

Public Notice

Environmental Protection Act 1994 (EP Act) – Section 42

Draft terms of reference for an environmental impact statement (EIS) Sarsfield Expansion Project

Carpentaria Gold Pty Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Resolute Mining Limited, is the proponent for the Sarsfield Expansion Project, situated at Ravenswood in North Queensland. The project is located within mining leases (ML) 1639, 1379, 1574, 1380, 1416, 1417, 1337, 1574, 1640, 1682, 1692, 1753, 10170, 10237, 1418 and 1394.

The proposal is to expand the current open-cut gold mining operation by recommencing mining in the Sarsfield Pit and extending the Nolans Pit floor. Mining would involve drilling and blasting, and a shovel and truck fleet. Ore would be treated at the existing plant at the rate of five million tonnes per annum (Mt/a) peaking at 6 Mt/a for six months. The project would extend the mine life for 10 years.

The project would involve replacing infrastructure affected by the expansion project, and constructing or refurbishing new facilities, including:

- lined tailings storage facilities to accommodate mining tailings
- a new waste rock dump
- expansion of the workers' camp by 100 rooms for an additional 160 people
- removal and re-establishment of a portion of the existing acoustic bund to the west and north of the pit
- a new sewage treatment plant
- a new workshop and offices
- realignment of a portion of Mt Wright haul road on lease
- refurbishment of the Sarsfield crushing plant.

On 28 July 2011, an application was made by the proponent under section 71 of the EP Act to prepare a voluntary EIS. The application was approved on 28 July 2011.

On 2 September 2011, the Commonwealth Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities determined the project to be a controlled action under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The State's EIS process has been accredited for the assessment under Part 8 of the EPBC Act in accordance with the Bilateral Agreement between the Commonwealth of Australia and the State of Queensland (2004). The controlling provisions are sections 12 and 15A (World Heritage properties); sections 15B and 15C (National Heritage places); sections 18 and 18A (Listed threatened species and communities); and sections 24B and 24C (Great Barrier Reef Marine Park).

In accordance with section 41 of the EP Act, the proponent has prepared and submitted a draft terms of reference (TOR) for an EIS for the proposal to the Department of Environment and Resource Management's (DERM) chief executive.

A **copy of the draft TOR** may be viewed at:

Department of Environment and Resource Management
Floor 3, 400 George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Charters Towers Public Library
130 Gill Street
CHARTERS TOWERS QLD 4820

Department of Environment and Resource Management
187–209 Stanley St
TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810

This public notice, the draft TOR and an initial advice statement describing the project are available on DERM's website <www.derm.qld.gov.au> or by calling the Sarsfield Expansion Project EIS coordinator on 13 QGOV (13 74 68). Copies can also be obtained from Resolute Mining Limited's website <www.resolute-ltd.com.au>, by calling Coffey Environments Australia Pty Ltd (07) 3002 0400 or emailing <feedback@rml.com.au>.

Written submissions

DERM's chief executive invites written comments from any person in relation to the draft TOR from **Monday 10 October 2011 until Friday 18 November 2011**. Please address written comments to:

The Chief Executive
Department of Environment and Resource Management
Attention: The EIS Coordinator (Sarsfield Expansion Project)
GPO Box 2454, BRISBANE QLD 4001
Level 8, 400 George Street, BRISBANE QLD 4000
or by email to <eis@derm.qld.gov.au>.

Please note that it is a statutory requirement for all submitted comments to be forwarded to the proponent for consideration and provision of a response to DERM.

When the draft EIS is complete, public submissions will be invited. For further information about the EIS process for this proposal, contact the EIS coordinator by calling 13QGOV (13 74 68) or emailing <eis@derm.qld.gov.au>.