



Minister for Environment; Youth

Statement No. 839

STATEMENT THAT A PROPOSAL MAY BE IMPLEMENTED (PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1986)

TROPICANA GOLD PROJECT,
SHIRE OF MENZIES, SHIRE OF LAVERTON AND
THE CITY OF KALGOORLIE – BOULDER

- Proposal:** The proposal is the construction and operation of an open-cut gold mine and associated infrastructure, located approximately 330 km east northeast of Kalgoorlie and 200 km east of Laverton. The proposal is further documented in schedule 1 of this statement.
- Proponent:** Tropicana Joint Venture (AngloGold Ashanti Australia Limited and Independence Group NL)
- Proponent Address:** Level 13 St Martin's Tower
44 St Georges Terrace
PERTH WA 6000
- Assessment Number:** 1745
- Report of the Environmental Protection Authority:** 1361

The proposal referred to in the above report of the Environmental Protection Authority may be implemented. The implementation of that proposal is subject to the following conditions and procedures:

1 Proposal Implementation

- 1-1 The proponent shall implement the proposal as assessed by the Environmental Protection Authority and described in Schedule 1 of this statement subject to the condition and procedures of this statement.

Published on:

2 Proponent Nomination and Contact Details

- 2-1 The proponent for the time being nominated by the Minister for Environment under sections 38(6) or 38(7) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* is responsible for the implementation of the proposal.
- 2-2 The proponent shall notify the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority of any change of the name and address of the proponent for the serving of notices or other correspondence within 30 days of such change.

3 Time Limit of Authorisation

- 3-1 The authorisation to implement the proposal provided for in this statement shall lapse and be void five years after the date of this statement if the proposal to which this statement relates is not substantially commenced.
- 3-2 The proponent shall provide the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority with written evidence which demonstrates that the proposal has substantially commenced on or before the expiration of five years from the date of this statement.

4 Compliance Reporting

- 4-1 The proponent shall prepare and maintain a compliance assessment plan to the satisfaction of the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority.
- 4-2 The proponent shall submit to the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority, the compliance assessment plan required by condition 4-1 at least 6 months prior to the first compliance report required by condition 4-6, or prior to ground disturbing activity, whichever is sooner.

The compliance assessment plan shall indicate:

- 1 the frequency of compliance reporting;
 - 2 the approach and timing of compliance assessments;
 - 3 the retention of compliance assessments;
 - 4 the method of reporting of potential non-compliances and corrective actions taken;
 - 5 the table of contents of compliance reports; and
 - 6 public availability of compliance reports.
- 4-3 The proponent shall assess compliance with conditions in accordance with the compliance assessment plan required by condition 4-1.

- 4-4 The proponent shall retain reports of all compliance assessments described in the compliance assessment plan required by condition 4-1 and shall make those reports available when requested by the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority.
- 4-5 The proponent shall advise the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority of any potential non-compliance within seven days of that non-compliance being known.
- 4-6 The proponent shall submit to the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority the first compliance assessment report fifteen months from the date of issue of this Statement addressing the twelve month period from the date of issue of this Statement and then annually from the date of submission of the first compliance assessment report.

The compliance assessment report shall:

- 1 be endorsed by the proponent's Chief Executive Officer or a person delegated to sign on the Chief Executive Officer's behalf;
- 2 include a statement as to whether the proponent has complied with the conditions;
- 3 identify all potential non-compliances and describe corrective and preventative actions taken;
- 4 be made publicly available in accordance with the approved compliance assessment plan; and
- 5 indicate any proposed changes to the compliance assessment plan required by condition 4-1.

5 Flora and Vegetation

- 5-1 The proponent shall ensure that there is no loss of plants of Declared Rare Flora species due to construction or operational activities unless otherwise approved.
- 5-2 The proponent shall undertake monitoring of the condition and abundance of vegetation and flora at reference and potential impact sites in accordance with the "Tropicana Gold Project Environmental Monitoring Strategy, Version: 1.0, Author: B Bastow, Issue Date: 18 February 2010" or subsequent revisions approved by the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority. This monitoring is to be carried out to the requirements of the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority on advice of the Department of Environment and Conservation.
- 5-3 Should the potential impact sites show a 25 per cent (or greater) decline in cover or productivity as compared to the reference sites, the proponent shall provide a report to

the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority within 21 days of the decline being identified which:

1. describes the decline;
2. provides information which allows determination of the likely root cause of the decline; and
3. if likely to be caused by activities undertaken in implementing the proposal, states the actions and associated timelines proposed to remediate the decline.

5-4 The proponent shall, on approval of the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority, implement the actions identified in 5-3 (3) and continue to implement such actions until the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority determines that the remedial actions may cease.

5-5 The proponent shall make the Environmental Monitoring Strategy referred to in 5-2 publically available in a manner approved by the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority.

6 Threatened Species

6-1 The proponent shall implement the “Tropicana Gold Project Threatened Species and Communities Management Strategy, Version 2.0, Author: B Bastow, Issue Date: July 2009”, or subsequent revisions approved by the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority. The objective of this strategy is to minimise adverse impacts to conservation significant species and communities.

6-2 The proponent shall review and revise the Tropicana Gold Project Threatened Species and Communities Management Strategy referred to in 6-1, in consultation with the Department of Environment and Conservation, every three years to ensure that the mitigation and management techniques remain valid and incorporate any relevant new research.

6-3 The proponent shall make the Tropicana Gold Project Threatened Species and Communities Management Strategy referred to in 6-1 publically available in a manner approved by the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority.

7 Trapped Fauna

7-1 The proponent shall ensure that open trenches associated with construction of the water pipeline and the communications link are cleared of trapped fauna by fauna-rescue personnel at least twice daily. Details of all fauna recovered shall be recorded. The first daily clearing shall take place no later than three hours after sunrise and shall be repeated between the hours of 3:00 pm and 6:00 pm.

The open trenches shall also be cleared, and fauna details recorded, by fauna-rescue personnel no more than one hour prior to backfilling of trenches.

Note: "fauna-rescue personnel" means employees of the proponent whose responsibility it is to walk the open trench to recover and record fauna found within the trench.

- 7-2 The fauna-rescue personnel shall be trained in the following, through a program that meets the requirements of the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority:
1. fauna identification, capture and handling (including venomous snakes);
 2. identification of tracks, scats, burrows and nests of conservation-significant species;
 3. fauna vouchering (of deceased animals);
 4. assessing injured fauna for suitability for release, rehabilitation or euthanasia;
 5. familiarity with the ecology of the species which may be encountered in order to be able to appropriately translocate fauna encountered; and
 6. performing euthanasia.
- 7-3 Open trench lengths shall not exceed a length capable of being inspected and cleared by the fauna-clearing personnel within the required times as set out in condition 7-1.
- 7-4 Ramps providing egress points and/or fauna refuges providing suitable shelter from the sun and predators for trapped fauna are to be placed in the trench at intervals not exceeding 50 metres.
- 7-5 The proponent shall produce a report on fauna management within the water pipeline lateral easement and communication corridor at the completion of pipeline and communication link construction. The report shall include the following:
1. details of all fauna inspections;
 2. the number of fauna cleared from trenches;
 3. fauna mortalities; and
 4. all actions taken.

The report shall be provided to the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority no later than 21 days after the completion of pipeline installation, and shall be made publicly available in a manner approved by the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority.

8 Groundwater and Surface Water Quality

- 8-1 The proponent shall ensure that run-off and/or seepage from the tailings storage facility and waste material landforms does not impact the quality of surface water or groundwater within or adjacent to the proposal area to exceed the trigger values for a slightly to moderately disturbed ecosystem provided for in Table 3.4.2 of Chapter 3 of the Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council and Agriculture and Resource Management Council of Australia and New Zealand 2000, *Australian Water Quality Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Waters* and its updates, taking into consideration natural background water quality.

- 8-2 The proponent shall monitor the quality of surface water and groundwater upstream and downstream of the tailings storage facility and waste material landforms to ensure that the requirements of condition 8-1 are met. This monitoring is to be carried out using methods consistent with Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council and Agriculture and Resource Management Council of Australia and New Zealand 2000, *Australian Guidelines for Water Quality Monitoring and Reporting* (and its updates) and to the satisfaction of the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority.
- 8-3 The proponent shall commence the water quality monitoring required by 8-2 before ground disturbing activities in order to collect baseline data.
- 8-4 The proponent shall submit annually the results of monitoring required by condition 8-2 to the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority.
- 8-5 In the event that monitoring required by condition 8-2 indicates that the requirements of condition 8-1 are not being met, the proponent shall:
1. report such findings to the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority within 21 days of the decline in water quality being identified;
 2. provide evidence which allows determination of the root cause of the decline in water quality; and
 3. if determined to be a result of activities undertaken in implementing the proposal, state the actions and associated timelines proposed to be taken to remediate the water quality.
- 8-6 The proponent shall, on approval of the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority, implement the actions identified in 8-5 (3) and continue to implement such actions until the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority determines that the remedial actions may cease.
- 8-7 The proponent shall make the monitoring reports required by condition 8-2 publicly available in a manner approved by the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority.

9 Rehabilitation

- 9-1 The proponent shall undertake progressive rehabilitation over the life of the proposal to achieve the following outcomes:
1. The waste material landforms and tailings storage facility shall be non-polluting and shall be constructed so that their stability, surface drainage, resistance to erosion and ability to support local native vegetation are similar to undisturbed natural analogue landforms as demonstrated by Ecosystem Function Analysis or

other methodology acceptable to the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority.

2. Waste material landforms, tailings storage facility and other areas disturbed through implementation of the proposal (excluding mine pits), shall be progressively rehabilitated with vegetation composed of native plant species of local provenance (defined as seed or plant material collected within the Great Victoria Desert Bioregions 1 and 2).
3. The percentage cover and species diversity of living self sustaining native vegetation in all rehabilitation areas shall be comparable to that of undisturbed natural analogue sites as demonstrated by Ecosystem Function Analysis or other methodology acceptable to the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority.
4. No new species of weeds (including both declared weeds and environmental weeds) shall establish in the area as a result of the implementation of the proposal.
5. The coverage of weeds (including both declared weeds and environmental weeds) within rehabilitated areas shall be no greater than the average of three reference sites on nearby land, with the reference sites to be chosen in consultation with the Department of Environment and Conservation.

Note: The methodology for Ecosystem Function Analysis is set out in Tongway DJ and Hindley 2004 *Landscape Function Analysis – Procedures for Monitoring and Assessing Landscapes*, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation Sustainable Ecosystems, Canberra.

- 9-2 Rehabilitation activities shall continue until such time as the requirements of condition 9-1 are met, and are demonstrated by inspections and reports to be met, for a minimum of five years following mine completion to the satisfaction of the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority, on advice of the Department of Mines and Petroleum.

10 Final Closure and Decommissioning Plan

- 10-1 At least five years prior to mine completion, the proponent shall prepare and submit a Final Closure and Decommissioning Plan to the requirements of the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority, on advice of the Department of Mines and Petroleum.
- 10-2 The Final Closure and Decommissioning Plan shall be prepared consistent with:
1. ANZMEC/MCA 2000, *Strategic Framework for Mine Closure Planning*; and
 2. Department of Industry Tourism and Resources 2006 *Mine Closure and Completion* (Leading Practice Sustainable Development Program for the Mining Industry), Commonwealth Government, Canberra;

- 10-3 The Final Closure and Decommissioning Plan shall provide detailed technical information on the following:
1. final closure of all areas disturbed through implementation of the proposal so that they are safe, stable and non-polluting;
 2. decommissioning of all plant and equipment;
 3. disposal of waste materials;
 4. final rehabilitation of waste dumps; tailings storage facilities and other areas (outside the mine pit(s));
 5. management and monitoring following mine completion; and
 6. inventory of all contaminated sites and proposed management.
- 10-4 The proponent shall close, decommission and rehabilitate the proposal in accordance with the approved Final Closure and Decommissioning Plan.
- 10-5 The proponent shall make the Final Closure and Decommissioning Plan required by conditions 10-1 and 10-2 publicly available in a manner approved by the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority.

Procedures

1. Where a condition states “on advice of the Department of Environment and Conservation” or “on advice from the Department of Mines and Petroleum”, the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority will obtain that advice and provide that advice to the proponent.
2. The Environmental Protection Authority may seek advice from other agencies or organisations, as required, in order to provide its advice.
3. The proponent is required to apply for a Works Approval and operating Licence for this project under the provisions of Part V of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.



Hon Donna Faragher JP MLC
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT; YOUTH

24 SEP 2010

The Proposal (Assessment No. 1745)

General Description

The proposal is to develop and operate an open-cut gold mine with infrastructure and utilities located approximately 330 kilometres (km) east northeast of Kalgoorlie and 200 km east of Laverton. The proposal is described in the following document – *Tropicana Gold Project Public Environmental Review, September 2009*.

Summary Description

A summary of the key proposal characteristics is presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Summary of key proposal characteristics

Element	Description
General	
Project life	Approximately 15 years of mining; total project duration up to 25 years (including post closure monitoring)
Mining and Processing	
Mining rate	Up to 75 million tonnes per annum (ore and waste)
Stripping ratio	8:1
Number of pits	Up to 4
Open pit void/s	Not more than 400 hectares
Maximum length of pit/s	6 kilometres (if pits combine)
Maximum width of pit	1.5 kilometres
Overburden and waste	Not more than 800 million tonnes
Waste landform	Not more than 1,200 hectares. Maximum height 375 mRL. Slope with maximum angle of 15 degrees
Water supply	Up to 7 gigalitres per annum
Dewatering rate	1,000 – 5,000 kilolitres per day
Infrastructure	
Mine access road	Pinjin Option – 370 kilometres (~210 kilometres of road construction)
Communications	Fibre Optic or Microwave via either Pinjin or Tropicana Transline Corridor
Aerodrome	All weather strip 2.4 kilometres long
Main power supply	Onsite power station with an installed capacity of up to 40 megawatts
Water pipeline	Approximately 50 kilometres in length from the borefield (located north northwest of Operational Area) to the process plant.
Tailings Storage Facility	Up to 7 million tonnes per annum; two-cell paddock tailings storage facility with possible in-pit deposition. Maximum height of 372 mRL. Approximately 1330 metres wide by 1850 metres.
Disturbance Areas	
Disturbance area	Not more than 3,440 hectares comprising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • operational area – 2,570 hectares. • water supply area – 200 hectares. • infrastructure areas – 670 hectares.

Figures:

Figure 1: Regional location of mine site.

Figure 2: Proposal footprint and conceptual layout of key components.

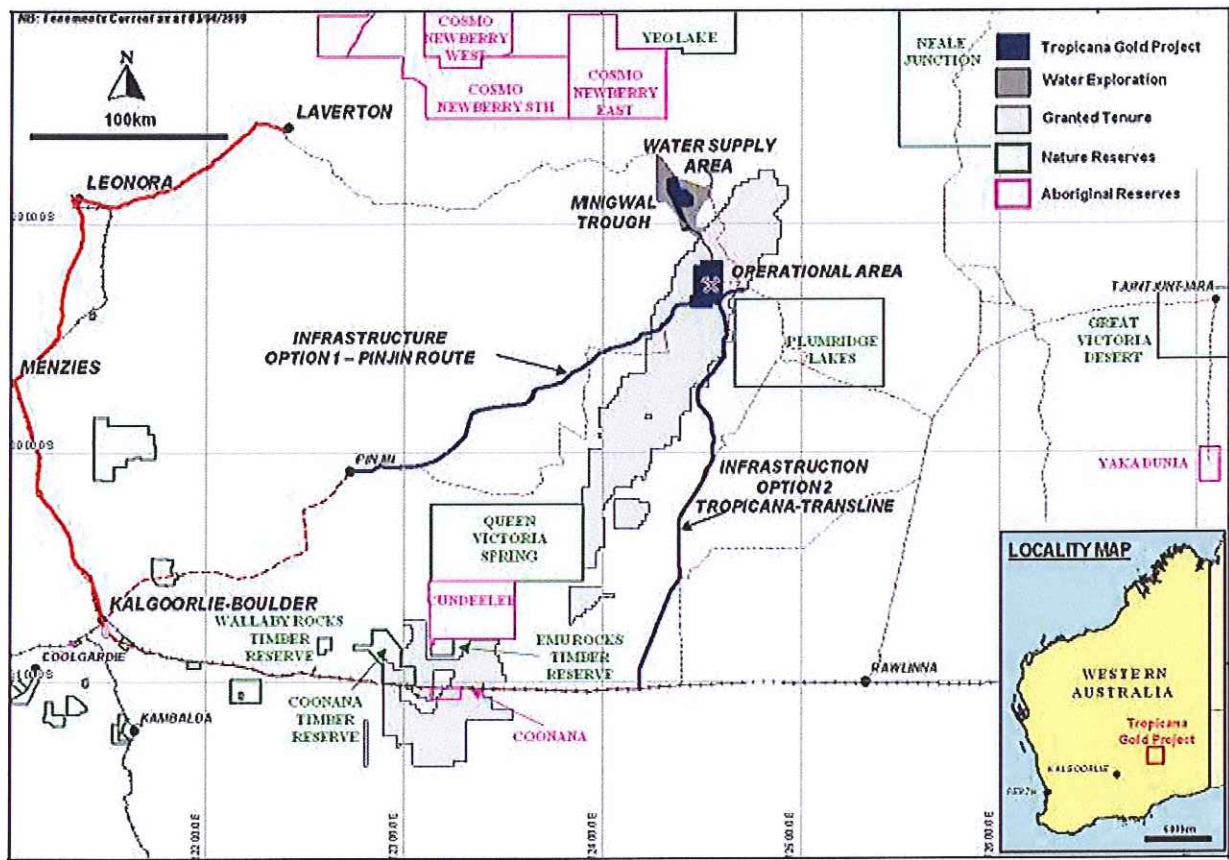


Figure 1: Regional location of mine site

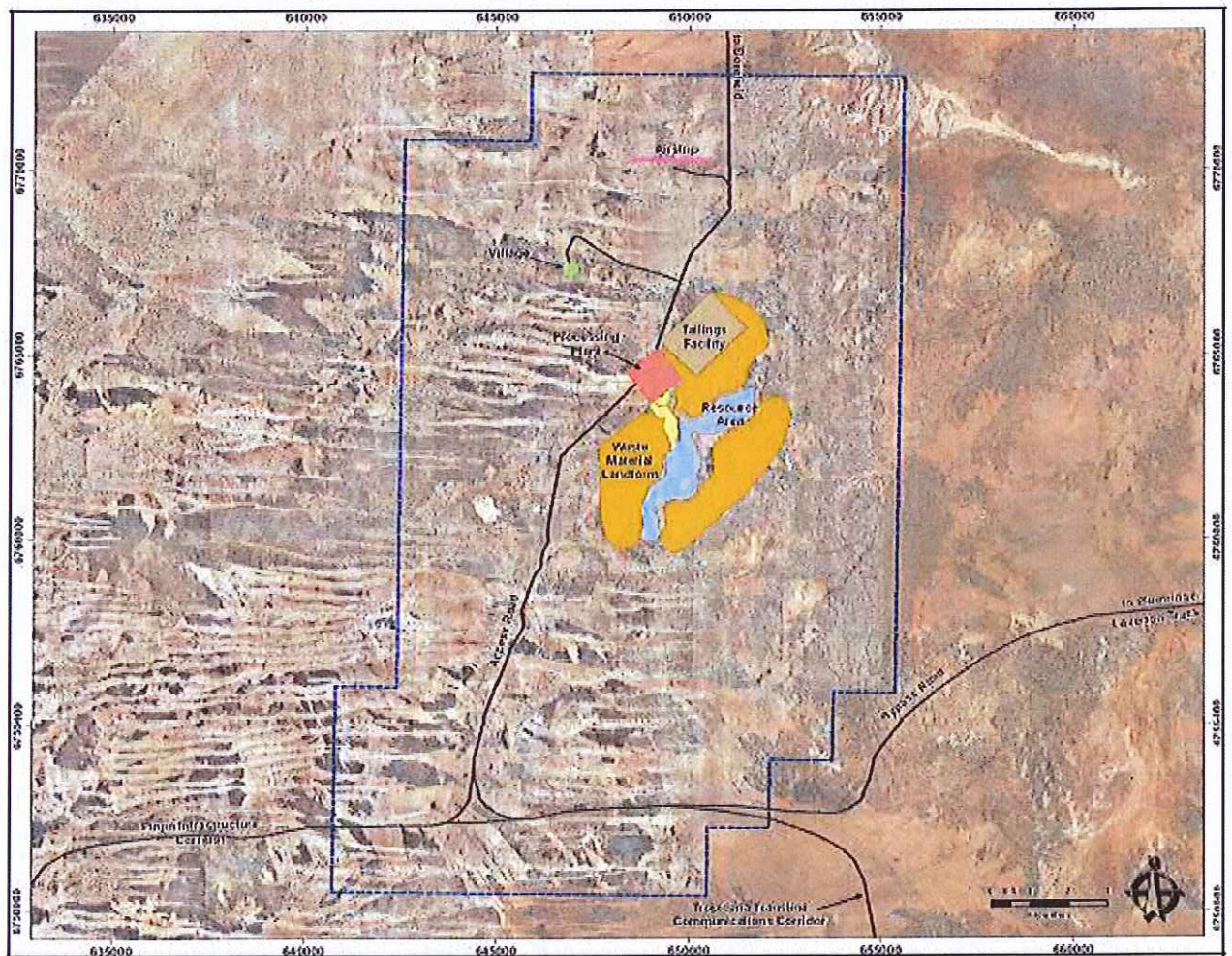


Figure 2: Proposal footprint and conceptual layout of key components