

APO0001731

Approval to undertake assessable prospecting operations

Duck Creek

22 April 2024

Application summary

| Detail | Application |
|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Reference | APO0001731 |
| Date of approval | 22 April 2024 |
| Title | EL 8965 (1992) |
| Contact | [REDACTED] |
| Project name | Duck Creek |
| Project location | 22km NE from Nyngan |
| Activity type | Complying exploration activity |

Important note

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Project

Project details

Assessable prospecting activity APO0001731 relates to the Duck Creek at 22km NE from Nyngan.

The project has the following approved characteristics.

| Detail | Proposal |
|--|--|
| Activity description | Proposed exploration is to drill one rotary mud drillhole with diamond tail to approximately 500m depth within the requested amended oval shown on the maps. One tentative proposed collar is shown, however given the landscape in the area holes may require to be moved in order to not adversely affect the environment – vegetation or drainages. Should the first hole prove successful an additional two drillholes may be advanced to follow up. Equipment will comprise a diamond drilling rig and support vehicles. A light vehicle will also be used by the field technician and geologist. Drilling is expected to take approximately 4-6 weeks to complete (if all 3 were to be drilled). The drill site will be made safe prior to leaving site, and rehabilitation will be fully completed within 24 months, likely sooner. Drilling contractors will utilise above ground sumps and so no excavations are required. The drillhole will be backfilled and rehabilitated in accordance with the requirements of the Exploration Code of Practice – Rehabilitation. Rehabilitation will entail cementing from at least 18m depth to 1m from surface, or more if required. The top of the hole will be backfilled with surface soil and topsoil. |
| Earthworks or vegetation clearing | Earthworks and vegetation clearance is not required for this drilling program. Sites are relatively flat and open. Drill pad areas, affecting approximately 10 x 30m may require minor clearing of grass from the surface, should this be necessary care will be taken to ensure to leave root stock to enable existing vegetation regrowth. |
| Access to exploration activities | Access to proposed drilling locations will be along station tracks and along the edges of paddocks if necessary, in line with landholder specifications. Access to inner areas of paddock |

| Detail | Proposal |
|--|--|
| | will be along furrows already there and not across them. No new tracks are required to be constructed. |
| Ancillary activities | No ancillary infrastructure or water storage is required for this program. Accommodation will be in nearby shearers quarters or the nearest hotel/motel. |
| Anticipated start date | 6 May 2024 |
| Expected duration (weeks) | 4-6 |
| Expected rehabilitation completion date | 6 May 2026 |
| Proposed hours of operation | Other 12hr shifts 6am-6pm, 7 days a week |
| On-site employee or contractor numbers | 6 |

Exempted areas

The Duck Creek has not proposed prospecting in an exempted area.

State conservation areas

The Duck Creek has not proposed prospecting in a State Conservation Area.

Site description and existing environment

The project comprises the following existing land uses:

The land is currently utilised for agricultural cropping and grazing purposes. The land use will not be changed during or after the proposed drilling works.

The project is located near the following sensitive receptors:

Half Moon and Wadonga Homesteads are the closest to proposed drilling area at 700m southeast and 5km west-northwest from proposed drilling areas. Access agreements are currently being finalised with the relevant landholders and all nearby Stakeholders will be advised of the upcoming works. There are no further sensitive receptors nearby.

The project is located with the following soil types and properties:

There are no acid sulfate soils within this area. The proposed drillholes are located on soil types 3 and 4 from the Land and Soil Capability Classification which record moderate to severe limitations. Due to the soil sensitivities the following conditions are placed on proposed works;

- Due to the sensitivity of the soil, access will be restricted to only vital personnel and vehicle movement will be restricted where possible. Should compaction occur of the temporary access routes, this will likely be scarified after use by the landholder. Close consultation with the landholder will be maintained throughout this program.
- Proposed exploration activities will not impact agricultural resources or activities. There will be no drilling or site preparation within 40m of a riparian zone that could disturb the banks of creeks.
- Access to proposed collar locations will be along paddock furrows to minimise disturbance to the paddock.
- Any waste products (rubbish) will be removed from site at completion of drilling and disposed of at the nearest appropriately licenced waste facility.
- Collars will be capped and sites made safe as soon as drilling is completed.
- Rehabilitation will be completed within 24 months, usually sooner.
- Rehabilitation outcomes will achieve:
 - o No residual soil or visual contamination;
 - o Runoff water quality is similar to pre-disturbance runoff water quality; and
 - o Revegetation is similar to pre-disturbance vegetation. Wind erosion will be

assessed in consultation with the landholder prior to site access and mitigation measures considered. Salinity of groundwater will be considered, however with the proposed drilling methods groundwater will remain in the ground and any drilling waters will be contained in above ground sumps and not affect the surrounding surface.

The project has the following existing surface water sources in the area that are likely to be affected by the activity:

Surface water should not be affected by the proposed activities. There are two named watercourses running either side of the proposed approval area, Crooked Creek to the west and Well Creek runs through the paddock on the eastern side of the APO area. Drillholes will not be located within the riparian zones (40m) of a named watercourse. Just to the southern periphery of the APO area the land is recorded as subject to inundation in times of flood. No access to any sites will not be undertaken during wet periods and as such will not be negatively impacted. Ground conditions are discussed with the landholder prior to access to ensure any disturbance is kept to a minimum.

The project has the following existing groundwater sources that occur in the area that are likely to be affected by the activity:

Groundwater sources should not be adversely affected by the proposed drilling. There are 2 recorded water bores located around the proposed drilling area. These records were reviewed as below; GW006818, drilled to 35.40m recording salinity of fresh, water was encountered at 30.5m, with a standing water level of 20.1 and yield of 1.01L/s recorded. GW017871, drilled to 27.7m recorded as Stock quality, water encountered at 20.7m and 27.7m and yield recorded of 1.21L/s. Suitable drilling methods (Mud Rotary and diamond drilling) will be utilised to ensure that water is contained in the same strata and not cross to different water bearing strata. Should significant groundwater be encountered collars will be grouted, possibly from 18m to 1m below surface.

The project is in an area with the following topography, vegetation cover type, density and condition:

The area is predominantly open cropping and grazing land with sparse vegetation. Any areas of vegetation will be avoided and do not need to be disturbed for this drilling program. Topography is typically flat with named watercourses and drainage channels that will be avoided for this program. The majority of the year these watercourses and drainages are dry. Access to proposed collar locations will be undertaken in close consultation with the landholders.

The project will impact the following matters of national environmental significance:

On the MNES search there are 27 listed Threatened species, 4 listed Threatened Ecological Communities and 7 Listed Migratory Species. Of the 27 threatened species the Curlew Sandpiper, Plains Wanderer and Swift Parrot are considered to be critically endangered (the link in the MNES states that all three species are endangered and not critical for NSW). The Curlew is migratory and if sighted will be reported to the Department for Environment. This species is not known to breed in Australia, therefore will not be at its most vulnerable if it is sighted. The four listed threatened ecological communities are recorded to be endangered with communities likely within the area. Proposed works are located within cropped paddocks and can be moved to ensure no vegetation is damaged. The 7 listed migratory species has the Curlew Sandpiper listed as critically endangered – however the link to this species differs stating for NSW this is endangered.

The project is in an area with the following threatened species, ecological communities (or habitats):

There are four flora and fauna records that come up on the BioNet search, with the Red Darling Pea recorded as vulnerable. This sighting and record is from 1999. This area is within a paddock and very unlikely that any works will be undertaken past or near this location, however staff will be made aware of this vulnerable flora. The black swan is listed as protected – the recording of the black swan in the area suggests it was found dead in 1971. None of the bionet sightings are in close proximity to the proposed drilling. There are four endangered communities listed as likely to occur within the proposed drilling area on the MNES search; Coolibah – Black Box Woodlands of the Darling Riverine Plains and the Brigalow Belt South Bioregions, Grey Box Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of southeastern Australia, Poplar Box Grassy Woodland on Alluvial Plains and Weeping Myall Woodlands. All proposed drilling is within open paddocks. Drillholes can be moved to avoid any and all vegetation. There are areas of terrestrial biodiversity recorded on the outer edges of this proposed drilling that

match up perfectly with uncultivated areas. All proposed collars are located within a cropped paddock that is not listed of having terrestrial biodiversity that requires additional comment. Drillholes, if moved slightly, will remain within the cropped paddocks and not be re-located to areas of moderate or high sensitivity – please see map2. Close consultation with the landholders will continue regularly prior to proposed drilling to ensure that access conditions are favourable. Threatened species – Silver Perch is recorded as being present within Crooked Creek to the east of the proposed drilling area and the Olive Perchlet is recorded within an unnamed creek to the east of Crooked Creek (Map4). Works will not be undertaken within 40m from named watercourses and as such no impact is envisaged.

The project is in an area with the following historic cultural or natural heritage items:

There are no items of historic cultural or natural heritage listed within the searches performed for this proposed drilling program and as such no impact envisaged.

The project is in an area with the following critical habitat/area of outstanding biodiversity value:

There are no areas of critical habitat or areas of outstanding biodiversity value within the proposed drilling area.

The project is located in an area with the following location, type and distance to the nearest Aboriginal heritage sites:

There are no recorded Aboriginal Sites noted within the proposed drilling area on the attached AHIMS search. Proposed drilling will not be undertaken within the riparian zones (40m) of a named watercourse, however could occur within 200m of a named watercourse. The proposed drilling is within an agricultural cropped paddock and no damage to cultural heritage is envisaged. Proposed works will not be undertaken within proximity to any additional sensitivities from the list above.

Exploration activities

The following exploration activities have been approved.

Drill holes

| Id/ Regulator no. | Type | Surface disturbance (m ²) | Veg. Clearing (m ²) | Excavations (m ³) | Produced water (ml) | Depth (m) | Block number | Unit letters |
|--------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|
| DCK_ANT1-sp1 EDH00150 41 | DDH drill hole | 300 | | | | 500 | BOU2850 | a |
| DCK_ANT1 EDH00147 77 | DDH drill hole | 300 | | | | 500 | BOU2850 | a |
| DCK_ANT1-sp2 EDH00150 42 | DDH drill hole | 300 | | | | 500 | BOU2850 | a |

Other exploration activities

| Id/ Regulator no. | Type | Surface disturbance (m ²) | Veg. Clearing (m ²) | Excavations (m ³) | Produced water (ml) | Block number | Unit letters |
|-------------------|------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|--------------|
|-------------------|------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|--------------|

Impact management

The project includes the following measures to manage surface water impacts:

Surface water should not be affected by the proposed activities. Proposed collars will not be within 40m of any named watercourse. There will be no storage of surface water nor disposal of water to surface.

The project includes the following measures to manage groundwater impacts:

Groundwater encountered during drilling will be managed and contained by the drilling methods. The Company have drilled many holes in this region and have not encountered any difficulties with water. Mud water pressure used for the proposed diamond drilling will be sufficient pressure to contain the water within the boreholes. At completion of drilling the collar casing will remain in place and the collar made safe and the hole rehabilitated. Should groundwater encountered be significant, grouting of the collar will be undertaken, likely from 18m to 1m below surface.

The project includes the following measures to manage waste and excess materials:

Drill core will be removed from site to a Company storage facility. Once drilling is complete, any minor spoil will be returned down the hole and all materials will be removed from site. The collar will be capped and area made safe with all rubbish and drilling equipment removed from site at end of drilling program. All wastewater and drill cuttings collected in above ground sumps will be removed to a licenced waste facility by the drilling contractors as needed during drilling and once the hole is completed.

The project includes the following measures regarding the handling, use, storage and transportation of any chemicals and hydrocarbons:

No chemicals anticipated to be used in this drilling program. Diesel will be kept in a bunded storage area. Bio-degradable drilling muds to be utilised with the diamond drilling.

The project includes the following measures of how noise impacts will be managed to minimise impacts on nearby sensitive receptors:

Noise is not anticipated to be of concern with the proposed diamond drilling as this style of drilling does not generate excessive noise.

The project includes the following measures to manage air quality impacts:

Air quality is not anticipated to be of concern with the drilling methods proposed.

Sensitivity of the land to be disturbed

| Question | Yes/no |
|--|--------|
| Conservation areas | |
| Land reserved under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> ? | No |
| Land acquired by the Minister under Part 11 of the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> ? | No |
| Land subject to a 'conservation agreement' under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> and/or the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> ? | No |
| Land declared as an aquatic reserve under the <i>Marine Estate Management Act 2014</i> ? | No |
| Land declared as a marine park under the <i>Marine Estate Management Act 2014</i> ? | No |
| Land within State Forests set aside under the <i>Forestry Act 2012</i> for conservation values, including Flora Reserves or Special Management (and other) Zones? | No |
| Land reserved or dedicated under the <i>Crown Lands Act 1989/Crown Lands Management Act 2016</i> (as applicable) for the preservation of flora, fauna, geological formations or other environmental protection purposes? | No |

| Question | Yes/no |
|--|--------|
| Land identified as wilderness or declared a wilderness area under the <i>Wilderness Act 1987</i> ? | No |
| Land subject to a Biobanking agreement (established under the now repealed <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i>) or a Biodiversity Stewardship agreement established under the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> ? | No |
| Land subject to a Wildlife Refuge agreement under the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> ? | No |
| Land subject to existing conservation agreements on private land under repealed legislation that continue to have effect (e.g. trust agreements under <i>Native Conservation Trust Act 2001</i> , Property vegetation plans under <i>Native Vegetation Act 2003</i> , Registered property agreements under <i>Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997</i>)? | No |
| Drinking water catchment protection areas | |
| Land declared to be a 'controlled area' or a 'special area' under the <i>Water NSW Act 2014</i> ? | No |
| Land declared to be a 'special area' under the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i> or <i>Hunter Water Act 1991</i> ? | No |
| Sensitive areas | |
| Land declared as area of outstanding biodiversity value under the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> or critical habitat under Part 7A of the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> ? | No |
| Wetlands of international significance listed under the Ramsar Wetlands Convention? | No |
| Land designated as a nationally important wetland in the Directory of Important Wetlands? | No |
| Coastal wetlands mapped under <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021</i> ? | No |
| Littoral rainforests mapped under <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021</i> ? | No |
| Coastal zone as defined in the <i>Coastal Management Act 2016</i> ? | No |
| Land identified in an environmental planning instrument as being of biodiversity/conservation significance or zoned for environmental conservation, protection and/or management? | No |
| Waterfront land defined under the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i> ? | No |
| Land with a slope greater than 18 degrees measured from the horizontal? | No |
| Land with potential for soil and water contamination | |
| Land mapped as Actual Acid Sulfate Soils (AASS) or Potential Acid Sulfate Soils (PASS) on the Acid Sulfate Soils Risk Maps for NSW? | No |
| Aboriginal protection areas | |
| Land identified in an environmental planning instrument (such as a State Environmental Planning Policy or Local Environment Plan) as being of Aboriginal cultural significance? | No |
| Land declared as an Aboriginal place under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> ? | No |
| Historic or natural heritage protection areas | |
| Land listed on the World Heritage List, National Heritage List or Commonwealth Heritage List? | No |
| Land, places, buildings or structures listed on the NSW State Heritage Register? | No |
| Land identified in an environmental planning instrument (such as a State Environmental Planning Policy or Local Environment Plan) as being of heritage significance or a heritage conservation area? | No |
| Critical industry clusters | |
| Land identified as Critical Industry Cluster under <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Resources and Energy) 2021</i> ? | No |
| Community land | |
| Public land classified as community land under the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> ? | No |
| Other areas | |

| Question | Yes/no |
|--|--------|
| Land identified on the authority (e.g. exploration licence or assessment lease) as environmentally sensitive land? | No |
| Ecology | |
| Will the activity have a significant effect on threatened species or their habitats? | No |
| Will the activity have a significant effect on threatened ecological communities or their habitats? | No |
| Will vegetation be removed as part of access track upgrade works in waterfront land? | No |
| Aboriginal and European heritage | |
| Will the activity harm Aboriginal objects as defined under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> ? | No |
| Will the activity damage any listed heritage items? | No |

Attachment 1 – Statement of commitments

| Item | Commitment |
|--|---|
| Activity type | <p>Exploration activity comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 diamond drill holes • 0 reverse circulation drill holes • 0 other drill holes • 0 cubic metres of bulk sampling • 0 square metres of new access tracks • 0 lines of seismic testing • 0 square metres of air core drilling • 0 square metres of other drilling |
| Activity location | 22km NE from Nyngan, within EL 8965 (1992). |
| Activity scope (including any ancillary activities) | <p>Proposed exploration is to drill one rotary mud drillhole with diamond tail to approximately 500m depth within the requested amended oval shown on the maps. One tentative proposed collar is shown, however given the landscape in the area holes may require to be moved in order to not adversely affect the environment – vegetation or drainages. Should the first hole prove successful an additional two drillholes may be advanced to follow up. Equipment will comprise a diamond drilling rig and support vehicles. A light vehicle will also be used by the field technician and geologist. Drilling is expected to take approximately 4-6 weeks to complete (if all 3 were to be drilled). The drill site will be made safe prior to leaving site, and rehabilitation will be fully completed within 24 months, likely sooner. Drilling contractors will utilise above ground sumps and so no excavations are required. The drillhole will be backfilled and rehabilitated in accordance with the requirements of the Exploration Code of Practice – Rehabilitation. Rehabilitation will entail cementing from at least 18m depth to 1m from surface, or more if required. The top of the hole will be backfilled with surface soil and topsoil.</p> <p>No ancillary infrastructure or water storage is required for this program. Accommodation will be in nearby shearers quarters or the nearest hotel/motel.</p> |
| Hours of operation | Other 12hr shifts 6am-6pm, 7 days a week |
| Expected duration (weeks) | 4-6 |
| Anticipated start date | 6 May 2024 |
| Expected rehabilitation completion date | Estimated 6 May 2026 |
| Maximum area of disturbance | 900 square metres |
| Air quality | The title holder must implement all measures to prevent, so far as practicable, pollution caused by dust and other air pollutants. |
| Protection of water sources | <p>The title holder must implement all measures to prevent, so far as practicable, causing adverse impacts on water quality and quantity, including groundwater levels and pressure.</p> <p>Prior to the construction and use of any borehole, the holder of a coal prospecting title must prepare a Groundwater Monitoring and Modelling Plan in consultation with the Water Division of the NSW Department of Planning and Environment.</p> |

| Item | Commitment |
|--|--|
| Erosion, sediment and soil controls | <p>The title holder must implement all measures to prevent, so far as is practicable, causing any land degradation or pollution of land or water.</p> <p>The title holder must implement all practicable measures to prevent harm to the environment when disturbing land in areas of potential acid sulfate soils and actual acid sulfate soils.</p> |
| Noise and vibration | <p>The titleholder must implement all practicable noise management measures to ensure that noise levels meet acceptable noise criteria for sensitive receivers.</p> <p>Unless otherwise agreed with relevant landholders, the title holder must notify any potentially affected landholders at least 24 hours prior to detonating explosives.</p> |
| Use of chemicals, fuels and lubricants | <p>The titleholder must implement all measures to prevent, so far as is practicable, causing contamination of the environment by the release of chemicals, fuels, lubricants and other potential pollutants.</p> <p>The title holder must ensure that all chemicals, fuels and lubricants, excluding those contained within plant and equipment, are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. stored and handled in accordance with any relevant Safety Data Sheet and Australian Standards for the material, and b. stored in appropriate containers that are in good condition and labelled to clearly identify the stored product, and c. kept in a facility or area which is capable of containing at least 110% of the largest container capacity stored within that area. <p>The title holder must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. ensure that adequate spill prevention and absorbent materials required to manage spills and leaks for all potential pollutants which are on site are readily available at all times, and b. use appropriate equipment and materials to capture any drips and spills which occur during the transfer of potential pollutants, and when carrying out maintenance of hydrocarbon filled plant and equipment. |
| Waste | <p>The titleholder must manage all waste in a manner which does not cause harm to the environment.</p> |
| Vegetation clearing and surface disturbance | <p>The title holder must minimise the extent of any vegetation clearing and surface disturbance to as low as practicable.</p> <p>The boundaries of any areas of vegetation clearing and surface disturbance must be demarcated.</p> <p>The title holder must implement all measures to prevent, so far as practicable, adverse impacts to fauna caused by vegetation clearing or surface disturbance.</p> <p>The title holder must inspect trees and canopy branches for fauna prior to felling or branch removal, and clearly demarcate any hollows or active bird nests.</p> <p>The title holder must not proceed with tree felling or branch removal until any resident fauna have been relocated by an ecologist or other competent party.</p> |
| Roads and tracks | <p>The title holder must consult with relevant landholders prior to establishing any new roads or tracks.</p> <p>The title holder must plan, design, construct, maintain and use roads and tracks in a manner which minimises the area and duration of disturbance to the environment and landholders to as low as practicable.</p> <p>The title holder must construct any crossings of rivers, permanent and intermittent water lands and wetlands to prevent, so far as practicable, impacts on fish habitats.</p> <p>The title holder must refrain from using any unsealed road or track during wet conditions to prevent damage to that road or track, unless the road or track has been</p> |

| Item | Commitment |
|---|---|
| | <p>designed and constructed for use in wet conditions, or the landholder expressly consented to the use of that road or track in wet conditions.</p> <p>Unless otherwise agreed with the relevant landholder, the title holder must repair all damage to existing roads and tracks resulting from exploration activities.</p> |
| Aboriginal and other cultural heritage | The titleholder must implement all measures to prevent, so far as practicable, harm to Aboriginal cultural heritage and non-indigenous cultural heritage. |
| Weeds, pest animals and diseases | The titleholder must implement all practicable measures to prevent the introduction and spread of weeds, pest animals and animal and plant diseases. |
| Livestock protection | The title holder must implement all measures to prevent, so far as practicable, causing adverse impacts to livestock. |
| Fire prevention | The title holder must implement all measures to prevent, as far as practicable, the ignition and spread of fire. |
| Rehabilitation commitments | The activity will be undertaken in accordance with the rehabilitation objectives and targets provided for this project. |
| Risk assessments | The title holder must monitor the risks associated with activities and, if the risk associated with an activity changes, implement revised environmental management controls. |
| Incident management | The NSW Resources Regulator will be notified of all incidents in accordance with the requirements of EL 8965 (1992). |
| Reporting | Reporting to the NSW Resources Regulator and Mining, Exploration and Geoscience – Department of Regional NSW will be in accordance with the legislation and conditions of EL 8965 (1992). |
| Codes of Practice | <p>Duck Creek will be operated in accordance with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploration Code of Practice: Environmental Management Exploration Code of Practice: Rehabilitation |
| Other (as applicable) | 1. No additional terms specified. |

Attachment 2 – Definitions

To search for NSW legislation, visit www.legislation.nsw.gov.au. Commonwealth legislation can be found at www.legislation.gov.au.

| Word | Definition |
|--|--|
| Aboriginal object | Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> . |
| Aboriginal place | Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> . |
| Acid Sulfate Soils | Sediments and soils containing iron sulfides which, when exposed to oxygen, generate sulfuric acid. Acid sulfate soils include actual acid sulfate soils (AASS) or potential acid sulfate soils (PASS). |
| Activity | Any activity carried out in connection with exploration, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the use of land means of accessing land the carrying out of a work. |
| Activity approval | An approval to carry out assessable prospecting operations granted under the <i>Mining Act 1992 / Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991</i> – as relevant. |
| Actual Acid Sulfate Soils (AASS) | Sediments and soils containing highly acidic soil horizons or layers resulting from the aeration of sediments and soils that are rich in iron sulfides, primarily sulphide. |
| Applicant | In relation to an exploration activity, the person proposing to carry out the exploration activity. |
| Aquatic reserve | Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Marine Estate Management Act 2014</i> . |
| Areas of Outstanding Biodiversity Value (AOBVs) | Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> . Note: Areas of declared critical habitat under the now repealed <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i> have become Areas of Outstanding Biodiversity Value (AOBVs) under the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> . |
| Assessable prospecting operation | Any prospecting operation that is not exempt development within the meaning of <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Resources and Energy) 2021</i> . |
| Clearing of vegetation | Any one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cutting down, felling, thinning, lopping, logging or removing vegetation, or killing, destroying, poisoning, ringbarking, uprooting or burning vegetation. |
| Complying exploration activities (CEA) | Exploration activities that are considered unlikely to significantly affect the environment as set out in <i>Exploration guideline: Application and assessment process for exploration activities</i> . |
| Critical habitat | Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> . Areas of declared critical habitat under the now repealed <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i> have become Areas of Outstanding Biodiversity Value (AOBVs) under the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> . |
| Drill hole | A hole made by drilling or boring, but excludes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sampling and coring using handheld equipment petroleum wells. |
| Drilling | The perforation of the earth's surface crust by mechanical means to form a hole, whether the hole caused by the perforation is vertical, inclined or horizontal, and |

| Word | Definition |
|---|--|
| | includes all operations for preventing collapse of the sides of such hole or for preventing it from being filled with extraneous materials including water |
| Environment | Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Mining Act 1992 / Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991</i> – as relevant. |
| Environmentally sensitive area of State significance | Has the same meaning as it has in <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Resources and Energy) 2021</i> . |
| Excavation | The removal of the surface layer to a depth greater than 500 mm from the natural surface level. |
| Exempt development | Has the same meaning as it has in <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Resources and Energy) 2021</i> . |
| Exploration | Has the same meaning as it has in <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Resources and Energy) 2021</i> . |
| Fauna | Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> . |
| Groundwater | Water that occurs beneath the ground surface in the saturated zone. |
| Habitat | Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> or the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> (as relevant). |
| Harm | <p>In relation to matters of national environmental significance, has the same meaning as 'significant impact' as provided by the 'Significant Impact Guidelines' used to determine whether assessment and approval is required under the <i>Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>.</p> <p>In relation to the environment, has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997</i>.</p> <p>In relation to threatened species or ecological communities, has the same meaning as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'harm an animal' in the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> • 'pick a native plant' in the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> • 'harm' in the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i>. <p>In relation to an aquifer or waterfront land, has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i>.</p> <p>In relation to Aboriginal places or Aboriginal objects has the same meaning as it has in the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i>.</p> <p>In relation to items of heritage significance, has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Heritage Act 1977</i>.</p> <p>In relation to protected marine vegetation, has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i>.</p> |
| Items of heritage significance | <p>Means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • any heritage items listed in one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — the Commonwealth Heritage List — the World Heritage List — the National Heritage List — the State Heritage Register — an Environmental Planning Instrument |

| Word | Definition |
|---|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • any relic (being any deposit, object or material evidence which relates to the settlement of the area that comprises New South Wales, not being Aboriginal settlement, and which is 50 or more years old), or • within State Conservation Areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — items that are listed on the DECC Historic Heritage Information Management System, or — any deposit, object or material evidence relating to the settlement or occupation of New South Wales or a part of New South Wales (not being Aboriginal settlement or occupation) if the deposit, object or material evidence is more than 25 years old at the date of the interference or removal. |
| Land | <p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the sea or an arm of the sea • a bay, inlet, lagoon, lake or body of water, whether inland or not and whether tidal or non-tidal • a river, stream or watercourse, whether tidal or non-tidal, and • a building erected on the land |
| Marine vegetation | Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> . |
| Matters of national environmental significance | 'Matters of national environmental significance' protected under the <i>Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> . |
| Minister | The Minister administering the <i>Mining Act 1992 / Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991</i> – as relevant. |
| Native vegetation | Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Local Land Services Act 2013</i> . |
| Potential acid sulphate soils (PASS) | Sediments and soils that contain iron sulfides or sulfidic material which have not been exposed to air and oxidised |
| Produced water | Any form of groundwater that is actively extracted from a borehole or excavation, excluding incidental groundwater mixed with drilling fluids. |
| Rehabilitation | Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Mining Act 1992 / Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991</i> – as relevant. |
| Seismic survey | The use of shock waves (generated in the ground using either small explosive charges detonated below the surface, hand-held mechanical hammers or vehicle-mounted hammers) and an array of geophones, which are connected to measuring instruments, to differentiate the geophysical properties of the subsurface of the earth. |
| Sensitive receiver | <p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dwellings • libraries • educational and research institutions (including schools, colleges and universities) • childcare centres • kindergartens • hospitals, surgeries and other medical institutions • places of worship |

| Word | Definition |
|---|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> milking sheds and holding yards associated with dairies animal boarding or training establishments aquaculture intensive livestock agriculture |
| Site | The land on which an activity is located. |
| State Conservation Area | Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> . |
| Surface disturbance | Means: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> disturbance or exposure of the soil or surface rock layer, or degradation or deterioration in any manner of the physical surface of land. |
| Terms | In relation to activity approvals, the terms imposed by the decision-maker on the grant of an activity approval. |
| Threatened species or ecological communities | Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> or <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> (as relevant). |
| Title | An authority under the <i>Mining Act 1992</i> / a title under the <i>Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991</i> – as relevant. |
| Titleholder | A person or company to whom a title has been issued. |
| Track | All unsealed routes that will be traversed multiple times, but does not include single pass (ingress and egress) routes or seismic shot and receiver lines. |
| Waste | Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997</i> . |
| Water source | Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i> . |
| Water land | Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> . |
| Waterfront land | Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i> . |
| Wetlands | Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> . |
| Wilderness | Lands identified as wilderness under the <i>Wilderness Act 1987</i> . |
| Wilderness area | Lands (including subterranean lands) declared to be a wilderness area under the <i>Wilderness Act 1987</i> or the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> . |

Attachment 3 – List of supporting documents

- APO0001731_AboriginalHeritage.zip
 - APO0001731_CriticalHabitat.zip
 - APO0001731_Map5_HistoricCulturalNaturalHeritage_amended.png
 - APO0001731_SitePlanLocation.zip
 - APO0001731_Submission Report_14 Mar 2024 5:45pm.pdf
 - APO0001731_Submission Report_17 Apr 2024 1:53pm.pdf
 - APO0001731_ThreatenedSpecies.zip
 - EL8965 APO0001731_ProposedPhotos_amended.pdf
 - image005.png
 - MNES.zip
 - RE: APO0001731 | Duck Creek - Australian Consolidated Gold Holdings Pty Ltd.eml

FORM: APO_C_Apvl v3.1