



# **Maud Creek Mine Site**

## **Environmental Impact Statement**

### **Public Comment Invited**

Terra Gold Mining Pty Ltd (Terra Gold), a wholly owned subsidiary of GBS Gold Australia Pty Ltd (GBS) proposes to commence mining activities at the previously worked Maud Creek Mine site near Katherine, Northern Territory. As part of the approval process, Terra Gold has prepared a draft environmental impact statement (EIS).

The operation will involve construction of an underground decline, stockpile area, and associated infrastructure. Extracted ores will be transported to Union Reefs Gold Mine (URGM) for processing.

It is anticipated that the mine at Maud Creek will establish an underground decline depth extending from the ground surface to approximately 300 m within the first two years, producing 500,000 t of ore per annum. Mining will intersect the water table, so mine dewatering and associated water management programs will be developed and implemented.

The ore will be trucked to the Union Reefs Gold Mine, approximately 145 km away for processing. It is expected that the ore will yield approximately 1,000,000 ounces of pure gold.

The proposed mining operation is anticipated to produce ore for approximately 10 years and is expected to commence in March 2010. Maud Creek has been previously disturbed by historic mining and exploration activities, and has been heavily cleared of native vegetation. The proposed works will require little additional clearing and the sites will be rehabilitated with native vegetation after mine closure.

In November 2006 the Northern Territory Minister for Mines and Energy was notified of the proposed project. The Northern Territory Minister for Mines subsequently referred the project to the Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage, and in March 2007 it was determined by the latter that the level of assessment for the proposed gold mining project is to be an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This EIS has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Northern Territory Environmental Assessment Act 1982* and the Environmental Assessment Administrative Procedures under which the Act is implemented.

In addition, the proposal was referred to the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage in December 2006 under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. Under this Act a development requires assessment if it has the potential to affect one or more of the seven Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES). In January, 2007, the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Heritage confirmed that the proposed gold mining project did not constitute a controlled action, with respect to the MNES.

The principal objective of this EIS is to identify and assess the environmental and related impacts that could potentially occur as a result of the construction and operation of the proposed mining project, and to develop and describe management strategies that will be employed to manage and mitigate those impacts.



The EIS includes outlines of Terra Gold's intended environmental management systems and programs for the mine site, which demonstrate the company's commitment to on-going planning and management of its environmental responsibilities and objectives.

The EIS will be available for public review for a six week period from Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February until Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2008 at the following locations:

- Environment, Heritage and Arts Division, Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts (NRETA), 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Darwin Plaza, 41 Smith Street Mall, Darwin;
- Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DPI), Foyer, Cavenagh House, Cnr Cavenagh and Knuckey Streets, Darwin;
- Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts (NRETA), 16 Katherine Terrace, Katherine;
- Minerals and Energy Information Centre, Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines (DPIFM), 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Centrepont Building 48 Smith Street Mall, Darwin;
- Katherine Town Council Chambers, Civic Centre, Stuart Highway, Katherine;
- Northern Territory Library, Parliament House, Cnr Bennett and Mitchell Streets, Darwin;
- Katherine Public Library, Katherine Terrace, Katherine;
- The Environment Centre, Unit 3/98 Woods Street, Darwin;
- Northern Land Council, 45 Mitchell Street, Darwin; and
- Northern Land Council, 5 Katherine Terrace, Katherine.

CD copies of the EIS are available at \$10 per copy. A hard copy main report with CD appendices is available at \$55 per copy. A hard copy main report and hard copy appendices are available at \$75 per copy. These can be obtained from the following locations:

URS Australia Pty Ltd  
Level 3, Holiday Inn Office Tower  
93 Mitchell Street  
Darwin NT 0800  
GPO Box 2005  
Darwin NT 0801  
Tel: (08) 8980 2900  
Fax: (08) 8941 3920

OR

GBS Gold Australia Pty  
Shop 2/22 Katherine Terrace  
Katherine NT 0850  
PO Box 195  
Pine Creek NT 0847  
Tel: (08) 8971 0300  
Fax: (08) 8971 0100



The Draft EIS report can also be examined for the duration of the public review period on the Northern Territory Government website:

[www.nt.gov.au/nreta/environment/assessment/register/comment.html](http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/environment/assessment/register/comment.html)

Anyone wishing to comment on the EIS is invited to make written submissions by the close of business on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2008 to:

Michael Browne  
Environmental, Heritage and Arts Division  
Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts  
GPO Box 496  
Palmerston NT 0831  
Fax: (08) 8924 4053  
Email: [michael.browne@nt.gov.au](mailto:michael.browne@nt.gov.au)

Submissions will be treated as public documents unless confidentiality is requested.