

***Environmental Protection Act 1986***

**Section 45C**

**NOTICE OF DECISION TO CONSENT TO AMEND AN APPROVED PROPOSAL  
WITHOUT INQUIRY**

**PERSON TO WHOM THIS NOTICE IS GIVEN**

Tropicana Joint Venture (AngloGold Ashanti Australia Limited and Independence Group NL)

**PROPOSAL TO WHICH THIS NOTICE RELATES**

Tropicana Gold Project, Shire of Menzies, Shire of Laverton and the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT and ANY APPROVED CHANGES**

MS 839, first issued 24/09/2010 and approved changes on 19/11/2012, 17/12/2014, 8/12/2016, 18/04/2019, 13/10/2020 and 3/06/2022.

**DECISION**

Pursuant to s. 45C (1) (a) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act), the Chair acting as delegate for the Minister for Environment gives approval to the following amendments of the approved proposal:

- An increase in operational area disturbance footprint from 2,570 ha to 2,680 ha and an overall increase in disturbance footprint from 3,540 ha to 3,650 ha (total increase of 110 ha) within the Operational Development Envelope of 27,241 ha, for the construction and operation of infrastructure for the Renewable Energy Project comprising wind turbines, a solar farm and Battery Energy Storage System.
- The inclusion of conditions requiring the management of greenhouse gas emissions through an approved Greenhouse Gas Management Plan.

The amended proposal content document and figures are attached.

**SUMMARY OF REASONS**

- The 110 ha increase in disturbance footprint within the operational area occurs partially on previously disturbed land and within native vegetation, however none of the vegetation communities proposed to be disturbed are of conservation significance and no Threatened or Priority flora species will be impacted.

- There will be a loss of potential habitat for significant fauna species including 52.61 ha of potential Sandhill Dunnart habitat and 0.59 ha of potential Malleefowl habitat, however this represents a small increase in the context of mapped habitat available (0.55% and 0.02% respectively) and is unlikely to represent a significant impact on terrestrial fauna. The location of the proposed amendment has also been designed to be adjacent to existing clearing to minimise potential habitat fragmentation.
- Greenhouse gas emissions from the approved proposal were considered in the original assessment and were expected to generate a maximum of 330,000 CO<sub>2</sub>-e per annum. The proposed amendment will reduce the overall contribution of greenhouse gas emissions for the proposal by approximately 50% based on a typical year of operation. Greenhouse Gas emissions from this site currently exceed 100,000 CO<sub>2</sub>-e per annum therefore it is considered that conditions requiring the proponent to implement an approved Greenhouse Gas Environmental Management Plan will provide certainty that significant impacts are avoided, mitigated and/or offset.
- No archaeological sites occur within the footprint of the proposed change. Due to the remote location of the proposal, it is also not anticipated that the wind turbines, solar array or battery infrastructure will significantly impact on visual amenity.
- Existing Ministerial Statement 839 conditions to control impacts to flora and vegetation (conditions 5 and 6) and fauna (conditions 6 and 7) are expected to ensure consistency with the EPA objectives by requiring:
  - no loss of Threatened Flora
  - reporting of more than 25% decline in cover of vegetation productivity
  - implementation of Threatened Species and Communities Management Strategy to minimise impacts to conservation significant species and communities
  - fauna management controls.
- If implemented in accordance with the existing conditions, the impacts are not likely to be significant and are likely to be consistent with the EPA factor objectives for flora and vegetation, terrestrial fauna and greenhouse gas emissions.
- The amendment would not, if the proposal were already approved, be a significant amendment. In considering this, the effects of the amendment on its own, the effect of the amendment in the context of the existing referred proposal, cumulative and holistic impacts have been considered.
- The amended proposal will be substantially the same character as the existing referred proposal.

**EFFECT OF THIS NOTICE:**

1. The proposal as amended in accordance with this notice is taken to be able to be implemented under s. 45 of the EP Act.

**RIGHTS OF APPEAL:**

There are no rights of appeal under the EP Act in respect of this decision.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Tonts', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Prof. Matthew Tonts**  
**Delegate of the Environmental Protection Authority**  
CHAIR

1 September 2023

**Attachment 1- Amended proposal content document and figure/s showing the new approved proposal**