

REGIONAL INTERESTS DEVELOPMENT APPROVAL (RIDA) -

RPI23/030 Austral Resources Operations - Exploration activities

(Given under section 53 of the *Regional Planning Interests Act 2014*)

Date: 4 September 2023

Description of the land

Real property description: Lot 1 UN6, Lot 1 UN7, Lot 3 UN803945 and Lot 5 CP865892

Local Government Area: Mount Isa City

Approved resource activities

The approved resource activities are set out in Table 1 below.

The coordinates of the proposed drill holes are provided in Table 2 below.

Definitions of the approved resource activities are provided in Table 3 below.

This development approval authorises impacts on the Gulf Rivers Strategic Environmental Area (SEA) by the approved resource activities.

Table 1: Approved resource activities

Area of regional interest	Location	Resource activity	Area of disturbance (hectares)
Gulf Rivers SEA	Lot 1 UN6 Lot 1 UN7, Lot 3 UN803945 Lot 5 CP865892	Drill pads	2.58
		Access tracks	3.7
Total disturbance area			6.28 ha

Table 2: Coordinates of drill holes and areas of disturbance

Activity	Number	Location	Total disturbance (ha)			
Access tracks	12.37km	Lot 1 on UN6 Lot 1 on UN7	3.7ha (3m wide tracks)			
Drill pads	58	Diamond Drillholes				
		Drillhole	Easting	Northing		
		Lot 1 on UN6:				
		P-LL2022-20	298072	7819853		
		P-LL2022-31	292722	7815873		
		P-LL2022-32	291887	7817623		
		P-LL2022-33	294922	7817523		
		P-LL2022-34	291365	7818329		
		Lot 1 on UN7:				
		P-LL2022-19	289572	7814523		
		P-LL2022-21	298572	7826455		
		P-LL2022-22	298819	7828123		
		P-LL2022-23	298949	7825900		
		P-LL2022-24	288623	7810453		
		P-LL2022-25	286708	7810568		
		P-LL2022-26	288798	7809673		
		P-LL2022-27	287373	7810448		
		Coordinates are GDA94 MGA Zone 54				
		RC Drillholes		Drillhole	Easting	Northing
		Lot 1 on UN6:				
		pNHP_a	296850	7822200		
		pNHP_b	296750	7822200		
		Lot 1 on UN7:				
		pDRF_a	298290	7828050		
		pDRF_b	298300	7828225		
		pDRF_c	298290	7827990		
		pDRF_d	298340	7827990		
		pDRF_e	298300	7828300		
pDRF_f	298310	7828450				
pDRF_g	298270	7827630				
pBUB_a	298410	7826430				
pBUB_b	298410	7826480				
pBUB_c	298410	7826530				
pBUB_d	298475	7826875				
pBUB_e	298425	7826875				
pKCH_a	298450	7827450				
pKCH_b	298350	7827450				
pKCH_c	298250	7827450				
pKCH_d	298450	7827330				
pKCH_e	298200	7827250				
pKCH_f	298300	7827250				
			Initial: 2.58ha (45 x (20m x 20m)) (13 x (20m x 30m))			

Activity	Number	Location		Total disturbance (ha)
		pKCH_g	298400	7827250
		pKCH_h	298175	7827550
		pKCH_i	298075	7827550
		pKCH_j	297975	7827550
		pKCH_k	297875	7827550
		pLAG_a	295775	7826100
		pLAG_b	295675	7826100
		pLAG_c	295575	7826100
		pLAG_d	295850	7826300
		pLAG_e	295750	7826300
		pLAG_f	295650	7826300
		pLAG_g	296225	7827825
		pLAG_h	296175	7827825
		pLAG_i	296125	7827825
		pLAG_j	296075	7827825
		pLAG_k	296025	7827825
		pDEB_a	298275	7825700
		pDEB_b	298375	7825700
		pDEB_c	298475	7825700
		pDEB_d	298575	7825700
		pDEB_e	297900	7825300
		pDEB_f	298000	7825300
		pDEB_g	298100	7825300
		pDEB_h	298200	7825300
		pDEB_i	298300	7825300
Coordinates are GDA94 MGA Zone 54				
TOTAL DISTURBANCE FOR 58 TARGET SITES:				6.28ha

Table 3: Definitions of approved resource activities

Resource activity	Definition
Drill pads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 58 drill pads comprising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 13 diamond drilling, with each drill pad measuring 20m x 30m (0.06 ha), used to provide a stable platform for the mud rotary and diamond tail drilling procedures, with target depths ranging from 300m to 1100m ○ 45 reverse circulation (RC) drillholes, with each drill pad measuring 20m x 20m (0.04 ha), with 10 drillholes with a target depth of approx. 1000m and 35 drillholes with a target depth of approx. 80 m. • Clearing will use the 'blade up'¹ method where possible.
Access tracks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approx. 12.4 km of new access tracks, no greater than 3m in width • Constructed using the 'blade up'¹ method where possible.

¹ Blade-up¹ method: means the clearing of vegetation by a grader or dozer blade that is tilted back to prevent it from cutting the ground surface and in a way which keeps the rootstock, topsoil and seedbank intact.

Regional interests conditions

A person who is the holder of, or is acting under, this RIDA must not contravene a condition of this approval.

Condition number	Condition	Timing for condition
1.	Carry out the approved resource activities and disturbance of land in the Gulf Rivers Strategic Environmental Area generally in accordance with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the resource activities identified in Table 1: Approved resource activities (b) the location and areas of disturbance identified in Table 2: Coordinates of drill holes and areas of disturbance (c) the resource activities defined in Table 3: Definitions of approved resource activities (d) Figure 2 – Exploration Activities Sheet No. RTPL_ARD_ARA001_RPIMAP_0002_C, dated 17/05/2023, prepared by Ardent (Attachment 1). 	At all times.
2.	No activities are to be undertaken: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) during the regional wet season (December to March) (b) in times when there is water present (c) in times of flow. 	As indicated.
3	No clearing of native vegetation is permitted within or adjoining watercourses, lakes, wetlands or springs unless otherwise authorised under the <i>Water Act 2000</i> or any other relevant legislation.	At all times.
4.	No trees with a diameter at breast height of greater than 20cm are to be cleared.	At all times.
5.	The construction and decommissioning of exploration drill holes must be in accordance with 'Minimum Construction Requirements for Water Bores in Australia, Fourth Edition, 2020'.	At all times.
6.	The construction or maintenance of access tracks in a watercourse must not result in the clearing of riparian vegetation outside of the minimum area practicable to carry out the works.	At all times.
7.	New access tracks across riparian zones or wildlife corridors must not be located within 200 metres of an existing access track.	At all times.
8.	The construction or maintenance works for access tracks in a watercourse must not result in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) ongoing negative impacts to water quality (b) bank instability. 	As indicated.

Condition number	Condition	Timing for condition
9.	The activities must not have a direct or indirect impact on a wetland of high ecological value, Great Artesian Basin Spring, subterranean cave, Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem (GDE) or wetland.	At all times.
10.	<p>Develop and implement erosion and sediment controls in accordance with 'Best Practice Erosion and Sediment Control. International Erosion Control Association (Australasia)' which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) allows stormwater to pass through or around the site in a controlled manner and at non-erosive flow velocities (b) minimises soil erosion resulting from wind, rain and flowing water (c) minimises the duration that disturbed soils are exposed to the erosive forces of wind, rain and flowing water (d) minimises work-related soil erosion and sediment runoff (e) minimises negative impacts to land adjacent to the resource activities. 	At all times.
11.	<p>Contaminants from the resource activities must not be directly or indirectly released to a watercourse / wetland / drainage feature or to the bed or banks of a watercourse / wetland / drainage feature or to groundwater.</p> <p><i>Note: Contaminants mean waste contaminants as defined in Schedule 9 of the Environmental Protection Regulation 2008.</i></p>	At all times.
12.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Restore disturbance areas associated to a pre-disturbance condition, other than those disturbance areas associated with access tracks left in place for future use or drillholes to be kept as water bores, subject to agreement with the landowner. (b) Restored disturbance areas associated with access tracks must achieve stable landforms that perform in the same hydrological way as they did prior to disturbance. (c) Provide records of any agreement referred to in (a) to the chief executive at RPIAct@dSDLGP.qld.gov.au <p><i>Note: The records of agreement provided to the chief executive must state the application reference number, being RPI23/030.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) and (b) Following completion of the resource activities but prior to the onset of the wet season. (c) Within one month of the agreement being reached.
13.	<p>At the completion of the resource activities, return disturbance areas to a profile similar to pre-disturbance conditions which achieves stable landforms that perform in the same hydrological way as they did prior to disturbance.</p> <p><i>Note: 'disturbance' - means any impact to the landscape, vegetation, air quality, hydrology, habitat, or water quality that has been directly or indirectly caused by human activity associated with the</i></p>	As indicated and prior to each wet season.

Condition number	Condition	Timing for condition
	<p><i>resource activity.</i></p> <p><i>'pre-disturbance' - the condition of the land before any resource activities occurred</i></p>	
14.	<p>Retain records of the pre-disturbance, post-reinstatement and post-restoration condition of disturbance areas and provide these to the chief executive (RPIAct@dSDLGP.qld.gov.au application reference number RPI23/030), demonstrating that the impacted land within the Gulf Rivers Strategic Environmental Area has been returned to its pre-disturbance condition. Such records must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) photographs of the pre-disturbance site conditions (b) photographs of the post-reinstatement site conditions (c) photographs of the post-restoration site conditions (d) evidence with the records (date and GPS stamped) required by parts (a) to (c) of this condition. <p><i>Note:</i></p> <p><i>'disturbance' - means any impact to the landscape, vegetation, air quality, hydrology, habitat, or water quality that has been directly or indirectly caused by human activity associated with the resource activity.</i></p> <p><i>'pre-disturbance' - the condition of the land before any resource activities occurred.</i></p> <p><i>'post-reinstatement' - following the completion of the resource activity, being the return of the soil to its previous profile, topography and drainage</i></p> <p><i>'post-restoration' - this is the point at which the ground cover has been established and ponding, erosion, subsidence, etc has been dealt with (being a longer process than the reinstatement phase).</i></p>	Within three months of completing all post-restoration works.
15.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) All complaints received, and resulting actions taken, about the impact of the approved resource activities on the environmental attributes in the Gulf Rivers Strategic Environmental Area must be recorded. The record must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) name, address and contact number of the complainant (ii) time and date of complaint (iii) reasons for the complaint (iv) investigations undertaken (v) conclusions formed (vi) actions taken to resolve the complaint (vii) any abatement measures implemented (viii) person responsible for resolving the complaint. (b) Provide records of any complaints received and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) At all times. (b) Within 60

Condition number	Condition	Timing for condition
	<p>recorded in accordance with this condition to the chief executive at RPIAct@dsdilgp.qld.gov.au</p> <p><i>Note: The record of complaint provided to the chief executive must state the application reference number, being RPI23/030.</i></p>	business days of receipt of a complaint.
16.	A full copy of the regional interests development approval must be kept on-site and available to any person(s) contracted to undertake the approved resource activities.	At all times.

General Advice

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure all relevant approvals and licenses are obtained from the applicable Local, State, and/or Federal Authorities prior to works commencing on site.

Attachment 1 - Approved plan



