Referral of proposed action

Project title:

1 Summary of proposed action
NOTE: You must also attach a map/plan(s) showing the location and approximate boundaries of the area in which the project is to occur. Maps in A4 size are preferred. You must also attach a map(s)/plan(s) showing the location and boundaries of the project area in respect to any features identified in 3.1 & 3.2, as well as the extent of any freehold, leasehold or other tenure identified in 3.3(j).

1.1 Short description
The Dargues Reef Gold Mine Project (the Project) would involve extraction of up to 354 000t of ore per year from an underground gold mine, and the construction and operation of associated infrastructure, including a temporary waste rock emplacement, run-of-mine pad, processing plant, tailings storage facility, site access road and ancillary infrastructure. Mining operations would require approximately five to seven years and the Project would have a life of nine years.

1.2 Latitude and longitude

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Location point</th>
<th>Latitude</th>
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The attached Figure A provides coordinates.

1.3 Locality and property description
The Project is located on the western slopes of the Great Dividing Range in NSW, approximately 60km southeast of Canberra, immediately to the north of Majors Creek and approximately 13km south of Braidwood. The Project is located on freehold land.

1.4 Size of the development footprint or work area (hectares)
The land encompassing the proposed activities for the Dargues Reef Project and a buffer to surrounding properties (the Project Site) is approximately 403ha. The project would result in disturbance of approximately 26.5ha (see ‘Key Statistics’ at the end of the Executive Summary in the attached Environmental Assessment).

1.5 Street address of the site
Majors Creek Road, Majors Creek, NSW

1.6 Lot description

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<tr>
<th>Lot</th>
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<tr>
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Note 1: Land registered to the Proponent
Note 2: Land registered to B and C James. Part Lot only.

See also Figure 1.4 of the Environmental Assessment.
1.7 **Local Government Area and Council contact (if known)**

Palerang Local Government Area.

Application for Project Approval under Part 3A of *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. NSW Department of Planning contact – Kane Winwood (02 9228 6298).

1.8 **Time frame**

Determination of the application for project approval is expected in early 2011, with construction to commence in the first quarter of 2011 and initial gold concentrate expected in the 3rd quarter 2011.

1.9 **Alternatives to proposed action**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Were any feasible alternatives to taking the proposed action (including not taking the action) considered but are not proposed?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

1.10 **Alternative time frames etc**

Does the proposed action include alternative time frames, locations or activities?

| No |

1.12 **State assessment**

Is the action subject to a state or territory environmental impact assessment?

| Yes | Refer to Section 2.4 |

1.12 **Component of larger action**

Is the proposed action a component of a larger action?

| No |

1.13 **Related actions/proposals**

Is the proposed action related to other actions or proposals in the region (if known)?

| No |

1.14 **Australian Government funding**

Has the person proposing to take the action received any Australian Government grant funding to undertake this project?

| No |

1.15 **Great Barrier Reef Marine Park**

Is the proposed action inside the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park?

| No |
2 Detailed description of proposed action

NOTE: It is important that the description is complete and includes all components and activities associated with the action. If certain related components are not intended to be included within the scope of the referral, this should be clearly explained in section 2.6.

2.1 Description of proposed action

A full project description is provided in Section 2 of the attached Environmental Assessment. In summary, the Project would involve the following components.

- Extraction of waste rock and ore material from the Dargues Reef deposit using underground sublevel open stope mining methods with a suitable crown pillar to prevent surface subsidence.
- Construction and use of surface infrastructure required for the underground mine, including a box cut, portal and decline, magazines, fuel store, ventilation rise and power and water supply.
- Construction and use of a processing plant and office area which would include an integrated Run-of-Mine (ROM) pad/temporary waste rock emplacement, crushing and grinding, gravity separation and floatation circuits, Proponent and mining contractor site offices, workshop, laydown area, ablutions facilities, stores, car parking, and associated infrastructure.
- Construction and use of a tailings storage facility.
- Construction and use of a water management system, including construction and use of eight dams and associated water reticulation system, to enable the harvesting and supply of water for environmental flows. It is noted that the proposed water harvesting operations would be consistent with the Proponent’s rights under Section 53 of the Water Management Act 2000.
- Construction and use of a site access road and intersection to allow site access from Majors Creek Road.
- Transportation of sulphide concentrate from the Project Site to the Proponent’s customers via public roads surrounding the Project Site using covered semi-trailers.
- Construction and use of ancillary infrastructure, including soil stockpiles, core yards, internal roads and tracks and sediment and erosion management structures.
- Construction and rehabilitation of a final landform that would be geotechnically stable and suitable for a final land use of agriculture and/or nature conservation.

2.2 Alternatives to taking the proposed action

Section 2.16 of the attached Environmental Assessment provides a full description of the feasible alternatives considered and rejected. Section 6.2.5 provides an assessment of not proceeding with the Project

2.3 Alternative locations, time frames or activities that form part of the referred action

Nil
2.4 Context, planning framework and state/local government requirements

Section 2.1.3 of the attached Environmental Assessment identifies the NSW State approvals required for the Project.

2.5 Environmental impact assessments under Commonwealth, state or territory legislation

If you have identified that the proposed action will be or has been subject to a state or territory environmental impact statement (in section 1.10) you must complete this section. Describe any environmental assessment of the relevant impacts of the project that has been, is being, or will be carried out under state or territory legislation. Specify the type and nature of the assessment, the relevant legislation and the current status of any assessments or approvals. Where possible, provide contact details for the state/territory assessment contact officer. Describe or summarise any public consultation undertaken, or to be undertaken, during the assessment. Attach copies of relevant assessment documentation and outcomes of public consultations (if available).

A detailed impact assessment is provided in Section 4 of the attached Environmental Assessment.

Principal contact officers for the relevant NSW government agencies are as follows.

- Department of Planning – Kane Winwood (02 9228 6298)
- Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water – Sandie Jones (02 6229 7002)
- NSW Office of Water – Tim Baker (02 6841 7403)
- Industry and Investment NSW – Steve Cozens (02 8289 3932)
- Palerang Council – Kylie Coe (02 6238 8111)

2.6 Public consultation (including with Indigenous stakeholders)

A full description of consultation undertaken to date is provided in Section 3.2.2 of the attached Environmental Assessment. A description of consultation with the Aboriginal community specifically is provided in Section 4.6.2.

2.7 A staged development or component of a larger project

Not Applicable
3 Description of environment & likely impacts

3.1 Matters of national environmental significance
Describe the affected area and the likely impacts of the proposal, emphasising the relevant matters protected by the EPBC Act. Refer to relevant maps as appropriate. The interactive map tool can help determine whether matters of national environmental significance or other matters protected by the EPBC Act are likely to occur in your area of interest.

Your assessment of likely impacts should refer to the following resources (available from the Department’s web site):
- specific values of individual World Heritage properties and National Heritage places and the ecological character of Ramsar wetlands;
- profiles of relevant species/communities (where available), that will assist in the identification of whether there is likely to be a significant impact on them if the proposal proceeds;
- Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 – Matters of National Environmental Significance; and
- associated sectoral and species policy statements available on the web site, as relevant.

Note that even if your proposal will not be taken in a World Heritage area, Ramsar wetland, Commonwealth marine area, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park or on Commonwealth land, it could still impact upon these areas (for example, through downstream impacts). Consideration of likely impacts should include both direct and indirect impacts.

3.1 (a) World Heritage Properties

Description

Not applicable

Nature and extent of likely impact

3.1 (b) National Heritage Places

Description

Not applicable

Nature and extent of likely impact

3.1 (c) Wetlands of International Importance (declared Ramsar wetlands)

Description

Not applicable

Nature and extent of likely impact

3.1 (d) Listed threatened species and ecological communities
Description

The list below presents a list of species and ecological communities that Gaia Research Pty Ltd state may occur within or surrounding (within five kilometres) the Subject Site based on the NSW NPWS Wildlife Atlas, NSW NPWS Flora Atlas, Commonwealth Protected Matters Search Tool, PlantNet/Flora Online, NSW DECCW requirements and unpublished data from specialist consultant Mr G. Daly of Gaia Research Pty Ltd (Gaia) who prepared the Ecology Assessment. That report is hereafter referred to as Gaia (2010). A copy of that report has been provided with this referral.

- Grey-headed Flying Fox, *Pteropus poliocephalus*.
- Smoky Mouse, *Pseudomys fumeus*.
- Australian Painted Snipe, *Rostratula australis*.
- Regent Honeyeater, *Xanthomyza phrygia*.
- Swift Parrot *Lathamus, discolor*.
- Striped Legless Lizard, *Delma impar*.
- Broad-headed Snake, *Hoplocephalus bungaroides*.
- Giant Burrowing Frog, *Heleioporus australiacus*.
- Littlejohn’s Tree Frog, *Litoria littlejohni* (this is a species complex).
- Golden Bell Frog, *Litoria aurea*.
- Southern Bell Frog, *Litoria raniformis*.
- Green and Macquarie Perch, *Macquaria australasica*.
- Australian Grayling, *Prototroctes maraena*.

- Araluen Gum, *Eucalyptus kartzoffiana*.
- Austral Toadflax, *Thesium austral*.
- Hoary Sunray, *Leucochrysum albicans var. tricolor*.
- Thick-lipped Spider-orchid, *Caladenia tessellata*.

- Natural Temperate Grasslands of the Southern Tablelands (NSW and ACT)
- White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely’s Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland

Nature and extent of likely impact

Address any impacts on the members of any listened threatened species or any threatened ecological community, or their habitat.

Anticipated Impacts within the Project Site

No Commonwealth listed species have been detected within the Project Site. Natural Temperate Grassland is present at one location within the Project Site as an interrupted strip of <5m width present at the crest of an eroding gully. The total area of the Natural Temperate Grassland is small and Gaia Research Pty Ltd considers that the community is not viable due to its long borders and location between disturbed grassland and an eroding slope (see Section 4.3.4.3 of the attached Environmental Assessment).

As identified in Section 6.4 of Gaia (2010) and Sections 4.3.6.5 and 4.3.6.6 of the attached Environmental Assessment, the loss of approximately 0.2ha of Ribbon Gum - Snow Gum grassy open forest, 0.2ha of native dominated grassland and 23.7ha of native-dominated pasture within the Project Site is not considered likely to have an adverse effect on the life cycle of any of the identified species such that a viable local population of the species is likely to be placed at risk of extinction.

Anticipated impacts within the Moruya Catchment downstream of the Project Site

The groundwater and surface water assessments conclude that taking into account the proposed management and mitigation measures identified in Sections 2.7, 4.4 and 4.5 of the Environmental
Assessment, the Project would not result in significant adverse impacts on groundwater or surface water downstream of the Project Site.

Sections 4.4.3, 4.5.4 and 5 of the Environmental Assessment identify a range of groundwater and surface water-specific management measures that would be implemented to minimise the potential for adverse Project-related impacts within the Moruya Catchment. In summary, these would include the following.

- Prepare and implement a Surface Water, Sediment and Erosion Control Management Plan and a Groundwater Management Plan and Monitoring Program in consultation with the relevant Government Agencies. These plans would identify in detail the surface water and groundwater monitoring that would be undertaken during the life of the Project. Sections 4.4.6 and 4.5.7 of the Environmental Assessment provide an overview of the proposed monitoring programs.

- Construct the tailings storage facility in a manner that would ensure that the NSW DECCW required permeability of $1 \times 10^{-9}$ m/sec is achieved. In addition, a seepage collection and return system and monitoring piezometers would be installed downstream of the facility. Finally, a clean water diversion structure would be constructed upslope of the facility to divert the limited volume of water that may otherwise flow onto the facility.

- Ensure that the processing plant and all areas of chemical, reagent or hydrocarbon storage and use is contained within a contaminated water management area. Within that area, all surface water would be captured for use within the processing plant. None would be permitted to flow to natural drainage.

- All liquid chemicals, hydrocarbons and reagents would be stored within appropriately bunded areas within the contaminated water management area.

- Appropriate surface water and sediment and erosion control structures would be built to contain all surface water from all areas of disturbance within the Project Site. Water would not be released from those structures until it complies with the water quality criteria identified in the Environment Protection Licence that would be required for the Project.

Section 4.4.5 of the Environmental Assessment identifies the following in relation to groundwater-related impacts within the Moruya Catchment.

- Three classes of aquifers exist within and surrounding the Project Site as follows (see Figure 4.21 of the Environmental Assessment).
  - Fracture-controlled, granodiorite-hosted aquifer. A hydraulically “tight” massive granodiorite with little or no primary permeability and localised fracture or fault systems which may be open and transmit groundwater flow. This aquifer occurs across the entire Project Site and surrounding catchments, including within the Araluen valley.
  - A regolith aquifer (a shallow, weathered aquifer overlying the granodiorite). This aquifer is hosted by weathered granodiorite material which typically occurs to a depth of approximately 15m.
  - A shallow alluvial aquifer (associated with the Majors Creek). This aquifer comprises of sand and clay with boulders adjacent to and within Majors Creek.

- The Project would result in:
  - reduced groundwater discharge to Spring Creek of up to approximately 0.3L/s or 9.4ML/year; and
  - reduced net groundwater discharge to Majors Creek of up to approximately 1.8L/s or 56.8ML/year.

- The lateral extent of groundwater drawdown, as defined by the 1m drawdown contour, would, at the completion of mining operations, be approximately 2.5km from the proposed Dargues Reef Gold Mine.

In order to compensate for the proposed loss of groundwater flows within Majors and Spring Creeks, the Proponent would ensure that water would be released to Majors Creek from the commencement of
mining operations until 2 years after the cessation of dewatering operations. That water would be preferentially sourced from the proposed harvestable rights dams to ensure that the quality of water released meets the requirements of the relevant guidelines, namely ANZECC (2000) guidelines for upland rivers and the Moruya River Water Quality and River Flow Objectives. In addition, the Proponent would ensure that the volume of water released would match the anticipated reduction in groundwater that would be discharged to Majors and Spring Creeks. Further information in relation to the proposed compensatory flow program is provided in Sections 2.7 and 4.4.5.4 of the Environmental Assessment.

In addition, Sections 4.5.5 and 4.5.6 of the surface water assessment concluded that the volume of water discharged from the Project Site to the Moruya catchment would not vary significantly from current flows and that no more than the Proponent's harvestable right would be captured as surface runoff. In addition, in light of the proposed management and mitigation measures outlined above and in Sections 2 and 4 of the Environmental Assessment the quality of water discharged from the Project Site would be improved.

As a result, the Proponent contends that the Project would not result in significant adverse surface water or groundwater-related impacts within the Moruya Catchment downstream of the Project Site. As a result, Gaia (2010) state that the Project is not considered likely to have an adverse effect on the life cycle of any of the identified species such as the Australian Greyling such that a viable local population of the species is likely to be placed at risk of extinction.

Gaia (2010) state that an assessment of the impact of the threatened species using the EPBC guidelines indicates that the proposed development will not lead to a long-term decrease in the size of a population and/or potentially disrupt the breeding cycle of a population or reduce the area occupied by a species or modify, destroy, remove, isolate or decrease the availability or quality of habitat yo the extent that the species is likely to decline.

3.1 (e) Listed migratory species
Description

Gaia Research Pty Ltd state that the following migratory species have either been detected on the Project Site or have the potential to occur within the Project Site.

- Black-faced Monarch *Monarcha melanopsis* (detected on the Project Site).
- White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus* (observed flying over the Project Site).
- White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*.
- Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*.
- Clamorous Reed-Warbler *Acrocephalus stentoreus*.
- Wanderer Butterfly *Danaus plexippus*.
- Great Egret *Ardea alba*.
- Cattle Egret *Ardea ibis*.
- Latham’s Snipe *Gallinago hardwickii*.
- Painted Snipe *Rostratula benghalensis*.
- Black-faced Monarch *Monarcha melanopsis*.
- Satin Flycatcher *Myiagra cyanoleuca*.
- Rufous Fantail *Rhipidura rufifrons*.
- Regent Honeyeater *Xanthomyza phrygia*.
- Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus*.

Nature and extent of likely impact

As identified in Section 6.4 of Gaia (2010) and Sections 4.3.6.5 and 4.3.6.6 of the attached Environmental Assessment, an assessment of the impact of the Project on the above migratory species using the EPBC Act guidelines indicates that the Project would not lead to a long-term decrease in the size of a population and/or potentially disrupt the breeding cycle of a population or reduce the area occupied by a species or modify, destroy, remove, isolate or decrease the availability or quality of habitat to the extent that the species is likely to decline.

In addition, as the groundwater and surface water assessments conclude that the Project would not result in significant adverse impacts on groundwater or surface water downstream of the Project Site, Gaia Research Pty Ltd state that the Project would not lead to a long-term decrease in the size of a population and/or potentially disrupt the breeding cycle of a population or reduce the area occupied by a species or modify, destroy, remove, isolate or decrease the availability or quality of habitat to the extent that the species is likely to decline.

Address any impacts on the members of any listed migratory species, or their habitat.

3.1 (f) Commonwealth marine area

(If the action is in the Commonwealth marine area, complete 3.2(c) instead. This section is for actions taken outside the Commonwealth marine area that may have impacts on that area.)

Description

Not applicable

Nature and extent of likely impact
3.1 (g) Commonwealth land
(If the action is on Commonwealth land, complete 3.2(d) instead. This section is for actions taken outside Commonwealth land that may have impacts on that land.)

Description

Not applicable

Nature and extent of likely impact
3.1 (h) The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

Description

Not applicable

Nature and extent of likely impact

3.2 Nuclear actions, actions taken by the Commonwealth (or Commonwealth agency), actions taken in a Commonwealth marine area, actions taken on Commonwealth land, or actions taken in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

3.2 (a) Is the proposed action a nuclear action?  

No

If yes, nature & extent of likely impact on the whole environment

3.2 (b) Is the proposed action to be taken by the Commonwealth or a Commonwealth agency?

No

If yes, nature & extent of likely impact on the whole environment

3.2 (c) Is the proposed action to be taken in a Commonwealth marine area?

No

If yes, nature & extent of likely impact on the whole environment (in addition to 3.1(f))

3.2 (d) Is the proposed action to be taken on Commonwealth land?

No

If yes, nature & extent of likely impact on the whole environment (in addition to 3.1(g))

3.2 (e) Is the proposed action to be taken in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park?

No

If yes, nature & extent of likely impact on the whole environment (in addition to 3.1(h))

3.3 Other important features of the environment
3.3 (a) Flora and fauna

See Section 4.3 of the attached Environmental Assessment and Gaia (2010).

3.3 (b) Hydrology, including water flows

See Sections 4.4 and 4.5 of the attached Environmental Assessment and the attached Surface Water and Groundwater Assessments.

3.3 (c) Outstanding natural features

See Section 4.1 of the attached Environmental Assessment and Gaia (2010).

3.3 (d) Remnant native vegetation

See Section 4.3.4.3 and Figure 4.16 of the attached Environmental Assessment and Gaia (2010).

3.3 (e) Current state of the environment

See Section 4.3.4 of the attached Environmental Assessment and Gaia (2010).

3.3 (f) Commonwealth Heritage Places or other places recognised as having heritage values

None present

3.3 (g) Indigenous heritage values

See Section 4.6 of the attached Environmental Assessment.

3.3 (h) Other important or unique values of the environment

The Majors Creek Falls Reserve is located approximately 1km to the southeast of the Project Site. No adverse impacts to flora, fauna, surface water or groundwater are anticipated with the reserve.

3.3 (i) Tenure of the action area (eg freehold, leasehold)

All land within the Project Site is freehold land.

3.3 (j) Existing land/ marine uses of area

Land within the Project Site is principally used for agricultural purposes, principally grazing. Surrounding land is also used for residential or rural residential purposes, particularly within the village of Majors Creek. In addition, small sections of surrounding land, including the Majors Creek Fall Reserve, are used for nature conservation. Finally, prior land uses include alluvial mining which has resulted in significant degradation of the drainage lines within and surrounding the Project Site.

3.3 (k) Any proposed land/ marine uses of area

The Project would result in the commencement of underground mining and mineral processing operations within the Project Site.
4 Measures to avoid or reduce impacts

Sections 2, 4 and 5 of the attached *Environmental Assessment* include a detailed description of the Project, the measures that would be implemented to avoid, minimise, mitigate and offset anticipated Project-related impacts and a draft Statement of Commitments in relation to the Project respectively. In summary, those measures that may be relevant to determining whether the Project is a controlled action include the following.

**General**
- As requested by the local community, the Project does not include open cut mining, permanent surface waste rock emplacement or the use of cyanide within the Project Site, significantly reducing potential environmental impacts.
- The noisiest, namely the crushing and screening operations, would be housed within a noise attenuating structure. In addition, in response to concerns raised by the community during the public exhibition for the Project, the Proponent proposes to limit crushing and screening operations to 7:00am to 10:00pm, except for emergency purposes. 24-hour crushing operations would be limited to no more than 20 days per year.
- No vegetation taller than 3m tall would be cleared or removed.

**Tailings Management**
- Tailings material has been identified as benign and the processing reagents are commonly used reagents and are not anticipated to pose significant environmental risks.
- The tailings storage facility would be a prescribed dam under the *NSW Dams Safety Act 1978* and would be constructed and operated in accordance with the requirements of the *NSW Dam Safety Committee*.
- The tailings storage facility would be lined with clay and/or artificial liners to ensure a permeability of $1 \times 10^{-9}$ m/sec.
- A seepage collection system would be constructed downstream of the tailings storage facility to collect any seepage and return it to the surface of the facility.
- A groundwater monitoring program, including a suite of piezometers, would be installed downstream of the seepage collection system to identify any groundwater contamination.
- A detailed surface water monitoring program would be implemented downstream of the tailings storage facility (and other sections of the Project Site) to identify any surface water contamination.

**Groundwater**
- Detailed 3D numerical groundwater modelling has been undertaken and is being peer reviewed. That model would be revised within two years of the commencement of mining operations to confirm the predictions made. If required, minor adjustments to the management and mitigation measures identified in Section 4.4.3 would be implemented.
- Chemicals and hydrocarbons and would be stored and used in a manner that would minimise the potential for groundwater contamination.
- The groundwater assessment determined that the extent of groundwater drawdown would be limited to approximately 2.5km from the proposed Dargues Reef Mine and that there would be no direct groundwater-related impacts outside this zone.
- The groundwater assessment determined that the Project would result in reduced ground water seepage to Majors and Spring Creeks. This reduction in seepage would, in the final year of mining operations, be a maximum of 66.2ML/year. This reduced basef low in Majors and Spring Creeks would be replaced through a compensatory flow program as identified in Sections 2.7 and 4.4.5.4 of the *Environmental Assessment*. Water released as part of that program would comply with the relevant ANZECC guidelines for upland rivers.
- A detailed groundwater monitoring program for both groundwater levels and groundwater quality would be implemented. That program would be developed in consultation with the relevant government agencies and the surrounding community.

**Surface Water and Sediment and Erosion Control**
- Three water management areas would be established as follows.
  1. Contaminated Water Management Area – including all processing areas, the tailings storage facility, concentrate storage area and all areas where hydrocarbons or chemicals are stored or used. Water within this area(s) would not be permitted to flow to natural drainage and would be pumped to the process water tanks for use within the processing plant.
  2. Sediment-laden Water Management Area – including all areas of disturbance not included in the Contaminated Water Management Area. Water within these areas would be directed to sediment basins or other structures and would not be released until the concentration of suspended sediment is less than the required concentration under the Project's Environment Protection Licence.
  3. Clean Water Area – including all areas of the Project Site that would not be further disturbed. Where required clean water diversions would be constructed around areas of proposed disturbance.

All Surface water management structures would be constructed in accordance with the relevant NSW “Blue Book” requirements.
- A detailed surface water monitoring program would be implemented upstream, within and downstream of the Project Site for both water flows and water quality prior to commencement of mining operations. That program would be implemented in conjunction with the groundwater monitoring program and would be developed in consultation with the relevant government agencies and the surrounding community.
5 Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts

Identify whether or not you believe the action is a controlled action (i.e. whether you think that significant impacts on the matters protected under Part 3 of the EPBC Act are likely) and the reasons why.

5.1 Do you THINK your proposed action is a controlled action?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Yes</th>
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<tr>
<td>No, complete section 5.2</td>
<td>Yes, complete section 5.3</td>
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5.2 Proposed action IS NOT a controlled action.

The specialist assessments undertaken to support the Environmental Assessment, in particular the ecology, surface water and groundwater assessments, conclude that the Project would not result in significant impacts to the environment, including matters of National Environmental Significance, within, surrounding or downstream of the Project Site. In addition, a range of measures are proposed to minimise, to the greatest extent practicable, the potential for adverse, Project-related environmental impacts. Finally, the proposed environmental monitoring programs would identify any potential impacts before they become significant and enable the Proponent to implement appropriate actions.

As a result, the Proponent contends that the Project is not a controlled action.

5.3 Proposed action IS a controlled action

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Matters likely to be impacted</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>World Heritage values (sections 12 and 15A)</td>
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<td>National Heritage places (sections 15B and 15C)</td>
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<td>Wetlands of international importance (sections 16 and 17B)</td>
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<td>Listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 and 18A)</td>
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<td>Listed migratory species (sections 20 and 20A)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Protection of the environment from nuclear actions (sections 21 and 22A)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commonwealth marine environment (sections 23 and 24A)</td>
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<td>Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (sections 24B and 24C)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Protection of the environment from actions involving Commonwealth land (sections 26 and 27A)</td>
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<td>Protection of the environment from Commonwealth actions (section 28)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commonwealth Heritage places overseas (sections 27B and 27C)</td>
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### 6 Environmental record of the responsible party

NOTE: If a decision is made that a proposal needs approval under the EPBC Act, the Environment Minister will also decide the assessment approach. The EPBC Regulations provide for the environmental history of the party proposing to take the action to be taken into account when deciding the assessment approach.

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<tr>
<td><strong>6.1 Does the party taking the action have a satisfactory record of responsible environmental management?</strong></td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Provide details</strong></td>
<td>The Proponent and its predecessors have been undertaking exploration operations within the Project Site since 2002 without significant environmental incident. Concerns in relation to drilling noise during the night-time raised during early 2010 have been addressed in consultation with Industry and Investment NSW and the community. The Proponent has restricted hours of operations for drilling activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>6.2 Has either (a) the party proposing to take the action, or (b) if a permit has been applied for in relation to the action, the person making the application - ever been subject to any proceedings under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources?</strong></td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>If yes, provide details</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>6.3 If the party taking the action is a corporation, will the action be taken in accordance with the corporation’s environmental policy and planning framework?</strong></td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>If yes, provide details of environmental policy and planning framework</strong></td>
<td>Environmental Policy is attached to the back of this document</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>6.4 Has the party taking the action previously referred an action under the EPBC Act, or been responsible for undertaking an action referred under the EPBC Act?</strong></td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Provide name of proposal and EPBC reference number (if known)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7 Information sources and attachments
(For the information provided above)

7.1 References

- *Environmental Assessment for the Dargues Reefs Gold Project* prepared by RW Corkery & Co Pty Limited and dated September 2010 and supporting documentation
  - Copies of the *Environmental Assessment* and associated specialist ecology, groundwater and surface water assessments have been provided with this document.
  - Copies of all documents supporting the Proponent’s application for project approval may be obtained from http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/page/project-sectors/mining--petroleum---extractive-industries/mining/?action=view_job&job_id=3871

- Following the public exhibition of the above documents, the Proponent has received copies of all submissions made. A response to these submissions is currently being prepared and will be provided once finalised.

7.2 Reliability and date of information

All information included in this document is current to the date of submission.

This document has been prepared by Mr Mitchell Bland of RW Corkery & Co. Pty Limited on behalf of the Proponent, Big Island Mining Pty Ltd. Mr Bland notes that to the best of his knowledge this document and attachments includes all information relevant to Matters of National Environmental Significance and that information provided in this document is neither false nor misleading.

7.3 Attachments

Indicate the documents you have attached. All attachments must be less than two megabytes (2mb) so they can be published on the Department’s website. Attachments larger than two megabytes (2mb) may delay the processing of your referral.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attached</th>
<th>Title of attachment(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Figure 1.1 of <em>Environmental Assessment</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Various figures included Section 4 of the <em>Environmental Assessment.</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**You must attach**
- figures, maps or aerial photographs showing the project locality (section 1)
- figures, maps or aerial photographs showing the location of the project in respect to any matters of national environmental significance or important features of the environments (section 3)

**If relevant, attach**
- copies of any state or local government approvals and consent conditions (section 2.3)
- copies of any completed assessments to meet state or local government approvals and outcomes of public consultations, if available (section 2.4)
- copies of any flora and fauna investigations and surveys (section 3)
- Application for project approval is currently being sought
- *Environmental Assessment and supporting documentation has been provided*
- Part 2 of the *Specialist Consultant Studies*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Information</th>
<th>Compendium</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>technical reports relevant to the assessment of impacts on protected</td>
<td>Parts 2, 3 and 4 of the Specialist Consultant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>matters and that support the arguments and conclusions in the referral</td>
<td>Studies Compendium.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(section 3 and 4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>report(s) on any public consultations undertaken, including with Indigenous</td>
<td>Sections 3.2.2 and 4.6.2 of the Environmental</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stakeholders (section 3)</td>
<td>Assessment.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
8 Contacts, signatures and declarations

NOTE: Providing false or misleading information is an offence punishable on conviction by imprisonment and fine (s 489, EPBC Act).

Under the EPBC Act a referral can only be made by:
- the person proposing to take the action (which can include a person acting on their behalf); or
- a Commonwealth, state or territory government, or agency that is aware of a proposal by a person to take an action, and that has administrative responsibilities relating to the action\(^1\).

Project title:

8.1 Person proposing to take action

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Mr Peter van der Borgh</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Managing Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organisation</td>
<td>Big Island Mining, a wholly owned subsidiary of Cortona Resources Limited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACN / ABN</td>
<td>98 117 848 790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postal address</td>
<td>PO Box 86, WEST PERTH WA 6872</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>08 6380 1093</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:peter@cortonaresources.com.au">peter@cortonaresources.com.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Declaration</td>
<td>I declare that the information contained in this form is, to my knowledge, true and not misleading. I agree to be the proponent for this action.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signature</td>
<td>[Signature]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>11/2010</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\) If the proposed action is to be taken by a Commonwealth, state or territory government or agency, section 8.1 of this form should be completed. However, if the government or agency is aware of, and has administrative responsibilities relating to, a proposed action that is to be taken by another person which has not otherwise been referred, please contact the Referrals Business Entry Point (1800 803 772) to obtain an alternative contacts, signatures and declarations page.
8.2 Person preparing the referral information (if different from 8.1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Mitchell Bland</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Principal Environmental Consultant, RW Corkery &amp; CO Pty Limited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACN / ABN</td>
<td>31 002 033 712</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postal address</td>
<td>62 Hill Street, ORANGE NSW 2800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>02 6362 5411</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td>mitchell@rw corkery.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Declaration</td>
<td>I declare that the information contained in this form is, to my knowledge, true and not misleading.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signature</td>
<td>M Bland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>30/11/2010</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
REFERRAL CHECKLIST

NOTE: This checklist is to help ensure that all the relevant referral information has been provided. It is not a part of the referral form and does not need to be sent to the Department.

HAVE YOU:

☐ Completed all required sections of the referral form?
☐ Included accurate coordinates (to allow the location of the proposed action to be mapped)?
☐ Provided a map showing the location and approximate boundaries of the project area?
☐ Provided a map/plan showing the location of the action in relation to any matters of NES?
☐ Provided complete contact details and signed the form?
☐ Provided copies of any documents referenced in the referral form?
☐ Ensured that all attachments are less than two megabytes (2mb)?
☐ Sent the referral to the Department (electronic and hard copy preferred)?
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Cortona Resources is an independent Australian resource company focused on the exploration and development of precious metals projects. We are committed to minimising the environmental impact of our operations and to continually improving our environmental performance.

To accomplish this, Cortona Resources will:

- Train employees and contractors to a standard where they are capable of meeting their individual responsibilities and those of the company.
- Promote the concept that sound environmental management is a shared responsibility between the employer and employee.
- Ensure compliance with all environmental laws, regulations and other requirements as the minimum standard for its operations by establishing appropriate management systems, procedures and standards to protect the environment.
- Identify activities with the potential to have an environmental impact and to implement management measures to address these risks.
- Consult regularly with the communities in which it operates and its stakeholders.
- Pursue positive co-operative relationships with government agencies that regulate our business.
- Establish annual environmental objectives and targets designed to meet continual improvement goals for each operation.
- Test it's ability to respond effectively to all types of environmental emergencies.
- Implement an audit and monitoring program to measure its environmental performance, and where necessary make improvements to its practices and performance.
- Promote the efficient use of resources, including the reuse and recycling of goods.

[Signatures]

Agatha Saverinutto
Operations Manager

Peter van der Borgh
Managing Director