



MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT;
LABOUR RELATIONS

Statement No.

000518

**STATEMENT THAT A PROPOSAL MAY BE IMPLEMENTED
(PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1986)**

RED OCTOBER GOLD PROJECT, 80 KILOMETRES SOUTH OF LAVERTON

Proposal: The development of an open-cut gold mine, waste rock dumps and mine facilities on Lake Carey and a haul road along its shore approximately 80 kilometres south of Laverton and 110 kilometres east of Leonora, within the Mount Margaret Mineral Field and the Mount Morgan District, as documented in schedule 1 of this statement.

Proponent: Sons of Gwalia Ltd

Proponent Address: 16 Parliament Place, PMB 16, West Perth WA 6872

Assessment Number: 1245

Report of the Environmental Protection Authority: Bulletin 936

The proposal to which the above report of the Environmental Protection Authority relates may be implemented subject to the following conditions and procedures:

1 Implementation

- 1-1 Subject to these conditions and procedures, the proponent shall implement the proposal as documented in schedule 1 of this statement.
- 1-2 Where the proponent seeks to change any aspect of the proposal as documented in schedule 1 of this statement in any way that the Minister for the Environment determines, on advice of the Environmental Protection Authority, is substantial, the proponent shall refer the matter to the Environmental Protection Authority.
- 1-3 Where the proponent seeks to change any aspect of the proposal as documented in schedule 1 of this statement in any way that the Minister for the Environment determines, on advice of the Environmental Protection Authority, is not substantial, those changes may be effected.

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2 Proponent Commitments

- 2-1 The proponent shall implement the consolidated environmental management commitments documented in schedule 2 of this statement.
- 2-2 The proponent shall implement subsequent environmental management commitments which the proponent makes as part of the fulfilment of conditions and procedures in this statement.

3 Environmental Management Plan

- 3-1 Prior to the commencement of ground-disturbing activities, the proponent shall prepare an Environmental Management Plan to the requirements of the Environmental Protection Authority on advice of the Department of Minerals and Energy, the Department of Conservation and Land Management, the Department of Environmental Protection and the Water and Rivers Commission.

The objective of this plan is to provide further detail of the environmental management measures which will be implemented by the proponent, and to ensure that these measures are incorporated into the final design of mine facilities and access infrastructure located on Lake Carey, its islands and shores.

This Plan shall address:

1. location and layout of mine facilities (stores, workshops, offices and roads), the access causeway, haul roads and borrow pits to avoid locally restricted plant communities;
 2. measures (culverts and floodways) proposed to ensure that existing drainage is not significantly affected by the causeway or the haul road;
 3. characterisation of waste rock (including composition of the rock and potential leachates) intended for waste dumps within Lake Carey;
 4. preliminary design criteria and location of waste dumps to ensure that the design is appropriate to the landscape of Lake Carey;
 5. alternative options for decommissioning and rehabilitation of the open void and specification of criteria upon which the options will be evaluated to ensure that the options for rehabilitating the void are consistent with the landscape and environment of Lake Carey;
 6. location of the mine water discharge point and the provision of details of the water and vegetation monitoring programme to determine the impacts of the mine discharge;
 7. management measures to prevent an increase in the number of predators (foxes and cats) accessing the islands via the causeway;
 8. details of the objectives and programme outline for the cooperative biological research investigations into salt lake ecology; and
 9. progressive rehabilitation of areas disturbed by mining to agreed land use(s).
- 3-2 The proponent shall implement the Environmental Management Plan required by condition 3-1.
 - 3-3 The proponent shall make the Environmental Management Plan required by condition 3-1 publicly available, to the requirements of the Environmental Protection Authority.

4 Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Management Plan

- 4-1 Within 12 months following the commencement of productive mining, the proponent shall prepare a Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Management Plan to ensure that the mining void, borrow pits, causeway, waste dumps, haul roads and other areas disturbed by the project are rehabilitated to the requirements of the Environmental Protection Authority on advice of the Department of Minerals and Energy, the Department of Conservation and Land Management, the Department of Environmental Protection and the Water and Rivers Commission.

This Plan shall address:

1. removal or, if appropriate, retention of plant and infrastructure;
2. the processes for rehabilitation of the project area;
3. the development of a 'walk away' solution for the decommissioned pit, waste dumps, causeway, borrow pits, haul roads and other associated infrastructure; and
4. identification of contaminated areas, including provision of evidence of notification to relevant statutory authorities.

Note: A 'walkaway' solution means that the site shall either no longer require management at the time the proponent ceases operation, or if further management is deemed necessary, the proponent shall make adequate provision so that the required management is undertaken with no liability to the State.

- 4-2 The proponent shall implement the Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Management Plan required by condition 4-1.
- 4-3 The proponent shall make the Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Management Plan required by condition 4-1 publicly available, to the requirements of the Environmental Protection Authority.

5 Proponent

- 5-1 The proponent for the time being nominated by the Minister for the Environment under section 38(6) or (7) of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 is responsible for the implementation of the proposal until such time as the Minister for the Environment has exercised the Minister's power under section 38(7) of the Act to revoke the nomination of that proponent and nominate another person in respect of the proposal.
- 5-2 Any request for the exercise of that power of the Minister referred to in condition 5-1 shall be accompanied by a copy of this statement endorsed with an undertaking by the proposed replacement proponent to carry out the proposal in accordance with the conditions and procedures set out in the statement.
- 5-3 The proponent shall notify the Department of Environmental Protection of any change of proponent contact name and address within 30 days of such change.

6 Commencement

- 6-1 The proponent shall provide evidence to the Minister for the Environment within five years of the date of this statement that the proposal has been substantially commenced.
- 6-2 Where the proposal has not been substantially commenced within five years of the date of this statement, the approval to implement the proposal as granted in this statement shall lapse and be void. The Minister for the Environment will determine any question as to whether the proposal has been substantially commenced.

- 6-3 The proponent shall make application to the Minister for the Environment for any extension of approval for the substantial commencement of the proposal beyond five years from the date of this statement at least six months prior to the expiration of the five year period referred to in conditions 6-1 and 6-2.
- 6-4 Where the proponent demonstrates to the requirements of the Minister for the Environment on advice of the Environmental Protection Authority that the environmental parameters of the proposal have not changed significantly, then the Minister may grant an extension not exceeding five years for the substantial commencement of the proposal.

7 Compliance Auditing

- 7-1 The proponent shall submit periodic Performance and Compliance Reports, in accordance with an audit program prepared in consultation between the proponent and the Department of Environmental Protection.
- 7-2 Unless otherwise specified, the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Environmental Protection is responsible for assessing compliance with the conditions, procedures and commitments contained in this statement and for issuing formal written advice that the requirements have been met.
- 7-3 Where compliance with any condition, procedure or commitment is in dispute, the matter will be determined by the Minister for the Environment.

Note

- 1 The proponent is required to apply for a Works Approval and Licence for this project under the provisions of Part V of the Environmental Protection Act.

~~CHERYL~~ EDWARDS (MRS) MLA
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

- 2 AUG 1999

Schedule 1

The Proposal (1245)

The Red October Gold Project is located on the western shore of Lake Carey, 80 kilometres South of Laverton. The proposal to mine approximately 16 million tonnes of ore and associated waste material over a two year period involves development of an open-cut gold mine and waste rock dumps on the lake bed, and construction of mine infrastructure (workshops, offices, stores and access roads) and borrow pits on Angelfish Island adjacent to the mining pit.

A causeway will be constructed across the lake from material sourced from the island borrow pits and will link to a haul road constructed along the shores of the lake.

The ore will be transported along this constructed haul road and via a series of public roads to the proponent's existing treatment plant at Laverton.

Development and mining of the open cut will require discharge of mine water to the surface of Lake Carey over the life of the operation.

Key Characteristics Table

Element	Description
Life of project	Approximately 2 years mining and 1 year development
Size of orebody	Approximately 16 Mt ore and waste material
Mining rate	Approximately 275 000 tonnes (t) of ore and 7.75 Mt of waste per annum
Mining method	Truck and shovel
Depth of mining	Approximately 100 metres
Major components and area of disturbance (including access)	
Haul roads	36 hectares
Causeway	20 hectares
Open pit	36 hectares
Waste dumps	80 hectares
Infrastructure (workshops, stores and offices) and borrow pits	40 hectares
Total estimated area of disturbance	212 hectares
Water supply	Dust suppression - saline mine water: up to 800 kL/day Potable - from water supply dam: approximately 2 kL/day
Mine dewatering	800 kL/day discharged to Lake Carey
Water table depth	At surface
Fuel storage capacity	180 000 L (on Angelfish Island)

Figures (attached)

Figure 1 - Project location plan.

Figure 2 - Site layout plan.

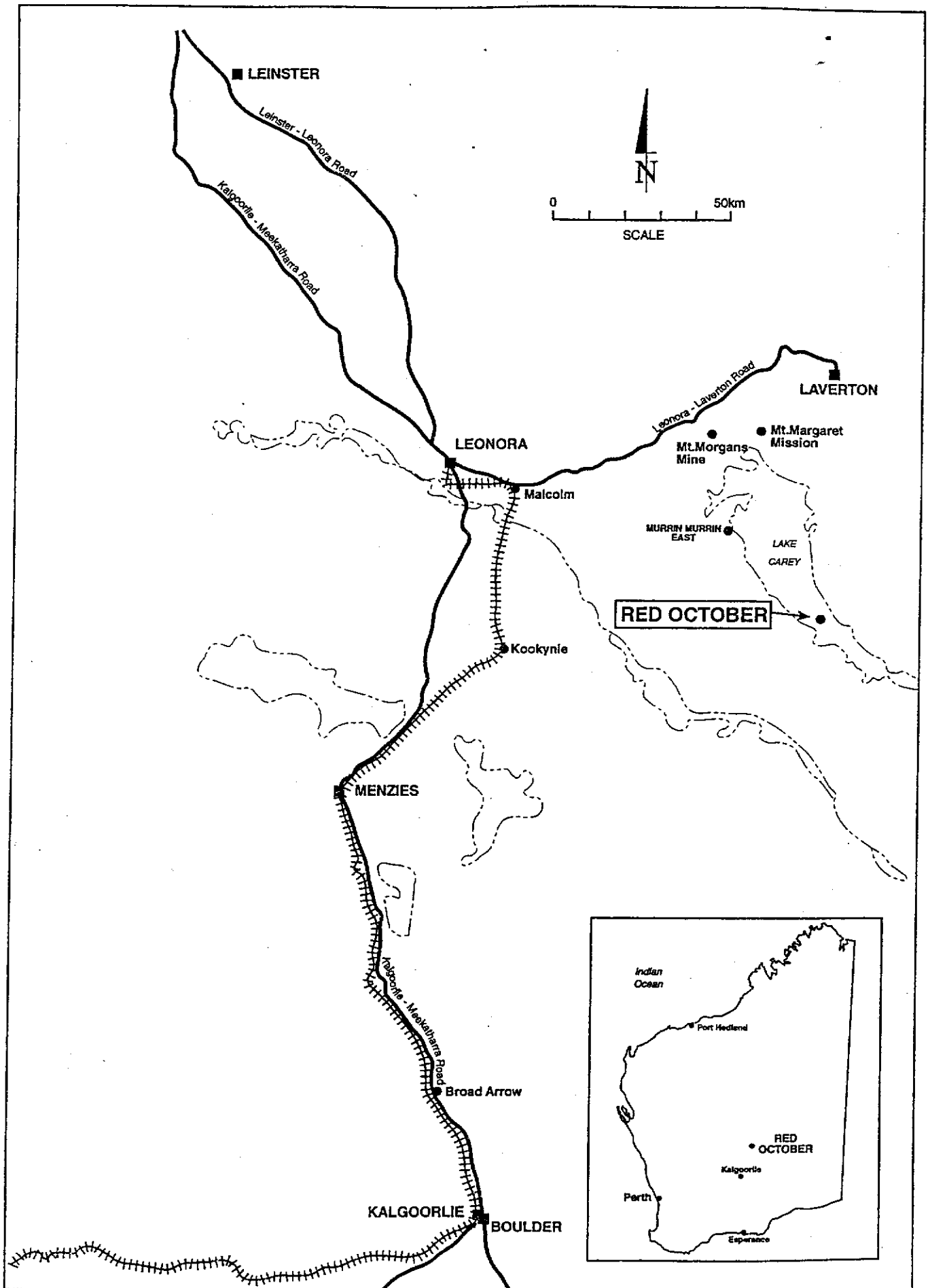


Figure 1. Location Plan Red October Gold Project.

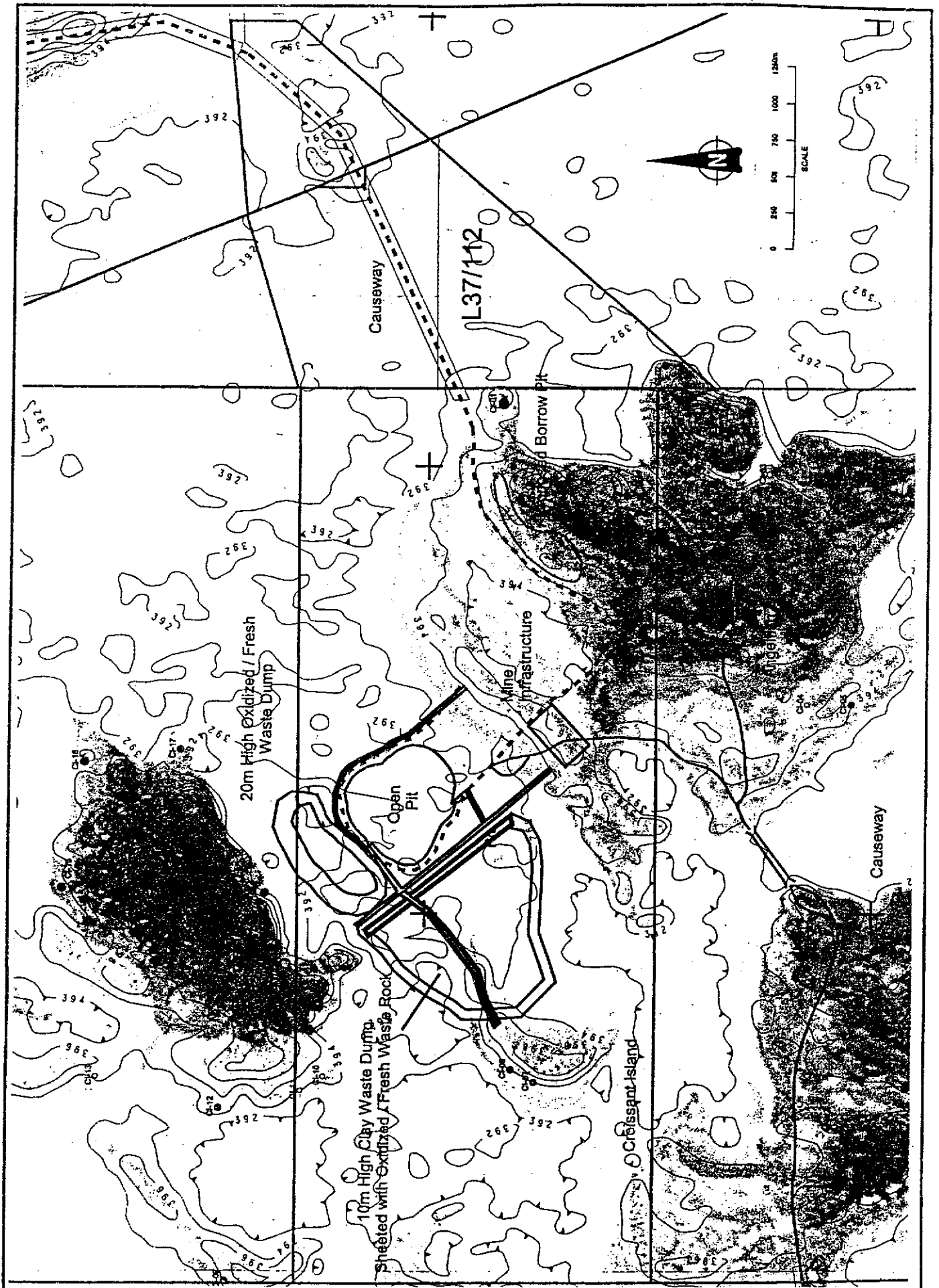


Figure 2. Site layout plan.

**Proponent's Consolidated Environmental Management
Commitments**

June 1999

**RED OCTOBER GOLD PROJECT
80 KILOMETRES SOUTH OF LAVERTON
(1245)**

SONS OF GWALIA LTD

Schedule 2: Proponent's Environmental Management Commitments - Red October Gold Project

TOPIC	OBJECTIVE	ACTION	TIMING	WHOSE ADVICE	MEASUREMENT/ COMPLIANCE CRITERIA
1. Salt lake ecology.	To understand the ecology of Lake Carey and facilitate development of appropriate management programmes.	The proponent will participate with other mining companies in biological studies and will provide an annual summary of the research in the Annual Environmental Report.	Annual summary in DME Annual Environmental Report.	CALM, DME, WRC	Performance and Compliance Report; and Include in DME Annual Environmental Report.
2. Mine water discharges.	To protect near shore vegetation and habitats for water birds.	(2.1) Confirm the proposed locations of mine water discharges; and (2.2) Develop a mine de-water monitoring programme that will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discharge water quality parameters; • quantity of water discharged to Lake Carey; • vegetation transects on the shorelines to monitor the impacts of de-watering. 	Prior to discharge of mine water to the lake.	WRC, CALM, DME	(2.1) A map specifying the location of discharges; and (2.2) Letters from involved agencies .

TOPIC	OBJECTIVE	ACTION	TIMING	WHOSE ADVICE	MEASUREMENT/ COMPLIANCE CRITERIA
3. Surface water flows, Lake Carey.	To allow natural hydrological processes to continue.	(3.1) Provide culverts in the causeway to permit through flow of a 100 year flood event; and (3.2) Develop and implement a monitoring programme to review the performance of culverts.	Before start of causeway construction.	DME, WRC	Letter from DME, WRC approving causeway and culvert design. DEP licence to incorporate culvert performance monitoring programme.
4. Priority species and vegetation communities C5 and C6.	To protect abundance, diversity and geographical distribution of vegetation communities C5 and C6, and of <i>Acacia kalgoorliensis</i> and <i>Halosarcia sp.</i> (<i>Angelfish Island</i>).	(4.1) Conduct a wider regional survey to confirm that vegetation communities C5 and C6, and priority species <i>A. kalgoorliensis</i> are generally well represented in the region; and (4.2) Approval from CALM is required if <i>A. kalgoorliensis</i> is to be disturbed.	(4.1) November 1999; and (4.2) Prior to disturbance of <i>A. kalgoorliensis</i> .	CALM and DME	(4.1) Results of flora survey to determine extent of communities C5 and C6 will be reported in the DME Annual Environmental Report; and (4.2) Letter of approval from CALM is required if it is intended to disturb <i>A. kalgoorliensis</i> .
5. Land Disturbance and clearing.	To prevent unnecessary impacts on vegetation and reduce erosion risks.	(5.1) Disturbance on Angelfish Island will be minimised by establishing mine infrastructure on areas previously disturbed; and (5.2) Develop management procedures to restrict disturbance to the lake and surrounds.	(5.1) Prior to ground-disturbing activities; and (5.2) Prior to ground-disturbing activities.	DME, CALM	Incorporated into the Mine Environmental Management Plan (refer condition 3-1); and Reported in the DME Annual Environmental Report.

TOPIC	OBJECTIVE	ACTION	TIMING	WHOSE ADVICE	MEASUREMENT/ COMPLIANCE CRITERIA
6. Hydrocarbon management.	To protect water resources.	Develop a Hydrocarbon Management Plan for the collection and management of waste hydrocarbons and spills including potentially contaminated run off from mine infrastructure.	Before finalisation of design plans for construction.	DME, WRC.	Letter of approval confirming that the Hydrocarbon Management Plan is accepted by DME and WRC. Significant incidents or amendments to the programme will be reported in the DME Annual Environmental Report.
7. Causeway.	To determine if it is appropriate for the causeway to remain at the cessation of mining operations.	Investigate the long-term effects of leaving the causeway on the hydrology of Lake Carey.	Decommissioning	DME, CALM, Local Authority.	Letters of acceptance of agreed outcome by involved Agencies.

Abbreviations:

CALM = Department of Conservation and Land Management

DEP = Department of Environmental Protection

DME = Department of Minerals and Energy

WRC = Water and Rivers Commission

Attachment 1 to Statement 518

Change to Proposal

Proposal: Red October Gold Project, 80 Kilometres South of Laverton

Proponent: Saracen Gold Mines Pty Ltd

Change: Change of haulage destination of low grade ore from the Red October Project, from Leonora to the Carosue Dam Processing Plant.

Change to Schedule 1 proposal text

Features of approved proposal:

The ore will be transported along this constructed haul road and via a series of public roads to the proponent's existing treatment plant at Leonora*.

Features of approved change to proposal:

The ore will be transported along this constructed haul road and via a series of public roads to the Carosue Dam Processing Plant.

* A non-substantial change to Schedule 1 of Ministerial Statement 518 was approved in October 1999 to change the route of the haul road from Laverton to Leonora.

Dr Paul Vogel
CHAIRMAN
Environmental Protection Authority
under delegated authority

Approval date: 15-12-09