extract circa 3,000 tonnes of mineralised rock for metallurgical testing and determination of the economics of ongoing commercial extraction. The proposed work does not constitute sustained commercial mining. The processing of the bulk-sample material will occur offsite.

Upon conclusion of the programme, the mine openings shall be secured and the small waste-rock emplacement shall be contoured to blend with surrounding topography prior to dressing with imported topsoil and planting with endemic native plant species.

1.1 Regional Setting

The local area was extensively mined for both placer and orogenic (“hard-rock”) gold from the mid-19th century through to the 1930’s. De-forestation and modification of natural drainage was a feature of this exploitation.

The proposed disturbance is not in an area indicated as of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity. There is no proposal to disturb any of the relict patches of native

vegetation. The proposed disturbance area has been assessed for presence of native grass (refer Section 4.5 and Appendix F).

There is no entry in either the Heritage Inventory or Heritage Register (both maintained by the Heritage Council of Victoria) pertaining to the proposed area of disturbance. The boundary of the Cassilis Historic Area (managed by Parks Victoria) is approximately 250m north of the proposed active area and over a high ridgeline. The proposed work, as described in this Work Plan, will have no impact on the Cassilis Historic Area

The site is isolated but is accessible via the Cassilis Road and Riley's Creek Road. These roads are maintained by the East Gippsland Shire. There is no residential development in the immediate vicinity. The nearest residence (rural property) is located 0.9km to the east-north-east of the proposed operational area and on the other side of a high wooded ridge. Another residence exists 1.4km east on the banks of Riley's Creek.

The above information is displayed in Figures 1.1a and 1.1b.

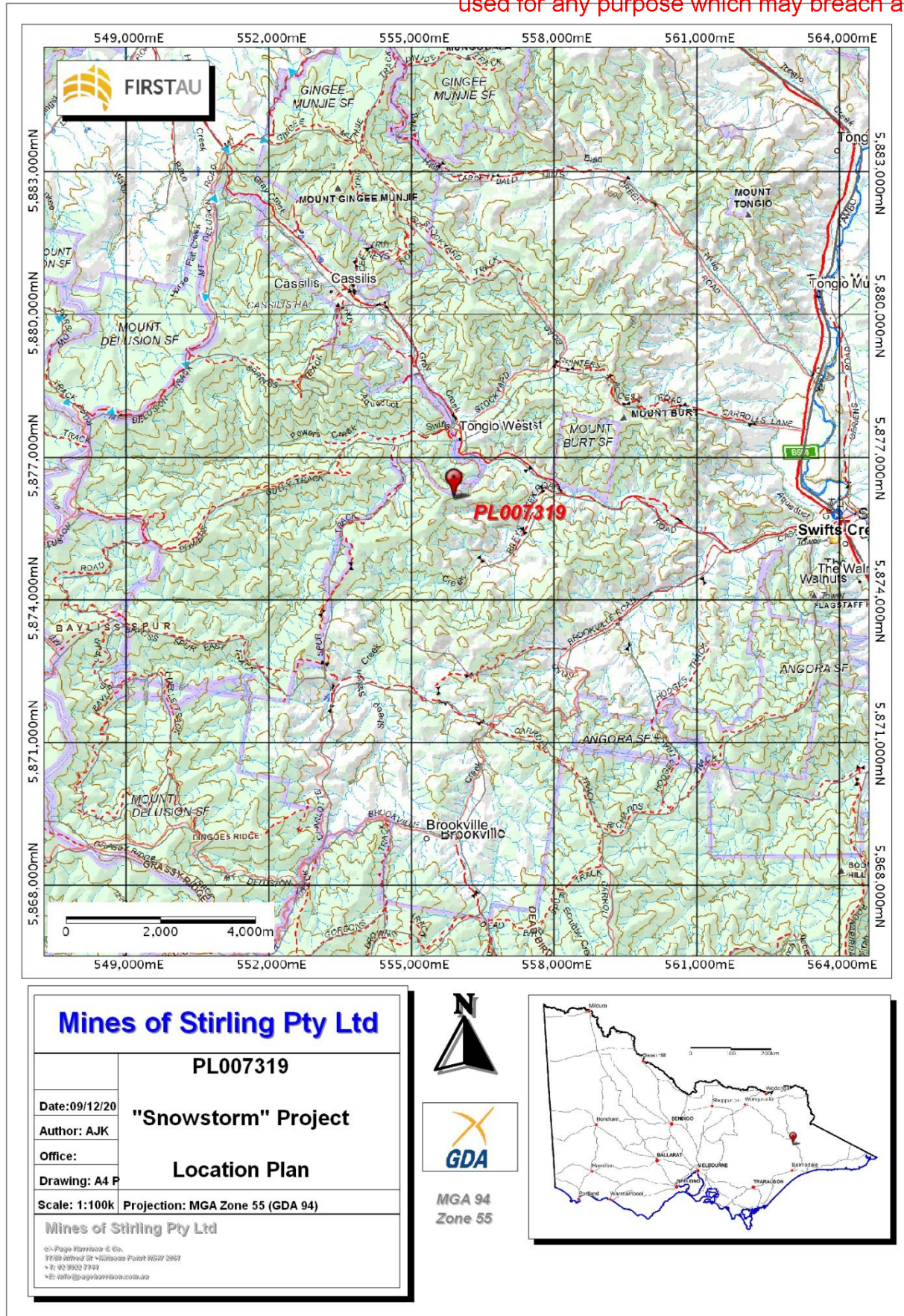


Figure 1.1a: Snowstorm Project General Location Plan

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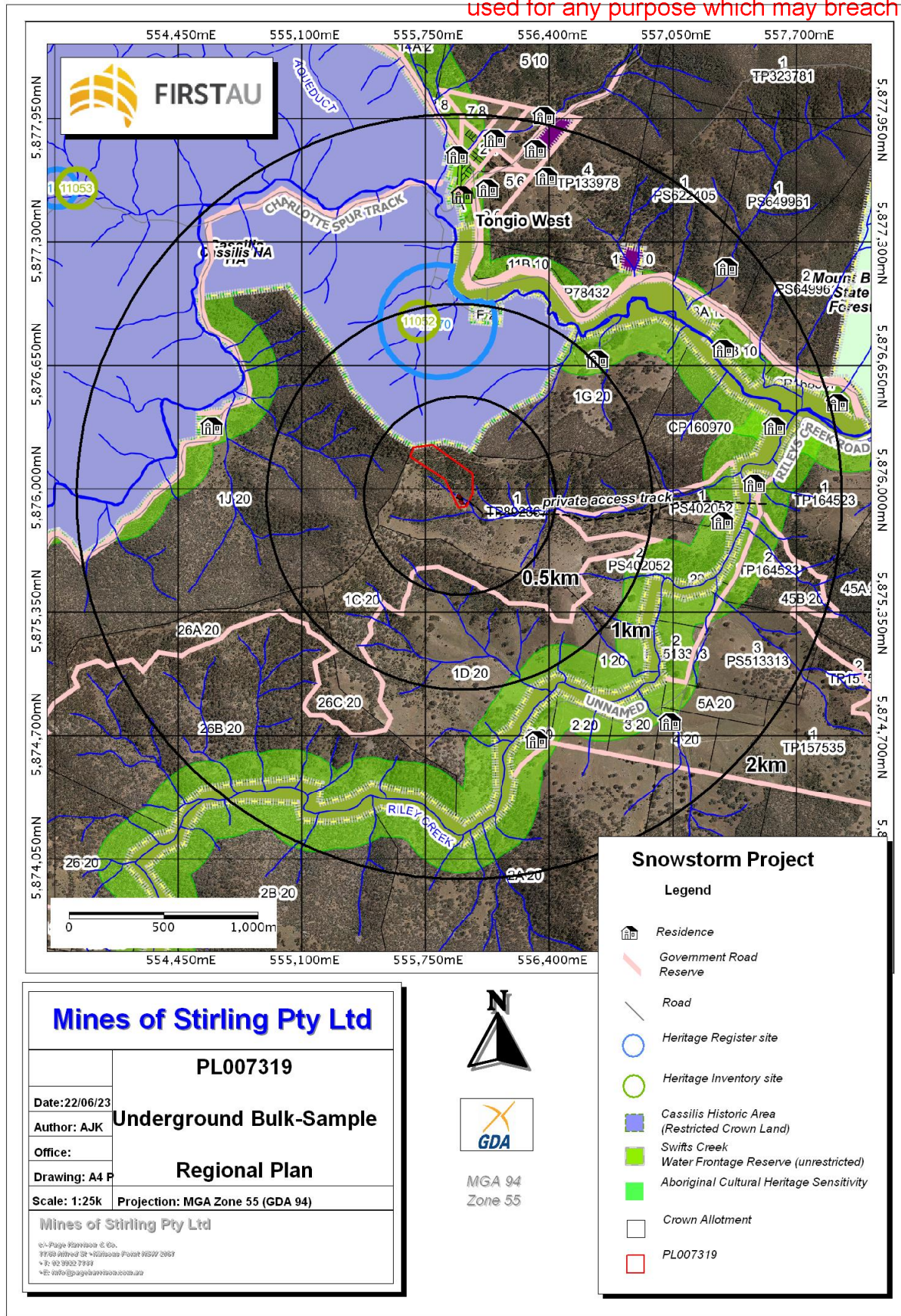


Figure 1.1b: Snowstorm Project Regional Plan (for detail of site layout please refer to Work Plan document).

2 Community Engagement Plan

The Snowstorm Project is located on private land nestled in a rural farming area.

The Proponent considers that the proposed work does *not* pose a significant and unmanageable risk to the natural environment and community amenity. The site is proposed to be operational on a part-time basis for a period of approximately 21 months (including construction, operation and rehabilitation)

The licensee has an established working relationship with near neighbours through previous mining and exploration activities on the site. The Proponent (as distinct from the licensee) has an established presence in the Swifts Creek area. Employees and Contractors associated with the Proponent are known to local people and actively engage with landholders and local business operators as part of everyday activities. The Proponent does not have a dedicated Stakeholder Engagement Representative and does not think such a position is necessary in view of its small-scale and low-key activities and embedded community position.

The Proponent thus far has experienced strong support from the local community for its activities in the region. Feedback, both solicited and unsolicited, has been overwhelmingly positive. Swifts Creek is proud of its mining origins and sees mining and exploration as a potential pathway for local employment and business stimulus, particularly with the impending demise of the logging industry.

The Proponent considers that the principles of Community Engagement elucidated in the *Code of Practice for Low-Risk Mines (DSDBI – 2014)* remain appropriate for the scale of activity described in this Work Plan.

Feedback from community is recorded by the Licensee in a Community Engagement Register. Feedback may be in response to pro-active engagement on the initiative of the Licensee or as a result responsive communication such as a complaint or enquiry.

The Proponent considers that the template for Community Inquiry / Complaint form given as Appendix 4 in current “*Community Engagement Guidelines for Mining & Exploration Projects*” (2021) is suitable as a format for Community Engagement Register given the small-scale and low-impact of the proposal for PL007319.

Licensee contact details shall be printed on signage to be erected at the site. Contact information is also printed on licensee correspondence with affected community. The Proponent visits near neighbours from time-to-time (as is appropriate for such a small-scale operation) and telephone numbers have been exchanged. Notices advising of proposed work and work timeframes shall be erected on the access gate on Riley’s Road.

All contact with stakeholders (be it proactive or reactive) is recorded in the Community Engagement Register. This acts as a record of community engagement. The register records inquiries, complaints and feedback received both passively and as a consequence of pro-active initiatives such as door-knocking and meetings. Registered inquiries and complaints are allocated for appraisal and initiation of an Action Plan for follow-up. The outcomes of the Action Plan are subsequently reported to the originator of the inquiry or complaint within the shortest timeframe practicable (the timing of this

depends on the nature of the inquiry / complaint and the degree of investigation required). Follow-up action may be necessary to ensure that the issue has been adequately addressed. The Community Engagement Register shall be available for inspection by ERR.

In the event of social impact, be it real or perceived, rapid and effective discussion with aggrieved person(s) is essential. The Licensee recognises that aggrieved people are entitled to report directly to regulatory agencies, but direct access to the Licensee and commensurate rapid response are likely to yield a better net outcome.

Table 1: Community Engagement Stakeholder Matrix

Stakeholder	Engagement Techniques	Consultation Timelines	Operational Phase	Level of Engagement ¹
Government agencies (ERR, East Gippsland Shire, East Gippsland CMA, EPA, East Gippsland Water)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site visits • 1:1 Meetings • Letter/email/phone • Annual Reporting 	Annually or as required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning • Construction • Operation • Closure 	Collaborate
Landowner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter /email / telephone • 1:1 Meetings 	As required – pre-development, commencement of work, completion of work, suspension of work, reportable incidents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning • Construction • Closure 	Involve
Local Community Groups (Swifts Creek - Ensay Landcare Group, Swifts Creek RFB, Omeo Region Community Recovery Association)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter drop/email • Social media • Local Newspaper articles 	At commencement and at conclusion of mining	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction • Operation • Closure 	Inform
Registered Aboriginal Party (GunaiKurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email • Personal communications 	As may be required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning • Construction • Operation 	Inform & Collaborate
Near Neighbours (54, 108, 161 & 205 Riley's Creek Road Swifts Creek 3896)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email • Personal communications 	As may be required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction • Operation • Closure 	Inform & Consult

¹ Community engagement can be achieved via a range of methodologies as described in the *Code of Practice for Low Risk Mines*. Each methodology can be adapted to meet one of the public participation goals from the IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum.

- *Inform* - Provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problems, alternatives and/or solutions.
- *Consult* - Obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.
- *Involve* - Work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public issues and concerns are consequently understood and considered.
- *Collaborate* - Partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of preferred solutions.
- *Empower* - Allow the public to have a role in final decision-making.

Table 2: Community Engagement Stakeholder Impact

Stakeholder	Impact & Interest	Impact Score*
Government agencies (ERR, East Gippsland Shire, East Gippsland CMA, EPA, East Gippsland Water)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulatory Approval Environmental Management Compliance Oversight 	2 - Medium
Landowner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> End Land Use Site Rehabilitation Public Safety 	1 - High
Local Community Groups (Swifts Creek - Ensay Landcare Group, Swifts Creek RFB, Omeo Region Community Recovery Association)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Interest Fire Management Environmental Management 	3 - Low
Registered Aboriginal Party (GunaiKurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural Heritage (in event of unexpected discovery of heritage features or remains) 	3 - Low
Near Neighbours (54, 108, 161 & 205 Riley's Creek Road Swifts Creek 3896)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Interest Amenity (activity on site particularly for 108 Riley's Creek Rd = neighbour on access track) 	3 - Low

* Impact Score – based on guidance provided in current "Community Engagement Guidelines for Mining & Exploration Projects" (April 2020)

(Council): East Gippsland

Standard Parcel Identifier: 1\TP892667

Directory Reference: Vicroads 66 C6



ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

5 January 2022

Heather Beever,
Principal
Cumbre Consulting P/L

cumbre.com.au



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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

Cumbre Consulting was commissioned by First Au Ltd to assess the environmental value of vegetation at a 108A Riley's Road Swifts Creek (PL007319) in relation to a proposed new mine portal for the exploration of gold.

See Figure 1 for location plan of PL007319, and Figure 2 for location of study area.

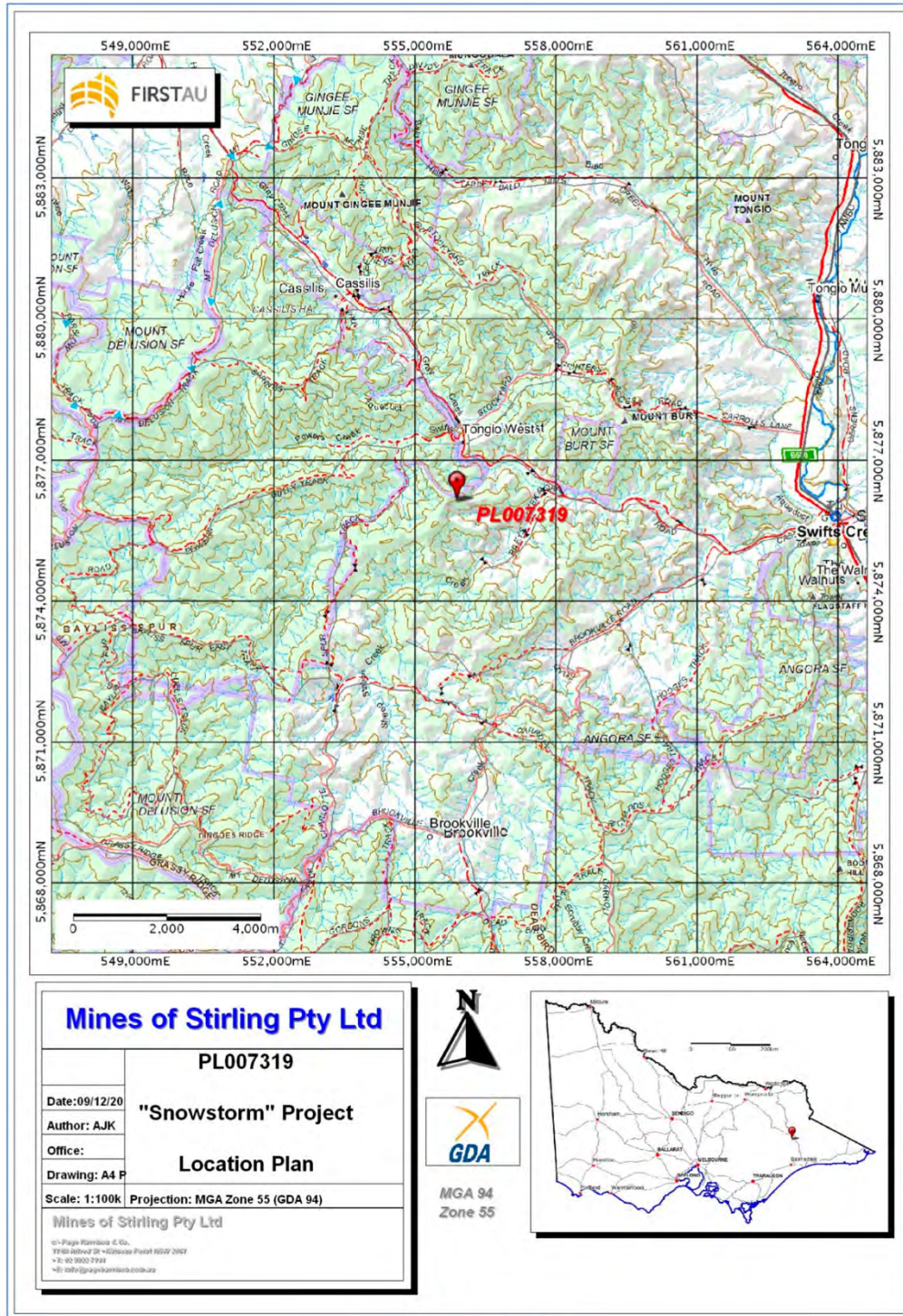
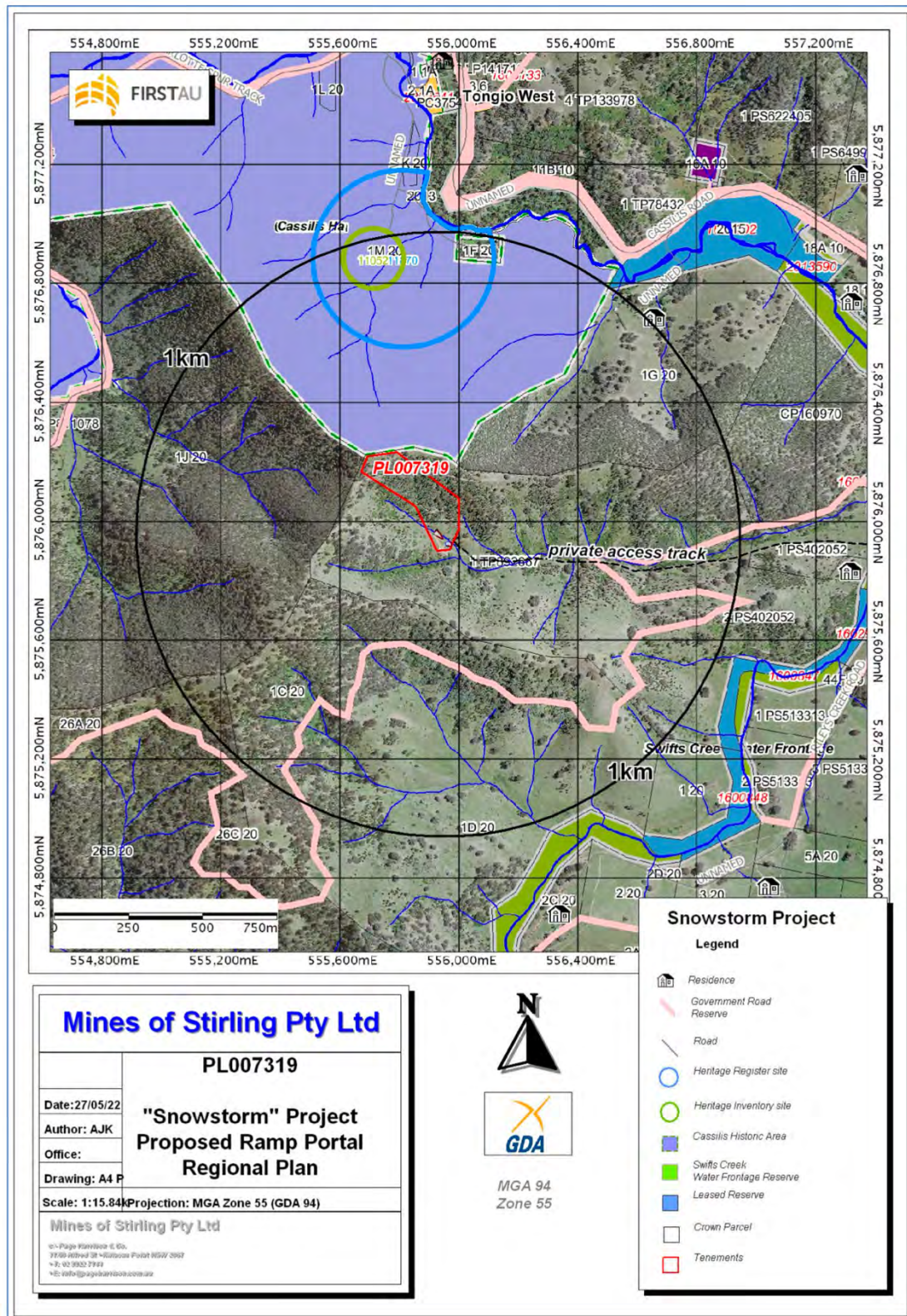


Figure 1: Location plan



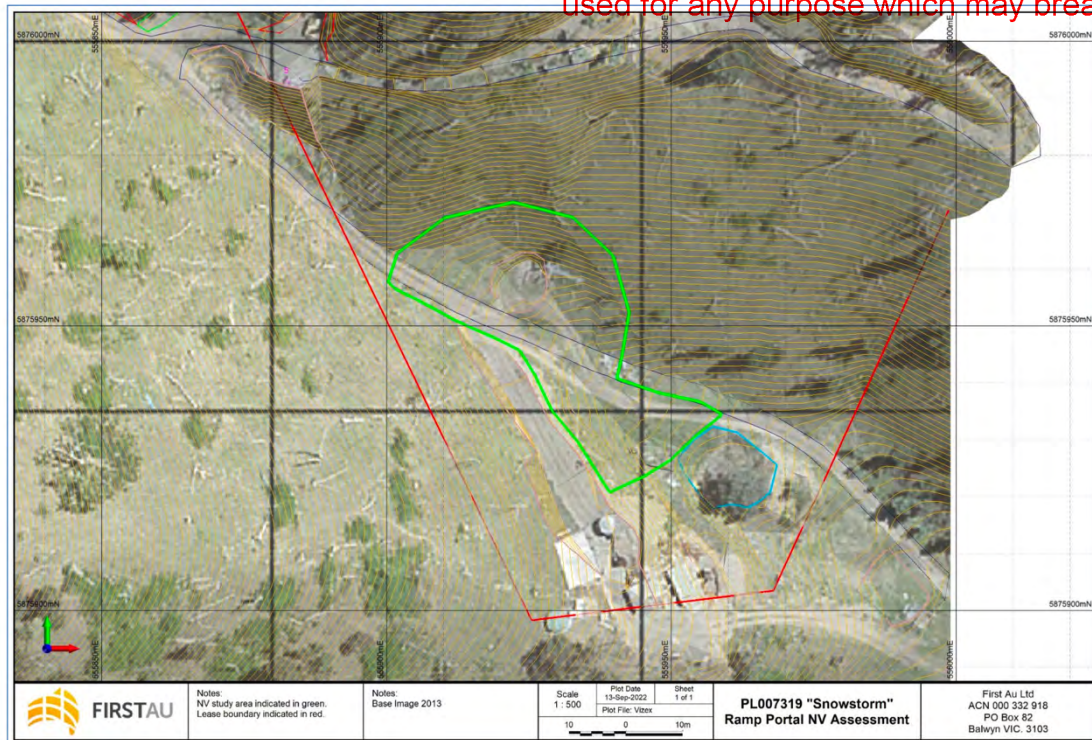


Figure 3: Proposed New Portal Site Layout

1.2 Objectives

The objectives of this assessment are:

- Assess the conservation significance of the habitat
- Map the extent, type, and condition of the native vegetation
- Assess potential impacts of the proposed development on ecological values
- Consider measures that could avoid or reduce any impacts
- Assess and quantify measures to offset impacts and achieve a Net Gain

1.3 Study Area

The zone of exploration is located along on private farmed land within the municipality of the East Gippsland Council, and is zoned Farming Zone (FZ). The following Planning Scheme Overlays pertain to this project:

Table 1 Planning Scheme Overlays

Clause Number	Name	Associated Schedules
44.06	Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO)	Schedule
44.01	Erosion Management Overlay (EMO)	Schedule

The property falls into the East Gippsland Lowlands Bioregion and East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority. The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) Native Vegetation Information Management (NVIM) tool¹ list the 1750 Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVC's) in the vicinity as: 175 Grassy Woodland.

See Figure 4 EVC Map.

2 DESCRIPTION OF METHODS

2.1 Field Survey

The EVC was identified using state-wide EVC mapping and then ground truthed on 12/12/2022. The entire site was traversed by foot. Records were taken of all indigenous vascular plant species. Native vegetation areas were recorded and mapped.

2.2 Defining and Assessing Vegetation

Native vegetation in Victoria has been defined by DELWP as belonging to two categories. These are:

REMNANT PATCH

A remnant patch of native vegetation is either:

- any area of vegetation where at least 25 per cent of the total perennial understorey plant cover is native
- any area with three or more native canopy trees where the dripline of at least one other tree, forming a continuous canopy, or
- any mapped wetland included in the Current wetlands map, available in DELWP systems and tools.

SCATTERED TREE

A scattered tree is:

¹ DELWP 2019. <https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/native-vegetation/native-vegetation-information-management>



- a native canopy tree that does not form part of a remnant patch.

HABITAT HECTARE

Habitat hectare (Vegetation Quality Assessment) is a site-based measure that combines extent and condition of native vegetation. The current condition of native vegetation is assessed against a benchmark for its Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC). EVCs are classifications of native vegetation types. The benchmark for an EVC describes the attributes of the vegetation type in its mature natural state, which reflects the pre-settlement circumstances. The condition score of native vegetation at a site can be determined through undertaking a habitat hectare assessment.

The habitat hectare assessment takes the following features into account: large trees; tree canopy cover; under-storey; cover of weeds; regeneration; organic litter; logs (condition score); patch size; neighbourhood; distance to core area (viability score)

The habitat hectares of native vegetation are calculated by multiplying the current condition of the vegetation (condition score) by the extent of native vegetation.

2.3 Special Considerations

The survey was done in early summer, the site is very modified. Herbs were identified at this time and somewhere hadn't flowered yet. The assessment considered the entire area likely to be impacted including the portal (entrance to the mine) as well as stockpiling zones and access. There is not considered to be any significant limitations to this study.

3 FLORA

The following Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVC's) from East Gippsland Lowlands Bioregion were identified in this study using the DELWP Native Vegetation Information Management tool and field assessment:

3.1 Pre-European Settlement – 1750 Map of East Gippsland Lowlands Bioregion EVCs Present in Study Area

3.1.1 Ecological Vegetation Class: 175.61 – Rain shadow Grassy Woodland.

A variable open eucalypt woodland to 15m tall over a diverse ground layer of grasses and herbs. The shrub component is usually sparse. It occurs on sites with moderate fertility on gentle slopes or undulating hills on a range of geologies.

3.1.2 Ecological Vegetation Class: 47 – Valley Grassy Forest

Valley Grassy Forest occurs under moderate rainfall regimes of 700-800 mm per annum on fertile well-drained colluvial or alluvial soils on gently undulating lower slopes and valley floors. Open forest to 25 m tall that may carry a variety of eucalypts, which prefer more moist or more fertile

² DELWP 2017. Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation
<https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/native-vegetation/native-vegetation>

conditions over a sparse shrub cover. In season, a rich array of herbs, lilies, grasses and sedges dominate the ground layer but at the drier end of the spectrum the ground layer may be sparse and slightly less diverse, but with the moisture-loving species still remaining.

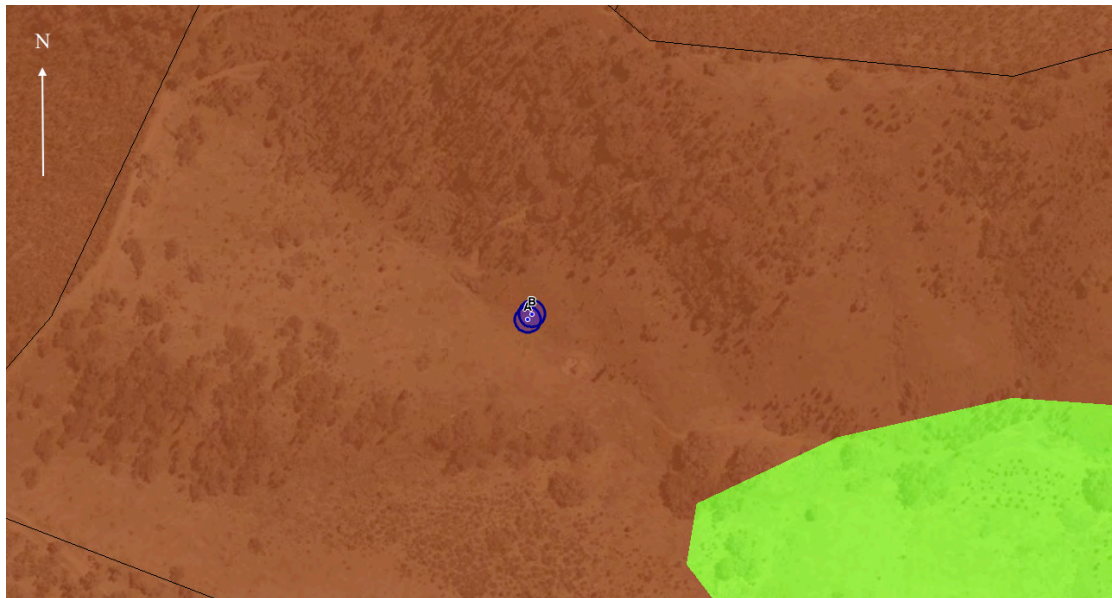




Figure 4: Pre-1750 Ecological Vegetation Class(es) modelled for the study area

LEGEND

Colour Key	EVC Number	Name	Bioregion	Status
	47	Valley Grassy Forest	East Gippsland Lowlands	Depleted
	175	Grassy Woodland	East Gippsland Lowlands	Depleted

4 FAUNA

4.1 Species found by survey

There were no fauna species surveys conducted as part of this assessment and no threatened species were recorded through field work on site as part of this study.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Quantification of Losses for Scattered Trees

Two scattered trees form this assessment. See Table 2 for their description. See Figure 5A & 5B for their location.



Table 2 Scattered Trees impacted.

Tree Id	Species	Common Name	DBH (cm)	TPZ (m)	Description	Photo
A	-	Dead	54	-	Remains of small tree with hollow.	1, 2, 4 & 5
B	<i>Acacia implexa</i>	Lightwood	22	2.64	Small tree	1, 2, 4 & 5



Figure 5A: Assessed area (Sites/zones).

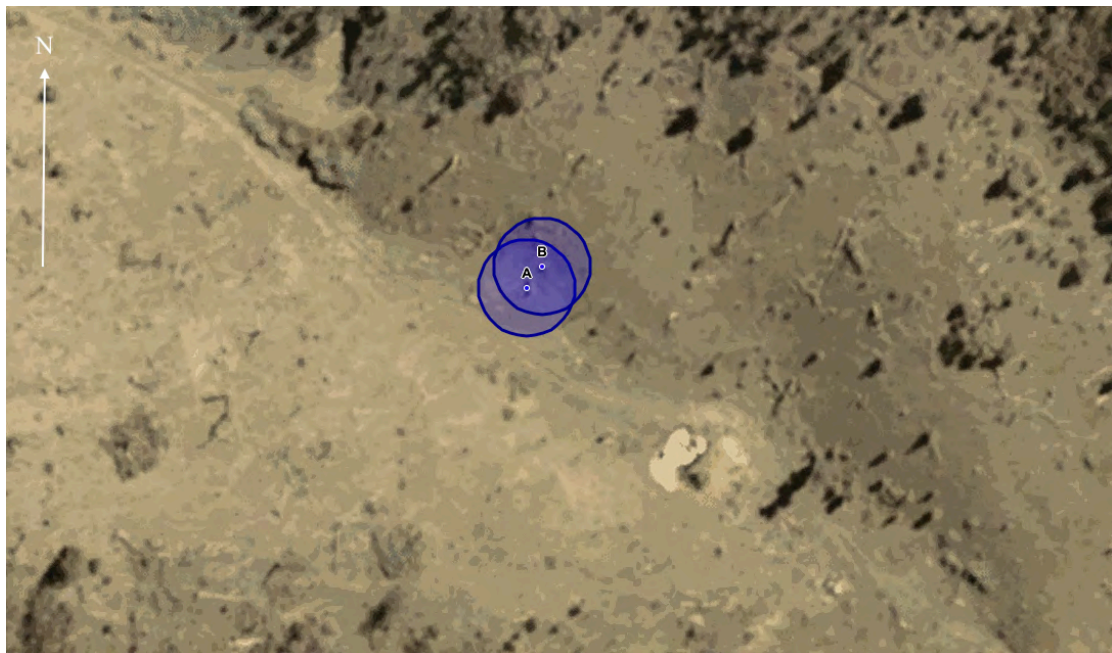


Figure 5B: Assessed area (Zoomed in).

5.2 Description of the native vegetation to be removed

There was no overstorey species located near the proposed development zone. The site had small Lightwood wattles *Acacia implexa* near the site and within the footprint. There is a dead tree of unknown origin considered impacted. There were Long leaf box trees located further downslope from the study area. The large tree benchmark for EVC 175 Grassy Woodland is 70cm Diameter at Breast Height (DBH). There were no large trees within this study area. See Table 3 for a list of flora species identified within the study area.



Table 3: Flora species identified on site

Scientific Name	Common Name
#Acacia implexa	Lightwood
#Acaena echinata	Sheep's bur
Anagallis arvensis	Scarlet Pimpernel
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal
Avena fatua & Avena ludoviciana	Wild Oats
Bromus hordeaceus	Soft brome grass
Centaurium erythraea	Common centaury
Cirsium vulgare	Spear Thistle
#Dichondra repens	Kidney-weed
#Echinopogon ovatus	Common Hedgehog-grass
Erodium Sp.	Corkscrew
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire fog grass
Hordeum glaucum	Barley grass
Hypericum perforatum	St John's Wort
Hypochaeris radicata	Cats Ear
Lolium species	Rye Grass
#Microlaena stipoides var. stipoides	Weeping grass
#Oxalis perennans	Grassland wood-sorrel
Rosa rubiginosa	Sweet briar rose
Rubus fruticosus	Blackberry
Rumex acetosella	Sheep sorrel
#Senecio quadridentatus	Cotton Fireweed
Trifolium arvense	Hare's-foot clover
Verbascum Thapsus L	Great Mullein

#native species

See Appendix 2 for photos of the vegetation impacted by the proposed development.

5.3 Vegetation not included in the assessment

- *Planted natives and exotic trees were not included in this assessment.* There were no trees in this category.
- *Areas with < 25 % native vegetation.* Part of the site is an existing farm track which is bare. The remaining impacted zone has approximately 50% cover of weeds with 45% of these



weeds considered perennial. Whilst there is some small percentages of native herbs and native grasses, when considering the dense cover of perennial weeds this zone of development is not considered an assessable patch.

- *Regrowth: Native vegetation that is to be removed, destroyed, or lopped that has naturally established or regenerated on land lawfully cleared of native vegetation and is less than 10 years old.* There is some young *Acacia implexa* regrowth near the development footprint, but not considered impacted.

5.4 Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth)

A desktop assessment identified 10 threatened flora, 23 threatened fauna species and two threatened ecological communities, listed under the EPBC Act that may occur within the study area (5km buffer).

The site assessment, however, confirmed that it is unlikely that any EPBC Act listed flora or fauna species regularly occur within the study area or have significant habitat within the study area that is impacted in this small assessment. See Appendix 5 Table 5A and 5B for details of species considered.

Two Ecological Communities:

- Alpine Sphagnum Bogs and Associated Fens
- White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland.

The vegetation within the study area does not consist of these types of communities nor would the very small study area meet the thresholds to be considered a listed ecological community.

5.5 Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (Victoria)

5.5.1 Threatened flora

A search of the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas (VBA) shows three species of flora listed as threatened under the FFG Act 1988 recorded within a 5km radius of the study area – two of these species is 20 years old and considered current. See Appendix 4, Table 5B.

However, the FFG Act does not apply to listed threatened flora species occurring on private land, unless the land is listed as critical habitat, which this site is not.

5.5.2 Threatened fauna

A search of the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas (VBA) shows ten species of fauna listed as threatened under the FFG Act 1988 are recorded within a 5km radius of the study area. Of these eight of these species are 20 years old and considered current. See Appendix 4, Table 5A.

However, the FFG Act does not apply to listed threatened fauna species occurring on private land, unless the land is listed as critical habitat, which this site is not.

5.5.3 Protected Flora

In addition, the FFG Act also lists 'Protected Flora'. Protected flora includes whole families or genera, not just plant species, such as daisies, heaths, orchids, and most acacias. These species and genera are not necessarily regarded as threatened but require an approved 'protected flora



licence/permit' from DELWP prior to their removal from public land. There is no crown land impact with this proposal and so there is no FFG listed flora impacted with this development.

6 IMPLICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

6.1 Avoiding Impacts on Native Vegetation and Defendable Space

This proposal is for underground bulk sampling in order to evaluate the viability of an underground gold mining operation at the "Snowstorm" Project located on PL007319. This study assessed the vegetation at the location where a new underground access ramp is proposed and associated infrastructure, including the location of where the removed material will be stockpiled. The total expected footprint for the work is very small, 0.06ha on an area of farmland mostly clear of native vegetation especially when compared to other parts of the property. Due to the location of the resource to be sampled the portal is most appropriately located to avoid impacts to native vegetation.

An area of approximately 0.2ha ha shown in Figure 3 has been assessed for all lifeforms including understory plants including native grasses as requested by DELWP staff after a site visit.

Defendable space is not part of this assessment.

6.2 Minimising Impacts on Native Vegetation

There is no proposal to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation. There is a small Lightwood tree and a small dead tree that are near the proposed entrance that may be in advertently impacted during construction earthworks so they have been included in this assessment.

No feasible opportunities exist to further avoid removal or minimise impacts without compromising the proposed development.

6.3 Offset Statement

The client will purchase a third party offset from the credit register. A search of the Native Vegetation Credit Register shows evidence that the offset is available, see Appendix 3.

6.4 Offsets required as per DELWP Native Vegetation Removal (NVR) report

- Offset required is 0.010 general habitat units.
- Offset vicinity is within East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (CMA) or East Gippsland where the clearing takes place.
- Minimum strategic biodiversity score 0.512
- 0 Large tree(s)

See Appendix 1- DELWP Native vegetation removal report.



7 SUMMARY OF APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS/DECISION GUIDELINES

Table 5 Requirements

Number	Decision guideline to be considered	Response
1	<p>Information about the native vegetation to be removed, including:</p> <p>The assessment pathway and reason for the assessment pathway[^]. This includes the location category of the native vegetation to be removed.</p> <p>A description of the native vegetation to be removed.</p> <p>Maps showing the native vegetation and property in context.</p> <p>The offset requirement that will apply if the native vegetation is approved to be removed[^].</p>	<p>See Section 5</p> <p>This project is mapped as Location 1. The total area of removal is 0.042ha.</p> <p>See Section 5</p> <p>See Figure 2 Regional Plan, Figure 3 Proposed New Portal layout, Figure 4 EVC Map, Figure 5A & 5B Assessed zone, Appendix 1- Native vegetation removal report.</p> <p>See Appendix 1-Native vegetation removal report. 6.3 Offset statement Appendix 3 evidence of offset availability.</p>
2	<p>Topographic and land information relating to the native vegetation to be removed, showing ridges, crests and hilltops, wetlands and waterways, slopes of more than 20 percent, drainage lines, low lying areas, saline discharge areas, and areas of existing erosion, as appropriate.</p>	<p>The land slopes down from the north and northwest across the site. The existing farm track is associated with the higher parts of a drainage line. See Contour Map in Appendix 4.</p> <p>There is no erosion or evidence of salinisation on site.</p>
3	Recent, dated photographs of the native vegetation to be removed	See Appendix 2, Photos 1 – 9.
4	Details of any other native vegetation approved to be removed, or that was removed	N/A



	without the required approvals, on the same property or on contiguous land in the same ownership as the applicant, in the five-year period before the application for a permit is lodged	
5	An avoid and minimise statement. The statement describes any efforts to avoid the removal of and minimise the impacts on the biodiversity and other values of native vegetation, and how these efforts focussed on areas of native vegetation that have the most value.	See 6.1 & 6.2
6	Property Vegetation Plan applies.	No
7	Where the removal of native vegetation is to create defensible space, a written statement explaining why the removal of native vegetation is necessary.	N/A
8	Clause 52.16 applications- Native Vegetation Precinct Plan (NVPP)	N/A
9	An offset statement providing evidence that an offset that meets the offset requirements for the native vegetation to be removed has been identified and can be secured.	See Section 6.3
10	A site assessment report of the native vegetation to be removed, completed by an accredited native vegetation assessor.	This ecological report compiled by Heather Beever accredited native vegetation assessor.
11	Information about impacts on rare or threatened species habitat.	See Appendix 1 Native vegetation removal report where is state that 'Removal of less than 0.5ha in this location will not have a significant impact on any habitat for a rare or threatened species. See Sections 5.4 and 5.5 for discussion of Commonwealth and State Legislation.



8 RECOMMENDATIONS/ CONCLUSIONS

The proposal is designated Location 1 the ecological vegetation class (EVC) is categorised depleted. The proposal is to build a portal for underground bulk sampling to evaluate the viability of an underground gold mining operation. The access is existing, and the location of the portal is on a very modified zone of mostly clear native vegetation. Due diligence has been followed to ensure no impact to rare or threatened species. Provided the offset is met and other council planning requirements are met, the proposal seems sound.



9 REFERENCES

DELWP 2023. Biodiversity EVC Benchmarks East Gippsland Lowlands Bioregion. Sourced at <https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/biodiversity/bioregions-and-evc-benchmarks>

DELWP 2023. Native Vegetation Information Management tool. Sourced at <https://nvim.delwp.vic.gov.au/Biodiversity>

DELWP 2023 Planning Schemes Online. Sourced at <http://planning-schemes.delwp.vic.gov.au>

DELWP 2017. Applicant's guide – Applications to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation sourced, https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0024/90762/Applicants-guide-applications-to-remove,-destroy-or-lop-native-vegetation.pdf

DEWLP 2017. Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation sourced, https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0021/91146/Guidelines-for-the-removal,-destruction-or-logging-of-native-vegetation,-2017.pdf

DEWLP 2017. Assessor's handbook – Applications to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation, sourced, https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0022/91255/Assessors-handbook-Applications-to-remove,-lop-or-destroy-native-vegetation-V1.0.pdf

DSE 2004. Native Vegetation: sustaining a living landscape. Vegetation Quality Assessment Manual- Guidelines for applying habitat hectares scoring method Version



APPENDIX 1 - DELWP Native vegetation removal (NVR) report

Native vegetation removal report

This report provides information to support an application to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation in accordance with the *Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation*. The report is **not an assessment** by DELWP of the proposed native vegetation removal. Native vegetation information and offset requirements have been determined using spatial data provided by the applicant or their consultant.

Date of issue: 12/01/2023

Time of issue: 3:07 pm

Report ID: CUM_2023_001

Project ID featureclass_152026

Assessment pathway

Assessment pathway	Basic Assessment Pathway
Extent including past and proposed	0.042 ha
Extent of past removal	0.000 ha
Extent of proposed removal	0.042 ha
No. Large trees proposed to be removed	0
Location category of proposed removal	<p>Location 1</p> <p>The native vegetation is not in an area mapped as an endangered Ecological Vegetation Class (as per the statewide EVC map), sensitive wetland or coastal area. Removal of less than 0.5 hectares in this location will not have a significant impact on any habitat for a rare or threatened species.</p>

1. Location map

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Page 1

Native vegetation removal report

Offset requirements if a permit is granted

Any approval granted will include a condition to obtain an offset that meets the following requirements:

General offset amount¹	0.010 general habitat units
Vicinity	East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (CMA) or East Gippsland Shire Council
Minimum strategic biodiversity value score²	0.512
Large trees	0 large trees

NB: values within tables in this document may not add to the totals shown above due to rounding

Appendix 1 includes information about the native vegetation to be removed

Appendix 2 includes information about the rare or threatened species mapped at the site.

Appendix 3 includes maps showing native vegetation to be removed and extracts of relevant species habitat importance maps.

¹ The general offset amount required is the sum of all general habitat units in Appendix 1.

² Minimum strategic biodiversity score is 80 per cent of the weighted average score across habitat zones where a general offset is required.

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Page 2



Next steps

Any proposal to remove native vegetation must meet the application requirements of the Basic Assessment Pathway and it will be assessed under the Basic Assessment Pathway.

If you wish to remove the mapped native vegetation you are required to apply for a permit from your local council. Council will refer your application to DELWP for assessment, as required. **This report is not a referral assessment by DELWP.**

This *Native vegetation removal report* must be submitted with your application for a permit to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation.

Refer to the *Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation* (the Guidelines) for a full list of application requirements. This report provides information that meets the following application requirements:

- The assessment pathway and reason for the assessment pathway
- A description of the native vegetation to be removed (met unless you wish to include a site assessment)
- Maps showing the native vegetation and property
- The offset requirements determined in accordance with section 5 of the Guidelines that apply if approval is granted to remove native vegetation.

Additional application requirements must be met including:

- Topographical and land information
- Recent dated photographs
- Details of past native vegetation removal
- An avoid and minimise statement
- A copy of any Property Vegetation Plan that applies
- A defensible space statement as applicable
- A statement about the Native Vegetation Precinct Plan as applicable
- An offset statement that explains that an offset has been identified and how it will be secured.

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Authorised by the Victorian Government, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne.

For more information contact the DELWP Customer Service Centre 136 186

www.delwp.vic.gov.au

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Obtaining this publication does not guarantee that an application will meet the requirements of Clauses 52.15 or 52.17 of the Victoria Planning Provisions and Victorian planning schemes or that a permit to remove native vegetation will be granted.

Notwithstanding anything else contained in this publication, you must ensure that you comply with all relevant laws, legislation, awards or orders and that you obtain and comply with all permits, approvals and the like that affect, are applicable or are necessary to undertake any action to remove, lop or destroy or otherwise deal with any native vegetation or that apply to matters within the scope of Clauses 52.15 or 52.17 of the Victoria Planning Provisions and Victorian planning schemes.

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Appendix 1: Description of native vegetation to be removed

All zones require a general offset, the general habitat units each zone is calculated by the following equation in accordance with the Guidelines:

General habitat units = extent x condition x general landscape factor x 1.5, where the general landscape factor = 0.5 + (strategic biodiversity value score/2)

The general offset amount required is the sum of all general habitat units per zone.

Native vegetation to be removed

Information provided by or on behalf of the applicant in a GIS file						Information calculated by EnSym						
Zone	Type	BioEVC	BioEVC conservation status	Large tree(s)	Partial removal	Modelled Condition score	Polygon Extent	Extent without overlap	SBV score	HI score	Habitat units	Offset type
1-A	Scattered Tree			0	no	0.200	0.031	0.021	0.640		0.005	General
2-A	Scattered Tree			0	no	0.200	0.031	0.021	0.640		0.005	General

Appendix 2: Information about impacts to rare or threatened species' habitats on site

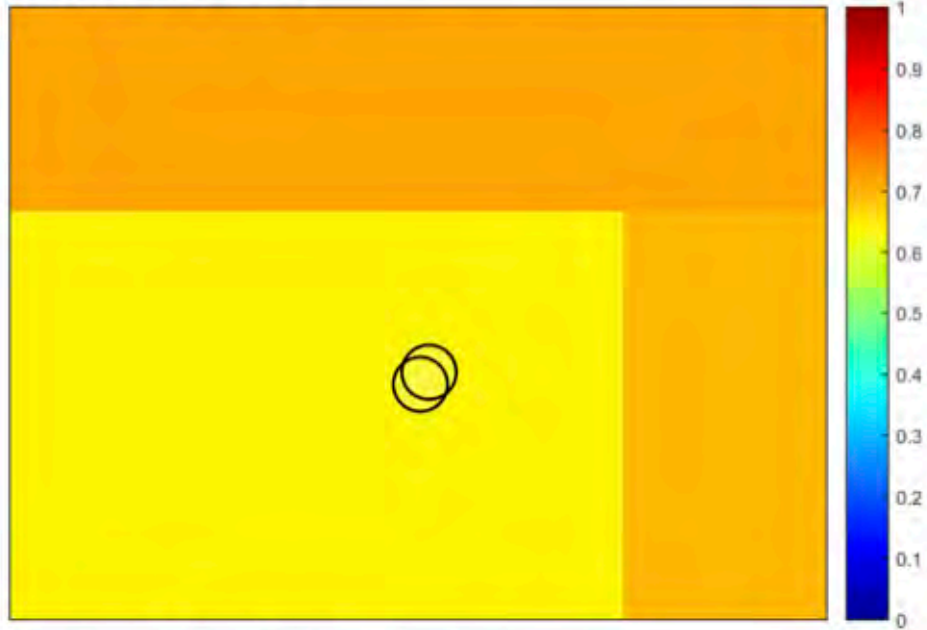
This is not applicable in the Basic Assessment Pathway.

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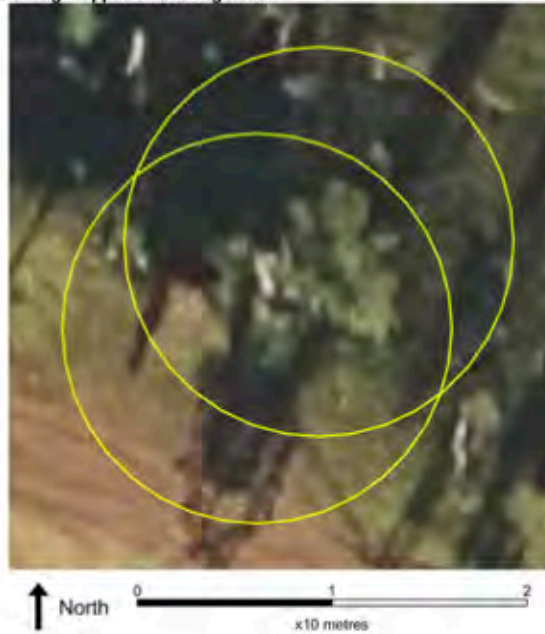
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Appendix 3 – Images of mapped native vegetation

2. Strategic biodiversity values map



3. Aerial photograph showing mapped native vegetation



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4. Map of the property in context



Yellow boundaries denote areas of proposed native vegetation removal.

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APPENDIX 2 – Photos of Study Area

Photo 1:

Looking northwest along existing access track at location of the proposed portal. Scattered tree (ST A) is located central, and ST B is right of STA.

Photo taken: 12/12/2022



Photo 2:

Looking northeast across the small zone of impact to create the portal. STA is the dead tree behind infrastructure and STB is behind STA.

Photo taken: 12/12/2022



Photo 3:

Looking at zone that will have material stockpiled.

This zone is weedy and has no impact to assessable native vegetation.

Photo taken: 12/12/2022



Photo 4:

Looking southeast from portal (left) existing farm track and access centre and zone for stockpiling (right).

Photo taken: 12/04/2021



Photo 5:

ST A & ST B

Looking northeast at ST A remains of dead tree with hollows 54cm DBH and ST B 22cm DBH Lightwood directly behind.

Photo taken: 12/12/2022



Photo 6: Ground cover portal

Ground cover dominated by perennial weeds, such as Yorkshire Fog grass and Sweet Vernal. There was a very small percentage of native Hedgehog grass *Echinopogon ovatus* and Weeping grass *Microlaena stipoides* var. *stipoides* but not at assessable levels considering the high percentage of perennial weeds.

Photo taken: 12/12/2022



Photo 7: Ground cover stockpile zone

Looking southeast at zone to stockpile material, this zone comprises annual and perennial weeds such as Great Mullein (left).

Photo taken: 12/12/2022



Photo 8: Ground cover portal

Ground cover near entrance to mine. Mixture of perennial weeds spear thistle, sheep sorrel, common century and some native species Cotton Fireweed *Senecio quadridentatus*.

Photo taken: 12/12/2022



Photo 9: Ground cover portal

Perennial and annual weeds, grasses and herbs. Common century weed, Barley grass, Soft brome, Sheep sorrel, with some native species Sheep's burr *Acaena agnipila* and Kidney-weed *Dichondra repens*. These herbs whilst present were not at assessable levels when compared the perennial weed understorey present.

Photo taken: 12/12/2022



APPENDIX 3 – Evidence of Offset availability

Report of available native vegetation credits

This report lists native vegetation credits available to purchase through the Native Vegetation Credit Register.

This report is **not evidence** that an offset has been secured. An offset is only secured when the units have been purchased and allocated to a permit or other approval and an allocated credit extract is provided by the Native Vegetation Credit Register.

Date and time: 10/01/2023 04:41

Report ID: 17285

What was searched for?

General offset

General habitat units	Strategic biodiversity value	Large trees	Vicinity (Catchment Management Authority or Municipal district)	
0.038	0.512	0	CMA	East Gippsland

Details of available native vegetation credits on 10 January 2023 04:41

These sites meet your requirements for general offsets.

Credit Site ID	GHU	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)
BBA-2323	14.848	86	East Gippsland	East Gippsland Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Bio Offsets, Ethos, VegLink
BBA-2843	15.103	903	East Gippsland	East Gippsland Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink
TFN-C1621	1.387	1	East Gippsland	East Gippsland Shire	Yes	Yes	No	TFN
VC_CFL-3720_01	1.876	244	East Gippsland	East Gippsland Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Contact NVOR
VC_CFL-3760_01	28.660	765	East Gippsland	East Gippsland Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink
VC_CFL-3767_01	24.168	1629	East Gippsland	East Gippsland Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Ethos, VegLink

These sites meet your requirements using alternative arrangements for general offsets.

Credit Site ID	GHU	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)
----------------	-----	----	-----	-----	------------	--------	-------------	-----------

There are no sites listed in the Native Vegetation Credit Register that meet your offset requirements when applying the alternative arrangements as listed in section 11.2 of the Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation.

These potential sites are not yet available, land owners may finalise them once a buyer is confirmed.

Credit Site ID	GHU	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)
----------------	-----	----	-----	-----	------------	--------	-------------	-----------

There are no potential sites listed in the Native Vegetation Credit Register that meet your offset requirements.

LT - Large Trees

CMA - Catchment Management Authority

LGA - Municipal District or Local Government Authority



Next steps

If applying for approval to remove native vegetation

Attach this report to an application to remove native vegetation as evidence that your offset requirement is currently available.

If you have approval to remove native vegetation

Below are the contact details for all brokers. Contact the broker(s) listed for the credit site(s) that meet your offset requirements. These are shown in the above tables. If more than one broker or site is listed, you should get more than one quote before deciding which offset to secure.

Broker contact details

Broker Abbreviation	Broker Name	Phone	Email	Website
Abezco	Abezco Pty. Ltd.	(03) 9431 5444	offsets@abezco.com.au	www.abezco.com.au
Baw Baw SC	Baw Baw Shire Council	(03) 5624 2411	bawbaw@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au	www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au
Bio Offsets	Biodiversity Offsets Victoria	0452 161 013	info@offsetsvictoria.com.au	www.offsetsvictoria.com.au
Contact NVOR	Native Vegetation Offset Register	136 186	nativevegetation.offsetregister@delwp.vic.gov.au	www.environment.vic.gov.au/native-vegetation
Ecocentric	Ecocentric Environmental Consulting	0410 564 139	ecocentric@me.com	Not available
Ethos	Ethos NRM Pty Ltd	(03) 5153 0037	offsets@ethosnrm.com.au	www.ethosnrm.com.au
Nilumbik SC	Nilumbik Shire Council	(03) 9433 3316	offsets@nilumbik.vic.gov.au	www.nilumbik.vic.gov.au
TFN	Trust for Nature	8631 5888	offsets@tfn.org.au	www.trustfornature.org.au
VegLink	Vegetation Link Pty Ltd	(03) 8578 4250 or 1300 834 546	offsets@vegetationlink.com.au	www.vegetationlink.com.au
Yarra Ranges SC	Yarra Ranges Shire Council	1300 368 333	biodiversityoffsets@yarraranges.vic.gov.au	www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au

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For more information contact the DELWP Customer Service Centre 136 186 or the Native Vegetation Credit Register at nativevegetation.offsetregister@delwp.vic.gov.au

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APPENDIX 4 – Contour map of study area



APPENDIX 5 – Commonwealth & State threatened species

Table 5A: Potentially occurring rare or threatened fauna &/or habitat likely to occur in the area generated by EPBC Protected Matters tool and Victorian Biodiversity Atlas (VBA).

EPBC Act 1999 Conservation Status	Victorian FFG Act 1988 Status
EX: Extinct, CR: Critically endangered, EN: Endangered, VU: Vulnerable, CD: Conservation dependent.	L: Listed, N: Nominated, I: Invalid or ineligible, R: Rejected, D: Delisted
	Category of threat
	Ex: Extinct, cr: Critically Endangered, en: Endangered, vu: Vulnerable, nt: Near Threatened.

Excludes Marine & migratory species.

Common name	Species name	EPBC	FFG	Category of threat	Habitat preferences	Most recent record within 5KM	Habitats present on site	Likelihood of presence*
BIRDS								
Regent Honeyeater	<i>Anthochaera Phrygia</i>	En	L	cr	Except for the northeast of the state, records of Regent Honeyeater are usually single birds. They are strongly associated with the western slopes of the Great Dividing Range. One record > 20 years old (2001) along Swifts Creek.	NPR	No	Unlikely
Hardhead	<i>Aythya australis</i>		L	vu	Inhabit deep to shallow wetlands with open water and fringing emergent vegetation. Most common in the wetland systems of inland Australia	2002	No	Unlikely

Australasian Bittern	<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i>	En	L	cr	Requires wetlands. Reed beds, dense vegetation of freshwater swamps and creeks.	NPR	No	Unlikely
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	CR	L	cr	Requires wetlands with open muddy areas for feeding. Estuaries, tidal mudflats, mangroves, shallow river margins, coastal or inland.	NPR	No	Unlikely
Gang-gang Cockatoo	<i>Callocephalon fimbriatum</i>	EN			During summer, found in tall mountain forests and woodlands, with dense shrubby understorey. In winter, it moves to lower altitudes into drier more open forests and woodlands. They require tall trees for nest hollows. This site is not suitable habitat.	2011	No	Unlikely
South-eastern Glossy Black-Cockatoo	<i>Calyptorhynchus lathami lathami</i>	VU	L	cr	Restricted diet to she-oaks (Casuarina and Allocasuarina) and only on selected individual trees. Require large hollows for breeding. This site does not have the food source or nesting trees.	NPR	No	Unlikely
Grey Falcon	<i>Falco hypoleucos</i>	VU	L	vu	Arid inland, mostly <500m rainfall grassland and acacia shrubland. Site too modified.	NPR	No	Unlikely
Painted Honeyeater	<i>Grantiella picta</i>	VU	L	vu	Found in dry open forests and woodlands and is strongly associated with mistletoe. It may also be found along rivers, on plains with scattered trees and on farmland with remnant vegetation. It has been seen in urban parks and gardens where large eucalypts are available. There is no mistletoe in the study area.	NPR	No	Unlikely
White-throated Needletail	<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	VU	L	vu	Aerial insectivore that rarely lands to perch, often sleeping on the wing. It is considered that this small amount of impact is not likely to impact this species.	2017	No	Unlikely
Swift Parrot	<i>Lathamus discolor</i>	EN	L	cr	Winter migrant from Tasmania. Generally, prefers Box-Ironbark forests and woodlands inland of the Great Dividing Range during winter. Not suitable habitat.	NPR	No	Unlikely
Hooded Robin	<i>Melanodryas cucullata</i>		L	vu	Most commonly found in south-eastern Australia from Adelaide to Brisbane. Found in lightly timbered woodland, mainly dominated by acacia and/or other eucalypts.	2011	No	Unlikely

Barking Owl	<i>Ninox connivens</i>		L	cr	Found in open woodlands and the edges of forests. Usually found in habitats that are dominated by eucalyptus species, particularly red gum in the tropic's paperbark species. Prefer forests with high density of large trees, particularly sites with hollows.	2011	No	Unlikely
Powerful Owl	<i>Ninox strenua</i>		L	V	Found in open forests and woodlands, as well as along sheltered gullies in wet forests with dense understoreys, especially along watercourses. Needs old growth trees to nest.	2012	No	Unlikely
Eastern Curlew Numenius	<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	CR	L	cr	Requires wetlands: Estuaries, tidal mudflats, mangroves, shallow river margins, coastal or inland.	NPR	No	Unlikely
Pilotbird	<i>Pycnoptilus floccosus</i>	VU			Its habitat is temperate wet sclerophyll forests and occasionally temperate rainforest, where there is dense undergrowth with abundant debris.	NPR	No	Unlikely
Australian Painted-Snipe	<i>Rostratula australis</i>	EN	L	cr	Uncommon summer migrant to Victoria. Lowlands on shallow freshwater swamps with emergent vegetation, and flooded salt marshes.	NPR	No	Unlikely
Diamond Firetail	<i>Stagonopleura guttata</i>		L	vu	Diamond Firetails are found in open grassy woodland, heath and farmland and grassland with scattered trees. Extraction zone is modified and not typical habitat. Species is found within 5km of the site.	2018	No	Unlikely
MAMMALS								
Spotted-tail Quoll	<i>Dasyurus maculatus</i>	VU	L	en	Forests including large intact areas of vegetation for foraging. The species favouring areas with a dense overstorey and understorey and with abundant rocks, large hollow-bearing trees, rocky escarpments and/or fallen logs for den sites. Not suitable habitat, no rocks or overstorey.	NPR	No	Unlikely
Platypus	<i>Ornithorhynchus anatinus</i>		L	vu	Freshwater creeds, slow-moving rivers, lakes joined by rivers, and built water storages such as farm dams.	2012	No	Unlikely
Greater Glider	<i>Petauroides volans</i>	VU	L	vu	Found in forested parts of eastern Victoria, including inland and southern falls of the Great Dividing Range. Dependent	NPR	No	Unlikely

					on older trees in moist forest types. Use hollow-bearing trees. This site has no larger hollow bearing trees, and no trees will be impacted.			
Smoky Mouse Konnom	<i>Pseudomys fumeus</i>	EN	L	en	Occurs in a variety of vegetation communities, ranging from coastal heath to dry ridgeline forest, sub-alpine heath and, occasionally, wetter gullies. Except for the wetter sites, a consistent feature of habitats is the diversity of heath and bush-pea species present combined with potential shelter sites in the form of woody debris or rocks.	NPR	No	Unlikely
Grey-headed Flying fox	<i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i>	VU	L	vu	Roost sites commonly occur in gullies, in vegetation with dense canopy cover and close to water.	NPR	No	Unlikely
FROGS								
Giant Burrowing Frog	<i>Heleioporus australiacus</i>	VU	L	cr	Coastal slopes of the Great Dividing Range below 1000m altitude.	?	No	Unlikely
Growling Grass Frog	<i>Litoria raniformis</i>	VU	L	vu	Permanent lakes, swamps, dams, and lagoons.	NPR	No	Unlikely
REPTILES								
Striped Legless Lizard	<i>Delma impar</i>	VU	L	en	Lowland native grasslands typically dominated by native tussock forming grasses. Typically occurs on deep cracking clay soils. Not suitable habitat	NPR	No	Unlikely
Mountain Skink	<i>Liopholis montana</i>	EN			Occupies habitat with granite and basalt boulders, rocks, slabs, rock scree or tors and large logs in tall open-forest, woodland and heathland vegetation in montane and subalpine areas of south-east Australia from 600-1700m.	NPR	No	Unlikely
Lace Monitor	<i>Varanus varius</i>		L	en	Native to eastern Australia. Frequent open and closed forests and forage over long distances. Mainly active from September to May. Shelter in tree hollows or under fallen trees or large rocks.	2020	Low	Unlikely

FISH								
Australian Grayling	<i>Prototroctes maraena</i>	VU	L	en	River and streams with a cool, clear, moderate flow with a gravel substrate and alternating pools and riffles	NPR	No	Unlikely
INVERTEBRATES								
Key's Matchstick Grasshopper	<i>Keyacris scurra</i>	En	L	t	Originally distributed from Victoria to Orange (NSW) across the wheat/sheep bet. Typically recorded in native grasslands, secondary native grasslands or areas that contain <i>Themeda</i> (Kangaroo grass) with appropriate disturbance regimes.	NPR	No	Unlikely

Table notes:

This table excludes species listed exclusively as 'migratory' or 'marine' under the EPBC Protected Matters Search results (Department of the Environment and Energy 2019a).

Unlikely	Site does not contain habitat and/or it is outside the species' known, current distribution. Birds and bats may fly over.
Low	Site contains some marginal habitat, but the species was not observed and has not been recorded in previous recent surveys in the area. Birds and bats may fly over.
Moderate	Site contains preferred habitat that may support a population of the species. Birds and bats may opportunistically or seasonally forage at the site.
High	Site contains preferred habitat which is likely to support the species. Birds and bats are likely to regularly (at least seasonally) forage or roost at the site.
Present	Preferred habitat is present on the site, and the species was observed on the site, or recently recorded on the site.
NPR	No previous record, modelled presence only under the EPBC Protected Matters Search results (Department of the Environment and Energy 2019a).

Threatened status based on the Advisory List of Threatened Vertebrate Fauna in Victoria (Department of Sustainability and Environment 2013) and the Advisory List of Threatened Invertebrate Fauna in Victoria (Department of Sustainability and Environment 2009).

Table 5B: Potentially occurring rare or threatened flora likely to occur in the area generated by EPBC Protected Matters tool & Victorian Biodiversity Atlas (VBA)

EPBC Act 1999 Conservation Status					Victorian FFG Act 1988 Status			
EX: Extinct, CR: Critically endangered, EN: Endangered, VU: Vulnerable, CD: Conservation dependent.					L: Listed, N: Nominated, I: Invalid or ineligible, R: Rejected, D: Delisted			
					Category of threat			
					Ex: Extinct, cr: Critically Endangered, en: Endangered, vu: Vulnerable, nt: Near Threatened.			
Common name	Species name	EPBC	FFG	Category of threat	Habitat preferences	Most recent record within 5KM	Habitats present on site	Likelihood of presence*
Tall Vanilla-lily	<i>Arthropodium sp 1</i>		L	en	Endemic to Victoria. Currently known only from the upper Macalister, Tambo and Snowy River areas where occurring in rocky situations (often in clefts and on ledges of low cliffs) within rather dry woodland.	2012	No	Unlikely
Yellow Burr-daisy	<i>Calotis lappulacea</i>		L	vu	Scattered in dry, rocky country in the east, (e.g., Deddick, Suggan guggan, Tabberabera, Glenaladale) rare in open woodland near Melbourne (Toolern Vale) and near the north end of the Brisbane Ranges, and on fertile, loam or clay soils in the north and north-west.	2012	No	Unlikely
Matted Flax-lily	<i>Dianella amoena</i>	EN	L	cr	Generally, occurs in grassland and grassy woodland habitats, on well drained to seasonally wet fertile sandy loams to heavy cracking clays soils. No <i>Dianella sp</i> observed at field inspection.	2012	No	Unlikely

Clover Glycine	<i>Glycine latrobeana</i>	VU	L	vu	Grassy woodland; plains grassland, box woodland; dry sclerophyll forest. Site too modified.	NPR	No	Unlikely
Spiny Pepper-cress	<i>Lepidium aschersonii</i>	VU	L	en	Mostly on heavy clay soils near salt lakes on volcanic plain, but with outlying records from near Lake Omeo and the Grampians.	NPR	No	Unlikely
Basalt Pepper-cress	<i>Lepidium hyssopifolium</i>	EN	L	en	Occurs in heavily modified, non-natural environments, usually amongst exotic pasture grasses and weed species. Soils are light to heavy, often friable, clay loams. The substrate is not basalt.	NPR	No	Unlikely
Hoary Sunray	<i>Leucochrysum albicans subsp. tricolor</i>	EN	L	en	Volcanic grasslands remnants. Acidic clay soils derived from basalt occasionally on nearby sandy-clay soils derived from sedimentary material.	NPR	No	Unlikely
Green-striped Greenhood	<i>Pterostylis chlorogramma</i>	VU	L	en	Confined to Victoria. Grows in moist areas of heathy and shrubby forest, on well-drained soils.	NPR	No	Unlikely
Blue-tongued Orchid, Kiandra Greenhood	<i>Pterostylis oreophila</i>	CR	L		Localised in north-eastern Victoria in montane to sub-alpine sphagnum bogs and streamside under thickets of <i>Leptospermum grandiflorum</i> . Not suitable habitat.	NPR	No	Unlikely
Swamp Fireweed	<i>Senecio psilocarpus</i>	VU			Prefers moist soils and is a semi-aquatic plant. Plains Grassy Wetland.	NPR	No	Unlikely
Austral Toadflax	<i>Thesium australe</i>	VU	L	en	Grows in grasslands, woodlands and herb fields, usually in damp situations. Not suited to this site.	NPR	No	Unlikely
Swamp Everlasting	<i>Xerochrysum palustre</i>	VU	L	vu	Occurs in lowland swamps, usually on black cracking clay soils, scattered from near SA border northwest of Portland to Bairnsdale district. Seasonal or permanent wetlands.	NPR	No	Unlikely

* Likelihood of Presence Definitions:

Unlikely Site does not contain habitat and/or it is outside the species' known, current distribution.

Low Site contains some marginal habitat, but the species was not observed and has not been recently recorded in previous surveys in the area.



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- Moderate Site contains preferred habitat that may support a population of the species. However, other factors, such as fragmentation, disturbance or predators may be impacting any local population.
 - High Site contains the preferred habitat which is likely to support the species.
 - Present Preferred habitat is present on the site, and the species was observed on the site, or recently recorded at the site.
 - NPR No previous record, modelled presence only under the EPBC Protected Matters Search results (Department of the Environment and Energy 2019a).
- Threatened status based on the Advisory List of Rare or Threatened Plants in Victoria (Department of Environment and Primary Industries 2014).

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RESULTS OF ACID SULFATE ROCK ANALYSIS

3 samples supplied by First Au Limited on 7/10/2022 . Lab Job No. N3441.

Analysis requested by Alex Kemp. Your Job: SUB001.

PO Box 82 BALWYN VIC 3103

Sample Site	EAL Lab Code	Moisture		Potential Sulfidic Acidity		Total Sulfur		Acid Neutralising Capacity		NAG pH	NAG Net Acidity to pH 7 (Net Acid Generation)	CLASSIFICATION (based on NAG pH and NAPP) (ie. NAF, PAF, UC)	ANC/MPA RATIO (as kg H ₂ SO ₄ /t > 2 ideal)	NAPP (Net Acid Producing Potential) kg H ₂ SO ₄ /t	CLASSIFICATION (based on NAPP) (i.e. 1- ACM; 2- NAF, 3- PAF-LC, 4- PAF)
		(% moisture of total wet weight)	(g moisture / g of oven dry soil)	(Chromium Reducible Sulfur - CRS) (% S _{cr})	(mol H ⁺ /t)	%S	(mol H ⁺ /t)	(ANC ₈₇) (% CaCO ₃)	(mol H ⁺ /t)						
Method No.		**		(In-house method S20)		LECO CNS TruMac		(In-house method S14)		**	**	**	**	**	**
SSARD001	N3441/1	1.2	0.01	< 0.005	0	..	..	0.81	161	7.53	0.0	NAF	..	-8	ACM
SSARD002	N3441/2	1.0	0.01	< 0.005	0	..	..	0.64	128	6.57	1.4	NAF	..	-6	ACM
SSARD003	N3441/3	0.7	0.01	< 0.005	0	..	..	0.09	18	6.86	0.4	NAF	..	-1	ACM

Notes:

- All analysis is Dry Weight (DW) - samples dried and ground immediately upon arrival (unless supplied dried and ground)
- Rock methods and classification from AMIRA international, May 2002. ARD Test Handbook, Project P387A Prediction and Kinetic Control of Acid Mine Drainage. Ian Walk Institute, Melbourne.
- Soil Analytical procedures are sourced from Sullivan L, Ward N, Toppler N and Lancaster G. 2018. National acid sulfate soils guidance: national acid sulfate soils identification and laboratory methods manual, Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, Canberra, ACT. CC BY 4.0.
- Results at or below detection limits are replaced with '0' for calculation purposes.
- Rock Classification = 1-ACM: acid consuming potential; 2-NAF: non-acid forming; 3-PAF-LC: potentially acid forming, low capacity (<5kg H₂SO₄/tonne); 4-PAF: potentially acid forming; UC = Uncertain.
- Analysis conducted between sample arrival date and reporting date.
- ** NATA accreditation does not cover the performance of this service.
- .. Denotes not requested.
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- All services undertaken by EAL are covered by the EAL Laboratory Services Terms and Conditions (refer scu.edu.au/eal/t&cs or on request).
- Results relate only to the samples tested.
- This report was issued on 12/10/2022.





Re: Snowstorm Work Plan Update

1 message

Bob Lynch <boblynch@bigpond.com>

Sun, Oct 16, 2022 at 4:39 PM

To: Alex Kemp <brokem2012@gmail.com>

Cc: Jason Darby <jaybird@tpg.com.au>, Ryan Skeen <rskeen@firstau.com>, Ian E Neilson <ianerikneilson@gmail.com>

Dear Alex,

As Secretary/Director of Mines of Stirling P/L, licensee for the tenement PL 007319, I have examined the images and accept the proposed extent of ground disturbance and proposed rehabilitated landform under the proposed Work Plan.

I am instructed by Richard Darby to advise that he and Lyn Darby, owners of the property, accept the proposed extent of ground disturbance and proposed rehabilitated landform under the proposed Work Plan. You will receive a separate email from Darbys confirming this.

Regards, Robert Lynch

On 11 Oct 2022, at 8:41 pm, Alex Kemp <brokem2012@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Bob & Richard,

Please find attached a document containing some concept images for the proposed land disturbance at Snowstorm associated with the underground bulk sampling.

As the licensee for the tenement (and also in your case Richard, the land owner), please examine the images and acknowledge if you accept the proposed extent of ground disturbance and proposed rehabilitated landform.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best Regards,

Alex Kemp
Consulting Mining Engineer & Geologist
(e: brokem2012@gmail.com)
(m: +61 448 501 128)

<Snowstorm Bulk Sample Concept Images.pdf>

Contact: Bill Williams
 Our Reference: 253/2013/P
 Telephone No: (03) 5153 9500
 Email: feedback@egipps.vic.gov.au

Corporate Centre
 273 Main Street (PO Box 1618)
 Bairnsdale Victoria 3875
Telephone: (03) 5153 9500
National Relay Service: 133 677
Residents' Information Line: 1300 555 886
Facsimile: (03) 5153 9576
Email: feedback@egipps.vic.gov.au
ABN: 81 957 967 765

30 April 2014

Mines of Stirling Pty Ltd
 C/ Robert Lynch
 PO Box 297
 NEWPORT BEACH NSW 2106

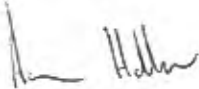
Dear Sir or Madam,

Planning Application Number: 253/2013/P
Proposal: Use and development of the land for stone exploration.
Location: Rileys Creek Road SWIFTS CREEK
CA PART 1A Sec 20

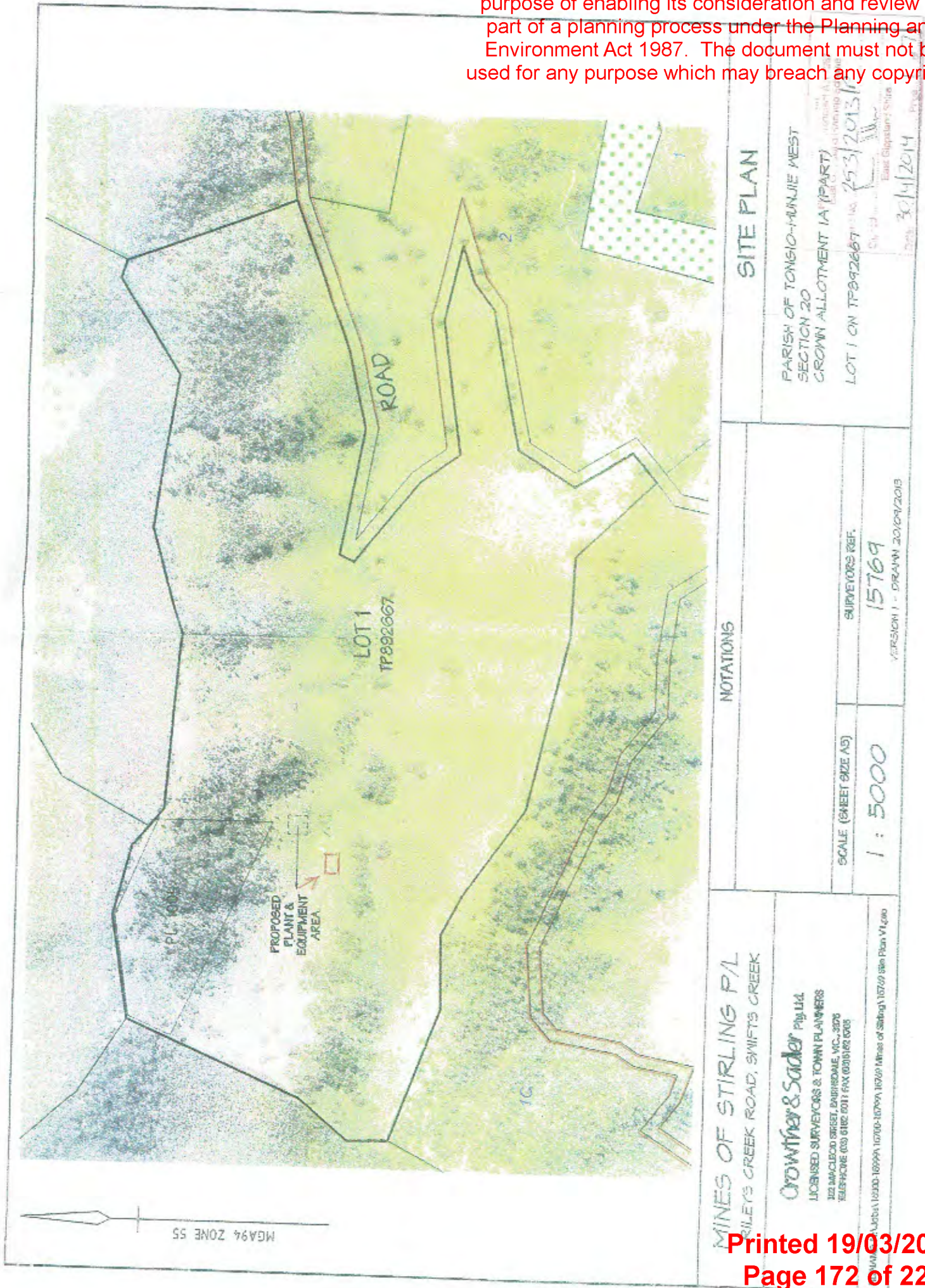
The plans submitted in accordance with conditions 1 and 6 of the above permit have been approved and endorsed as part of the permit.

Your copy of the endorsed plan to be attached to the original permit is enclosed.

Yours sincerely



AARON HOLLOW
Manager Development



MINES OF STIRLING P/L
RILEY'S CREEK ROAD, SWIFTS CREEK

Crowther & Sander Pty Ltd
LICENSED SURVEYORS & TOWN PLANNERS
122 MACLEOD STREET, DUNDEE, VIC, 3206
TELEPHONE (03) 5182 0011 FAX (03) 5182 0005

DATE: 12/03/2024 10:00:00 AM
DRAWN: 10/03/2024 10:00:00 AM
SCALE: 1:5000
VERSION: 1 - DRAFT 10/03/2024

NOTATIONS

SCALE (SHEET SIZE A3)
1 : 5000

SURVEYORS REF.
15769
VERSION 1 - DRAFT 10/03/2024

SITE PLAN

PARISH OF TONGIO-MUNJIE WEST
SECTION 20
CROWN ALLOTMENT 1A (PART)

LOT 1 ON TP892667

DATE: 12/03/2024
DRAWN: 10/03/2024
SCALE: 1:5000
VERSION: 1 - DRAFT 10/03/2024

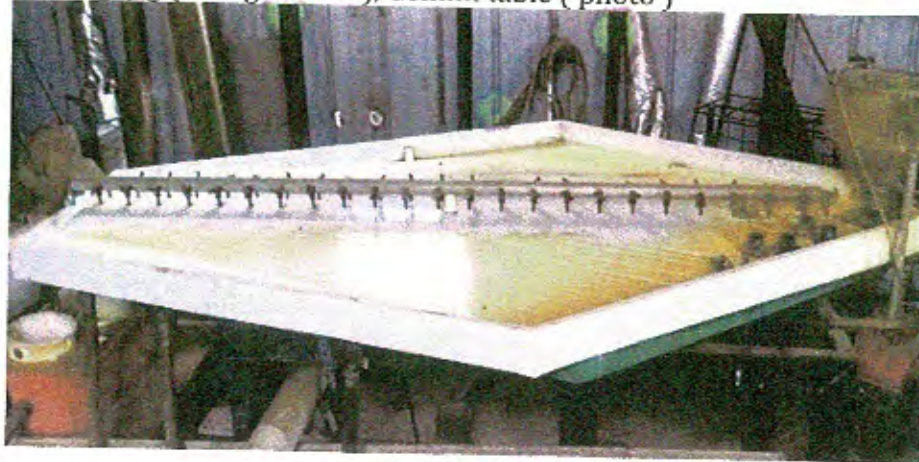
Snow Storm Trial Gravity Separation Plant and Field Laboratory



- 1 Clean Water tank (4,500 l.)
2. Skid mounted Jaw Crusher (10 hp petrol powered)
3. Impact Hammer Mill (10 hp petrol powered) (guard to be fitted)



4. Open Shed 1.8M x 5M x 2M high, steel posts iron roof, 9M sq. area housing: Jig (being rebuilt), Gemini table (photo)



5. & 6. Sands Decant pit and Dirty Water Retention Tanks (precast concrete 2 off 1,000l each)



7. Earth Bund for spill retention.
8. Trailer mounted diesel alternator. 9 KVA
9. 10 ft. Shipping container housing temporary field lab and site office. Floor area 110 sq.

Endorsed Plan	
Planning and Environment Act 1987	
East Gippsland Planning Scheme	
Permit No.	253/2013/P
Signed:	[Signature]
East Gippsland Shire	
Date:	30/4/2014
Page	2 of 7

PLANNING PERMIT No. 253/2013/P

Outstanding information requested in letter of 2 April signed by Aaron Hallow for discussion and approval at meeting scheduled for 10:30 28/04/14 with Paul Holton as discussed in phone conversation between Mr Holton and Robert Lynch on 8/04/28:

Amended Site Plan View noting no fuel storage on site and additional earth bund.

Amended notes on Bund Wall construction.

Condition 6.6 - Detailed management plan to implement the Environmental Management Plan.

Endorsed Plan	
Planning and Environment Act 1987	
East Gippsland Planning Scheme	
Permit No.	253/2013/P
Signed	
East Gippsland Shire	
Date	30/4/2014
Page 3 of 7	

Site Plan View (Amended 28/04/14) to show:

Additional earth bund as stated in Note 5 below.

Contours in addition to Elevations Section AA, Section BB and Section CC.

Notation that there is no fuel storage area in our plans.

Notes on Bund Wall construction and maintenance: (Amended 28/04/14)

1. Top soil and vegetation where it exists is to be scrapped off, retained and replaced over the completed bund to re-establish vegetation.
2. The B Horizon which is weathered schist with a high clay content is to be removed to form a flat bench on which to place the broken rock fill to key the bund. The schist/clay material is then placed to form the impermeable bund wall. Broken rock fill and any additional schist/clay material required can be sourced from the costean workings on the adjacent PL 1004.
3. The capacity of the bund is adequate to retain +20,000 litres at an average depth of 300 mm which is equal to over 100 mm of rain on the catchment area flowing to the bund.
4. Silt pits are to be dug at both ends of the Bund wall to minimise any silt from erosion escaping the plant site in an extreme event. Clarified water remaining in the bund will be periodically siphoned or pumped on to adjacent grassed areas at controlled flow rate to maintain the empty bund impoundment.
5. **An additional earth mound or bund to a minimum height of 300 mm will be placed up hill of the Earth Bund as shown on the Amended Plan View to encompass the plant site as an alternative to the cut off trench.**

Enforced Plan	
Planning and Environment Act 1987	
East Gippsland Planning Scheme	
Permit No.	253/2013/P
Signed	<i>[Signature]</i>
	East Gippsland Council
Date	30/4/2014

Condition 6.6 - Detailed management plan to implement the Environmental Management Plan:

Timeframes -

28 March 2014 - Meeting with Responsible Authority (EGSC) to provide outstanding information and get approval to commence site works and use in accordance with the Planning Permit.

Complete site works and notify Authority 1 to 3 months from approval.

Carry out assay trial gravity separation trials in accordance with the Planning Permit Application associated with Exploration Work Plans under PL 1004 which expires on 17/07/2017 any any subsequent variations or new exploration approvals.

Inspection Records -

In accordance with our submission dated 12/02/14 in respect of Conditions 6. 1- 5 and further activities to be recorded in the Site Diary as stated under 6.6. including records, reports and inspections as may be required by the Authority.

Mitigation Methods -

In accordance Conditions of the Planning Permit and stated in our submission dated 12/02/14 and shown on attached plans and notes including:

EGSC Conditions 1. - 8.

EGCMA Condition 9. and provisions stated in their letter of 9 Dec. 13 addressed to EGSC.

EGW Condition 10.

Activities and Responsible Persons -

Activities in accordance with Planning Permit and associated approved Exploration Work Plans will be carried out directly or under the supervision of Richard Darby and Robert Lynch, Directors of Mines of Stirling Pty. Limited.

Schedule of Reporting to the responsible Authority (EGSC) -

As required by EGSC.

Endorsed Plan
Planning and Environment Act 1987
East Gippsland Planning Scheme

Permit No: 253/2013/P


Signed: [Signature]
East Gippsland Shire

Date: 30/4/2014 Page 3 of 1



Environmental Management Plan					
	Inspection record (date)	Mitigation methods	Person responsible	Schedule of reporting	Action taken
Silt pits					
Water clarity					
Bund wall					
Fuel leak/oil spill					

Inspection to be carried out monthly and sent to the Shire

Endorsed Plan	
Planning and Environment Act 1987	
East Gippsland Planning Scheme	
Permit No.:	253/2013/P
Signed:	
East Gippsland Shire	
Date:	30/4/2014
Page:	7 of 7

Contact: Bill Williams
Telephone No: (03) 5153 9500
Email: feedback@egipps.vic.gov.au

Corporate Centre
273 Main Street (PO Box 1618)
Bairnsdale Victoria 3875
Telephone: (03) 5153 9500
National Relay Service: 133 677
Residents' Information Line: 1300 555 886
Facsimile: (03) 5153 9576
Email: feedback@egipps.vic.gov.au
ABN: 81 957 967 765

2 April 2014

Mines of Stirling Pty Ltd
C/ Robert Lynch
PO Box 297
NEWPORT BEACH NSW 2106

Dear Robert Lynch

Planning permit 253/2013/P
Proposal: Use and development of the land for stone exploration.
Location: Rileys Creek Road, SWIFTS CREEK
CA PART 1A Sec 20

I reply in relation to your letter dated 12 February 2014.

This letter advised that you required an amendment to the location of the proposed use and development to allow a larger distance from the waterway buffer, the tree line and a more favourable gradient.

It is noted that the permit contained conditions that required additional information as follows:

Condition 1

Before the use and development starts, amended plans to the satisfaction of the responsible authority must be submitted to and be approved by the responsible authority. When approved, the plans will be endorsed and will then form part of the permit. The plans must be drawn to scale with dimensions and three copies must be provided. The plans must be generally in line with the plans submitted with the application but modified to show:

- *The location of any fuel storage area;*
- *An earth bund wall encompassing the proposed plant and equipment area with the exception of the vehicle access points to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.*

Condition 6

Before the use starts an Environmental Management Plan to the satisfaction of the responsible authority must be submitted to and be approved by the responsible authority. When approved the Environmental Management Plan will then form part of the permit.

The Environmental Management Plan must include:

1. *A drainage system within the bunded area which captures all stormwater overflow and runoff;*
2. *A drainage system that retains the stormwater overflow and runoff within the bunded area;*

3. *Methods and techniques to test and clean stormwater overflow and runoff prior to the release into the environment;*
4. *Methods and techniques to maintain the bund wall;*
5. *Methods and techniques for disposal of any contaminated materials or liquids;*
6. *A detailed management plan that must identify timeframes, inspection records, mitigation methods, activities and persons responsible to implement the Environmental Management Plan and a schedule of reporting to the responsible authority; and*
7. *Details of the method of disposal of effluent and wastewater in accordance with the provisions of the Environment Protection Act 1970.*

It is noted that you have provided information to satisfy these conditions.

The information that you have provided does not show:

- The location of any fuel storage area;
- An earth bund wall encompassing the proposed plant and equipment with the exception of the vehicle access points;
- A detailed management plan that identifies timeframes, inspection records, mitigation methods, activities and a schedule of reporting to the responsible authority.

Once this information has been provided the plans are able to be endorsed and will form part of the permit.

Please note that there is a statutory fee of \$102.00 required to amend the permit to alter the location of the proposed use and development.

Please do not hesitate to contact Bill Williams if you require additional clarification.

Yours sincerely



AARON HOLLOW
Manager Development

PLANNING PERMIT

Permit No: 253/2013/P
 Planning Scheme: East Gippsland
 Responsible Authority: East Gippsland Shire

ADDRESS OF THE LAND

Rileys Creek Road SWIFTS CREEK
 CA PART 1A Sec 20

BN: 74170 2

THE PERMIT ALLOWS

Use and development of the land for stone exploration. in accordance with the endorsed plans.

THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS APPLY TO THIS PERMIT:


1. Before the use and development starts, amended plans to the satisfaction of the responsible authority must be submitted to and be approved by the responsible authority. When approved, the plans will be endorsed and will then form part of the permit. The plans must be drawn to scale with dimensions and three copies must be provided. The plans must be generally in line with the plans submitted with the application but modified to show:
 - The location of any fuel storage area;
 - An earth bund wall encompassing the proposed plant and equipment area with the exception of the vehicle access points.
2. The use and development as shown on the endorsed plans must not be altered without the written consent of the responsible authority.
3. This permit will expire if one of the following circumstances applies:
 - The development is not started within two years of the date of this permit.
 - The development is not completed within four years of the date of this permit.
 - The use has not commenced within four years of the date of this permit.

The responsible authority may extend the periods referred to if a request is made in writing before or within 6 months after the permit expiry date where the development has not started, or, within 12 months after the permit expiry date where the development has started lawfully before the permit expiry date.

4. The use may operate only between the hours of 8 am to 5 pm Monday to Friday.

Date Issued: 26 February 2014

Page 1 of 3


 Signature for the
 Responsible Authority

5. During construction and maintenance activities of the plant and equipment area, adequate steps must be taken to stop soil erosion and the movement of sediment off site and into drainage lines and watercourses and onto adjoining land. Adequate steps include:
- control of on-site drainage by intercepting and redirecting run-off in a controlled manner to stabilised vegetated areas on site.
 - Installation of sediment control structures such as earth bunds, sediment basins, sediment fences and sediment traps when construction commences and maintaining them until the site is stabilised.
 - re-vegetating all disturbed areas as quickly as possible or within 14 days after construction works are completed.
6. Before the use starts an Environmental Management Plan to the satisfaction of the responsible authority must be submitted to and be approved by the responsible authority. When approved the Environmental Management Plan will then form part of the permit.

The Environmental Management Plan must include:

- A drainage system within the bunded area which captures all stormwater overflow and runoff; *gravity flow to lowest point of coffee*
 - A drainage system that retains the stormwater overflow and runoff within the bunded area; *4*
 - Methods and techniques to test and clean stormwater overflow and runoff prior to the release into the environment; *settlement & separation*
 - Methods and techniques to maintain the bund wall; *see reply*
 - Methods and techniques for disposal of any contaminated materials or liquids; *see reply*
 - A detailed management plan that must identify timeframes, inspection records, mitigation methods, activities and persons responsible to implement the Environmental Management Plan and a schedule of reporting to the responsible authority; and
 - Details of the method of disposal of effluent and wastewater in accordance with the provisions of the *Environment Protection Act 1970* *see reply*
- Within 12 months of the use ending the land must be rehabilitated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.
 - Before the use starts storm water runoff from both building and paved areas must be controlled so as not to create adverse erosion or environmental effects.

East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority Condition

- The operator must employ appropriate site management techniques at all times during both development and subsequent operation to ensure that no sediment-laden runoff enters any designated waterway to the satisfaction of the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority.

Date Issued: 26 February 2014

Page 2 of 3

[Signature]
Signature for the
Responsible Authority

East Gippsland Water Condition


10. Any proposal for onsite wastewater management (septic tank) must comply with the Guidelines for Planning Permits in Open Potable Water Supply Catchment Areas (2012)

Notes

1. All buildings erected on this site must comply with the requirements of the Victorian Building Act and Regulations, the Building Code of Australia and relevant Council Local Laws. Note this permit does not approve the placement of hoardings and scaffolds outside building lines. Please contact Council's Local Laws Unit on 51 539 500.

Date Issued: 26 February 2014

Page 3 of 3


Signature for the
Responsible Authority

Printed 19/03/2024
Page 183 of 222

**EAST GIPPSLAND
CATCHMENT
MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITY**



514 Main Street
Bairnsdale Vic. 3875
PHONE: (03) 5152 0600
FAX: (03) 5150 3555
EMAIL: egcma@egcma.com.au
ABN 72 411 984 201

CMA Application No: EG-F-2013-0297
Document No: 1
Council No: 253/2013/P
Date: 9 December 2013

Bill Williams
Planning Officer
East Gippsland Shire Council
PO Box 1618
Bairnsdale VIC 3875

Dear Bill,

Application Number (CMA Ref): EG-F-2013-0297
Section: 55
Location Street: Rileys Creek Road, Swifts Creek, Victoria 3896
Cadastral: Lot 1, TP892667, Parish of Tongio-Munjie West

I refer to your correspondence dated 26 November 2013, received at the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority on 27 November 2013 in accordance with the provisions of Section 55 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987.

Below is the Authority's understanding of the application:

The applicant(s), Robert Lynch, Mines of Stirling Pty Ltd

Propose the following:

Proposed Development Type: Extractive
Proposed Development Description: Use and development of land for stone exploration

on the abovementioned proposed development location.

The Authority's assessment indicates that the property is covered by the following Zones and Overlays in the East Gippsland Planning Scheme:

Zone(s): Farming Zone - Schedule 1 (FZ1)
Overlay(s): Wildfire Management Overlay (WMO)
Erosion Management Overlay (EMO)

EG-F-2013-0297

Pa 1 of 4

The Victorian Planning Provision Practice Note 'Applying for a Planning Permit under the Flood Provisions – a guide for councils, referral authorities and applicants' requires consideration of the following:

- Residential, commercial and industrial buildings are not generally an appropriate development on floodway land in view of their potential for obstruction of flood flows.
- A development should be refused if it is likely to cause an unacceptable increase in flood risk in the following situations:
 - it is likely to result in danger to the life, health and safety of the occupants due to flooding of the site
 - it relies on low-level access to and from the site
 - it is likely to increase the burden on emergency services and the risk to emergency personnel
 - it is likely to increase the amount of flood damage to public or private assets
 - it is likely to raise flood levels or flow velocities to the detriment of other properties. Potentially adverse effects on upstream and downstream areas must be identified and addressed. Development should not transfer flooding problems from one location to another
 - it is likely to obstruct flood flows or reduce natural flood storage. The capacity of land subject to inundation to convey and store floodwater must be maintained
 - it is likely to be detrimental to natural habitats, waterway stability, water quality or sites of significance
 - if any subdivision, development or redevelopment is likely to increase the number of buildings located in a floodway area.

A copy of the Practice Note can be downloaded from the Department of Planning and Community Development website (www.dpcd.vic.gov.au) by following the links to Planning > Publications & Research > Practice and Advisory Notes.

The Authority does not have any official record of flooding for the property described above on which to base its assessment. However mapping available to the Authority indicates that a number of tributaries of designated waterways originate within the property, as shown in Figure 1. These designated waterways require protection through the creation of reserves which require an ecological buffer of 30 metres either side of the designated waterway from the top of bank. These buffers are also shown in Figure 1.

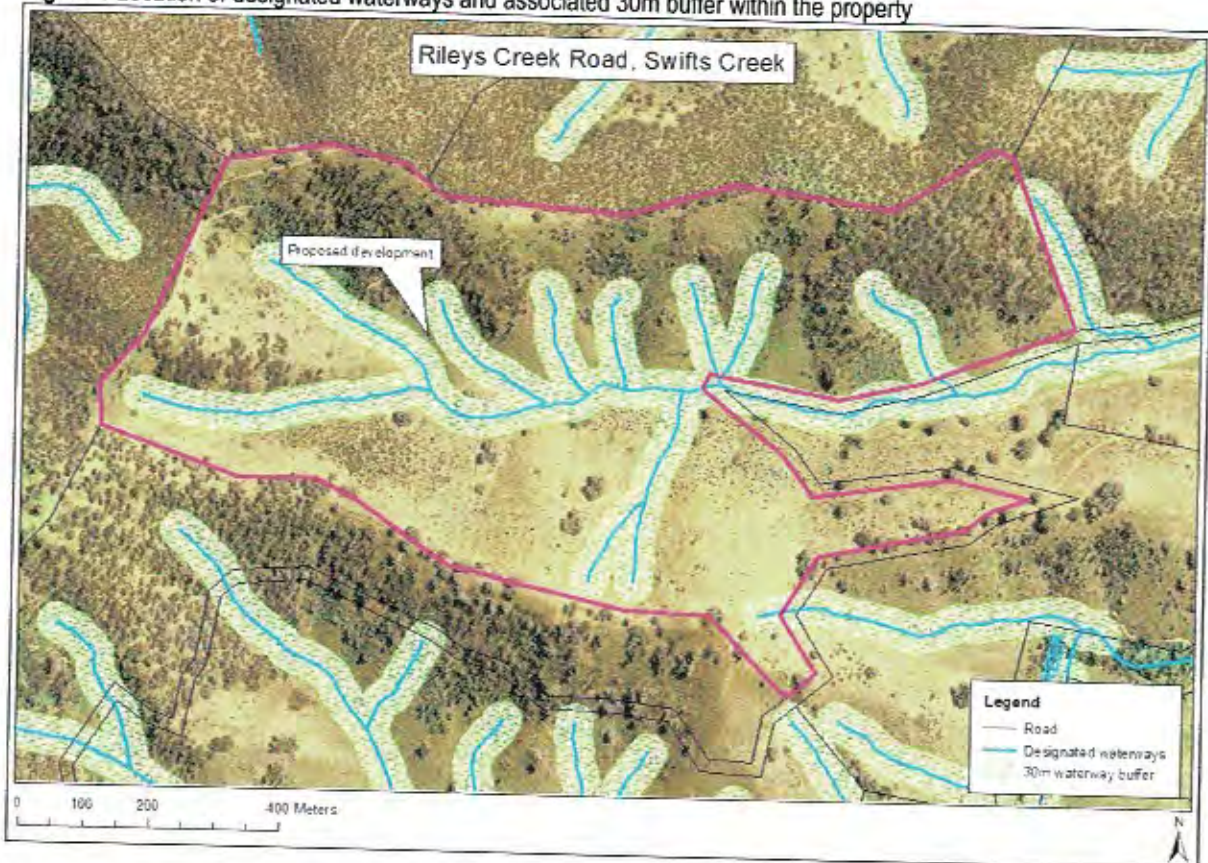
It is the Authority's preference that all works take place outside this 30 metre buffer, however any works within 30 metres of a designated waterway require Works on Waterways advice from the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, issued under the *Water Act 1989*. This includes (but is not limited to) construction of any recreational paths and crossings, construction of any vehicle access over a designated waterway, and installation of any water or sewer main within 30 metres of a designated waterway.

The proposed development site is unlikely to be subject flooding from a designated waterway since land levels available to the Authority indicate that the site is located above any of the designated waterways in the vicinity.

The Authority notes that a portion of the property is covered by an Erosion Management Overlay and that the terrain in the area is relatively steep. The combination of these factors may lead to the transportation of sediment-laden runoff to the headwaters of the waterways which originate within the property.

The Authority notes that the proposal is for the use and development of land for stone exploration, particularly the construction and operation of a field laboratory and trial gravity separation plant for the processing of ore samples.

Figure 1 Location of designated waterways and associated 30m buffer within the property



The Authority is a recommending referral authority for this application. In light of the above information and pursuant to Section 56(1) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, the Authority **does not object** to the granting of a permit subject to the following conditions:

- The operator must employ appropriate site management techniques at all times during both development and subsequent operation to ensure that no sediment-laden runoff enters any designated waterway.

Pursuant to Sections 64 to 66 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, please ensure that you provide the Authority a copy of your decision in a timely manner for our records.

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Linda Tubnor or myself on 1300 094 262. To assist the CMA in handling any enquiries please quote **EG-F-2013-0297** in your correspondence with us.

Yours sincerely,

Adam Dunn
Gippsland Floodplain Officer

Cc: Robert Lynch, Mines of Stirling Pty Ltd

The information contained in this correspondence is subject to the disclaimers and definitions attached.
EG-F-2013-0297

Pg 3 of 4

Definitions and Disclaimers

1. The area referred to in this letter as the 'proposed development location' is the land parcel(s) that, according to the Authority's assessment, most closely represent(s) the location identified by the applicant. The identification of the 'proposed development location' on the Authority's GIS has been done in good faith and in accordance with the information given to the Authority by the applicant(s) and/or the local government authority.
2. While every endeavour has been made by the Authority to identify the proposed development location on its GIS using VicMap Parcel and Address data, the Authority accepts no responsibility for or makes no warranty with regard to the accuracy or naming of this proposed development location according to its official land title description.
3. **AEP** as Annual Exceedance Probability – is the likelihood of occurrence of a flood of given size or larger occurring in any one year. AEP is expressed as a percentage (%) risk and may be expressed as the reciprocal of ARI (Average Recurrence Interval).

Please note that the 1% probability flood is not the probable maximum flood (PMF). There is always a possibility that a flood larger in height and extent than the 1% probability flood may occur in the future.
4. **AHD** as Australian Height Datum - is the adopted national height datum that generally relates to height above mean sea level. Elevation is in metres.
5. **ARI** as Average Recurrence Interval - is the likelihood of occurrence, expressed in terms of the long-term average number of years, between flood events as large as or larger than the design flood event. For example, floods with a discharge as large as or larger than the 100 year ARI flood will occur on average once every 100 years.
6. No warranty is made as to the accuracy or liability of any studies, estimates, calculations, opinions, conclusions, recommendations (which may change without notice) or other information contained in this letter and, to the maximum extent permitted by law, the Authority disclaims all liability and responsibility for any direct or indirect loss or damage which may be suffered by any recipient or other person through relying on anything contained in or omitted from this letter.
7. This letter has been prepared for the sole use by the party to whom it is addressed and no responsibility is accepted by the Authority with regard to any third party use of the whole or of any part of its contents. Neither the whole nor any part of this letter or any reference thereto may be included in any document, circular or statement without the Authority's written approval of the form and context in which it would appear.
8. The flood information provided represents the best estimates based on currently available information. This information is subject to change as new information becomes available and as further studies are carried out.

REGISTER SEARCH STATEMENT (Title Search) Transfer of Land Act 1958

Page 1 of 1

VOLUME 08180 FOLIO 887

Security no : 124099016784P
Produced 15/07/2022 05:37 PM

CROWN GRANT

LAND DESCRIPTION

Lot 1 on Title Plan 892667X (formerly known as part of Crown Allotment 1A Section 20 Parish of Tongio-Munjie West).

REGISTERED PROPRIETOR

Estate Fee Simple
Joint Proprietors

RICHARD KENNETH DARBY
LYNETTE ANN DARBY both of CASSILIS ROAD SWIFTS CREEK 3896
V453501L 02/06/1998

ENCUMBRANCES, CAVEATS AND NOTICES

Any crown grant reservations exceptions conditions limitations and powers noted on the plan or imaged folio set out under DIAGRAM LOCATION below. For details of any other encumbrances see the plan or imaged folio set out under DIAGRAM LOCATION below.

Any encumbrances created by Section 98 Transfer of Land Act 1958 or Section 24 Subdivision Act 1988 and any other encumbrances shown or entered on the plan set out under DIAGRAM LOCATION below.

DIAGRAM LOCATION

SEE TP892667X FOR FURTHER DETAILS AND BOUNDARIES

ACTIVITY IN THE LAST 125 DAYS

NIL

-----END OF REGISTER SEARCH STATEMENT-----

Additional information: (not part of the Register Search Statement)

Street Address: 108A RILEYS CREEK ROAD SWIFTS CREEK VIC 3896

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTICES

NIL

eCT Control 21210T WARREN GRAHAM AND MURPHY PTY LTD
Effective from 10/08/2021

DOCUMENT END

Printed 19/03/2024
Page 188 of 222

PROPERTY REPORT

This copied document is made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright.

From www.planning.vic.gov.au at 15 July 2022 05:33 PM

PROPERTY DETAILS

Address: **108A RILEYS CREEK ROAD SWIFTS CREEK 3896**

Lot and Plan Number: **Lot 1 TP892667**

Standard Parcel Identifier (SPI): **1\TP892667**

Local Government Area (Council): **EAST GIPPSLAND**

Council Property Number: **74170**

Directory Reference: **Vicroads 66 C6**

www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au

This property is in a designated bushfire prone area.

Special bushfire construction requirements apply. Planning provisions may apply.

Further information about the building control system and building in bushfire prone areas can be found on the Victorian Building Authority website <https://www.vba.vic.gov.au>

SITE DIMENSIONS

All dimensions and areas are approximate. They may not agree with those shown on a title or plan.



Area: 696435 sq. m (69.64 ha)

Perimeter: 4975 m

For this property:

— Site boundaries

— Road frontages

Dimensions for individual parcels require a separate search, but dimensions for individual units are generally not available.

6 overlapping dimension labels are not being displayed

Calculating the area from the dimensions shown may give a different value to the area shown above

For more accurate dimensions get copy of plan at [Title and Property Certificates](#)

UTILITIES

Rural Water Corporation: **Southern Rural Water**

Urban Water Corporation: **East Gippsland Water**

Melbourne Water: **Outside drainage boundary**

Power Distributor: **AUSNET**

STATE ELECTORATES

Legislative Council: **EASTERN VICTORIA**

Legislative Assembly: **GIPPSLAND EAST**

PLANNING INFORMATION

Planning Zone [FARMING ZONE \(FZ\)](#)

[FARMING ZONE - SCHEDULE 1 \(FZ1\)](#)

Planning Overlay [BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT OVERLAY \(BMO\)](#)

[EROSION MANAGEMENT OVERLAY \(EMO\)](#)

[EROSION MANAGEMENT OVERLAY SCHEDULE \(EMO\)](#)

PROPERTY REPORT

Planning scheme data last updated on 12 July 2022.

A **planning scheme** sets out policies and requirements for the use, development and protection of land.

This report provides information about the zone and overlay provisions that apply to the selected land.

Information about the State and local policy, particular, general and operational provisions of the local planning scheme that may affect the use of this land can be obtained by contacting the local council or by visiting <https://www.planning.vic.gov.au>

This report is NOT a **Planning Certificate** issued pursuant to Section 199 of the **Planning and Environment Act 1987**.

It does not include information about exhibited planning scheme amendments, or zonings that may affect the land.

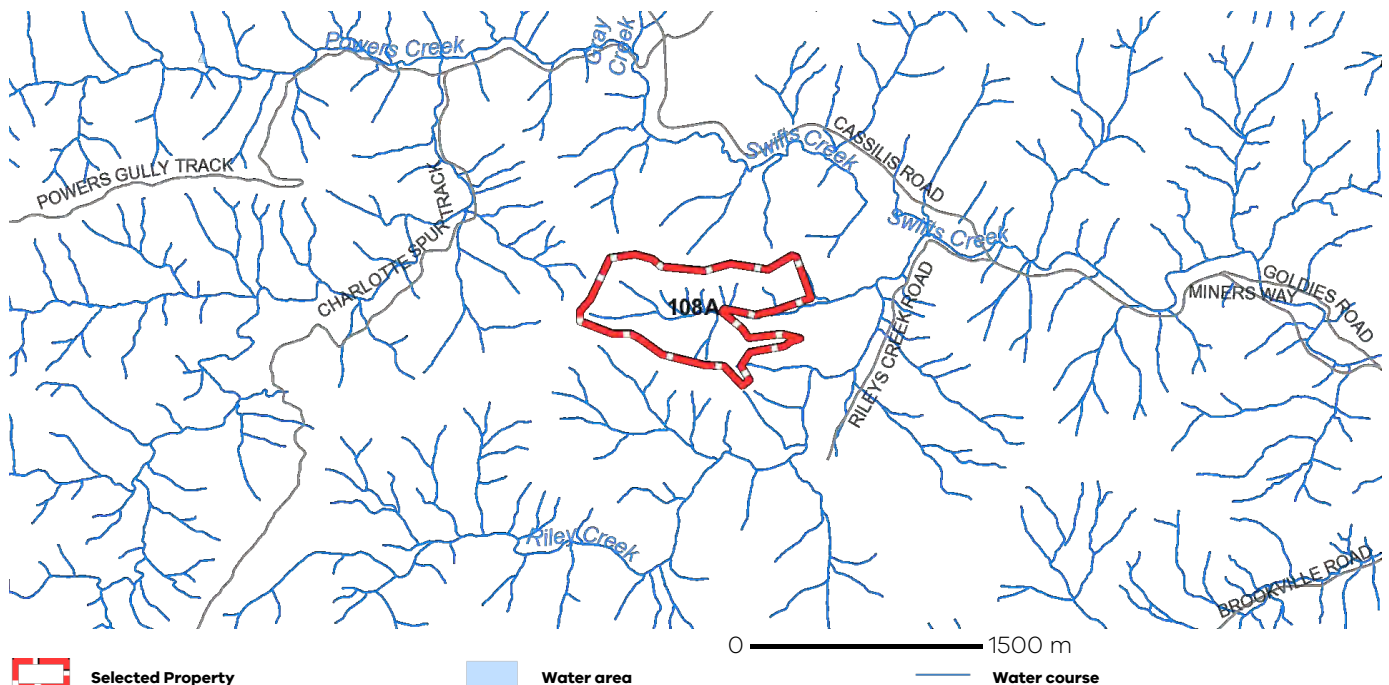
To obtain a Planning Certificate go to Titles and Property Certificates at Landata - <https://www.landata.vic.gov.au>

For details of surrounding properties, use this service to get the Reports for properties of interest.

To view planning zones, overlay and heritage information in an interactive format visit <https://mapshare.vic.gov.au/vicplan>

For other information about planning in Victoria visit <https://www.planning.vic.gov.au>

Area Map



From www.planning.vic.gov.au at 15 July 2022 05:33 PM

Address: **108A RILEYS CREEK ROAD SWIFTS CREEK 3896**

Lot and Plan Number: **Lot 1 TP892667**

Standard Parcel Identifier (SPI): **1\TP892667**

Local Government Area (Council): **EAST GIPPSLAND**

Council Property Number: **74170**

Planning Scheme: **East Gippsland**

Directory Reference: **Vicroads 66 C6**

www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au

Planning Scheme - East Gippsland

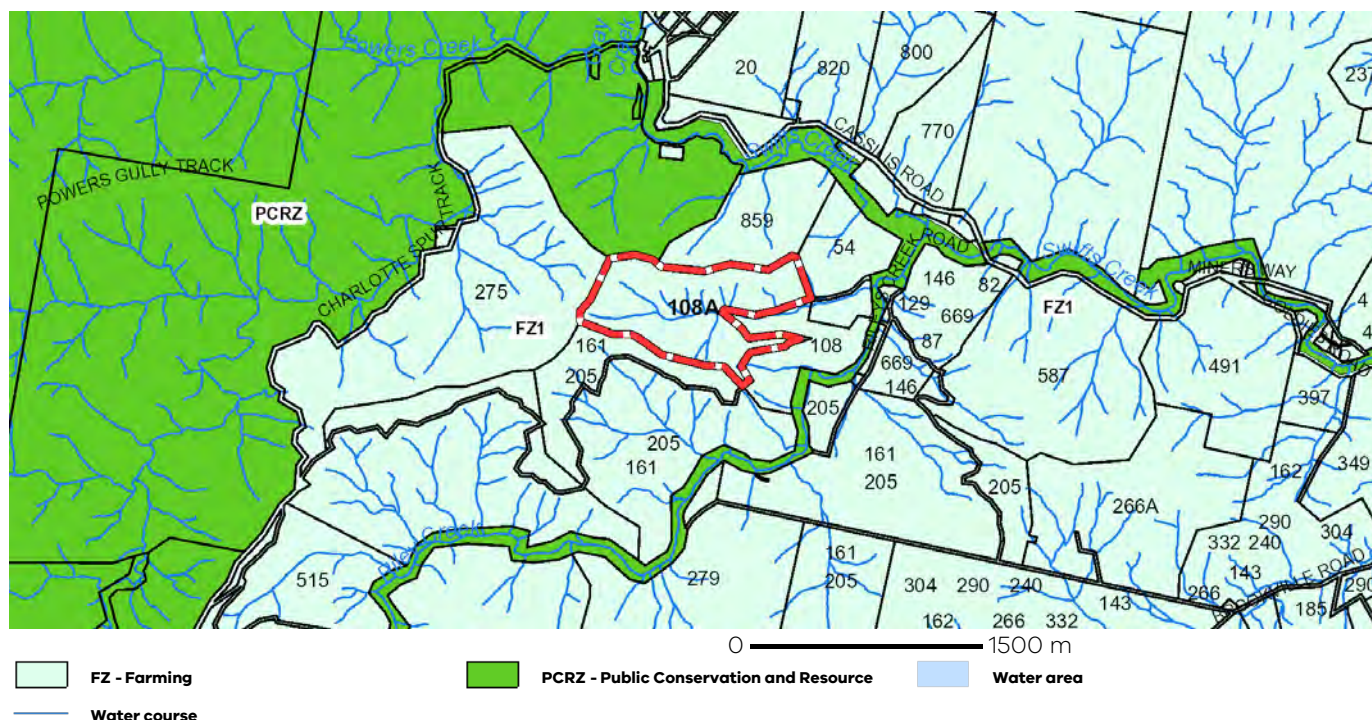
Rural Water Corporation:	Southern Rural Water
Urban Water Corporation:	East Gippsland Water
Melbourne Water:	Outside drainage boundary
Power Distributor:	AUSNET

Legislative Council: **EASTERN VICTORIA**
Legislative Assembly: **GIPPSLAND EAST**

Registered Aboriginal Party: **Gunaikurnai Land and Waters
Aboriginal Corporation**

[View location in VicPlan](#)

FARMING ZONE (FZ)
FARMING ZONE - SCHEDULE 1 (FZ1)



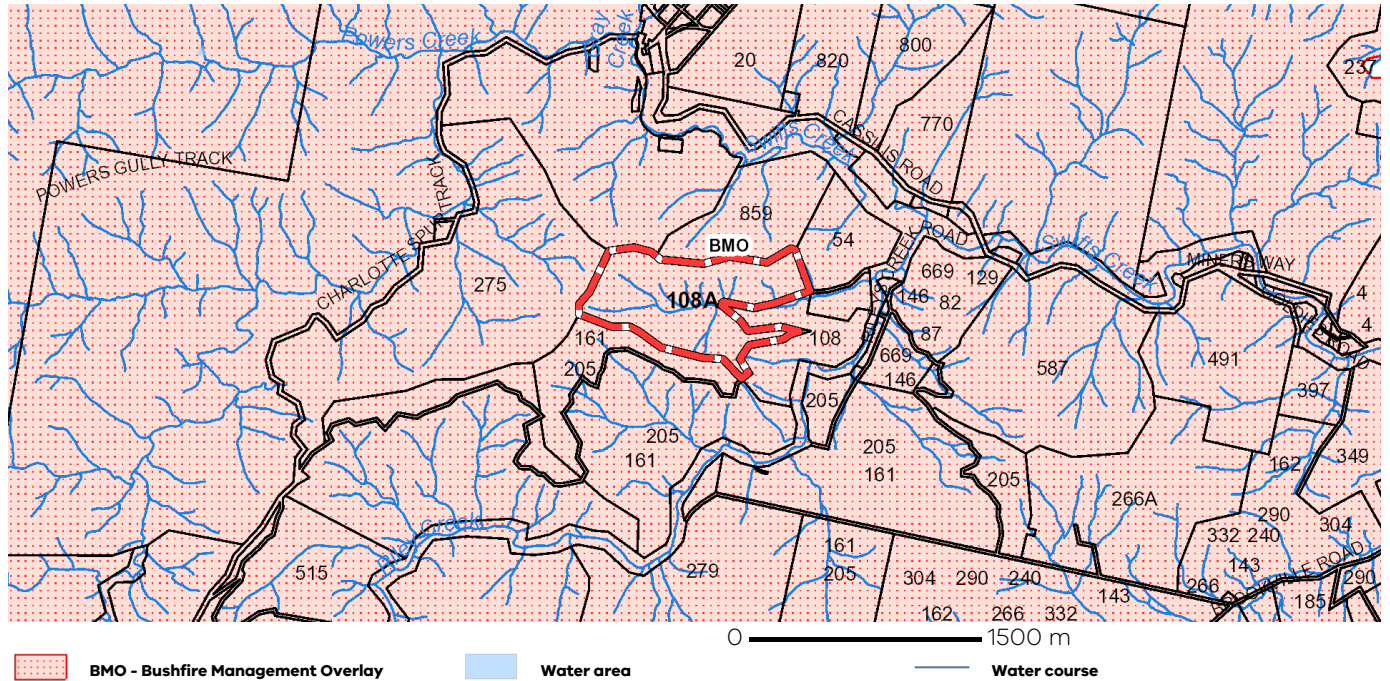
Note: labels for zones may appear outside the actual zone - please compare the labels with the legend.

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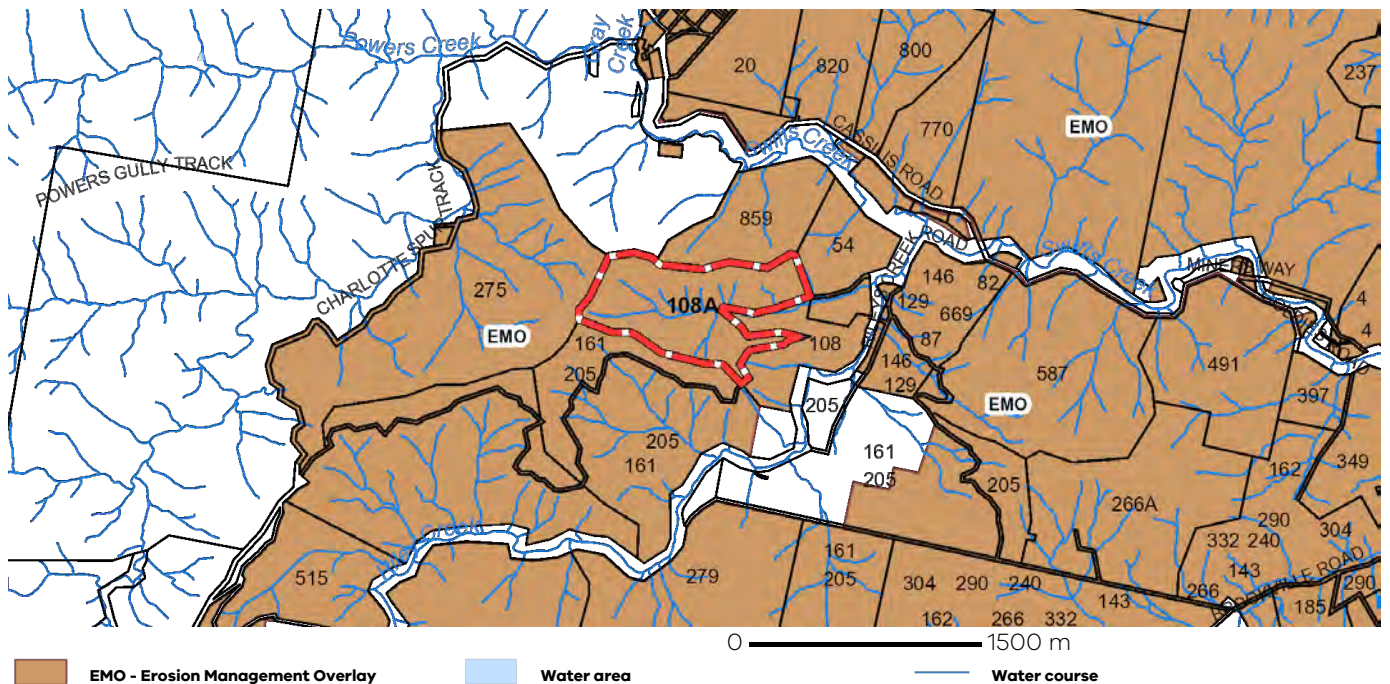
Planning Overlays

BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT OVERLAY (BMO)



EROSION MANAGEMENT OVERLAY (EMO)

EROSION MANAGEMENT OVERLAY SCHEDULE (EMO)



PLANNING PROPERTY REPORT

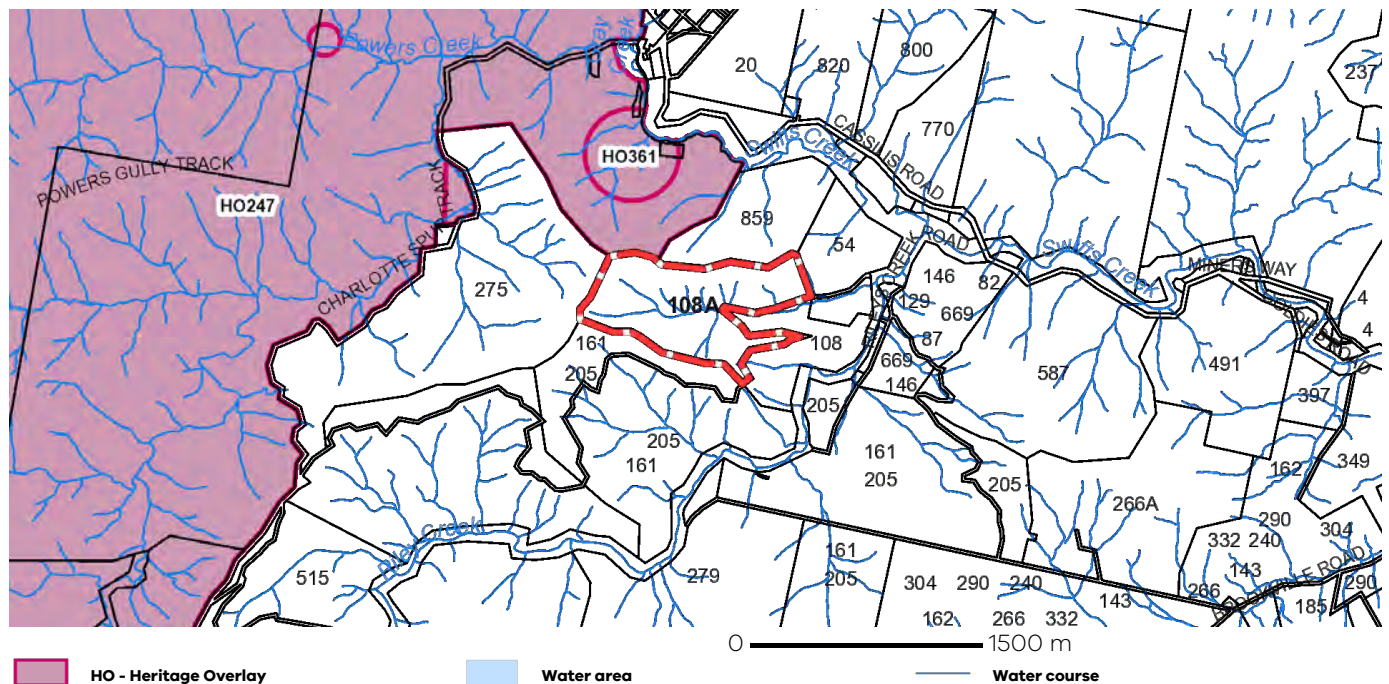
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Planning Overlays

OTHER OVERLAYS

Other overlays in the vicinity not directly affecting this land

HERITAGE OVERLAY (HO)



Further Planning Information

Planning scheme data last updated on 12 July 2022.

A **planning scheme** sets out policies and requirements for the use, development and protection of land. This report provides information about the zone and overlay provisions that apply to the selected land. Information about the State and local policy, particular, general and operational provisions of the local planning scheme that may affect the use of this land can be obtained by contacting the local council or by visiting <https://www.planning.vic.gov.au>

This report is NOT a **Planning Certificate** issued pursuant to Section 199 of the **Planning and Environment Act 1987**. It does not include information about exhibited planning scheme amendments, or zonings that may affect the land. To obtain a Planning Certificate go to Titles and Property Certificates at Landata - <https://www.landata.vic.gov.au>

For details of surrounding properties, use this service to get the Reports for properties of interest.

To view planning zones, overlay and heritage information in an interactive format visit <https://mapshare.maps.vic.gov.au/vicplan>

For other information about planning in Victoria visit <https://www.planning.vic.gov.au>

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Notwithstanding this disclaimer, a vendor may rely on the information in this report for the purpose of a statement that land is in a bushfire prone area as required by section 32C (b) of the Sale of Land 1962 (Vic).

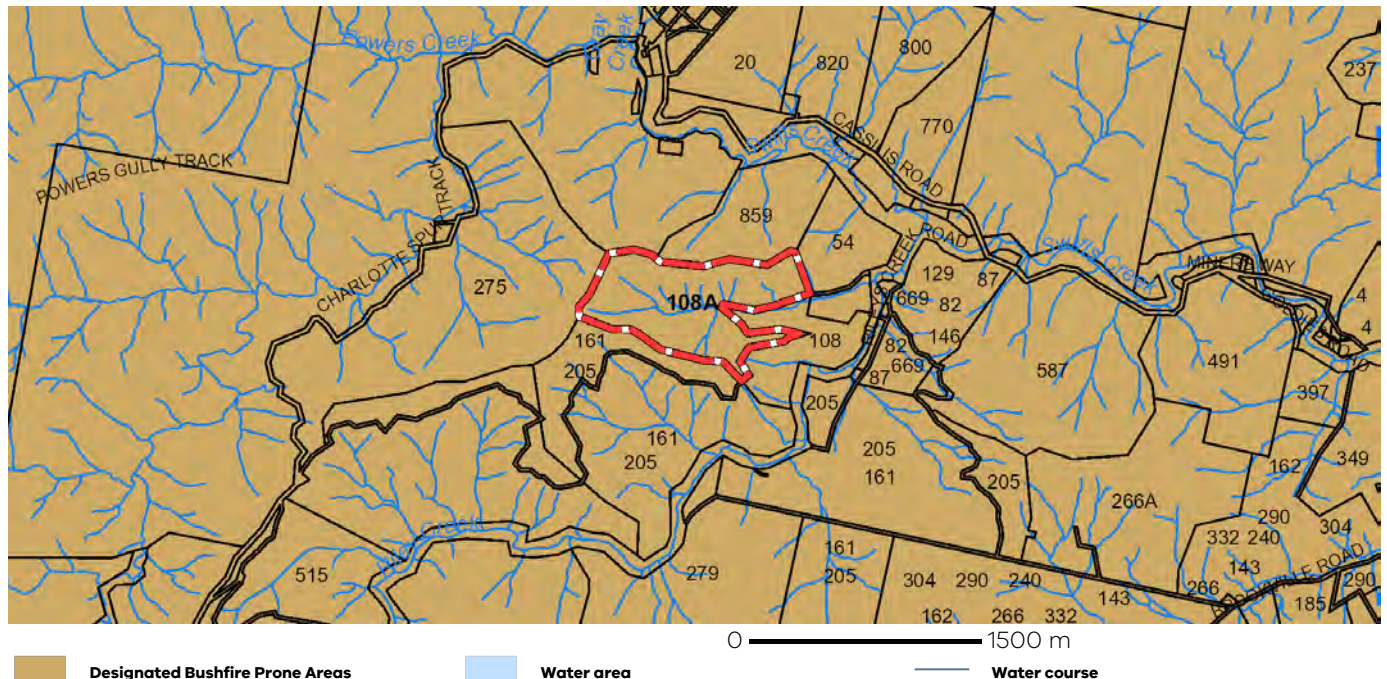
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Designated Bushfire Prone Areas

This property is in a designated bushfire prone area.
Special bushfire construction requirements apply. Planning provisions may apply.



Designated bushfire prone areas as determined by the Minister for Planning are in effect from 8 September 2011 and amended from time to time.

The Building Regulations 2018 through application of the Building Code of Australia, apply bushfire protection standards for building works in designated bushfire prone areas.

Designated bushfire prone areas maps can be viewed on VicPlan at <https://mapshare.vic.gov.au/vicplan> or at the relevant local council.

Note: prior to 8 September 2011, the whole of Victoria was designated as bushfire prone area for the purposes of the building control system.

Further information about the building control system and building in bushfire prone areas can be found on the Victorian Building Authority website <https://www.vba.vic.gov.au>

Copies of the Building Act and Building Regulations are available from <http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au>

For Planning Scheme Provisions in bushfire areas visit <https://www.planning.vic.gov.au>

Native Vegetation

Native plants that are indigenous to the region and important for biodiversity might be present on this property. This could include trees, shrubs, herbs, grasses or aquatic plants. There are a range of regulations that may apply including need to obtain a planning permit under Clause 52.17 of the local planning scheme. For more information see [Native Vegetation \(Clause 52.17\)](#) with local variations in [Native Vegetation \(Clause 52.17\) Schedule](#)

To help identify native vegetation on this property and the application of Clause 52.17 please visit the Native Vegetation Information Management system <https://nvim.delwp.vic.gov.au/> and [Native vegetation \(environment.vic.gov.au\)](https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/) or please contact your relevant council.

You can find out more about the natural values on your property through NatureKit [NatureKit \(environment.vic.gov.au\)](https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/)

Imaged Document Cover Sheet

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Number of Pages (excluding this cover sheet)	2
Document Assembled	15/07/2022 17:44

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IP 892667X

TITLE PLAN

EDITION 1

Location of Land

Parish : TONGIO – MUNJIE WEST
Township: -
Section: 20
Crown Allotment: 1A (PT)
Crown Portion: -

Last Plan Reference : -
Derived From : VOL. 8180 FOL. 887

Depth Limitation : 50 FEET BELOW THE SURFACE

SUBJECT TO THE RESERVATIONS, EXCEPTIONS, CONDITIONS AND POWERS CONTAINED IN CROWN GRANT VOL. 8180 FOL. 887 AND NOTED ON SHEET 2 OF THIS PLAN

ANY REFERENCE TO MAP IN THE TEXT MEANS THE DIAGRAM SHOWN ON THIS TITLE PLAN

Description of Land/ Easement Information

THIS PLAN HAS BEEN PREPARED BY
LAND REGISTRY, LAND VICTORIA FOR
TITLE DIAGRAM PURPOSES

COMPILED: Date 11/07/07

VERIFIED: A. DALLAS

Assistant Registrar of Titles

COLOUR CODE
Y = YELLOW

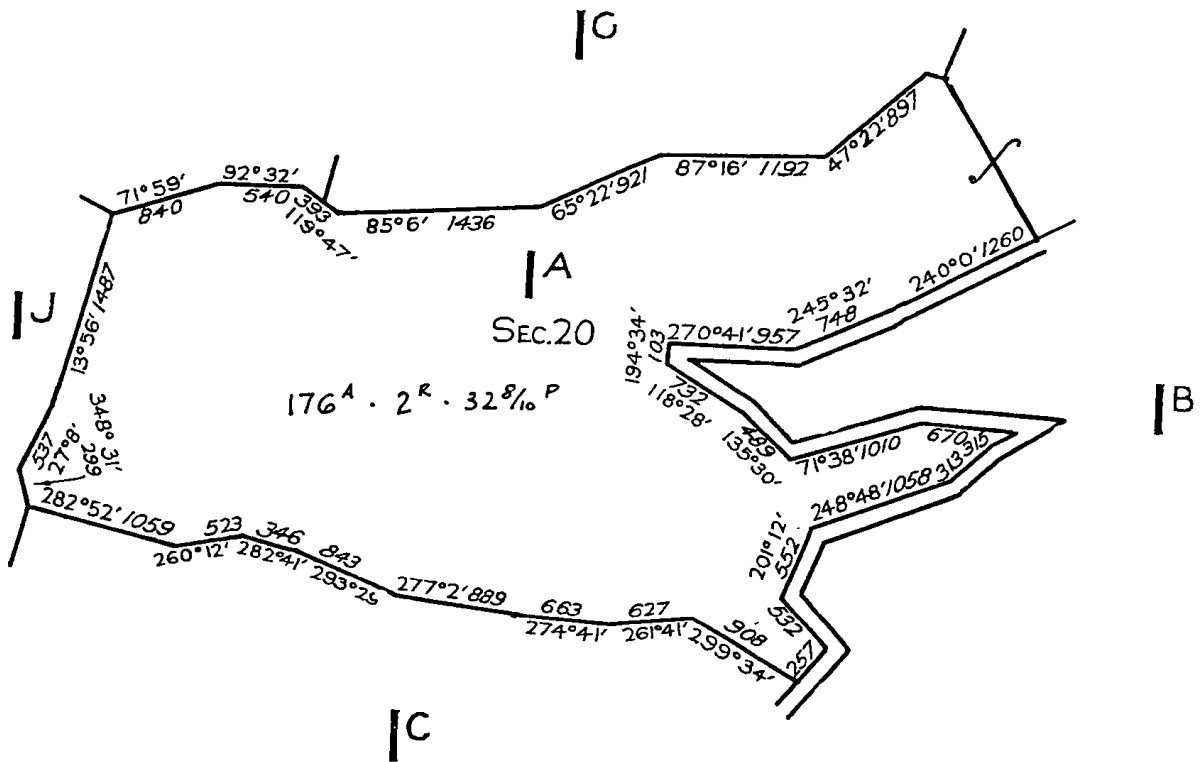


TABLE OF PARCEL IDENTIFIERS

WARNING: Where multiple parcels are referred to or shown on the Title Plan this does Not imply separately disposable parcels under Section 8A of the Sale of Land Act 1962

LOT 1 = CA 1A (PT)

LENGTHS ARE IN
LINKS

Metres = 0.3048 x Feet
Metres = 0.201168 x Links

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Sheet 1 of 2 Sheets

TP 892667X

TITLE PLAN

LAND DESCRIPTION INCLUDING RESERVATIONS EXCEPTIONS CONDITIONS AND POWERS AS SHOWN ON THE CROWN GRANT

ALL THAT PIECE OF LAND in the said State containing **two hundred and seventy-one acres three roods and thirty-nine perches more or less being Allotments one^A and one^B of Section twenty in the Parish of Tongio-Munjie West County of Dargo**

delineated and colored yellow in the map in the margin hereof TOGETHER with the right to sink wells for water and to the use for all purposes of any wells and springs now or hereafter upon the said land as though this Grant had been made without any limitation as to depth PROVIDED that this Grant is made subject to—

- (a) the reservation to Us Our heirs and successors of—
 - (i) all gold silver petroleum uranium thorium and minerals within the meaning of the Mines Acts (hereinafter called “the reserved minerals”);
 - (ii) rights of access for the purpose of searching for and obtaining the reserved minerals in any part of the said land;
 - (iii) rights for access and for pipe-lines works and other purposes necessary for obtaining and conveying on and from the said land any of the reserved minerals which is obtained in any part of the said land;
- (b) the right to resume the said land for mining purposes pursuant to section 168 of the *Land Act 1928*;
- (c) the right of any person being the holder of a miner's right or of a mining lease or mineral lease under the *Mines Act 1928* or any corresponding previous enactment to enter on the said land and to mine for gold or minerals within the meaning of that Act and to erect and occupy mining plant or machinery thereon in the same manner and under the same conditions and provisions as those under which such a person has now the right to mine for gold and silver in and upon Crown lands provided that neither the grantee nor anyone claiming through or under him shall be entitled to any compensation in respect of any damage done to the said land or any improvements thereon by mining therein or thereon within the meaning of the *Mines Act 1928* or of any Act for the time being in force relating to mining or by the cutting or removing of any timber thereon or therefrom for the purpose of mining as aforesaid or for any purpose authorized by that Act.

LENGTHS ARE IN
LINKS

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Metres = 0.201168 x Links



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**EARTH RESOURCES REGULATOR
RERERRAL CONSULTATION CHECKLIST – INITIAL WORK PLAN**

TENEMENT ID:	PL007319
APPLICANT NAME(S):	Mines of Stirling Pty Ltd
ADDRESS (correspondence):	Suite 27, 401 Pacific Highway Artarmon New South Wales 2064 Australia
SITE MEETING:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes Date: <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA Comment: Virtual only required (site meeting held).
APPLICATION TYPE:	Initially exploration revised to mining work proposal required following submission.
CODE OF PRACTICE:	<input type="checkbox"/> Proposed Comment:
CODE OF PRACTICE: (Update once status is determined)	<input type="checkbox"/> Confirmed (only applies once all the criteria have been met) <input type="checkbox"/> Does not apply / work plan is required Comment:
MUNICIPALITY/SHIRE:	East Gippsland Shire
LAND STATUS:	<input type="checkbox"/> Crown <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Crown & Private (If Crown Land - Has proponent been informed of NT issues?)
ADDRESS (site):	108A RILEYS CREEK ROAD, SWIFTS CREEK, VIC 3896
PROPERTY PARCEL REF:	Lot and Plan Number: Lot 1 TP892667 Standard Parcel Identifier (SPI): 1\TP892667



Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action

Agencies may elect to provide a desktop response and not attend the initial site meeting. This is acceptable where the management of any issues is not required or is not complex.

If agencies determine that there is no requirement or elect to provide a desktop response. The advice must be given before the initial site meeting and tabled on the day for discussion and comment.

If EES criteria have been listed, please determine if an EES is required.

MRSDA S.77TE (1) – Planning and Environment Act 1987

USE AND DEVELOPMENT - VPP

Tick If Applicable ✓	Tick if Referred under the VPP CLAUSE ✓	AGENCY	REFERRAL TRIGGER
		EPA	<p>Clause 66.02-1 Use or development requiring any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A Development Licence or Operating Licence in accordance with Part 4.4 of the <i>Environment Protection Act 2017</i> – Amendment of a licence in accordance with Part 4.3 of the <i>Environment Protection Act 2017</i>. <p>N/A</p>
		DEECA - PA	<p>Clause 66.02-2 Native Vegetation – (Refer to parameters provided in cl66.02-2 of the VPP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – To remove, destroy or lop native vegetation in the Detailed Assessment Pathway as defined in the <i>Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation</i> (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2017). – includes clearing of 0.5 hectare or more – To remove, destroy or lop native vegetation if a property vegetation plan applies to the site. – To remove, destroy or lop native vegetation on Crown land which is occupied or managed by the responsible authority. <p>N/A</p>
		INSERT RELEVANT ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION AUTHORITY	<p>Clause 66.02-4 Works within 60 metres of a major electricity transmission line (220 Kilovolts or more), or transmission easement.</p> <p>N/A</p>
✓	✓	East Gippsland Water	<p>Clause 66.02-5 Special Water Supply Catchment Area as listed in Schedule 5 of</p>



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			the <i>Catchment & Land Protection Act 1994</i> (refer to GeoVic) <i>Work is proposed within Declared catchment 'Tambo River' (portal development, earthworks, storage of waste rock)</i>
		HV	Clause 66.02-8 Extractive Industry – <i>Heritage Act 2017</i> – (Not CHMP issues) N/A
		DEECA - PA	Clause 66.02-8 Extractive Industry – Crown Land or land abutting Crown land, other than a government road N/A
✓	✓	DEECA - PA	Clause 66.02-8 Extractive Industry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Special Areas declared under Section 27 <i>Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994</i> (refer to GeoVic). – Removal or destruction of native vegetation if total area to be cleared is 10 hectares or greater. – Land identified in the planning scheme as being subject to high erosion risk or areas identified as being subject to salinity management. <i>Prospecting licence covered by a land management overlay being subject to high erosion risk and salinity.</i>
		DEECA - PA	Clause 66.02-8 Extractive Industry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – In areas with communities or taxa listed or critical habitat determined under the <i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988</i>. – On land which has been identified in the planning scheme as containing sites of flora or fauna significance. N/A
		DEECA - PA	Clause 66.02-8 Extractive Industry On land which has been identified in the planning scheme as flood prone. N/A
		EPA	Clause 66.02-8 Extractive Industry – where the land is intended to be used for land fill at a future date. N/A



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ZONES AND OVERLAYS - VPP			
Tick If Applicable ✓	Tick if Referred under the VPP CLAUSE ✓	AGENCY	REFERRAL TRIGGER
		INSERT RELEVANT FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY	Clause 37.03-5 Urban Floodway Zone (UFZ)
		DEECA - PA	Clause 44.02-8 Salinity Management Overlay (SMO)
		INSERT RELEVANT FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY	Clause 44.03-6 Floodway Overlay (FO or RFO)
		INSERT RELEVANT FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY	Clause 44.04-7 Land Subject to Inundation (LSIO)
		INSERT RELEVANT FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY	Clause 44.05-6 Special Building Overlay (SBO)
		INSERT RELEVANT AUTHORITY AS PER SCHEDULE TO CLAUSE	Clause 44.07-4 State Resource Overlay (SRO)
		PL007319	Clause 45.01-3 Public Acquisition Overlay (PAO)
		INSERT RELEVANT AUTHORITY AS PER SCHEDULE TO cl66.04	Clause 66.04 Referral of Permit Applications Under Local Provisions <i>Indicate relevant Overlay and Schedule to Overlay (if applicable)</i>
MRSDA S.77TE (1A) – Environment Protection Act 2017			
Tick If	Tick if Referred	AGENCY	REFERRAL TRIGGER



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Applicable ✓	under the MRSDA ✓		
		EPA	Mining work plan or work plan variation on a Mining Licence. Automatic referral agency even in the absence of Development Licence or Operating Licence requirements (VPP 66.02-1)
OTHER REFERRALS			
Tick If Applicable ✓	Tick if referred for comment ✓	AGENCY	REFERRAL TRIGGER
✓	✓	East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority	Floodplains / Catchment Health / Waterways Protection & Management <i>Works proposed within 30m of a designated waterway.</i>
		INSERT RELEVANT WATER AUTHORITY	Groundwater / Water Use Management
		INSERT RELEVANT AUTHORITY	Distribution Network (Power / Gas / Water / Communications) - Infrastructure Protection & Management
		INSERT RELEVANT FP - SR REGION	Cultural Heritage Protection and Management
		INSERT RAP	Cultural Heritage Protection and Management
		Department of Transport	Declared Road / Site Access Design
	NA	Council OR DEECA - PA	Government Road (made/unmade) - Site Design / Road Use
✓	✓	DEECA - PA DEECA ERR/PA MoU	Environment / Biodiversity Protection and Management <i>Removal of <0.5ha of native vegetation.</i>
		EPA DEECA ERR/EPA MoU & Other	Discharge / Noise / Environmental Impacts



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		WorkSafe DEECA ERR / WorkSafe MoU	Workers Safety
		INSERT RELEVANT AUTHORITY AS PER SCHEDULE TO cl66.06	Notice of Permit Applications Under Local Provisions Clause 66.06 of planning scheme <i>Indicate relevant Overlay and Schedule to Overlay (if applicable)</i>
		CFA	Fire Protection and Management The site includes a BMO or WMO and operations include treatment of waste materials.
		Victorian Planning Authority	Land Use – UGZ Metro A Precinct Structure Plan (PSP) is in place or in development, WITHIN Melbourne's urban growth boundary
		DEECA - PA	Land Use – UGZ Outside Metro A Precinct Structure Plan (PSP) is in place or in development, OUTSIDE Melbourne's urban growth boundary
		INSERT ANY OTHER RELEVANT AUTHORITY	Public Infrastructure* Protection and Management *Railways / Wind Turbines / Bridges / Reservoir Dam Walls etc
	NA	DEECA – ERR Assessments	Earth resources development approval and regulatory matters.
	NA	DEECA – ERR Technical Services	
	NA	DEECA – ERR Compliance	
	NA	DEECA – ERR Stakeholder Engagement	
	NA	INSERT RELEVANT COUNCIL	Planning Permissions / Site Access / Traffic Management
	NA	Land Owner &/OR Representative	Site Access / Rehabilitation



Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action

	NA	Crown Land Manager	Any work proposed under a licence on restricted Crown land. Licensee to be made aware and provide advice regarding the consent requirement. s.44 Particular consent etc. required.
	NA	INSERT MELBOURNE WATER CORPORATION OR AUTHORITY	Any work proposed under a licence on land that is owned, vested, managed or controlled by Melbourne Water Corporation or an authority under the Water Act 1989. Licensee to be made aware and provide advice regarding the consent requirement. s.44 Particular consent etc. required.
	NA	Mineral Tenement Holder	A current minerals licence* covers part or all of the site Licensee to be made aware and provide advice regarding the consent requirement. s.77S MRSDA - Land Subject to a licence under Part 2 An applicant must seek consent from a minerals licence holder (EL, RL, MIN) *Exploration licence (EL, retention licence (RL) or mining licence (MIN)
ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS STATEMENT REFERRAL			
Tick If Applicable ✓	Tick if EES is not required ✓	AGENCY	REFERRAL CRITERIA
		DTP - IAU	Criteria Type - Individual
		DTP - IAU	Criteria Type – Combination (2 or more)

ACRONYM	Description
DEECA PA	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action – Environment
DEECA ERR	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action – Earth Resources Regulation
DTP IAU	Department of Transport and Planning – Impacts Assessment Unit
EES	Environmental Effects Statement
EPA	Environment Protection Authority
FP-SR	First People – State Relations
HV	Heritage Victoria
RAP	Registered Aboriginal Party
VPP	Victorian Planning Provisions



Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning

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8 September 2023

71 Hotham Street
Traralgon Victoria 3844
Telephone: +61 3 5172 2111
www.delwp.vic.gov.au

Leonardo Guaraldo
Delegate of the Department Head
Assistant Director, Assessments
Earth Resources Regulator
Spring Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Email: Workplan.Approvals@ecodev.vic.gov.au

Our ref: SP485498
Your ref: PL007319

Dear Leonardo

PROPOSAL: SNOWSTORM PROJECT (PLN-001755)
APPLICANT: MINES OF STIRLING PTY LTD
ADDRESS: 108A RILEYS CREEK ROAD SWIFTS CREEK 3896

Thank you for your correspondence in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding for *Earth Resource Industries approvals and other obligations and responsibilities* (17 August 2021), received on 1 September 2023.

Under delegation from the Secretary, the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) is giving advice in accordance with the MoU for the removal of less than 0.5 hectares of native vegetation on private land.

Having considered the application DEECA does not object to the removal of native vegetation and recommends the following conditions:

Notification of permit conditions

1. Before works start, the license holder must advise all persons undertaking the vegetation removal works on site of all Work Plan conditions pertaining to native vegetation protection.

Protection of native vegetation to be retained

2. Before works start, a native vegetation protection fence must be erected around all native vegetation to be retained within 15 metres of the works area. This fence must be erected at:
 - a) a radius of 12 times the diameter of the tree trunk at a height of 1.4 metres to a maximum of 15 metres but no less than 2 metres from the base of the trunk of the tree; and
 - b) around the patch(es) of native vegetation at a minimum distance of 2 metres from retained native vegetation.
3. The fence must be constructed of star pickets and paraweb or similar to the satisfaction of the responsible authority. The protection fence must remain in place until all works are completed to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

Privacy Statement

Any personal information about you or a third party in your correspondence will be protected under the provisions of the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014. It will only be used or disclosed to appropriate Ministerial, Statutory Authority, or departmental staff in regard to the purpose for which it was provided, unless required or authorised by law. Enquiries about access to information about you held by the Department should be directed to foi.unit@delwp.vic.gov.au or FOI Unit, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, PO Box 500, East Melbourne, Victoria 8002.



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4. Except with the written consent of the responsible authority, within the area of native vegetation to be retained and any tree protection zone associated with the permitted use and/or development, the following is prohibited:
 - a) vehicular or pedestrian access;
 - b) trenching or soil excavation;
 - c) storage or dumping of any soils, materials, equipment, vehicles, machinery or waste products;
 - d) construction of entry and exit pits for underground services; or
 - e) any other actions or activities that may result in adverse impacts to retained native vegetation.

Native vegetation offsets

5. The total area of native vegetation permitted to be removed is 0.042 hectares, described in the Native Vegetation Removal Report CUM_2023_001.
6. To offset the removal of 0.042 hectares of native vegetation the permit holder must secure a native vegetation offset(s) that meets all the following:
 - a) general offset of 0.010 general habitat units located within the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority boundary or East Gippsland Shire Council;
 - b) have a Strategic Biodiversity Value score of at least 0.512

Offset evidence

7. Before any native vegetation is removed, evidence the required offset for the project has been secured must be provided to the satisfaction of the responsible authority in consultation with DEECA. This evidence is one or both of the following:
 - a) An established first party offset site including a security agreement signed by both parties, and a management plan detailing the 10-year management actions and ongoing management of the site and/or
 - b) Credit extract(s) allocated to the permit from the Native Vegetation Credit Register.
8. A copy of the offset evidence will be endorsed by the responsible authority and form part of this Work Plan. Within 30 days of endorsement of the offset evidence by the responsible authority, the applicant must provide a copy of the endorsed offset evidence DEECA via gippsland.planning@delwp.vic.gov.au

If you have any queries, please contact gippsland.planning@delwp.vic.gov.au

Yours sincerely

C. Henderson

Carmel Henderson
Program Manager Planning Approvals
Central East Region

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EAST GIPPSLAND
CATCHMENT
MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITY

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(PO Box 1012)
Bairnsdale Vic 3876
PHONE: (03) 5152 0600
FAX: (03) 5150 3555
ABN 72 411 984 201

EGCMA Ref: EGCMA-F-2023-00208
Document No: 1
Ref No: PL007319
Date: 26 September 2023

Leonardo Guaraldo
Delegate of the Department Head

Dear Leonardo,

Reference No.: PL007319

Property **Street:** 108a Rileys Creek Road, Swifts Creek Vic 3896
Cadastral: Lot 2 PS316745, Parish of Wa-de-lock

Applicant(s): Mines of Stirling Pty Ltd

I refer to your referral of a Work Plan Variation for our comment received at the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority ('the Authority') on 30 August 2023.

The proposed work plan variation is unlikely to have adverse impacts on the designated waterway.

The Authority **does not object** to the Work Plan Variation as presented.

All works within 30 metres of a designated waterway require a Works on Waterways permit from the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority issued under *the Water Act 1989*. An application form is available here [Works on Waterways Application Form](#).

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Ben Proctor on 1300 094 262 or email planning@wgcm.vic.gov.au. To assist the Authority in handling any enquiries please quote **EGCMA-F-2023-00208** in your correspondence with us.

Yours sincerely,

Penny Phillipson
Acting Gippsland Floodplain Officer

The information contained in this correspondence is subject to the disclaimers and definitions attached.

Definitions and Disclaimers

1. The area referred to in this letter as the 'proposed development location' is the land parcel(s) that, according to the Authority's assessment, most closely represent(s) the location identified by the applicant. The identification of the 'proposed development location' on the Authority's GIS has been done in good faith and in accordance with the information given to the Authority by the applicant(s) and/or the local government authority.
2. While every endeavour has been made by the Authority to identify the proposed development location on its GIS using VicMap Parcel and Address data, the Authority accepts no responsibility for or makes no warranty with regard to the accuracy or naming of this proposed development location according to its official land title description.
3. **AEP** as Annual Exceedance Probability is the likelihood of occurrence of a flood of given size or larger occurring in any one year. AEP is expressed as a percentage (%) risk and may be expressed as the reciprocal of ARI (Average Recurrence Interval).

Please note that the 1% probability flood is not the probable maximum flood (PMF). There is always a possibility that a flood larger in height and extent than the 1% probability flood may occur in the future.

4. **AHD** as Australian Height Datum is the adopted national height datum that generally relates to height above mean sea level. Elevation is in metres.
5. **ARI** as Average Recurrence Interval is the likelihood of occurrence, expressed in terms of the long-term average number of years, between flood events as large as or larger than the design flood event. For example, floods with a discharge as large as or larger than the 100 year ARI flood will occur on average once every 100 years.
6. Nominal Flood Protection Level is the minimum height required to protect a building or its contents, which includes a freeboard above the 1% AEP flood level.
7. No warranty is made as to the accuracy or liability of any studies, estimates, calculations, opinions, conclusions, recommendations (which may change without notice) or other information contained in this letter and, to the maximum extent permitted by law, the Authority disclaims all liability and responsibility for any direct or indirect loss or damage which may be suffered by any recipient or other person through relying on anything contained in or omitted from this letter.
8. This letter has been prepared for the sole use by the party to whom it is addressed and no responsibility is accepted by the Authority with regard to any third party use of the whole or of any part of its contents. Neither the whole nor any part of this letter or any reference thereto may be included in any document, circular or statement without the Authority's written approval of the form and context in which it would appear.
9. The flood information provided represents the best estimates based on currently available information. This information is subject to change as new information becomes available and as further studies are carried out.
10. Please note that land levels provided by the Authority are an estimate only and should not be relied on by the applicant. Prior to any detailed planning or building approvals, a licensed surveyor should be engaged to confirm the above levels.



25 September 2023

EGW Ref: DOC/23/53002

To: Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action

Attention: Ben Seamons
Assessment Officer | Earth Resources Regulator | Resources Victoria

Reference: Prospecting Licence PL007319
East Gippsland Water Response to Referral Work Plan PLN-001755 Mines of
Stirling Pty Ltd - 20230830

Dear Ben

EGW acknowledges the work plan provided to the Department, assessed as complying with the regulations, does not impact either ground waters or surface waters related to EGW operations in the Swifts Creek area with focus on the Tambo River.

EGW staff attended the onsite meeting held 11th August 2022 and as a result of a subsequent review of all documentation provided, we confirm that East Gippsland Region Water Corporation do not object to statutory endorsement for this project.

Yours faithfully,

Steve McKenzie
MANAGING DIRECTOR

MINERAL RESOURCES (SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT) ACT 1990

SCHEDULE 5

Regulation 28(3)

PROSPECTING LICENCE - PL007319

I, Laura Helm, acting as the delegate of the Minister, grant to **Mines of Stirling Pty Ltd, Suite 27, 401 Pacific Highway, Artarmon, New South Wales 2064** this prospecting licence. The licence is granted under section 25 of the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990* (the Act) and is effective for a term of **7** years from date of registration.

This licence is subject to the following conditions and to the Schedule of Conditions attached—

1. The licensee must, from the date of registration of the licence, expend \$15,000 per year on work in the licensed area, unless this requirement is varied, or application of this requirement is suspended for a specified period, in accordance with the Act.
2. The authority given under this licence applies only within the land indicated on the attached plan and is subject to the depth restrictions, if any, indicated on that plan under section 15(9) or 26(3A) of the Act.
3. The licensee must make available a copy of—
 - (a) this licence; and
 - (b) any approved work plan or approved variation to a work plan—
 at a location in or near the licensed area so that an inspector or any other authorised officer can readily inspect them.
4. On satisfying the requirements of section 42(1) of the Act, the licensee must notify an inspector of mines and, if required by that inspector, must arrange an on-site briefing for any people the inspector may nominate.
5. The licensee must report immediately in writing to the Department Head the discovery of minerals potentially capable of production in commercial quantities.
6. The licensee must pay rent from the date of registration of the licence.
7. The licensee must work in accordance with any approved work plan including any time frames specified in the approved work plan or in accordance with a Code of Practice made under Part 8A of the Act.

Signed by



Laura Helm
A/Executive Director, Earth Resources Regulation
Date: 8 / 04 / 2021

Date of Registration

08/04/2021

Time of Registration

5:15 pm

MINING REGISTRAR
Mineral Resources
(Sustainable Development)
Act 1990

F 90013725

Printed 19/03/2024
Page 211 of 222

Schedule of Conditions

IMPORTANT NOTE: The conditions in this schedule address a wide range of activities. You may not have approval for all the activities described. Work other than “low impact exploration” may only be undertaken in accordance with a work plan approved by the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR) or in accordance with the Code of Practice for Low Risk Mines.

PART A GENERAL CONDITIONS

2. WORKING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE APPROVED WORK PLAN

- 2.1. The licensee must carry out work in accordance with the Approved Work Plan and any subsequent Approved Work Plan Variations.
- 2.2. Where any inconsistency occurs between an Approved Work Plan and/or an Approved Work Plan Variation or the associated Approved Work Plan conditions, and other licence conditions and/or regulations, the licence conditions and/or regulations have precedence.
- 2.3. Where requested by the Department Head, the licensee must submit a Work Plan Variation.

3. DOCUMENTATION AND RECORDS

- 3.1. The licensee must record activities undertaken and the subsequent results obtained, regarding the implementation of any auditing, environmental and rehabilitation monitoring programs, and complaints received.
- 3.2. The licensee must ensure that documentation generated for any auditing, environmental and rehabilitation monitoring program, and any complaints received is appropriately stored and accessible to relevant personnel and is available upon request by an Inspector.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

- 4.1. The licensee must ensure that the relevant Earth Resources Regulation (ERR) Regional Manager is at all times aware of the appropriate contact person for activities conducted within the licence including exploration.
- 4.2. Where exploration is approved by an area work plan, the licensee must submit a written work schedule for any program of work. The work schedule must be submitted to the relevant ERR Regional Manager and the Crown land Manager (for work on Crown land) at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the commencement of work. The licensee must comply with any request by the relevant Regional Manager to defer, cease or modify the proposed works.
- 4.3. Prior to commencing ground intrusive work or work involving the removal or damaging of native vegetation under the definition of low impact exploration the licensee must submit a rehabilitation bond to the satisfaction of the Minister
- 4.4. Where ground intrusive work or work involving the removal or damaging of native vegetation is carried out under the definition of low impact exploration the licensee must notify the Crown land manager (for works on Crown land) and the ERR Chief Inspector at least 7 days prior to the commencement of work. Notification must include:
 - Start date, and
 - Proposed ground intrusive work, and/or
 - Proposed removal or damaging of native vegetation, and
 - Location.

5. PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE

- 5.1. Prior to commencing any work, the licensee must have public liability insurance that covers all work authorised under the licence and ensure the insurance is valid at all times while work occurs under the licence.

6. PUBLIC SAFETY

- 6.1. The licensee must ensure that public safety is maintained within the licence area at all times, including through the use of fencing, gates and signage as required around the work area.
- 6.2. The licensee must ensure that all fences are maintained to prevent access to the work site and that all gates are locked when the work site is unattended.

7. FIRE RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1. The licensee must take all reasonable measures to prevent the ignition and spread of fire.
- 7.2. The licensee must ensure that all buildings, fixed plant and mobile equipment are fitted with fire-fighting equipment, such as fire extinguishers, fire blankets, knapsack spray pumps and rake-hoes.
- 7.3. The licensee must develop and implement an appropriate fire response and readiness plan.

8. DESIGNATED PARKING AREAS

- 8.1. The licensee must provide designated parking areas for employees and visitors at the work site.
- 8.2. The licensee must ensure that the designated parking area is of sufficient size to accommodate the expected number of vehicles that employees and visitors may bring to the work site on a daily basis.
- 8.3. The licensee must ensure that designated parking areas are designed and constructed to provide safe access for vehicles and people.

9. COMPLAINTS MANAGEMENT

- 9.1. The licensee must establish and maintain a complaints register.
- 9.2. In response to a complaint, the licensee must record the following information in the complaints register:
 - (a) the date and time of the complaint;
 - (b) who the complaint was from;
 - (c) the specific issue/s raised in the complaint; and
 - (d) the actions taken to address the specific issue/s raised in the complaint.

10. NON-COMPLIANCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENT NOTIFICATION

- 10.1. In the event that the licensee becomes aware of:
 - (a) any non-compliance with the conditions of the licence and/or the approved work plan, including the intersection of ground water where dry extraction is proposed, and/or
 - (b) an environmental incident that will or is likely to cause, significant harm to the environment
 the licensee must as soon as is practicably possible notify the relevant Regional Manager of the non-compliance and/or environmental incident.
- 10.2. The licensee must also notify any other relevant government department, agency, or management authority of the non-compliance and/or incident.
- 10.3. Where requested to provide a written report on the non-compliance or environmental incident, the licensee must provide a written report within 5 business days of the request that includes the following information:
 - (a) the date and time of the non-compliance and/or environmental incident;
 - (b) the cause, or likely cause of the non-compliance and/or environmental incident;
 - (c) the impacts, or likely impacts of the non-compliance and/or environmental incident;
 - (d) the actions that have been taken to prevent, minimise or otherwise manage the impacts, or likely impacts of the non-compliance and/or environmental incident; and
 - (e) the actions that will be taken to prevent such a non-compliance and/or environmental incident from happening again in the future.

11. REPORTING, MONITORING AND AUDITING

- 11.1. The licensee must implement a program for monitoring environmental impacts and rehabilitation.
- 11.2. The licensee must submit an Annual Report to the Regional Manager that includes:
 - (a) an outline of exploration and mining activities undertaken over that year;
 - (b) the results of any environmental audits conducted over that year;
 - (c) details of current progressive rehabilitation activities and targets;
 - (d) details of completed rehabilitation activities over that year.

PART C ACTIVITY BASED CONDITIONS

12. GROUND DISTURBANCE

- 12.1. The licensee must minimise the area of ground disturbance throughout the life of the mining operation.
- 12.2. The licensee must not open up any area for mining and ancillary operations except where approved in the Approved Work Plan.

13. SOIL MANAGEMENT

- 13.1. The licensee must take all reasonable measures to minimise adverse impacts on the physical and biological health of soil within the licence.
- 13.2. Where excavation occurs, the licensee must ensure that topsoil to a depth of 150mm below the natural surface is removed and placed in stockpiles not exceeding 2m in height.
- 13.3. The licensee must ensure that topsoil stockpiles are protected from erosion and compaction.

14. EROSION, DRAINAGE AND WATER QUALITY CONTROLS

- 14.1. The licensee must design, install and maintain erosion and sediment controls to prevent erosion of areas of disturbed land and sedimentation of waterways.
- 14.2. Where activities are being conducted in waters or on the banks of waterways with water in them, the licensee must take all reasonable measures to minimise sedimentation of the water in the waterway.
- 14.3. The licensee must take all reasonable measures to prevent contaminated runoff from entering receiving waterways.

15. VEGETATION MANAGEMENT AND BUFFER ZONES

- 15.1. The licensee must take all reasonable measures to avoid, minimise and/or offset the removal and disturbance of native vegetation and faunal habitats.
- 15.2. Where activities not covered by an Approved Work Plan are proposed to be undertaken in a Box-Ironbark region, the licensee must undertake a preliminary assessment of vegetation and faunal habitats of areas of interest in that Box-Ironbark region to identify and mark areas or sites to be avoided in the exploration project.
- 15.3. The licensee must not undertake any excavation work, or remove any vegetation other than noxious weeds, whether in part or in whole, within any buffer zone shown on the Approved Work Plan.
- 15.4. The licensee must maintain the buffer zone to ensure that the required visual screen is provided between the relevant mining works and surrounding land and/or buildings.
- 15.5. Unless otherwise agreed, the licensee must use species that are indigenous to the area and are appropriate to the licence area's Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC) when establishing plants within the buffer zone.

16. NOXIOUS WEEDS AND PESTS

- 16.1. The licensee must establish and implement a program to control and/or eradicate noxious weeds and pest animals within the licence area.

- 16.2. The licensee must take all reasonable measures to prevent the spread of declared noxious weeds, pest animals and plant diseases within the licence area.
- 16.3. The licensee must ensure that all mobile machinery is thoroughly cleaned prior to coming onto, or leaving a work area.
- 16.4. The licensee must ensure that all soil and aggregate that is imported into and exported out of the licence area is free of declared noxious weeds, pest animals and plant diseases.

17. AIR EMISSIONS, DUST AND LIGHTING

- 17.1. The licensee must take all reasonable measures to prevent adverse impacts as a result of the release of dust, odour and/or emission of light including that generated by exploration activities not requiring an approved work plan.

18. NOISE EMISSIONS

- 18.1. The licensee must take all reasonable measures to ensure that noise emissions are minimised as far as is practicable and comply with any limits set in the Approved Work Plan.
- 18.2. The licensee must take all reasonable measures to avoid causing nuisance noise including that generated by exploration activities not requiring an approved work plan.

19. VISUAL AMENITY

- 19.1. The licensee must take all reasonable measures to ensure that the colour of fixed plant and buildings do not cause an adverse impact on surrounding visual amenity.
- 19.2. The licensee must consult with the relevant Inspector and the Crown land Manager or the responsible authority on private land prior to painting any fixed plant and/or buildings.

20. HERITAGE SITES

- 20.1. The licensee must ensure that no work is carried out, without appropriate consent, within 100 metres laterally of a registered Aboriginal place recorded in the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register, or within 100 metres below that place.
- 20.2. The licensee must ensure that no work is carried out, without appropriate consent, within 100 metres laterally of an archaeological site on the Heritage Inventory or a place or object included in the Heritage Register or within 100 metres below that site, place or object.

21. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

- 21.1. The licensee must take all reasonable measures to prevent contamination of the environment by the release of fuels, lubricants and/or hazardous materials including those used for exploration activities not requiring an approved work plan.
- 21.2. The licensee must install trays or similar apparatus beneath machinery to protect the soil and vegetation from leaks or spills of fuels, lubricants and/or hazardous materials.
- 21.3. The licensee must ensure that all fuels, lubricants and/or hazardous materials are stored in accordance with the relevant requirements of the current Australian Standards for the Storage and Handling of Flammable and Combustible Liquids.
- 21.4. The licensee must ensure that any drainage from an area where fuels, lubricants and/or hazardous materials are stored, and/or used is directed to a sump or interceptor trap.
- 21.5. The licensee must ensure that all mobile plant and machinery including mobile fuel storages have immediate access to, and wherever possible are fitted with, spill prevention and clean up equipment.
- 21.6. The licensee must ensure that spills of fuels, lubricants and/or hazardous materials are cleaned up as quickly as practicable. Such spillage must not be cleaned up by hosing, sweeping or otherwise releasing such contaminant into waterways. Equipment and soil contaminated by fuels, lubricants, hazardous materials and clean up substances which cannot be salvaged must be disposed of in an approved waste facility.

22. WATER DAMS

- 22.1. The licensee must ensure that the location, design, construction, operation and safety management of water dams on the licence area are undertaken in accordance with the Approved Work Plan.

23. SLOPE STABILITY

- 23.1. The licensee must ensure that all slopes/batters including excavations, roadways, stockpiles and dumps must be designed, constructed and maintained to ensure stability.
- 23.2. Should a significant slope failure event occur, the licensee must cease all operations, notify the relevant Regional Manager and not recommence operations until authorised to do so by the relevant Regional Manager.

24. INTERNAL ROADS

- 24.1. The licensee must consult with the relevant Inspector, the Crown land Manager or private land owner/occupier prior to establishing any roads on the licence area.
- 24.2. The licensee must construct any roads on the licence area in accordance with the direction provided by the DJPR Inspector, the Crown land Manager or private land owner/occupier.
- 24.3. The licensee must ensure that an internal road is only used by:
- (a) employees of, or persons authorised by, the relevant Crown land Manager, or persons engaged in fire control where the licence covers Crown land; or
 - (b) the landowners or their agent/s where the licence covers private land.
- 24.4. The licensee must ensure that all roads on the licence area are properly formed, surface treated, drained and maintained to provide for the safe operation of the road.

25. DERELICT AND REDUNDANT PLANT

- 25.1. The licensee must ensure that all derelict and redundant plant, vehicles, machinery and equipment are removed from the licence area and deposited at an appropriate waste disposal site or otherwise stored or disposed of in accordance with the Approved Work Plan.

26. REHABILITATION

- 26.1. The licensee must ensure that progressive rehabilitation of disturbed land is carried out as soon as possible including those areas used for exploration activities not requiring an approved work plan.
- 26.2. The licensee must ensure that, as required, Indigenous species used in rehabilitation must be sourced from the local area, be of local provenance and be appropriate to the site's Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC).
- 26.3. The licensee must ensure that final rehabilitation is in accordance with the Approved Work Plan.

27. CAMPING

- 27.1. The licensee may only establish campsites with the permission of the Crown land manager or private land owner/occupier.
- 27.2. The licensee must select, establish and manage campsites to minimise risks to the environment and public safety.

28. WORKING HOURS

- 28.1. The licensee must conduct all works in accordance with the working hours in the Approved Work Plan and any working hour requirements of a planning consent. If there is inconsistency between the Approved Work Plan and planning consent then the hours indicated in the planning consent have precedence.
- 28.2. The licensee may apply to the relevant Regional Manager to vary, or work outside of, the working hours described in the Approved Work Plan or planning consent.

29. GEOPHYSICAL AND GEOCHEMICAL SURVEYS AND GRIDLINES

- 29.1. In designing and constructing geophysical and geochemical surveys, the licensee must take all reasonable measures to prevent adverse impacts to the environment and public safety.
- 29.2. Prior to designing and constructing geophysical and geochemical surveys, the licensee must consult with the Crown land Manager and/or private land owner/occupier about the position of gridlines and geophysical lines.

30. LIVESTOCK, DOMESTIC ANIMALS AND CROPS

- 30.1. The licensee must take all reasonable measures to prevent adverse impacts to livestock and crops as a result of mining and exploration activities.

31. DRILL SITES, COSTEANS, TRENCHES AND BULK SAMPLING EXCAVATIONS

- 31.1. The licensee must take all reasonable measures to prevent adverse impacts of establishing costeans, drill holes, bulk sample excavations and trenches to the environment and public safety.

32. DRILLHOLE OPERATIONS, CONSTRUCTION AND DECOMMISSIONING

- 32.1. The licensee must ensure that all reasonable measures are taken to minimise the impacts of drilling operations and that the operations are conducted in a manner that ensures protection of the environment, public safety and amenity.
- 32.2. The licensee must prevent contamination of aquifers as a result of drilling operations.
- 32.3. The licensee must ensure that where a drillhole is to be left open overnight or longer, a temporary cap is fitted.
- 32.4. The licensee must ensure that accurate records of decommissioning procedures are kept to provide future reference, and to demonstrate to the department that the drillholes have been satisfactorily plugged and abandoned.

33. UNDERGROUND EXPLORATION

- 33.1. The licensee must ensure that underground exploration and development works, access shafts, adits and declines are made safe.
- 33.2. The licensee must ensure that on completion of underground exploration and development works, access shafts, adits or declines no longer required are permanently closed off and the site made safe for the public and wildlife.

34. TAILINGS MATERIALS AND STORAGE FACILITIES

- 34.1. The licensee must take all reasonable measures to minimise the generation of tailings material.
- 34.2. The licensee must ensure that the location, design, construction, operation and safety management of tailings dams on the licence area are undertaken in accordance with the Approved Work Plan.
- 34.3. The licensee must, in accordance with current recommended practice or guidelines, construct and maintain monitoring bores for the purposes of assessing potential seepage from tailings dams.
- 34.4. On detection of seepage from monitoring bores, the licensee must immediately inform the relevant Regional Manager.

35. CYANIDE MANAGEMENT

- 35.1. The licensee must ensure that:
 - (a) pipelines used to transport cyanide solutions are placed in a trench and protected from mechanical damage.
 - (b) pipelines used to transport cyanide solutions comply with the relevant requirements of the current Australian Standards for the Identification of the Contents of Pipes, Conduits and Ducts.

- (c) discarded pipelines and equipment that were used to transport cyanide solutions are destroyed and disposed of off site to an appropriately authorised land fill.
- (d) pipelines and outlets used to transport potable water are clearly identified and kept separate from pipelines and outlets used to transport cyanide solutions.
- (e) all reasonable measures are taken to prevent spills of cyanide solutions.
- (f) any spill of cyanide solution is immediately cleaned up and disposed of in accordance with emergency management procedures.
- (g) equipment and materials required for the containment, stabilisation and treatment of spills of cyanide solutions are readily available and appropriate employees trained in their use.

35.2. On cessation of mining activities on the licence, the licensee must ensure all process cyanide is:

- (a) removed; or
- (b) treated on site; or
- (c) stored in a tailings dam

35.3. On cessation of mining activities on the licence, the licensee must undertake tests to determine the concentration and composition of any cyanide remaining in a tailings dam.

35.4. The licensee must provide the results of the test taken under condition 34.3 in writing to the relevant Regional Manager within 5 business days of the test result becoming available.

36. AIRBLAST AND GROUND VIBRATION LIMITS

36.1. The licensee must ensure that the peak particle velocity resulting from blasting operations, as measured in the vicinity of any sensitive location in accordance with the current Australian Standards for Explosives - Storage and Use - Use of Explosives, does not exceed 5mm/s on more than 5% of blasts fired in a 12 month period and 10mm/s at any time.

36.2. The licensee must ensure that the airblast overpressure from blasting operations, as measured in the vicinity of any sensitive location in accordance with the current Australian Standards for Explosives - Storage and Use - Use of Explosives, does not exceed 115 dB(L) on more than 5% of blasts fired in a 12 month period, and 120 dB(L) at any time.

37. EXPLOSIVES

37.1. When using explosives or high electrical currents, all reasonable measures must be taken to prevent adverse impact on or significant disturbance to the public and environment.

Schedule of Conditions – Code of Practice for Low Risk Mines

1. The licensee must not undertake underground mining operations, blasting, native vegetation clearance or use chemical treatments at the project site while operating under the Code.
2. The licensee must ensure that public safety is maintained within the licence area at all times, including through the use of fencing, gates and signage as required around the work area.
3. The licensee must ensure that all fences are maintained to prevent access to the work site and that all gates are locked when the work site is unattended.
4. The licensee must ensure that the operation is located at a safe distance from public infrastructure (such as roads) and waterways.
5. The licensee must establish and maintain a complaints register.
6. In response to a complaint, the licensee must record the following information in the complaints register:
 - (a) the date and time of the complaint
 - (b) who the complaint was from
 - (c) specific issue/s raised in the complaint
 - (d) actions taken to address the specific issue/s raised in the complaint.
7. The licensee must minimise the area of ground disturbance throughout the life of the mining operation.
8. The licensee must take all reasonable measures to minimise adverse impacts on the physical and biological health of soil within the licence.
9. The licensee must design, install and maintain erosion, drainage and sediment controls to prevent erosion of areas of disturbed land and sedimentation of waterways, and to prevent contaminated runoff from entering waterways.
10. The licensee must ensure that all slopes/batters including excavations, roadways, stockpiles and dumps must be designed, constructed and maintained to ensure stability.
11. Should a significant slope failure event occur, the licensee must cease all operations, notify DJPR and not recommence operations until authorised.
12. The licensee must ensure that the location, design, construction, operation and safety management of water dams on the licence area are undertaken to avoid environmental damage.
13. Should a significant failure event occur, the licensee must cease all operations, notify DJPR and not recommence operations until authorised.
14. The licensee must take all reasonable measures to minimise the generation of tailings material.
15. The licensee must ensure that the location, design, construction, operation and safe management of tailings storages within the licence area is undertaken in a way that prevents the release of tailings to the environment.
16. The licensee must ensure that all practicable measures are taken to prevent impacts on groundwater quality.
17. If groundwater is encountered when dry mining, the licensee must inform the ERR Regional Manager and the relevant water licensing authority and required approvals must be obtained.

18. The licensee must take all reasonable measures to control and eradicate noxious weeds and pest animals within the licence area.
19. The licensee must ensure that all soil and aggregate that is imported into and exported out of the licence area is free of declared noxious weeds, pest animals and plant diseases.
20. The licensee must manage the storage, use and handling of hazardous materials in a way that minimises the risk of environmental harm.
21. The licensee must take all reasonable measures to prevent adverse impacts as a result of the mining-related release of dust, odour and/or emission of light.
22. The licensee must take all reasonable measures to ensure that noise emissions are minimised to avoid nuisance noise.
23. The licensee should consult with the Environment Protection Authority regarding requirements for noise control where there are nearby sensitive land-users.
24. The licensee must take reasonable measures to reduce visual impact on the surrounding area.
25. The licensee must ensure that disturbed land is rehabilitated as soon as practicable.
26. The licensee must ensure that the site is returned to a safe, stable and non-polluting state.

PLAN OF AREA

Prospecting Lic. No. 007319

Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990



Jobs,
Precincts
and Regions

Name of Licensee:

Mines of Stirling Pty Ltd

MUNICIPALITY OF East Gippsland

PARISH OF Tongio-munjie West

TOTAL AREA 4.7 Hectares

NET AREA 4.7 Hectares

Date of Registration

08/04/2021

Time of Registration

5:15 pm

MINING REGISTRAR

Mineral Resources
(Sustainable Development)
Act 1990

F 90013725

1J 20

1M 20

1TP78432

2015

1G 20

CP160970

PL007319

1 TP892667

1 PS402052

GDA

2 PS402052

1C 20

26A 20

1D 20

1 20

3 PS513313

26B 20

5A 20

2 20

3 20

2A 20

Locality Map



PL007319 - Private Land

ALL MEASUREMENTS ARE IN METRES

Certified correct

Licensed Surveyor

Date

Checked

Date

Record plan

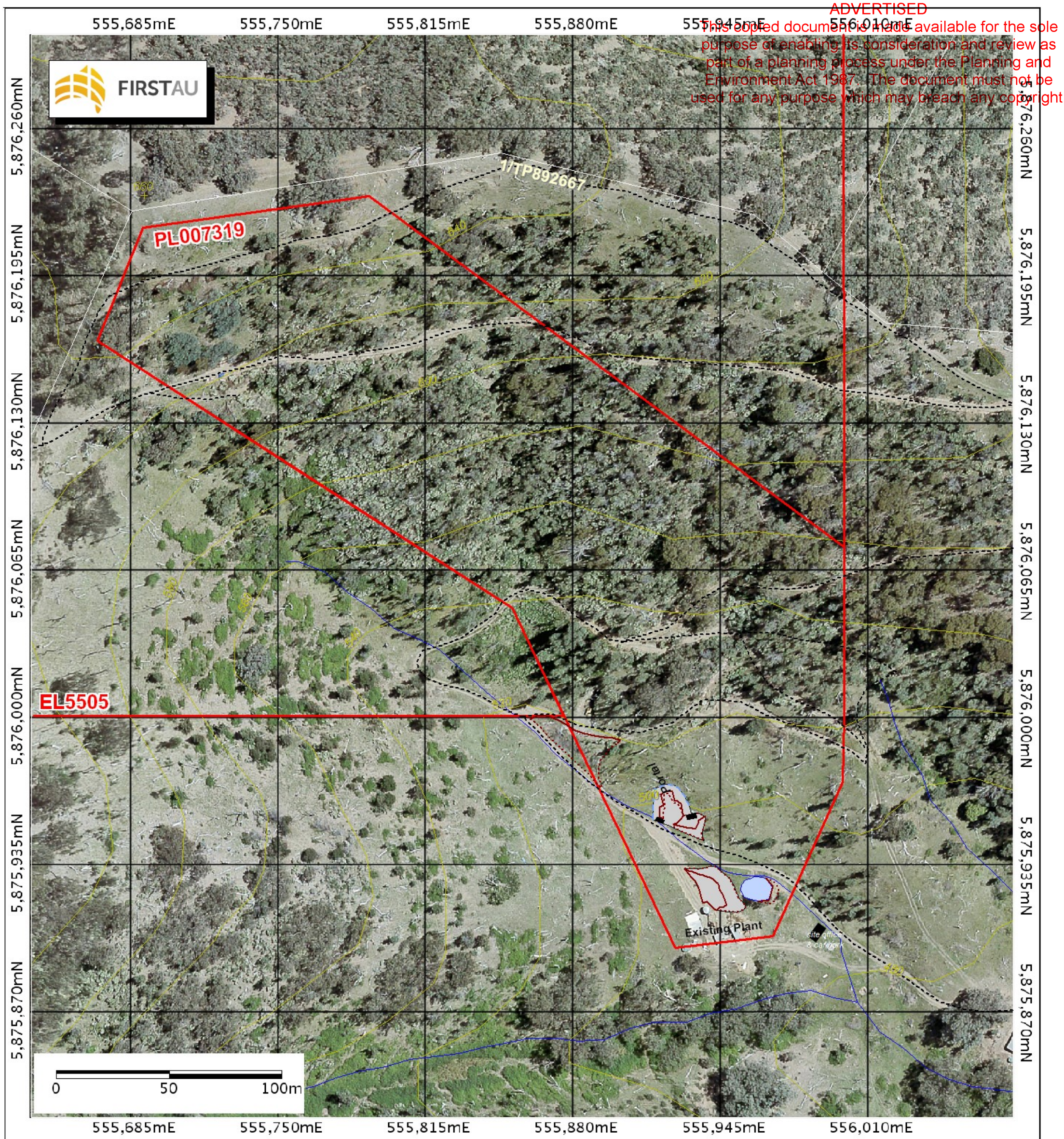
Christy Thiagarajah

29 / 03 / 2021

Omeo

Printed 19/03/2024

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Mines of Stirling Pty Ltd

PL007319

Date: 08/11/22

Author: AJK

Office:

Drawing: A4 P

Scale: 1:2.5k Projection: MGA Zone 55 (GDA 94)

Mines of Stirling Pty Ltd

c/- Page Harrison & Co.
11/66 Alfred St • Wilsons Point NSW 2061
• T: 02 9922 7144
• E: info@pageharrison.com.au



MGA 94
Zone 55

Snowstorm Project

Ramp Access Site Legend

- Cut-off Drain
- Tenements
- Disturbance Area
- Settling Pond
- ◆ Generator & Compressor
- Contour (10m CI)
- Track
- Watercourse
- Crest & Toe

Printed 19/03/2024

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