Section 1 General Information

1.1 The Proposal

Maud Creek is an existing open pit mine that is currently under Care and Maintenance. Terra Gold Mining Ltd (Terra Gold), a wholly owned subsidiary of GBS Gold Australia Pty Ltd, proposes to recommence mining operations at Maud Creek, near Katherine, in the Northern Territory (NT). The proposed operations will involve the construction of an underground mine with an access portal within a box cut and decline. All mined ore will be transported via road trains to the existing Union Reefs Gold Mine (URGM) near Pine Creek for processing and treatment. The haulage distance from Maud Creek to URGM is approximately 145 km.

Figure 1-1 shows the location of the Maud Creek project in the NT in relation to the ore processing facility at Union Reefs Gold Mine (URGM). The mine will produce approximately 500,000 t of ore per annum. The box cut, access portal and decline will commence in the north western area of the existing pit. The current detailed mining plan extends to 290 m below surface for a two year production profile. As the mining progresses so the detailed mining plan will be expanded to include the ore reserves beyond the initial two year detailed plan.

Figure 1-2 shows the location of the Maud Creek project at larger scale in relation to local features, roads and surface drainage. The project area is relatively remote from populated areas, adjacent to Nitmiluk National Park. Current access to the site is via a single road indicated as option two in Figure 1-2.

Waste material excavated during the construction of the box cut and decline will be stored on a temporary waste stockpile (2009 – 2010), and will subsequently be placed back into the existing pit as backfill. Waste material generated during underground mining operations will remain underground and be used as backfill. Material from the existing waste rock stockpile will be used as road base for a new access road, and a lined mine water dam will then be constructed on top of the reshaped stockpiled waste rock.

Mine water will not be discharged to Gold or Maud Creek. The water obtained from the current pit, underground mine dewatering and runoff in the operational mine area will be used for dust suppression and pasture irrigation. The irrigation area will be established on an existing cleared area within Maud Creek Station. It is proposed that two centre-pivot irrigation systems will be constructed in the irrigation area. Irrigation of excess water will eliminate the need to discharge mine dewater into local creeks and waterways, thus minimising the potential associated impacts on downstream environments.

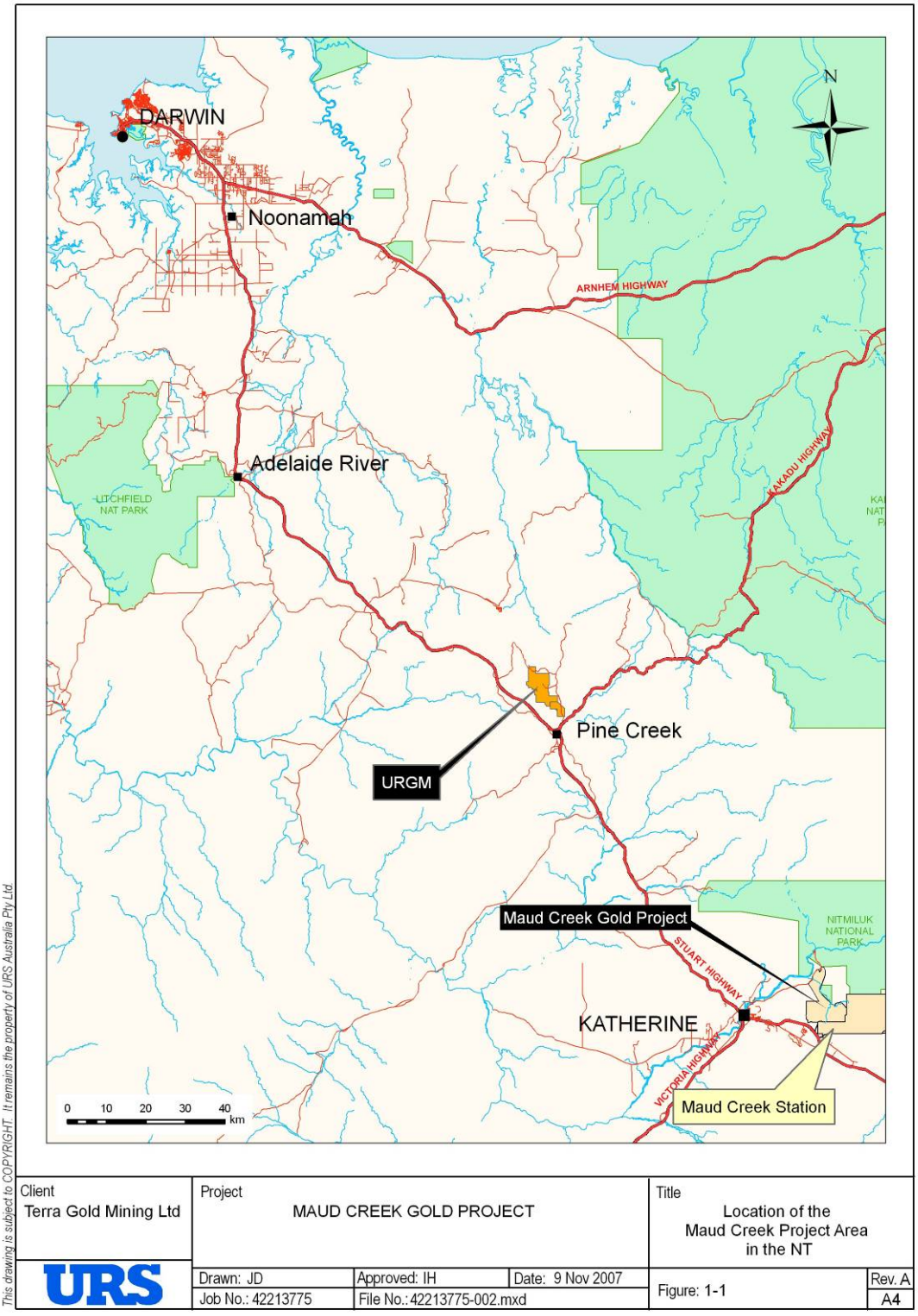
Historic mining and exploration activities since 1890 have occurred at Maud Creek mine site, with a range of resources being extracted including uranium, copper and molybdenum (URS 2006). As far as possible all infrastructure for the mining activities will be placed within the previously disturbed areas. Approximately 18.1 ha (0.181 km^2) of additional land clearing will be required for infrastructure development in this proposal (mainly the new access road).

GBS will develop a Rehabilitation and Mine Closure Plan (RMCP) using current best practices as a guideline. The RMCP will include areas currently disturbed by past mining activities and have agricultural (principally grazing) land use as the primary closure objective.

The principal objective of this Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) is to identify and assess environmental and related impacts that could potentially occur as a result of the construction and operation of the proposed mining project, and to describe strategies that will be implemented to manage and mitigate those impacts. This Draft EIS also includes information on Terra Gold's proposed Environmental Management System (EMS), and draft Environmental Management Plans (EMPs), which will be implemented to manage environmental issues during the operational phase of the mine.

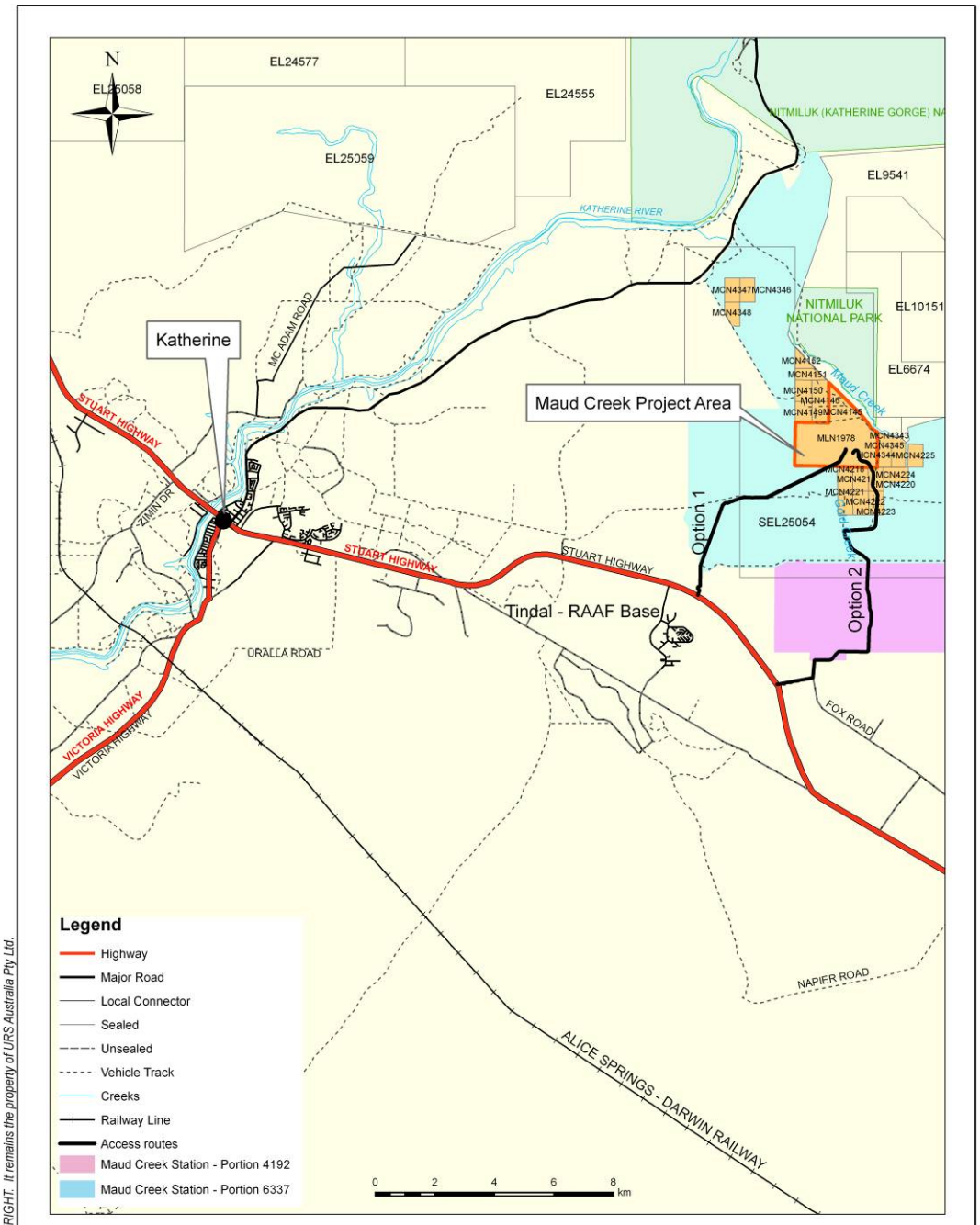
Section 1 General Information

Figure 1-1 Location of the Maud Creek project area in the NT



Section 1 General Information

Figure 1-2 Location of the Maud Creek project area with local features



Client: Terra Gold Mining Ltd	Project: MAUD CREEK GOLD PROJECT		Title: Location of the Maud Creek Project Area mineral tenements, with local features
URS	Drawn: JD	Approved: IH	Date: 5 Nov 2007
	Job No.: 42213775	File No.: 42213775-001.mxd	Figure:1-2 Rev. A A4

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1.2 Proponent Details

The proponent is Terra Gold Mining Ltd (Terra Gold), a wholly owned subsidiary of GBS Gold Australia Pty Ltd. The address and key contacts are:

Contact: Mr Tom Heaton, Operations Manager
Postal: PO Box 195
Pine Creek, NT, 0847, Australia
Tel: 08 8974 7400
Fax: 08 8976 1451
Email: theaton@gbsgold.com

1.3 Project Name, Location and Ownership

1.3.1 Name and location

Project Name: *Maud Creek Gold Project*

Project Location: *Maud Creek Station, NT*

Maud Creek Station is located approximately 310 km south east of Darwin and 20 km east northeast of the regional centre of Katherine in the NT (refer Figures 1-1, 1-2 and 1-3).

1.3.2 Project ownership

Terra Gold purchased the Maud Creek Gold Project from Katherine Mining NL (Anglo Gold) in 2005 with a plan to mine the mineral resources by extending the existing open pit mine and developing an underground decline. At the time of purchase the project was, and still remains, under Care and Maintenance. In 2006, GBS Gold Australia Pty Ltd (GBS) purchased Terra Gold. At this time GBS also purchased URGM and its associated gold processing plant. Terra Gold now operates as a subsidiary company to GBS Gold Australia Pty Ltd.

1.4 Overview of the Proposed Project

Mining at Maud Creek Station began in 1890 and has continued sporadically until the present time. Following the most recent mine closure in 2000, the open pit has been left open for potential future use and is protected by bund wall. At present the mine site is undergoing a brief hiatus in activity, with mining predicted to recommence in 2009.

1.4.1 Scale and type of mining operations

The proposed underground mining operation will commence with a decline portal within a box cut (approximately 20 m below surface) to the north western area of the existing pit. The estimated life of the mining operation is 10 years and construction is expected to commence in 2009. Over the estimated mine life it is anticipated that the Maud Creek Gold Project will produce 500,000 t ore per year at an average grade of 6.1 g/t, to yield ~100,000 ounces of gold per annum.

The ore and waste rock will be extracted using a combination of stope and fill mining in the upper levels and uphole bench stoping in the lower levels. Stope and fill mining progresses from the lowest level up, and mine development and scheduling have been designed to reduce the risk of ground failure as well as water inundation. The crown pillar and stope backfilling have been designed to protect the mine

workings and to support the pit walls, and in addition sufficient storm surge capacity will be provided to protect the lower levels when the mine is opened to the pit.

Uphole bench stoping is a top down mining method, leaving permanent island pillars in lower grade zones within the stopes. The location of island pillars is flexible, allowing their location in lower grade and/or less stable zones.

Blasting will be required to fracture the ore and waste rock, which will be hauled to the surface in 50 t haul trucks via a 1:7 gradient decline and access portal. The ore will be stockpiled on the existing run-of-mine (ROM) pad and the initial development waste will be stockpiled on a temporary waste rock stockpile before being returned to the base of the pit (see page 2-5). Ore will then be loaded into road trains for transport to URGM. A description of these mining methods and proposed activities are included in Section 2.3.

1.4.2 Offsite processing

There will be no ore processing on site at Maud Creek; all the ore will be transported to URGM for processing. URGM currently operates a free-milling processing plant for gold ore. This plant currently receives ore from operating mines including Rising Tide Open Pit Project, Fountain Head Open Pit Project and the Zapopan Underground Project.

The existing, operational free-milling circuit follows a three stage crushing, ball milling, gravity recovery, cyanide leaching and carbon-in-leach (CIL) recovery process. The gold is produced as bullion using conventional elution and an electrowinning circuit, followed by smelting.

Terra Gold proposes to re-commission the existing second milling circuit at URGM to process refractory ores. The commissioning of this second milling circuit and the required expansion to treat refractory ores was proposed to the NT Government on 10 April 2007, and approved on 6 July 2007, via an amendment to the existing URGM Mining Management Plan.

The additional processing facilities required along with modifications to the existing crushing circuit at URGM are described in Section 2.6; this section also describes how the ore from the Maud Creek project area will be processed at URGM.

1.4.3 Construction and operational timeframe

Terra Gold proposes to commence construction work associated with the re-opening of the Maud Creek mine in September 2009, depending on Government approvals. Ore production is expected to re-commence in March 2010, by underground methods rather than the previous open pit operations, and is currently planned to continue for around ten years. A proposed operational timeframe that includes construction, operation, rehabilitation and monitoring is presented in Table 1-1.

Limiting mining activity to underground operations will greatly reduce the mine footprint in the current proposal from previous mining proposals at Maud Creek (Dames & Moore 1998), which were open cut operations. Also, the proposed development will use existing areas either cleared for agricultural development or disturbed by past mining activity to reduce the environmental footprint as far as practicable. The total mine footprint area is 113.9 ha, of which new disturbance (mainly for the new access road) is approximately 18.1 ha (refer Table 2-2).

A Rehabilitation and Mine Closure Plan (RMCP) will be developed using current best practices as a guideline. The RCMP will include areas currently disturbed by past mining activities. Most of the mine infrastructure will be required for the duration of mining activities; therefore the majority of rehabilitation activities will not occur until after operations have ceased.

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A conceptual rehabilitation and monitoring period of five years is proposed as part of the project schedule. Decommissioning will only occur when the site is rehabilitated to a level that is considered acceptable by Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines (DPIFM) and other relevant stakeholders. Section 3 provides more details on rehabilitation and decommissioning.

Table 1-1 Operational Timeframe

Year	2009	2010	2010	2011	2011	2012	2012	2013	2013	2014	2014	2015	2015	2016	2016	2017	2017	2018	2018	2019	2019	2020	2020	2021	2021	2022	2022	2023	2023	2024
Quarter	Q3	Q1	Q3	Q1	Q3	Q1	Q3	Q1	Q3	Q1	Q3	Q1	Q3	Q1	Q3	Q1	Q3	Q1	Q3	Q1	Q3	Q1	Q3	Q1	Q3	Q1	Q3	Q1	Q3	Q1
Activity																														
Site Preparation																														
Construction																														
Operations																														
Rehabilitation and monitoring																				Continued until decommissioning >>>>										

1.5 Land Tenure and Land Use

The tenements held by Terra Gold in the Maud Creek Area are listed in Table 1-2. Figure 1-3 shows the location of the mining tenements and the boundary of pastoral leases that apply to and abut the project area. Portions of land to the west of the Maud Creek Project Area (NT Portions 3119 and 3311) are privately owned, and some are non-operational pastoral properties (Dames & Moore 1998). Low intensity cattle and buffalo grazing occurs on these properties.

The Maud Creek project is owned by Terra Gold under NT Freehold Title (NT Portion 4192, a subdivision of Portion 4159) and run as a buffalo and cattle grazing enterprise known as Maud Creek Station (Figure 1-3) covering an area of 6,738 ha (Dames & Moore 1998).

Land uses in adjoining areas include buffalo grazing, nature conservation, cropping and mining exploration. Exploration activity in and around Maud Creek commenced in 1890 and has continued intermittently up to the present time (Dames & Moore 1998). Crops grown in the local area include millet, sorghum, mango, citrus, leucaena and melons.

Table 1-2 Terra Gold Maud Creek Area Tenements

Tenements			
MLN 1978*****	MCN 4150	MCN 4151	MCN 4152
MCN 4145	MCN 4146	MCN 4149	MCN 4218
MCN 4219	MCN 4220	MCN 4221	MCN 4222
MCN 4223	MCN 4224	MCN 4225	MCN 4343
MCN 4344	MCN 4345	MCN 4346	MCN 4347
MCN 4348	EL 10213	EL 25054	EL 25058
EL 25059	EL 9927 (sub SEL 9927)		

***** Maud Creek project area

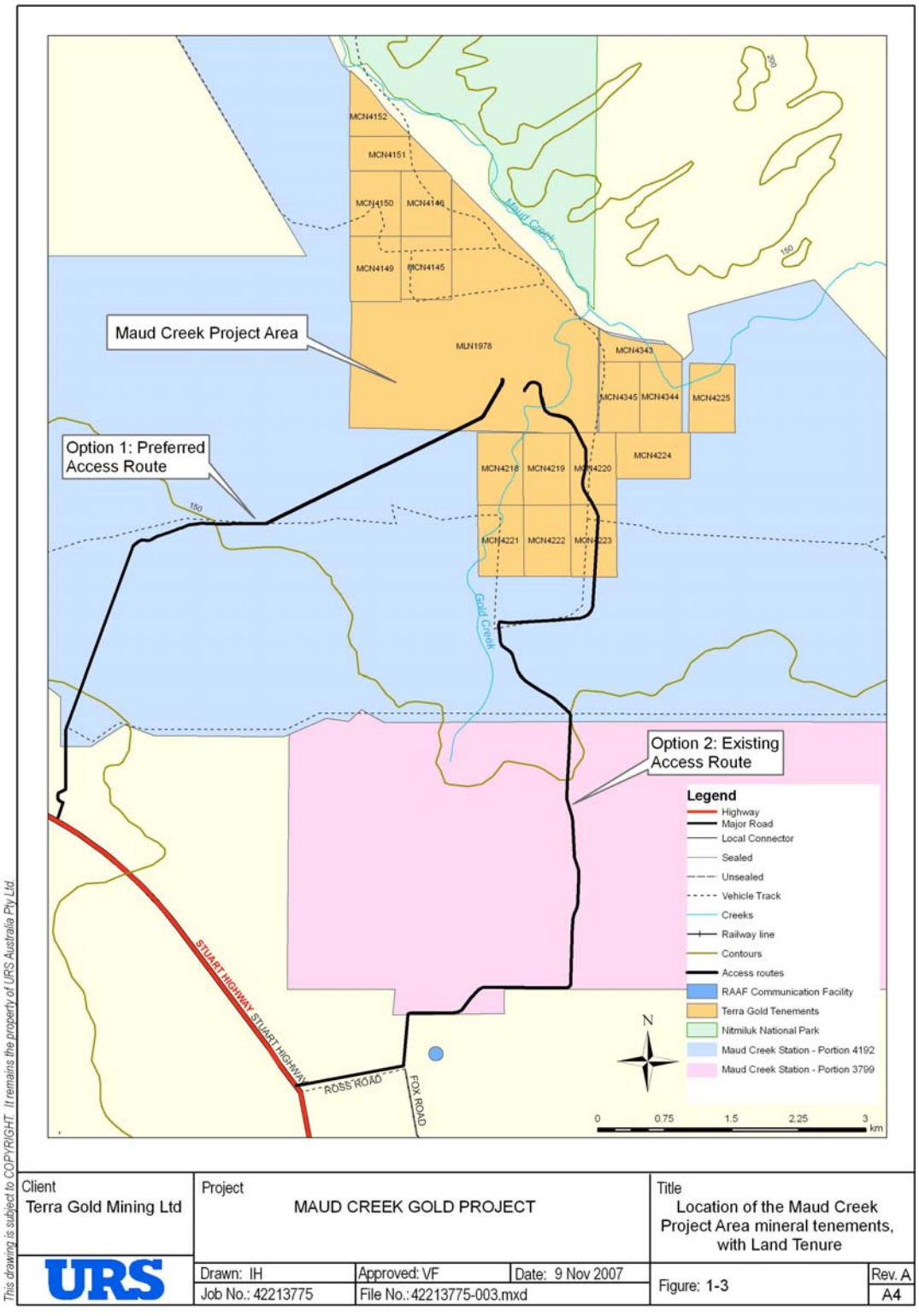
Section 1 General Information

The Maud Creek Project Area is associated with mining activity on MLN1978 shown on Figure 1-3. Land immediately to the north and east of the project area (NT Portion 3629) is part of the Nitmiluk National Park (Figure 1-3), which is owned by the Jawoyn Aboriginal Land Trust and covers an area of 2,032 km^2 (Dames & Moore 1998). No direct impact from the proposed mining operations upon Nitmiluk National Park is anticipated. A RAAF Communications facility is located to the south of the project area and a horticultural sub-division is located to the south east of the project area.

The legacies of historical mining activities in the Maud Creek Project Area include the Maud Creek pit and waste rock stockpile. In the long term, these areas will be rehabilitated to a condition that is consistent with grazing industry land use.

Section 1 General Information

Figure 1-3 Location of the Maud Creek project area mining tenements, with land tenure



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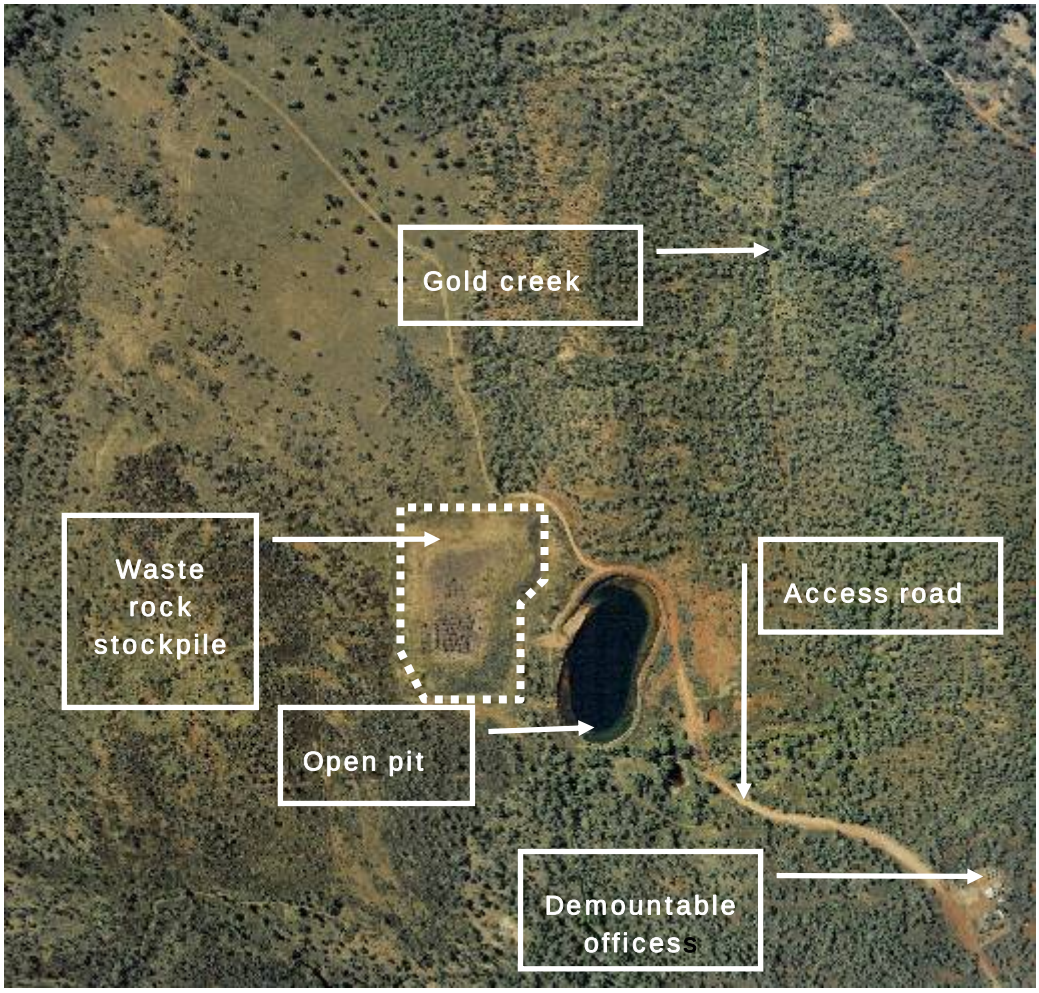
1.6 Existing Infrastructure

Infrastructure currently on site includes an open pit, a waste rock stockpile, ROM pad, demountable offices, associated amenities (though these are not in service) and access via Ross Road (Figure 1-3). This infrastructure is depicted in Figure 1-4 on an air photo of the site taken in May 2007.

Figure 1-4 Existing Infrastructure



The base of the present open pit ranges in depth from 26 to 40 m. This pit currently contains approximately 0.3 GL of water and is protected by a bund wall, which was constructed around the edge of the pit, as shown in Plate 1-1.

Part of the existing waste rock stockpile will be utilised as road base for a new access road, and a mine water dam will then be constructed on the remaining stockpile. The waste stockpile is shown in Plate 1-2.

The existing unsealed access road was used by previous mine operators to haul material from the site and is still being used by the operating pastoralists on Maud Creek Station.

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Plate 1-1 Maud Creek existing open-cut oxide pit

Plate 1-2 Maud Creek existing oxide waste rock stockpile

Section 1 General Information

1.7 Extent of Previous Mining Activities

The Maud Creek Goldfield was first discovered in 1890, but was practically deserted in 1891. In 1933, another operation was set up and a small amount of ore was crushed. The mining that occurred during these periods was shallow and, according to records, failed because of a lack of suitable milling and recovery machinery, rather than a lack of suitable ore. The field was virtually shut down by 1936 and is believed to have produced only a few ounces of gold in that time (Dames & Moore 1998).

Later inspection of the old Maud Creek workings showed that secondary copper was often associated with the gold mineralisation. During the period from 1966 to 1971, Western Nuclear Australia Limited undertook exploration in the Carpentaria Valley for uranium and copper mineralisation. The exploration included drilling, induced polarisation and surface geochemistry and defined several areas worthy of follow-up work, although there is no record of production from this area (Dames & Moore 1998).

During 1973, Magnum Exploration NL undertook exploration within the Maud Creek area, principally for uranium and copper. Anomalous copper and molybdenum were detected. Copper mineralisation was intersected at the Maud Creek mine; however no gold was detected at the time (Dames & Moore 1994).

In 1998, Kilkenny Gold NL undertook a series of feasibility studies for the establishment of an open-cut mine with an underground extension, a processing plant and a tailings storage facility at Maud Creek. This information was documented in a Draft EIS which was prepared for Kilkenny Gold NL by Dames & Moore (1998). In summary, the proposed operation was to comprise development of an open-cut mine to an approximate depth of 110 m, followed by an underground mine. All the ore was to be processed and disposed of at the Maud Creek site (Dames & Moore 1998).

This proposal did not go ahead due to a drop in the world gold price, and the operations were subsequently sold to AngloGold in 1999. Operating as Katherine Mining NL, AngloGold developed the Maud Creek Oxide Project and mined the open pit to a depth of 40 m. Terra Gold then purchased Maud Creek from Katherine Mining NL in 2005, with the intention of expanding the existing open pit before commencing into an underground mine.

1.8 Project justification

1.8.1 Benefits

The Maud Creek Mine Project is one of a number of new mining projects that are being developed by GBS in the Katherine, Pine Creek and Brocks Creek Regions. Other projects include the recommissioning of the URGM Processing Plant, the Zapopan Underground Project, the Rising Tide Open Pit Project, and the Fountain Head Open Pit Project, all of which are currently operational.

It is proposed that these mine sites and others that are the subject of separate environmental approvals, namely Princess Louise and North Point Open Pit mines, the Chinese South open-cut extension and Mottrams open pit mines as well as the Cosmo underground mine will form part of a regional gold mining program.

The Maud Creek Project will be of benefit at local, Territory, and national levels, due to its contribution of income through taxes, demand for local goods and services and employment. Terra Gold has a local participation and purchasing practice in place, which is discussed further in Sections 14 and 20. The project will also provide royalties to the NT Government.

It is anticipated that the mine site will employ about 60 people, with about 40 personnel on site at any one time. A further five personnel will be required at URGM. It is hoped that the workforce can be sourced from Katherine and the surrounding region, and that the mine will create opportunities for local

contractors and other supporting businesses. It is anticipated that the project will contribute between $400 and $500 million to the NT economy over a ten year mine life. Economic development aspects of the project are discussed in further detail in Section 14.

The inclusion of comprehensive rehabilitation plans for the Maud Creek Project will also deliver a significant environmental benefit to the local area, as the currently disturbed state of the mine leases will be improved with post-mining rehabilitation.

1.8.2 Justifications

The Maud Creek project mine design approach is to have as small an environmental footprint as is practicable, in line with best practice in the mining industry (EPA 1995b, DITR 2006b) and guidelines for sustainable mine development (*http://www.icmm.com/icmm_principles.php*). Consequently, environmental impacts will be localised and the environmental management during operations and closure phases will be closely constrained to the mine site.

Rehabilitation of the mine site after the completion of operations will improve the stability and safety of the pit void, and a safety bund will be erected around its exterior in accordance with DPIFM guidelines. Rehabilitation will also enhance habitat for native flora and fauna.

Baseline environmental assessments undertaken for the previous EIS (Dames & Moore 1998) and this Draft EIS have also contributed to public environmental knowledge of the region. Through the additional baseline studies conducted for this Draft EIS, and Terra Gold's commitment to monitoring and continuous improvement of environmental management systems, further information will continue to be added to this knowledge database.

1.9 Assessment of alternatives

1.9.1 Consequences of not proceeding

The consequences of not proceeding with gold mining at Maud Creek would include the loss of the following benefits, which are described in more detail in Section 14:

- generation of income for the local community of Katherine, where mine personnel will live and company offices are located;
- flow-on effects to local businesses directly engaged to work for GBS or via secondary business opportunities;
- training and skills development opportunities for the local people that will be of benefit to the community beyond the life of the mine;
- provision of long-term infrastructure, including upgrades to roads and bores around the mine site;
- provision of royalties and taxes to the NT Government; and
- adding to environmental databases for the NT goldfields.

1.9.2 Alternative mining methodologies considered

In the initial Notice of Intent (NOI), submitted in November 2006, Terra Gold proposed to expand the existing open-cut mine followed by developing underground mining activities at Maud Creek. Terra Gold had also proposed to undertake primary processing on site, including crushing, grinding and

flotation, and to haul the resulting concentrate to the URGM processing plant. The intention of this approach was to minimise the number of truck movements through Katherine.

During the period between submitting the NOI and receiving the draft EIS Guidelines, Terra Gold conducted an extensive community and government consultation program, which is documented in Section 20. As a direct result of public concern regarding potential impacts of a large open cut mine and primary processing on the Katherine drinking water supply, Terra Gold revised its original proposal to ensure zero direct discharge of mine water to the surface drainage system.

These project revisions have included:

- developing an underground mine rather than an open cut operation at the Maud Creek site, and therefore not adding to the waste rock stockpile on the surface in the long term;
- ore processing at URGM, which has eliminated the need for the construction of any processing facilities at Maud Creek including a tailings disposal facility;
- eliminating the need to extend the waste stockpile facility by placing waste rock as backfill in the underground and the existing pit; and
- Eliminating the need to re-align Gold Creek, as the existing open pit void would not need to be expanded.

1.9.3 Alternative operations and management

Terra Gold analysed a number of different operational scenarios for management of various aspects of the mine, in determining the final form of the proposal. These alternatives included the following concepts:

- developing an irrigation area on clay soils (previously uncleared) within the mining lease to dispose of water generated from dewatering activities during the mining operations - this would have had the advantage of short piping lengths, but would have involved additional clearing;
- disposing of water generated from dewatering activities during the mining operations via wet season discharge to local waterways;
- choosing from a variety of different horticultural and pastoral crops, such as soybeans, leucaena and peanuts for the irrigation area receiving water from the mine dewatering activities - native grasses were also considered as a potential irrigation vegetation;
- use of existing access roads and haulage routes from the Stuart Highway to the mine site;
- limiting infrastructure on site so as to limit ground disturbance;
- constructing landfill facilities on site, or collection of all domestic wastes for disposal at the Katherine municipal landfill; and
- use of the material from the existing waste rock stockpile to construct roads.

1.10 Environment Assessment Process

1.10.1 Northern Territory

This EIS has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the NT *Environmental Assessment Act* and the Environmental Assessment Administrative Procedures under which the Act is implemented.

There are eight key phases in the NT environmental approval process:

Section 1 General Information

1. **Notice of Intent (NOI)**. A NOI for the project was submitted to DPIFM on the 27th November 2006. The NOI outlined the scope of the proposed gold mining operation and enabled the Minister for Natural Resources, Environment & Heritage to determine which level of assessment was required. At that time the project scope was to expand the existing open pit, followed by the development of an underground mine and to undertake primary processing and disposal on-site. The information contained within the NOI, together with consultation with relevant agencies assisted in the preparation of Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) guidelines which outline the matters to be addressed during the environmental assessment process. It is noted that the original proposal was subsequently revised, in consultation with the Environmental Protection Agency Program (EPA), as a result of feedback from community and government stakeholders.

2. **Determination of Level of Assessment**. If, as a result of evaluation of the NOI, there are thought to be significant environmental impacts that will arise from the development, then the proposal is required to go through a further assessment process. There are two levels of formal assessment defined under the NT assessment process; a Public Environmental Report (PER) is used to assess environmental impacts that are considered significant but limited in extent. An EIS is used to assess environmental impacts that are considered significant, either in terms of site specific issues, off-site issues and conservation values, or the nature of the proposal. On the 20th March 2007 it was determined by the Minister for Natural Resources, the Environment and Heritage (Minister) that the level of assessment for the proposed gold mine would be an EIS.

3. **Public Review of Guidelines.** Draft guidelines covering issues to be addressed in the EIS were released for public comment on 20th March 2007 for a 14 day public comment period. These Draft Guidelines included an addendum outlining the proposed changes to the proposal. On the 4th of May 2007, Final EIS Guidelines were issued taking into account comments received from the community and Government agencies. The Final EIS Guidelines are contained in Appendix A.

4. **Preparation of the Draft EIS.** Work began on the preparation of this Draft EIS in late 2006. This Draft EIS contains data already gathered by Terra Gold during the NOI process and subsequent data gathered to fulfil the requirements of the EIS Guidelines issued by the Minister.

5. **Submission of the Draft EIS and Public Review**. This Draft EIS has now been released for review to enable the public and government agencies to comment on the project. Notification of the display centres, submission procedures, and purchasing details have been advertised in local newspapers. The public and government agencies have a minimum review period of 28 days from the date of submission of the Draft EIS to submit comment to the EPA.

6. **Preparation of EIS Supplement**. Any comments received by the close of the public review period will be addressed in an EIS Supplement which will be prepared by Terra Gold and submitted to the EPA. The Draft EIS together with the Supplement will be reviewed by the EPA.

7. **Government Review and Decision.** Following review of the Supplement, the EPA will prepare an Environmental Assessment Report and Recommendations on the project's acceptability for the Minister's consideration. Following this, the Minister will make a recommendation to the Minister for Mines and Energy regarding the project's environmental acceptability and its compliance with the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act.*

8. **Mining Approval.** As the project is a mining activity, approval (if granted) would be given by the Minister for Mines and Energy under the *Mining Management Act 2001*, once an approved MMP is developed and appropriate securities have been put in place.

Table 1-3 provides a generic overview of the activities and associated timetable for preparation of an EIS.

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1.10.2 Commonwealth

In addition to the EIS procedures of the NT Government, under the Commonwealth Government *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act), developments require assessment if they have the potential to affect one or more of the seven Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES), namely:

- World Heritage properties;
- National Heritage places;
- Ramsar wetlands of international significance;
- threatened species and ecological communities;
- migratory species;
- Commonwealth marine areas; and
- nuclear actions (including uranium mining).

Actions that may have a significant impact on Commonwealth land, even if taken outside Commonwealth land, and actions taken on Commonwealth land that may have a significant impact on the environment generally, are also covered by the EPBC Act.

A referral for Terra Gold's Maud Creek Mine Project under the EPBC Act was submitted to the Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Water Resources (DEWR) on 20th December 2006. A decision was made on 24th January 2007 that the proposed development was not a controlled action, and therefore no approval is required under the EPBC Act.

Section 1 General Information

Table 1-3 Generic activities and timetable for the assessment of an EIS

Northern Territory Action	Timing
1. Proponent provides detailed notification of a proposal to the responsible Minister (NOI).	OPEN
2. Responsible Minister notifies Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage (Minister) of proposal.	OPEN
3. Minister may require further information from proponent to assist in determining level of environmental significance.	Within 14 days
4. Minister determines the level of assessment and notifies responsible Minister and proponent that an EIS is necessary.	OPEN
5. Draft EIS Guidelines are prepared.	OPEN
6. Draft EIS Guidelines are available for public comment and referred to advisory bodies.	14 days
7. Minister finalises Draft EIS Guidelines, issues these to the proponent and directs the preparation of a Draft EIS.	Within 14 days
8. Proponent prepares Draft EIS and submits it to the Minister (Minister can determine a date for submission).	OPEN (unless specified by the Minister)
9. Draft EIS advertised for public comment and circulated for government advisory body comment.	Not less than 28 days
10. Public and government advisory body comments forwarded to proponent.	As soon as possible
11. Proponent prepares Supplement to Draft EIS responding to comments and submits Supplement to Minister (date can be determined).	OPEN
12. Supplement to Draft EIS circulated to advisory bodies for comment.	Within 14 days
13. Minister can request further information. **If further information is requested, the 'assessment clock' stops until the information is received.**	Within 21 days of Supplement delivery
14. Minister makes a determination based on the proposal, including any supplementary information that addresses issues and concerns raised during the public review period and recommendations based on Draft EIS, Supplement and comments received (Minister can extend period). The assessment report containing the Ministers determination and advice is forwarded to the Minister responsible for approving the proposal.	Within 35 days of Supplement delivery

Section 1 General Information

1.11 Relevant Government Legislation and Policies

1.11.1 Legislation

Beyond the NT *Environmental Assessment Act* and the EPBC Act, there are a number of other items of legislation that may be relevant to the proposed mining project; these are listed below.

Northern Territory Legislation

- *Bushfires Act*
- *Dangerous Goods Act*
- *Heritage Conservation Act*
- *Mining Act*
- *Mining Management Act 2001*
- *Motor Vehicles Act*
- *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act*
- *Northern Territory Land Corporation Act*
- *Pastoral Land Act*
- *Power and Water Corporation Act*
- *Public Health Act*
- *Soil Conservation and Land Utilisation Act*
- *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*
- *Traffic Act*
- *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act*
- *Water Act*
- *Weeds Management Act 2001*
- *Work Health Act*

Commonwealth Legislation

- *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984* (Cth)
- *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (Cth)
- *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth)
- *National Environmental Protection Measures (Implementation) Act 1998* (Cth)

Section 1 General Information

1.11.2 Terra Gold's Environmental Policy

Terra Gold has adopted the Environmental Policy of its parent company GBS. The purpose of the policy is to provide direction to all employees, contractors and external stakeholders associated with Terra Gold's operations. The Policy is shown below in Figure 1-5.

1.12 EIS Structure

This Draft EIS has been developed to assist Terra Gold in the preparation and establishment of the Maud Creek Mine Site. It contains sufficient information to enable understanding and assessment of the scope and environmental implications of the proposal, and contains management strategies that demonstrate how these impacts will be avoided or minimised.

Executive Summary

The Executive Summary provides a succinct outline of the project and each chapter, including the environmental and social implications of the project and proposed management strategies. It has been developed as a stand-alone document for those who do not wish to read the whole EIS.

General Information

The General Information section provides information about the proponent and the project location, background to the project, information on land tenure, the scale of operation, a broad overview of the proposed mining and processing operations, alternatives considered during the planning process, and project benefits and justification. It also provides an overview of the regulatory framework and the NT and Commonwealth Government approval requirements. It lists relevant government legislation and presents Terra Gold's Environmental Policy.

Project Description

The Project Description section provides specific details of all aspects of the project including a description of site preparation, site layout, proposed infrastructure, mining methods, ore reserves, waste management, haulage, processing at URGM, hazardous goods management, employment and business opportunities, rehabilitation and mine closure.

Description of Existing Environment and Potential Impacts

The Description of Existing Environment and Potential Impacts comprise a number of sections. Each section provides in-depth descriptions of aspects pertaining to existing environmental issues within the project area.

Aspects described include soils and landform, groundwater, surface water, flora, fauna, proximity to Nitmiluk National Park, biting insects, cultural heritage, air and noise quality, greenhouse gas emissions, socio-economic issues, traffic and transport, waste and hazardous goods management. These sections identify potential impacts, and associated management strategies and commitments made by Terra Gold to address these issues.

Figure 1-5 Terra Gold and GBS Environmental Policy

GBS GOLD AUSTRALIA Pty Ltd

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

POLICY:

The Environmental objective of GBS GOLD AUSTRALIA Pty Ltd is to develop and maintain the culture, protocols and procedures that ensure the integrity of the environment, for all external stakeholders, employees and contractors associated with the company's activities.

OBJECTIVES:

- To ensure compliance with all environmental legislation;
- To be committed to maintain and improve the environmental management of all facets of the operations, in order to reduce or eliminate any environmental impacts;
- To identify, act upon and mitigate potential environmental impacts upon their recognition;
- Ensure any impacts, however minor, are reported, recorded and investigated;
- To implement a culture where all environmental, social, cultural and economic considerations are integrated into all the planning and decision making processes;
- To encourage workforce awareness of environmental management procedures and promote a positive personal environmental attitude in the workplace;
- To be responsive and responsible with regard to establishing environmental credibility with external stakeholders, communities and regulatory bodies;
- To encourage and develop internal and external research to reduce environmental impacts and improve long term management.

Tony Simpson
Chief Operating Officer

Section 1 General Information

Hazards and Risk Assessment

The Hazard and Risk Assessment section outlines the risks that may occur in relation to humans, environment and facilities from construction and operation of the proposed project. It describes the Risk Evaluation Methodology used by Terra Gold to plan and account for environmental hazards, and demonstrates that Terra Gold has developed appropriate risk prevention and mitigation measures to manage these risks effectively.

The risk assessment methodology used is based on the requirements of the Australian Standards AS/NZ 4360:2004 and AS/NZ 4360:1999 for Risk Management.

The results of the risk assessment form the basis of the proposed Environmental Management Plans (EMPs).

Environmental Management Systems and Plans

This section presents Terra Gold's Environmental Management System (EMS). The EMS is a framework for managing Terra Gold's obligations in relation to significant environmental impacts in line with corporate policies, objectives and standards. It also covers responsibilities, induction and training requirements, environmental incident reporting requirements, auditing procedures and requirements for management review.

Draft EMPs are presented for each of the significant environmental impacts relating to the Maud Creek Mine Project. These EMPs include required actions to minimise impacts, key environmental performance indicators, monitoring and reporting requirements, and corrective actions requirements. These EMPs will be further developed over time to include requirements that are identified during the EIS process, and will reflect the results of on-going monitoring programs.