



Approval

Tropicana Gold Project, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia (EPBC No 2008/4270)

This decision is made under sections 130(1) and 133 of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

Proposed action

person to whom the approval is granted AngloGold Ashanti Australia Limited (AngloGold) (ACN 008 737 424) and Independence Group NL (ACN 092 786 304)

proposed action To develop and operate an open-cut gold mine, processing plant, village, airstrip, power station, water source and mine access road, 330 km east northeast of Kalgoorlie and 230 km east of Laverton, Western Australia; and as described in the referral received under the EPBC Act on 13 June 2008, and as further detailed in the letter received 11 August 2010 (attached).

Approval decision

Table with 2 columns: Controlling Provision, Decision. Row 1: Listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 & 18A), Approved with conditions

conditions of approval

This approval is subject to the conditions specified below.

expiry date of approval

This approval has effect until 31 December 2040.

Decision-maker

name and position James Barker Acting Assistant Secretary Environment Assessment Branch

signature

date of decision

13/12/10

## Conditions attached to the approval

### Commencement

1. Within 14 days of commencement of the action, the proponent must notify the Minister in writing of the actual date of commencement.

### Footprint

2. The proponent must ensure that clearing of vegetation is restricted to a maximum of 3,440 ha within the PER Conceptual Footprint (PCF). Changes to the PCF may be made if they result in no net adverse impact on EPBC listed flora and fauna species. The proponent must seek the approval of the Minister in writing for any changes to the PCF prior to any disturbance occurring outside the PCF. If the Minister considers that the changes will result in an adverse impact on EPBC listed species, the Minister may request the proponent to provide specified information or to make specified changes to the PCF. The proponent must comply with any such request.

### Monitoring of flora

3. The proponent must undertake monitoring of the condition and abundance of EPBC listed flora species at reference and potential impact sites in accordance with the 'Tropicana Gold Project Environmental Monitoring Strategy – Version 1.0, 18 February 2010' or subsequent revisions approved by the WA EPA. The proponent must notify the Department of any such revisions within 14 days of their approval.

During the life of the project, should the potential impact sites indicate a 20 per cent (or greater) decline in cover or productivity of EPBC listed flora species as compared to the reference sites, the proponent must provide a report to the Minister within 21 days of the decline being identified which:

- (i) describes the decline;
- (ii) provides information which allows determination of the likely originating cause of the decline; and
- (iii) if the decline is likely to be caused by activities undertaken in implementing the proposal, state the actions and associated timelines proposed to remediate the decline.

The proponent must, unless otherwise directed in writing by the Minister, implement the actions identified in (iii) and continue to implement such actions until the Minister determines that the remedial actions may cease.

### Management strategy

4. The proponent must implement the 'Tropicana Gold Project Threatened Species and Communities Management Strategy – Version 3.0, September 2009', or subsequent revisions approved by the WA EPA. The proponent must provide the Department with the revised strategy within 14 days of approval by the WA EPA.

### Revisions to strategies

5. If the Minister believes that it is necessary or desirable for the better protection of the *Conospermum toddii* (Victoria Desert Smokebush); *Notoryctes typhlops* (Southern Marsupial Mole), *Leipoa ocellata* (Malleefowl), or other listed EPBC flora and fauna species to do so, the Minister may request that the proponent make specified revisions to the strategies, referred to in conditions 3 and 4, and submit the revised strategies, for the Minister's approval. The proponent must comply with any such request. The revised approved strategies must be implemented. Unless the Minister has approved the revised strategies, then the proponent must continue to implement the strategies referred to in conditions 3 and 4.

## Offsets

### 6. Offsets – Biodiversity Trust Fund

- (a) The proponent must fund and develop the Great Victoria Desert – Biodiversity Trust Fund (the Trust), to achieve the following objectives:
- (i) Develop a Bioregional Management Plan (the Plan) for the Great Victoria Desert Bioregions 1 and 2 (the Trust Area, at Appendix B). The Plan must identify knowledge gaps relating to species and communities of national environmental significance under the EPBC Act and make recommendations for programs to address those gaps.
  - (ii) Facilitate priority research identified in the Plan at the landscape level and into species and communities of national environmental significance under the EPBC Act. Research outcomes must include a review of the conservation status of species and communities of national environmental significance and the development of predictive models.
  - (iii) Fund on-ground environmental and conservation management at the landscape level, with emphasis on net conservation benefits to threatened species and communities of national environmental significance under the EPBC Act. This must include actions identified in recovery plans for the Marsupial Mole, Sandhill Dunnart and Malleefowl.

These objectives must not be modified without the approval of the Minister.

The proponent must commence implementation of the Trust on commencement of the action.

- (b) Before commencement of the action, the proponent must provide the Minister with a Project Plan for the Trust specifying activities to meet the Trust objectives, the amount of funding the proponent will provide to the Trust, and an indicative budget for each of the activities. The action must not commence until the Minister has approved the Project Plan. The approved Project Plan must be implemented. If the Trust Board approves any modifications to the Project Plan, the proponent must advise the Minister of the changes within 14 days of their approval, and the modified plan implemented.
- (c) If, at any time during the life of this approval, the Minister is not satisfied that the Trust is achieving its objectives relevant to matters of national environmental significance, the Minister may require the proponent to undertake additional measures and/or provide additional funding to the Trust or to activities specified in the Project Plan. The proponent must comply with any such requirement.
- (d) The proponent must provide the Department within 3 months of every 12 month anniversary of this approval, or a date otherwise agreed by the Department in writing, with an annual report on the operations of the Trust. The report must describe the actions taken and financial payments made over the preceding 12 months to implement the objectives of the Trust relating to matters of national environmental significance. The report must be made publicly available on the internet.

## Records

7. The proponent must maintain accurate records substantiating all activities associated with or relevant to the above conditions of approval, including measures taken to implement the plans required by this approval and the objectives of the Trust, and make them available upon request to the Department. Records may be subject to audit by the Department or an independent auditor in accordance with section 458 of the EPBC Act, or used to verify compliance with the conditions of approval. Summaries of audits will be posted on the Department's website. The results of audits may also be publicised through the general media.

## Compliance report

8. Within three months of every 12 month anniversary of the commencement of the action, the proponent must submit to the Minister a report addressing compliance with the conditions of this approval. Annual reports must be provided until the Minister is satisfied that the proponent has complied with all conditions of the approval.

## Substantial commencement

9. If, at any time after five years from the date of this approval, the Minister notifies the proponent in writing that the Minister is not satisfied that there has been substantial commencement of the action, the action must not thereafter be commenced without the written agreement of the Minister.

## Audit

10. Upon the direction of the Minister, the proponent must ensure that an independent audit of compliance with the conditions of approval is conducted and a report submitted to the Minister. The independent auditor must be approved by the Minister prior to the commencement of the audit. Audit criteria must be agreed to by the Minister and the audit report must address the criteria to the satisfaction of the Minister.

## Dictionary

11. In these conditions, unless otherwise indicated:

**Commencement of the action** is any preparatory works required to be undertaken, including clearing of vegetation, the erection of any on-site temporary structures and/or the use of construction or excavation equipment on site for the purposes of breaking the ground.

**PER Conceptual Footprint** means the area shown in Figure 2 of Appendix A within the Operational Area shown in figures 1 and 2 of Appendix A with the modifications stipulated in AngloGold Ashanti's letter of 11 August 2010 ([Appendix C](#)).

**Department** is the Australian Government department responsible for the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth).

**EPBC Act** is the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth).

**Minister** refers to the Minister responsible for the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth).

**Proponent** means the holder of the approval to which these conditions relate, and includes any person acting on behalf of the proponent.

**The Trust** means the proposed Great Victoria Desert Biodiversity Trust Fund which will be operated under a public trustee governance arrangement under WA legislation.

**WA EPA** means the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia.

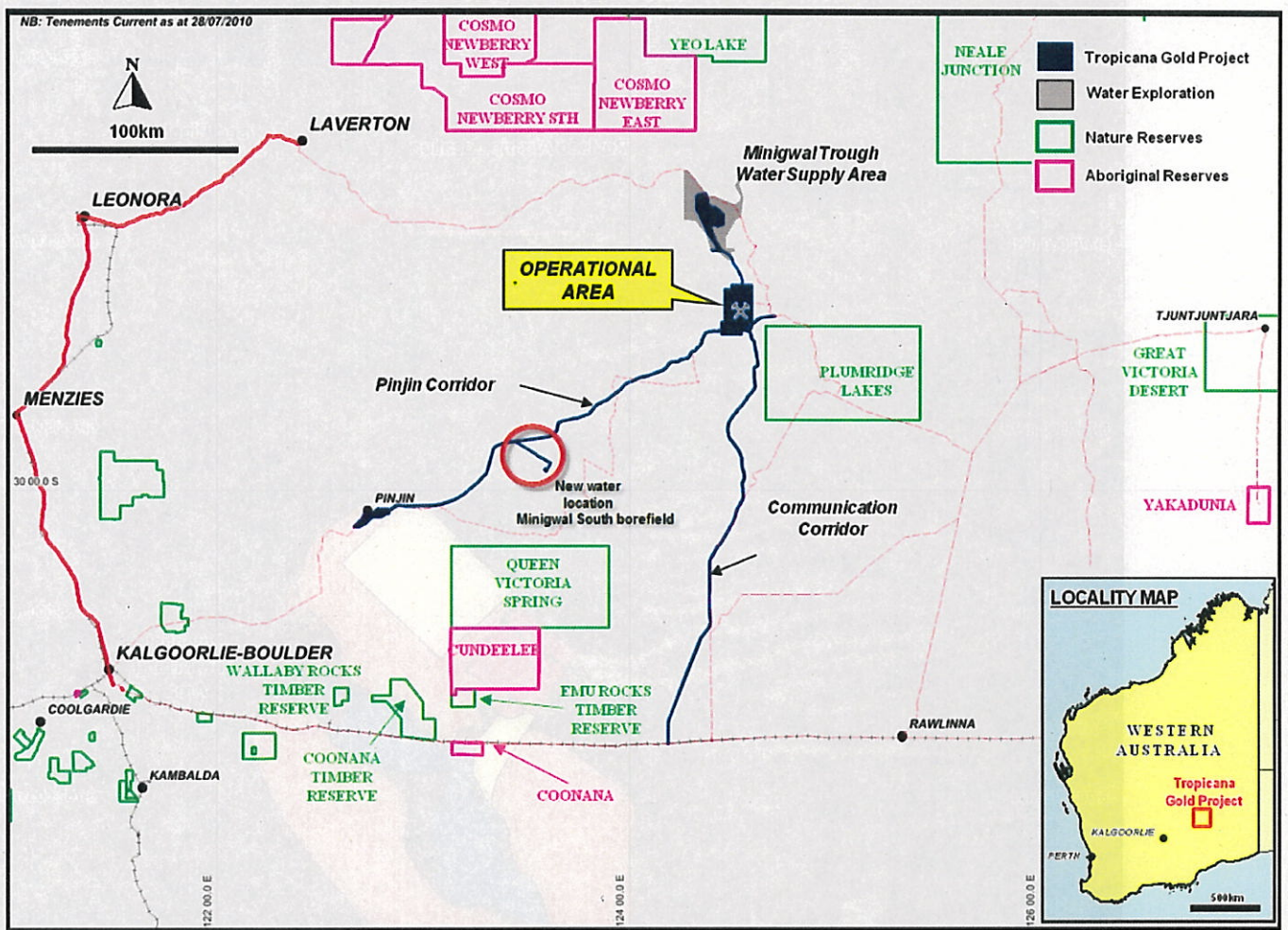
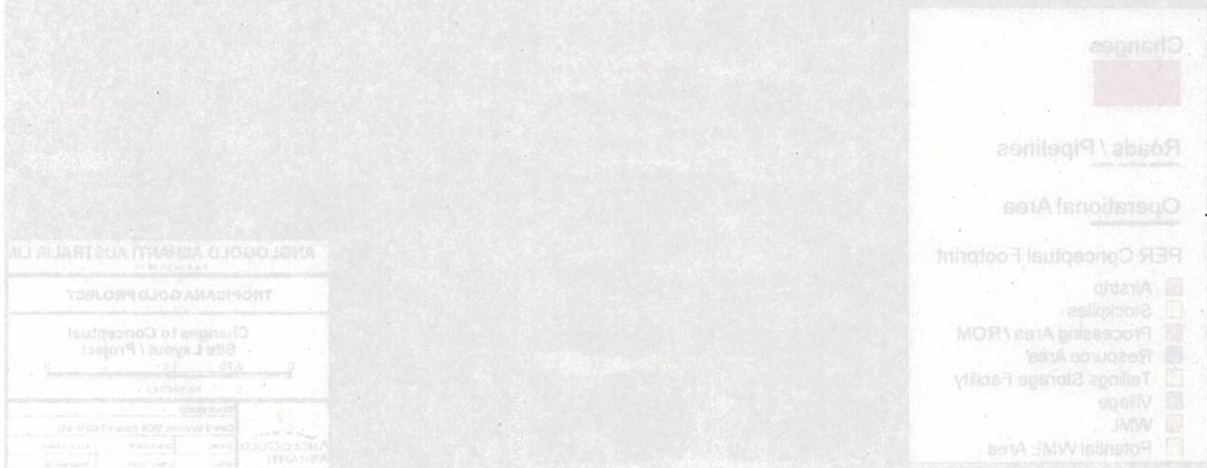
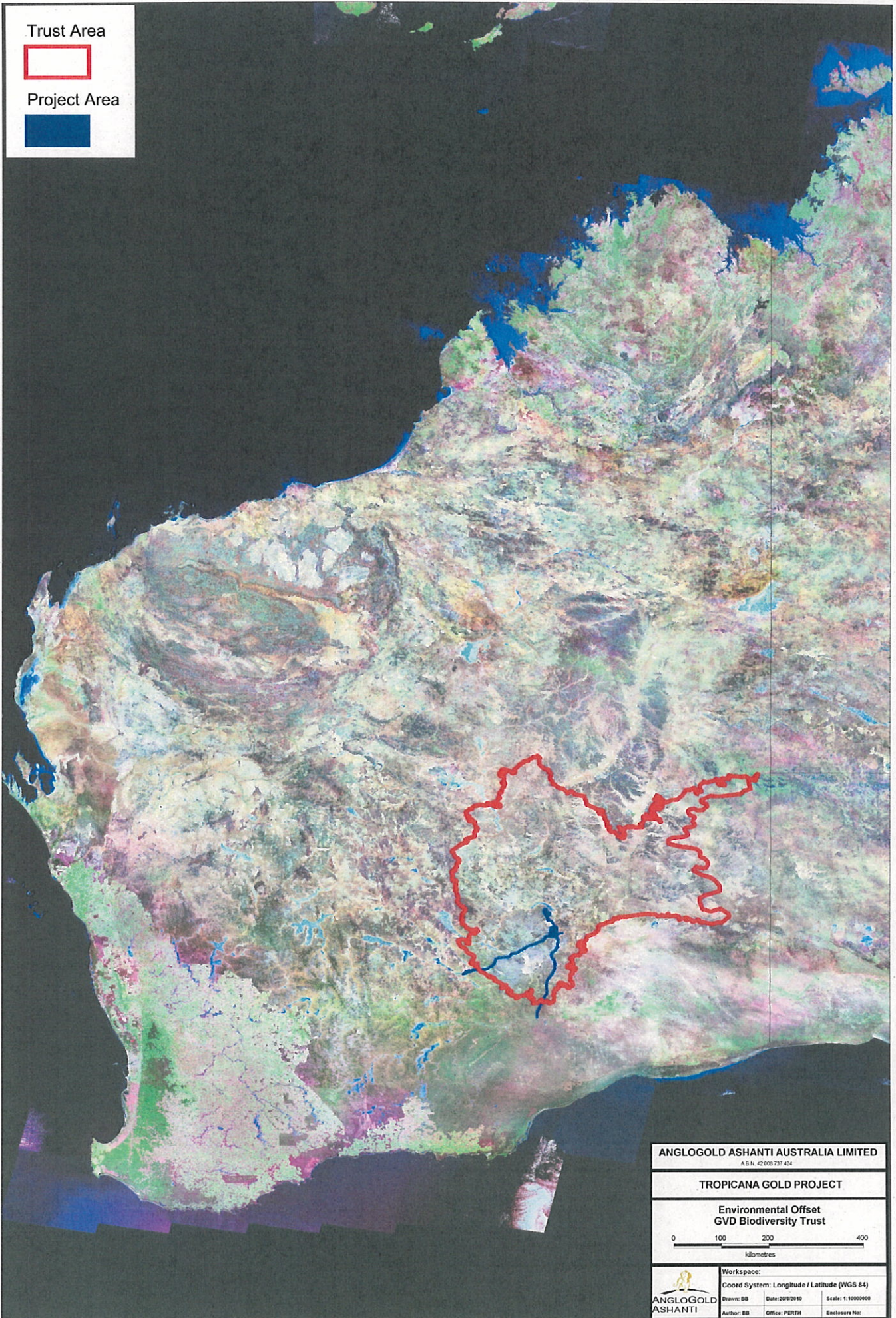


Figure 1: Tropicana Gold Project Activity Areas (Pinjin Corridor, Minigwal South, Operational Area, Tropicana/Transline Corridor and Minigwal Trough).











**TROPICANA JOINT VENTURE**

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11 August 2010

Lachlan Wilkinson  
Assistant Director – Mining Section  
Environment Assessment Branch  
Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts  
GPO Box 787,  
CANBERRA 2601

**Attention: Kate Smith**

Dear Lachlan

**Re: Tropicana Gold Project (EPBC No. 2008/4270) – modification to site layout**

Further to our phone conversation on Tuesday 3 August 2010, the Tropicana Joint Venture (TJV) would like to submit two maps indicating changes to the conceptual site layout of the proposed Tropicana Gold Project associated with the Operational Area (Figure 1) and Pinjin Corridor (Figure 2).

Operational Area

As discussed, changes in the operational area relate to relocating the proposed airstrip to ensure compliance with CASA requirements and including a new resource – Boston Shaker (Figure 1).

The airstrip is proposed to move approximately 1.3km east and 0.25km north from its current location. As a result of this change the water pipeline corridor /borefield access track will need to be slightly modified to go around the airstrip. These proposed changes have been designed to minimise impacts on the nearby Malleefowl / Mulgara habitat.

The newly identified Boston Shaker resource area has the potential for an addition open-cut mining area to be developed on the north-east side of the Tropicana Pit. This area is located partly within the existing resource area and partly under the conceptual waste material landform and therefore will not result in an increase in the proposed resource footprint, which is up to 400ha. Waste material generated from Boston Shaker will be placed within the PER proposed waste material landforms; thus not resulting in any changes to the proposed waste material footprint.

Pinjin Corridor

Due to a lack of suitable water for construction activities within the Pinjin corridor, the TJV has entered into an arrangement with an adjacent tenement holder to obtain water from an existing bore (see Figure 2; Minigwal South). This bore will be accessed by an existing track which requires some minor upgrade. Where vegetation clearing cannot be prevented to upgrade the existing track, significant environmental areas such as DRF locations and sand dunes will be avoided. The clearing envisage is within the proposed clearing footprint provided in the Tropicana PER (670ha).



Should you require additional information or have any queries regarding these changes or any other aspect of this project, please do not hesitate to call me on (08)9425 4621 or on my mobile 0418 950 679.

Yours sincerely,

Belinda Bastow  
Manage – Environment / Approvals  
**ANGLOGOLD ASHANTI AUSTRALIA**

Encl: Figure 1 Changes to the conceptual operational area footprint  
Figure 2 Changes to the Pinjin Corridor

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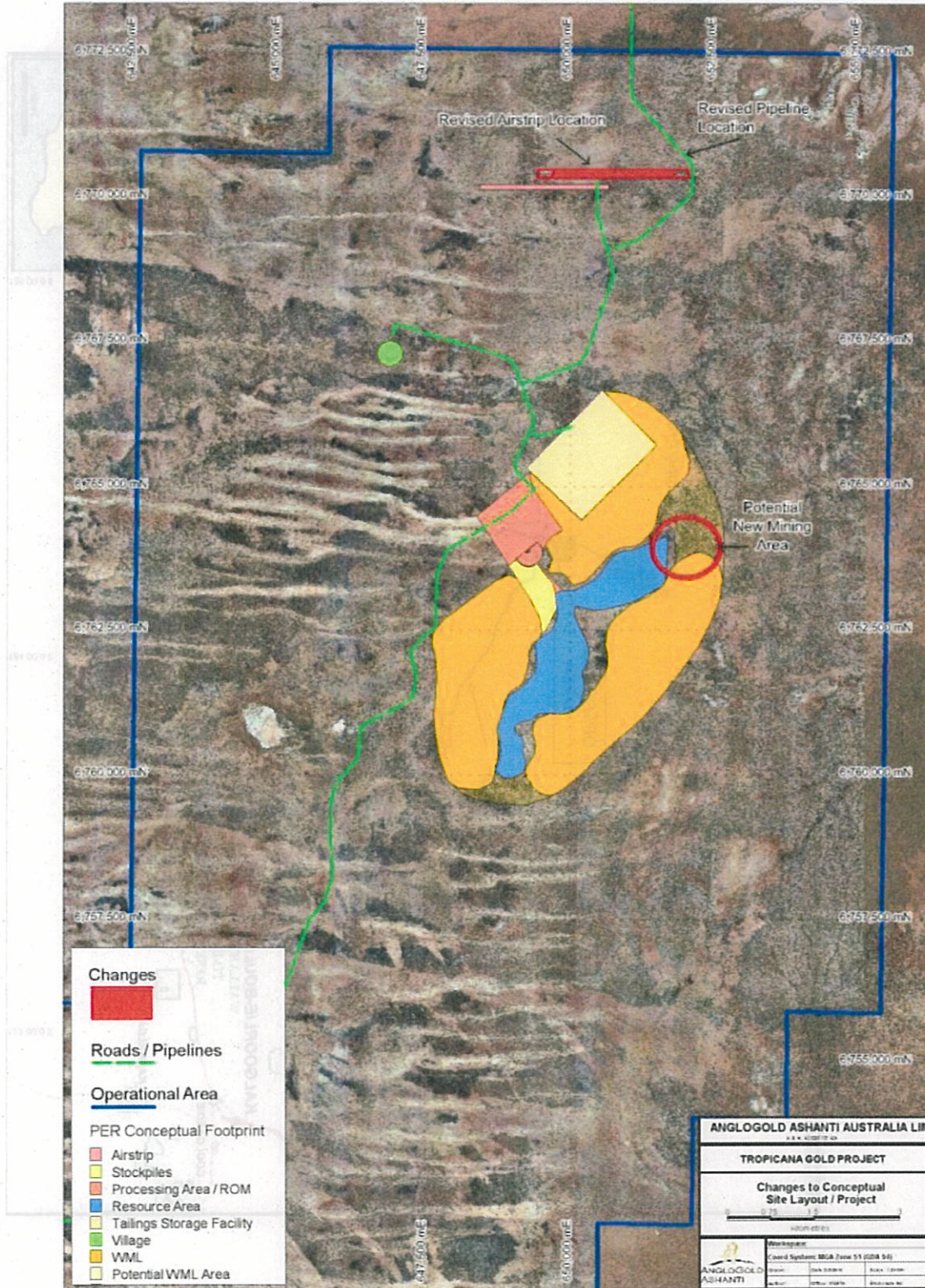
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**Figure 1 Changes to the conceptual operational area footprint**

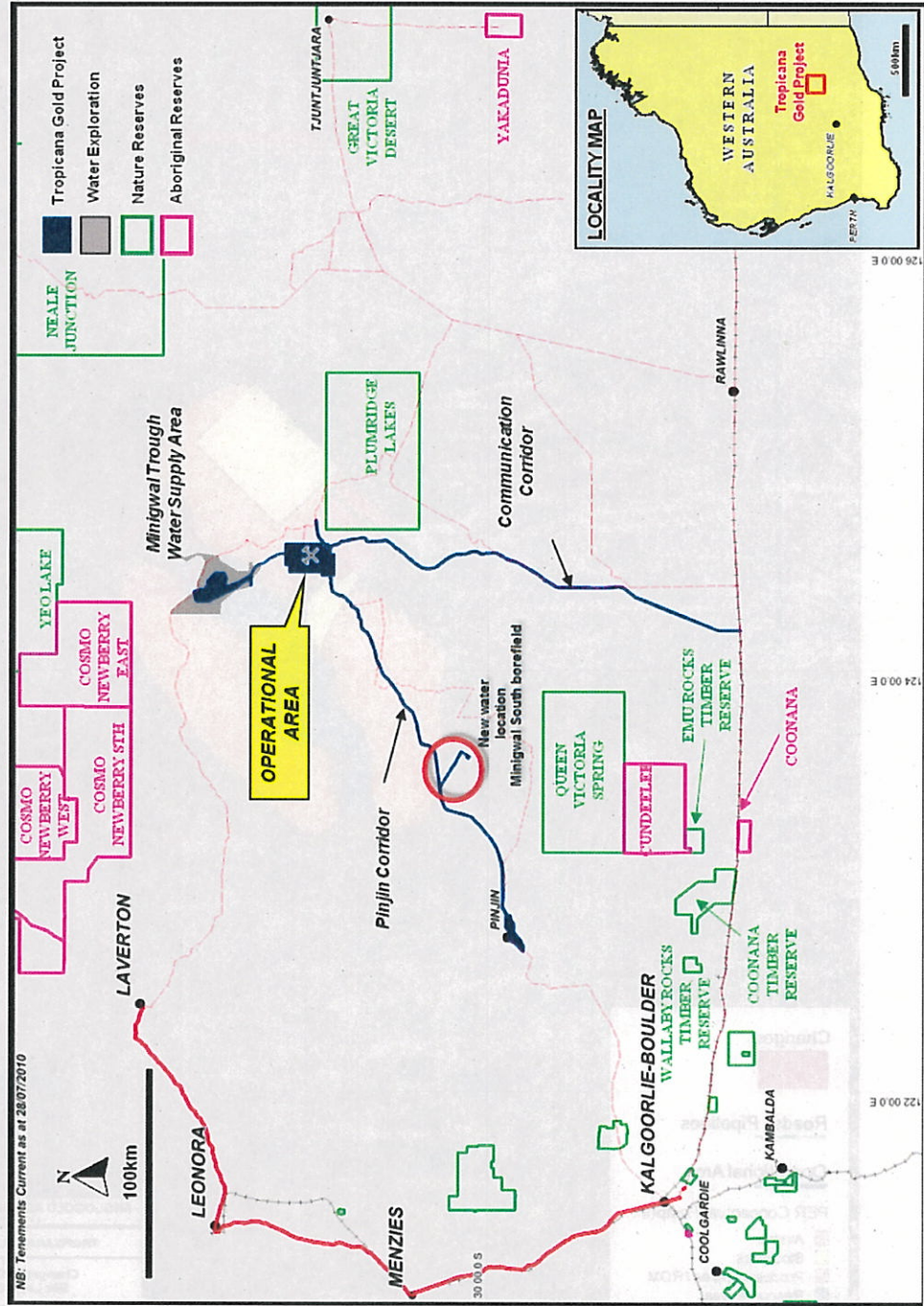


AngloGold Ashanti Australia Ltd is the manager of the Tropicana Joint Venture and is acting as agent severally for each of the Joint Venture's in their respective percentage interests in the Joint Venture from time to time.



Figure 1 Changes to the conceptual operational area footprint

Figure 2. Changes to the Pinjin Corridor



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