

Submission on proponent initiated EIS referral information and draft terms of reference

Primary Gold Limited – Rustlers Roost and Quest 29 Open-Cut Mine Redevelopment

This submission is made under regulation 53 of the Environment Protection Regulations 2020

NT EPA reference number: EP 2021/005

Government authority: Medical Entomology, Top End Health Service

Summary: The previous proponents/owners of the Rustlers Roost and Quest 29 mine sites carried out baseline mosquito trapping. The proponent should utilise the management recommendations that were provided in both reports.

Section of referral or terms of reference	Theme / issue	Comment
Referral document. Table 3.1	Human Health.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Rustlers Roost Baseline Mosquito Report 1996 and Toms Gully and Quest 29 Baseline Mosquito Monitoring Report 2002 have mosquito information relevant to this project. The proponent should review these reports. • Baseline mosquito trapping revealed mosquito numbers were higher at Rustlers Roost compared to Quest 29. Therefore, the proposal to place the accommodation camp at Quest 29 is supported, due to the likely lower mosquito abundance. • Some anthropogenic mosquito breeding sites were created at Rustlers Roost. This should be avoided at Quest 29 to prevent increased mosquito populations from affecting the accommodation camp, whilst anthropogenic caused mosquito breeding sites at Rustlers Roosts should be remediated. Further information on preventing the creation of new mosquito breeding sites can be found in the Medical Entomology mine site guideline. • People in the Top End of the NT are susceptible to endemic mosquito borne diseases such as Ross River virus, Barmah Forest virus, and the potentially very serious Murray Valley encephalitis and Kunjin viruses. The workers village should be protected from mosquitoes (i.e. suitable insect screens, non-attractive night lighting, use of residual adult mosquito control products if/when required), while workers should be advised to utilise suitable protective clothing and personal repellents. Further information can be found in the Medical Entomology personal protection handout. • There are also other arthropods that could affect workers at the mine sites and accommodation camp. Further information can be found in the Medical Entomology bites and stings handout.

Environmental impact assessment under the *Environment Protection Act 2019*

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Upon cessation of mining operations, it is recommended that anthropogenic created areas of shallow water ponding are removed, to prevent the mine sites from leaving behind legacy mosquito breeding sites.• There is no recommendation for further mosquito studies. Information from the past reports, and the above mentioned guidelines, should be used to create a biting insect management section in the Environmental Impact Statement and mine management plan for this project. Medical Entomology can be contacted for further advice.
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