Environmental Protection Act 1986

Section 43A

NOTICE OF DECISION TO CONSENT TO AMEND A REFERRED PROPOSAL DURING ASSESSMENT

PERSON TO WHOM THIS NOTICE IS GIVEN

(a) Ausgold Exploration Proprietary Limited (ABN: 22 078 093 606)
Level 7, 307 Murray Street
PERTH WA 6000

PROPOSAL TO WHICH THIS NOTICE RELATES:

Katanning Gold Project
Assessment No. 2564

Pursuant to s. 43A of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act), the Environmental Protection Authority gives approval to the assessment of the proposal being completed in respect of the proposal as amended in accordance with the proponent's request:

- Increase development envelope from 1,619.02 hectares (ha) to 2,233.82 ha and disturbance footprint from 961.90 ha to 1,141.38 ha.

The amended proposal content document and figures are attached.

SUMMARY OF REASONS:

- The amendment seeks to further avoid the clearing of native vegetation from 58.39 ha to 49.97 ha including:
  - a reduction in clearing of *Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt Ecological Community* Priority 3 (BC Act) from 8.48 ha to 5.98 ha and,
  - a reduction in clearing of breeding habitat for Carnaby's cockatoo (*Zanda latirostris*) from 68.78 ha (including 82 potential breeding trees) to 61.62 ha (including 68 potential breeding trees).
- The proposal is not significantly closer to any sensitive noise or dust receptors.
- The environmental review document for the amended proposal will still be subject to a three-week public environmental review.
- As there are no new environmental factors identified as a result of the amendment, there are no additional EPA functions that need to be performed to assess the amended proposal.
- The amended proposal will still be substantially the same character as the existing referred proposal.

EFFECT OF THIS NOTICE:

1. The assessment of the proposal is to be completed in respect of the proposal as amended in accordance with the decision set out in this notice.

2. The proposal as amended in accordance with this notice is taken to have been referred to the EPA under s. 38 of the EP Act.

RIGHTS OF APPEAL:

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

Darren Walsh
Delegate of the Environmental Protection Authority
CHAIR

20 April 2026

Attachments:
Attachment 1: Amended proposal content document and figures showing changes.

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Environmental Protection Authority

Attachment 1: Amended proposal content document and figures showing changes

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Proposal Content Document

Table 1: General proposal content description

Proposal title	Katanning Gold Project
Proponent name	Ausgold Exploration Pty Ltd
Short description	The Proposal is to construct and operate an open cut gold mine approximately 275 km southeast of Perth and 37 km northeast of Katanning, WA. The total disturbance proposed is up to 61.62 hectares (ha), which includes the disturbance of 49.97 ha of native vegetation over a 10-year life of mine. The annual total pit dewatering volume is estimated to be 0.4 gigalitres per year (GL/yr) with a maximum of 0.5 GL/yr for a 10-year LoM. The Proposal includes: • The development of above and below water table Open Cut pits; • Processing of ore from pits on tenements within the Mine Development Envelope; • Groundwater abstraction from mine pits for water supply to processing and to facilitate mining below the water table; • Surplus water management, including but not limited to mine water use, or ponds (integrated landform/TSF); • Mined materials management including, but not limited to, waste rock landforms, inpit storage and low-grade ore stockpiles. • Storage of process waste (tailings) in an above ground Tailings Storage Facility, in an integrated waste landform; • Ore, topsoil and subsoil stockpiles; and • Linear and ancillary infrastructure to support mining, including access and haul roads, hybrid power plant, solar and LPG peak turbines), process water and slurry reticulation, offices and workshops etc. The Proposal requires a disturbance footprint of 1,141.38 ha and is located within a 2,233.82 ha MDE.

Table 2: Proposal content elements

Proposal element	Location / description	Maximum extent, capacity or range referred	Proposed Amendments	Amended maximum extent, capacity or range
Physical elements				
Mine Elements including • Open cut pits (with a depth greater than 5 m below ground water); • Waste Rock Landforms; • Run of Mine Pad (ROM Pad); • Topsoil stockpiles; • Low Grade Ore Stockpiles • Haul roads and access roads; • Noise bunds; and • Dewatering infrastructure.	Within Development Envelope. Refer to Figure 1.	Disturbance Footprint (DF) of up to 961.90 ha, within a 1,619.02 ha MDE.	Increase in area of both DF and MDE	Disturbance Footprint (DF) of up to 1,141.38 ha located within a 2,233.82 ha MDE.
Processing Plant Including: • Ore Stockpiles; • Primary Crusher; • Balancing Water storage and evaporation ponds; • Ore Processing Facility (wet and dry), SAG and Ball mills and associated processing and recovery infrastructure; and • Storage of mineral processing waste (TSF - keyed into IWL).	Within Development Envelope. Refer to Figure 1.	DF of up to 961.90 ha, within a 1,619.02 ha MDE.	Increase in area of both DF and MDE.	Disturbance Footprint (DF) of up to 1,141.38 ha located within a 2,233.82 ha MDE.

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Supporting Infrastructure including: • Mine Services Area with ancillary buildings and support infrastructure including, but not limited to, offices, workshops, hydrocarbon/chemical storage, and explosive storage/handling facilities; • Waste management facilities; • Power generation and distribution infrastructure, including a hybrid powerplant comprised LGP generators and Solar PV; • Surface water management infrastructure including but not limited to levees, diversions, culverts, drains, floodways, sediment control and other water quality management structures; and • Domestic on-site wastewater treatment systems.	Within Development Envelope. Refer to Figure 1.	DF of up to 961.90 ha, within a 1619.02 ha MDE.	Increase in area of both DF and MDE.	Disturbance Footprint (DF) of up to 1,141.38 ha located within a 2,233.82 ha MDE.
Borefield elements including: • Water management infrastructure including but not limited to abstraction, conveyance, water treatment and storage; and • Pipelines and access/pipeline corridors.	Within Development Envelope. Refer to Figure 1.	DF of up to 961.90 ha, within a 1619.02 ha MDE.	Increase in area of both DF and MDE.	Disturbance Footprint (DF) of up to 1,141.38 ha located within a 2,233.82 ha MDE.
Construction elements				
Key construction elements will include, but not be limited to, the following physical and operational elements: • Clearing and grubbing;	Within Development Envelope. Refer to Figure 1.	DF of up to 961.90 ha, within a 1619.02 ha MDE.	Increase in area of both DF and MDE.	Disturbance Footprint (DF) of up to 1,141.38 ha located within a 2,233.82 ha MDE.

• Starter embankments for TSF; • WRL; • Pit commencement; • Water management infrastructure; • Temporary offices/ablutions; • Access roads and haul roads; • Borrow laydowns; • Pipelines and pipeline corridors; • Movement of topsoil, and bulk earthworks; and • Waste management facilities.				
Operational elements				
Mining	Within Development Envelope. Refer to Figure 1.	Up to 270 Mt of total mined material (ore and overburden) over life of mine.	No change.	Up to 270 Mt of total mined material (ore and overburden) over life of mine.
Ore Processing Facility (OPF)	Within Development Envelope. Refer to Figure 1.	Up to 3.6 Mtpa of processed ore.	No change.	Up to 3.6 Mtpa of processed ore.
Tailing Storage Facility (TSF)	Within Development Envelope. Refer to Figure 1.	Maximum of 40.6 million tonnes over the Life of Mine (LoM), to be stored in a TSF.	No change.	Maximum of 40.6 million tonnes over the Life of Mine (LoM), to be stored in a TSF.
Waste Rock Landform	Within Development Envelope. Refer to Figure 1.	Integrated Waste Landform (IWL) and/or WRLs at an average deposition rate of 23.5 Mtpa.	No change.	Integrated Waste Landform (IWL) and/or WRLs at an average deposition rate of 23.5 Mtpa.
Groundwater Abstraction	Within Development Envelope. Refer to Figure 1.	Abstraction of up to 3 gigalitres per annum (GL/yr) for pit dewatering and water supply.	No change.	Abstraction of up to 3 gigalitres per annum (GL/yr) for pit dewatering and water supply.
Water Management/Mine Dewatering	Within Development	Mine pit dewatering between 0.4-0.6 GL/yr pumped from in-pit sumps to processing plant and	No change.	Mine pit dewatering between 0.4-0.6 GL/yr pumped from in-pit sumps to processing plant and

	Envelope. Refer to Figure 1.	temporary storage. Managed on-site by dynamic site-based water balance, including by evaporative cannons on TSF to retain all process and surplus contact water on-site; No discharge to offsite environment.				temporary storage. Managed on-site by dynamic site-based water balance, including by evaporative cannons on TSF to retain all process and surplus contact water on-site; No discharge to offsite environment.	
Hybrid Power Plant Operation	Within Development Envelope. Refer to Figure 1.	Thermal Installed Capacity	Gas	30.3 MW	No change.	Thermal Installed Capacity	Gas 30.3 MW
			Diesel	3.0 MW	No change.		Diesel 3.0 MW
		Solar PV Installed Capacity		40.9 MWp	No change.	Solar PV Installed Capacity	40.9 MWp
		BESS Installed Capacity		20.0 MW/ 44.2 MW/hr	No change.	BESS Installed Capacity	20.0 MW/ 44.2 MW/hr
		Total Installation Capacity		94.1 MW	No change.	Total Installation Capacity	94.1 MW
Waste water treatment	Within Development Envelope. Refer to Figure 1.	Shire approved on-site disposal systems (<100m3/d).			No change.	Shire approved on-site disposal systems (<100m3/d).	
Workforce Accommodation and Transport	Offsite	Accommodation village in Katanning on leased zoned land, 37km from Proposal tenements, for up to 350 mine employees and contractors.			No change.	Accommodation village in Katanning on leased zoned land, 37km from Proposal tenements, for up to 350 mine employees and contractors.	
Proposal elements with greenhouse gas emissions							
Scenario	**Scope**	**Emissions over LoM (t CO2-e)**					

Baseline Scenario	Scope 1	1 882,379	No change.	1 882,379
	Scope 3	256,412	No change.	256,412
	Scope 1 + 3 Total	**1,138,791**	No change.	**1,138,791**
Scenario 1 (Solar Farn and Electrification of Mining Fleet and Mobile Equipment	Scope 1	776,678	No change.	776,678
	Scope 3	223,257	No change.	223,257
	Scope 1 + 3 Total	**999,935**	No change.	**999,935**
Rehabilitation				
Progressive rehabilitation will be undertaken over the life of the mine where operational requirements allow and where practicable. At the cessation of mining and processing, the site will be rehabilitated in accordance with the Katanning Gold Project Mine Closure Plan. The Mine Closure Plan associated with approvals under the Mining Act will plan for landforms (such as WRLs and the IWL/TSF) will be designed to be safe, stable, non-polluting, whilst meeting overarching objectives for closure in consultation with key stakeholders.			No change.	As per the original proposal.
Commissioning				
Commissioning of the Ore Processing Facility-Plant/TSF/water and ancillary infrastructure to be undertaken in accordance with approval issued under the EP Act, Mining Act and other legislation and will be subject to operational limits above.			No change.	As per the original proposal.
Decommissioning				
The Mine Development and Closure Proposal (MDCP), associated with approvals under the Mining Act, will provide a plan for decommissioning of the mine and post-closure land use. All infrastructure will be removed unless ownership is transferred to a third-party.			No change.	As per the original proposal.
Other elements which affect extent of effects on the environment				
Proposal time*	Maximum project life	Approximately 10 years plus closure and rehabilitation phase.	No change.	Approximately 10 years plus closure and rehabilitation phase.
	Construction phase	Approximately 18 months.	No change.	Approximately 18 months.
	Operations phase	Approximately 10 years.	No change.	Approximately 10 years.
	Decommissioning phase (Staged Approach)	Approximately 3 years. Northern Zone – Year 8.	No change.	Approximately 3 years. Northern Zone – Year 8.

** Proponents should only provide realistic timeframes to avoid unnecessary change to proposal applications at referral (section 38C), assessment (section 43A) or post assessment (section 45C).*

Figure 1: Figure showing changes to Development Envelope

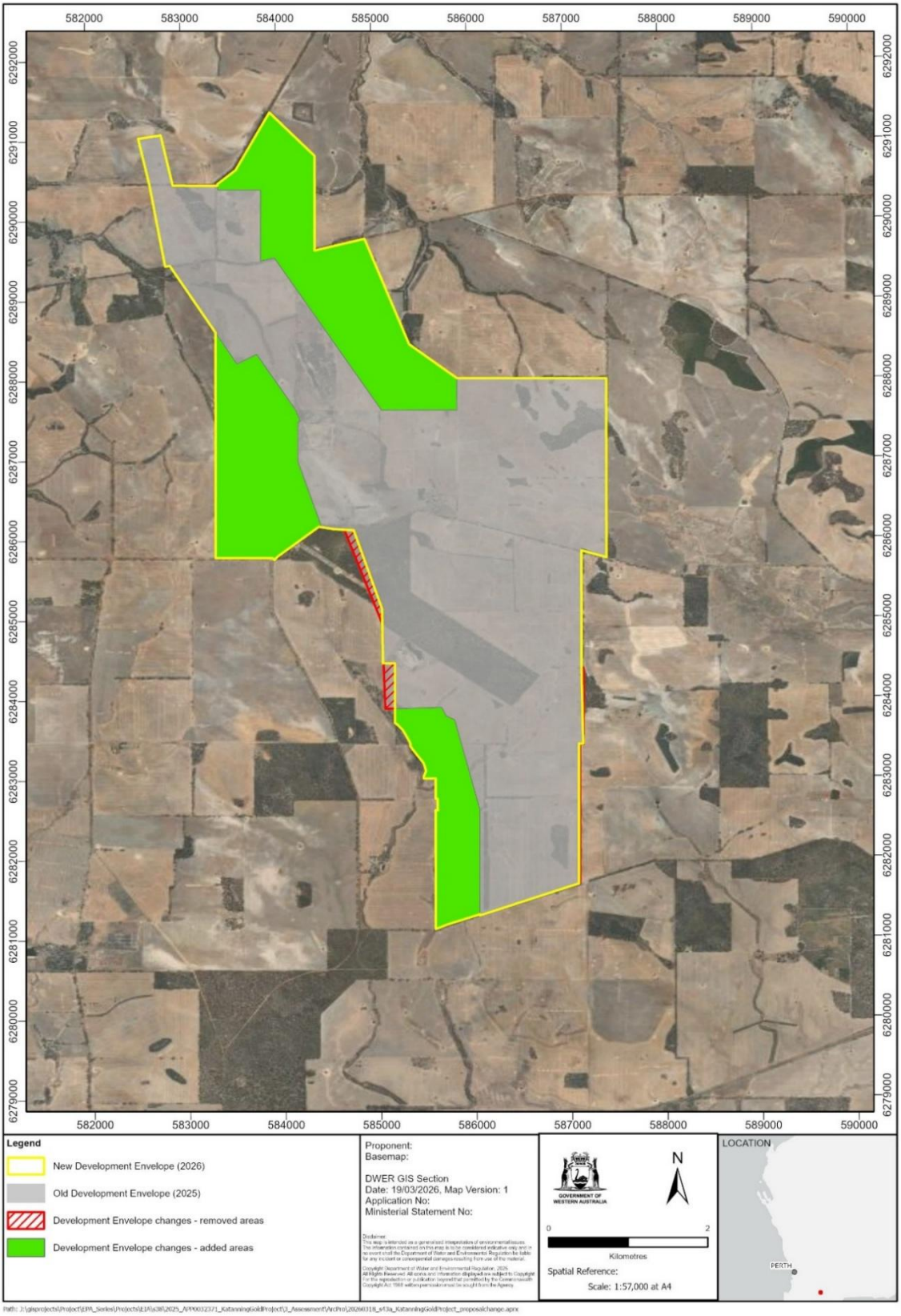

Figure 2: Figure showing changes to Disturbance Footprint