

## 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: Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade – Tourism Division

| Section of referral or terms of reference | Theme / issue   | Comment  |
|---|---|--|
| 1.5.16 Social and Economic                | Social and economic components                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mary River Wilderness Retreat – a key tourism offering in the area fronting 3km of the Mary River – is located approximately 5-10km north east of the Q29 site location. The retreat offers secluded accommodation for visitors, priding itself on being a haven for woodland, wetland plants and animals. Tourism NT asks the business be consulted on proposed actions and included as a stakeholder and neighbouring commercial business.</li> <li>• Tourism offerings in the area include fishing in the Mary River, bird watching and boat cruises. Additional tourism operators may be impacted, including Mary River Wetlands Cruise, Mary River Roadhouse, Corroboree Houseboats and Fishing Boat Hire, Barefoot Fishing Safaris, Barra Boat &amp; Fishing Charters, Darwin Barra and Crab, Darwin's Barra Base, Darwin Barra Fishing Tours, Frontier Fishing, Obsession Fishing Charters, Real Screamin Fishing Tours, River and Reef Fishing Charters, Spring Tide Safaris, Territory Guided Fishing, Top End Barra and Vision Sportsfishing Charters.</li> <li>• No enough detail regarding operations has been provided for Tourism NT to assess potential for general amenity disturbances to visitors.</li> </ul> |
| 2.5 Proposal Description                  | Transport/Access  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The draft TOR provides limited information on vehicle traffic and transport/access requirements. It is noted that limited light vehicle traffic will utilise public roads but without further detail, including vehicle traffic volume and a proposed schedule, Tourism NT is unable to assess impacts to visitors travelling in the region and onwards to Kakadu National Park.</li> <li>• Further details are requested to address proposed signage for the project in order to assess the risk to visitors relating to road accidents.</li> </ul>  |
| 4.4.3 Mitigation                          | Inland Water Environmental Quality and Aquatic Ecosystems | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Mary River region is a key visitor location, known for its recreation and tourism values. The recreational fishing and tourism industry will be negatively affected by any adverse impacts to water quality in watercourses downstream of the mine sites.</li> <li>• The draft TOR identifies operational mine site discharges could potentially alter downstream surface water/groundwater quality. Chemical contamination due to the types of chemicals required for processing</li> </ul>  |

Environmental impact assessment under the *Environment Protection Act 2019*

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  |  | <p>activities and quantities required to be used and stored on site (165m<sup>3</sup> of cyanide), pose a risk to surface water and groundwater.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Further detail of mitigation and monitoring measures is requested to assess the management and prevention of uncontrolled discharges and potential impacts to aquatic ecosystems.</li></ul> |
|--|--|--|