

Egan Street Rothsay Pty Ltd

Rothsay Gold Mine

**Native Vegetation Clearing Permit
Amendment**

CPS8855/1

CONTENTS

1. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS.....	3
2. CURRENT CLEARING PERMIT DETAILS	3
3. ADDITIONAL RELEVANT LICENSES / PERMITS.....	3
4. CLEARING ACTIVITIES TO DATE.....	3
5. IMPACT MITIGATION.....	3
5.1 WEED MANAGEMENT	4
5.2 WATERCOURSE MANAGEMENT	4
6. FLORA AND FAUNA MANAGEMENT	4
6.1 FLORA	4
6.1.1 Flora Database Review	4
6.2 FAUNA.....	5
6.2.1 Critical Fauna Habitat Review	5
7. REVEGETATION AND REHABILITATION	6

TABLES

Table 1 CP8855/1 Details.....	3
Table 2 Additional permits and licenses current for the Rothsay Gold Mine.	3
Table 3 Disturbance activity to date.....	3
Table 4 Priority Species previously identified at Rothsay.	5

APPENDICES

Appendix A	CPPS8855/1 Permit & Plan
Appendix B	Clearing Activities to Date
Appendix C	Vehicle Hygiene Inspection Form

1. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Clearing Permit CPS 8855/1 is currently valid for the Rothsay Gold Mine (Rothsay) until 1 June 2025.

On behalf of Egan Street Pty Ltd, Vault Minerals Limited (VAU) proposed an **amendment to the current permit duration and extend to 1 June 2030** to align with the Rothsay life-of-mine (LOM) schedule and strategic plan. The current LOM has high potential to extend due to several promising exploration programs and overall mine performance.

No changes relating to the permit purpose, boundary or area of clearing are proposed.

2. CURRENT CLEARING PERMIT DETAILS

Table 1 CP8855/1 Details.

Permit Number	Permit Holder	Duration	Land Tenure
CP8855/1	Egan Street Pty Ltd	22 August 2020 – 1 June 2025	M59/39-I M59/40-I

The permit and permit plan are shown in Appendix A.

3. ADDITIONAL RELEVANT LICENSES / PERMITS

Table 2 Additional permits and licenses current for the Rothsay Gold Mine.

Type	Legislation
Works Approval W6195/2018/1 Prescribed Premise Site License L9293/2021/1	Part V Environmental Protection Act 1986
Groundwater Well License GWL175275(7)	Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914

4. CLEARING ACTIVITIES TO DATE

Since 22 August 2020, 9.25 hectares of native vegetation have been cleared for mineral production activities approved by this permit. The clearing has occurred within the areas cross-hatched yellow and red as approved and shown in Table 3 and Appendix B.

Total clearing activities to date for the Rothsay have remained with the total maximum disturbance of 157.24 as approved under CP8855/1.

Table 3 Disturbance activity to date.

Permit Area	Area Cross-Hatched Yellow	Area Cross-Hatched Red
Disturbance Total (Ha)	6.96	2.29
Total clearing under CP8855/1 (Ha)	9.25	

5. IMPACT MITIGATION

All clearing activities have been undertaken and will continue to be undertaken in manner that aims to avoid and reduce impacts on any environmental values and minimise the extent of native vegetation cleared.

Utilisation of previously disturbed areas for mineral operations has been prioritised wherever possible and any areas of PEC or potential PEC have been avoided. Raised blade clearing techniques have also been utilised where possible.

5.1 Weed Management

Clearing activities at Rothsay have and will continue to be undertaken in accordance with the VAVLT Weed Management Procedure. All earth-moving machinery undergo a vehicle hygiene inspection prior to arriving site, with a requirement of pre-mobilisation cleaning. If the machinery is to be re-used on-site for other activities, it is required to be washed at the on-site washdown bay before moving to the next location.

All vehicle movement is required to remain on designated tracks, with this communicated to all personnel in the site induction.

On-site environmental inspections and previous flora surveys have not identified any Weeds of National Significance (WoNS). An additional review of the Western Australia Organism List (WAOL) under the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management (BAM) Act 2007, confirmed that no declared pests occur within the Rothsay area.

No areas of concern regarding detrimental weed intrusion from other previously recorded introduced flora species has been identified on-site. Ad-hoc site weed spraying is ongoing and completed in operational areas where required.

5.2 Watercourse Management

Prior to any clearing activities commencing, the internal VAVLT Ground Disturbance Permit (GDP) approval process requires a review of potential impacts to riparian vegetation from proposed clearing. Planned clearing shall then be amended if necessary.

No riparian vegetation or wetlands have been impacted from clearing activities to date. Some have intercepted minor drainage lines in previously disturbed areas and has been managed via installation of culverts to maintain the existing surface water flow patterns.

6. FLORA AND FAUNA MANAGEMENT

6.1 Flora

Prior to any clearing activities, the internal GDP approval process will review proposed clearing areas for any potential occurrence of priority flora previously identified from surveys. If priority species are found to be within a proposed area to be cleared, all effort shall be taken to review the proposed area and make alterations where required or avoid individual plants in the proposed area via visual on-ground flagging/demarcation or, minimise overall disturbance where possible.

6.1.1 Flora Database Review

Previous flora surveys identified seventeen conservation significant flora species within the permit envelope.

As per the conditions of CPS8855/1, no more than 10% of the total number of each priority plant species is to be cleared.

Table 4 below outlines the recorded impacts to each priority species since commencement of CPS8855/1 in August 2020.

Table 4 Priority Species previously identified at Rothsay.

Taxon	WA Conservation Status	Total Plants Recorded	Max. Number of Plants to be Impacted (10%)	Total Removed	Total Remaining under 10% Max.
<i>Acacia karinae</i>	P3	2813	281	26	255
<i>Allocasuarina tessellata</i>	P3	7461	746	10	736
<i>Austrostipa blackii</i>	P3	300	30	0	30
<i>Bossiaea</i> sp. Jackson Range (G. Cockerton & S. McNee LCS 13614)	P3	15	1	0	1
<i>Calandrinia</i> sp. Warriedar (F. Obbens 04/09)	P2	None recorded	0	0	0
<i>Grevillea globosa</i>	P3	10	1	0	1
<i>Grevillea scabrida</i>	P1	2558	255	5	250
<i>Grevillea subtiliflora</i>	P3	112	11	0	11
<i>Hemigenia tichbonii</i>	P1	189	18	6	12
<i>Lepidosperma</i> sp. Blue Hills (A. Markey & S. Dillon 3468)	P1	434	43	0	43
<i>Menkea draboides</i>	P3	0	0	0	0
<i>Micromyrtus acuta</i>	P3	0	0	0	0
<i>Micromyrtus trudgenii</i>	P3	90	9	0	9
<i>Millotia dimorpha</i>	P1	8810	881	0	881
<i>Persoonia pentasticha</i>	P3	38	3	0	3
<i>Petrophile pauciflora</i>	P3	10	1	0	1
<i>Rhodanthe collina</i>	P3	13780	1378	0	1378
<i>Stenanthemum poicilum</i>	P3	30	3	0	3

A review of the Flora of Conservation Significance Database (DBCA, 2025) and Protected Matters Search (DCCEEW, 2025) confirmed that no additional Threatened Flora species, outside of those previously recorded, have been recognised as potentially occurring within the permit envelope or immediate surrounds.

6.2 Fauna

The entirety of the permit area has undergone pre-clearing surveys by fauna specialists to identify critical habitat and any conservation significant species.

Fauna survey reports completed for the permit area to date have been provided to the CEO prior to any clearing being undertaken.

6.2.1 Critical Fauna Habitat Review

Previous fauna surveys have identified four broad Vegetation and Substrate Associations (VSAs) within the permit envelope and immediate surrounds that forms critical fauna habitat that could potentially be utilised by the following conservation significant fauna species:

- Gilled Slender Blue-tongue (*Cyclodomorphus branchialis*);
- Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*)
- Northern Shield-backed Trapdoor Spiders (*Idiosoma nigrum*); and
- Western Spiny-tailed Skink (*Egernia stokesii badia*)

The critical fauna habitat areas are found within portions of the permit envelope and are outlined via the red cross-hatched areas on the permit plan.

As per the conditions of CPS8855/1, prior to any clearing being undertaken in these red cross-hatched areas, approval is to be sought by the CEO by submission of fauna survey reports and an accompanying letter

outlining proposed clearing activities. Since commencement of the permit, two secondary approvals have been granted by the CEO in May and August 2021.

Should any further clearing be proposed and approved within the red cross-hatched areas, secondary on-ground verification of the areas will continue to occur post completion of the internal GDP process and pre-clearing to identify any presence of the conservation significant species outlined above based on the previous fauna surveys.

7. REVEGETATION AND REHABILITATION

No revegetation or rehabilitation has been undertaken due to all cleared areas still being utilised for mineral operation purposes. It is VAUs intention to rehabilitate historical disturbance where no longer needed if available.

However, annual vegetation monitoring via ecosystem function analysis (EFA) of analogue quadrats sites at the Rothsay Gold mine is undertaken to collect detailed baseline data to assess and compare against the future progress / success of rehabilitation landforms. This is reported via the annual DEMIRS Annual Environmental Report submission.

Appendices

Appendix A

CP8855/1 Permit and Plan



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	8855/1
Duration of Permit:	From 22 August 2020 to 1 June 2025
Permit Holder:	Egan Street Rothsay Pty Ltd

The Permit Holder is authorised to clear native vegetation subject to the following conditions of this Permit.

PART I - CLEARING AUTHORISED

1. **Land on which clearing is to be done**
Mining Lease 59/39
Mining Lease 59/40
2. **Purpose for which clearing may be done**
Clearing for the purpose of mineral production.
3. **Area of Clearing**
The Permit Holder must not clear more than 157.244 hectares of native vegetation. All clearing must be within the areas cross-hatched yellow and red on attached Plan 8855/1.
4. **Restricted Clearing**
The Permit Holder shall not clear native vegetation within the area cross-hatched red on attached Plan 8855/1 unless first approved by the CEO.
5. **Application**
This Permit allows the Permit Holder to authorise persons, including employees, contractors and agents of the Permit Holder, to clear native vegetation for the purposes of this Permit subject to compliance with the conditions of this Permit and approval from the Permit Holder.

PART II - MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

6. **Avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing**
In determining the amount of native vegetation to be cleared authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder must have regard to the following principles, set out in order of preference:
 - (a) avoid the clearing of native vegetation;
 - (b) minimise the amount of native vegetation to be cleared; and
 - (c) reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.

7. Weed control

When undertaking any clearing or other activity authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder must take the following steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *weeds*:

- (i) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
- (ii) ensure that no *weed*-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill* or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and
- (iii) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.

8. Watercourse management

- (a) Where practicable the Permit Holder shall avoid clearing *riparian vegetation*.
- (b) Where a *watercourse* or *wetland* is to be impacted by clearing, the Permit Holder shall maintain the existing surface flow.

9. Flora Management

Where *priority flora* have been identified and their written locations provided to the CEO, within report 'Egan Street Rothsay Pty Ltd, Rothsay Mine, Native Vegetation Clearing Permit, NVCP CPS 8855/1, Supporting Document, June 2020' as retained on DMIRS file A0567/202001, the Permit Holder shall ensure that no more than 10% of the total plants within the clearing permit boundary of each *Priority flora* species are cleared.

10. Fauna Management

- (a) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder shall engage a *fauna specialist* to conduct a *fauna survey* of the Permit Area to identify *critical habitat* being utilised by the fauna species listed below:
 - (i) Gilled Slender Blue-tongue (*Cyclodomorphus branchialis*);
 - (ii) Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*);
 - (iii) Northern Shield-backed Trapdoor Spider (*Idiosoma nigrum*); and
 - (iv) Western Spiny-tailed Skink (*Egernia stokesii badia*).
- (b) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder shall provide the results of the *fauna survey* in a report to the CEO.
- (c) The fauna survey report must include the following:
 - (i) the location of the *critical habitat* recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;
 - (ii) the location of any fauna species, as listed in condition 10(a) identified, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;
 - (iii) the name of each fauna species identified;
 - (iv) the methodology, used to survey the Permit Area and to establish the *critical habitat*;
 - (v) the extent of the *critical habitat* of the identified fauna shown on a map; and
 - (vi) a description of the *critical habitat* of fauna found.
- (d) Where fauna are identified under condition 10(a) of this Permit, the Permit Holder shall ensure that:
 - (i) no clearing of *critical habitat* of the identified fauna occurs, unless first approved by the CEO; and
 - (ii) no taking of identified fauna occurs, unless first approved by the CEO.

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

11. Records to be kept

The Permit Holder must maintain the following records for activities done pursuant to this Permit:

- (a) In relation to the clearing of native vegetation authorised under this Permit:
 - (i) the location where the clearing occurred, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;
 - (ii) the date that the area was cleared;
 - (iii) the size of the area cleared (in hectares); and
 - (iv) purpose for which clearing was undertaken.
- (b) actions taken to avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and the extent of clearing in accordance with Condition 6 of this Permit; and
- (c) actions taken to minimise the introduction and spread of *weeds* in accordance with Condition 7 of this Permit.

12. Reporting

- (a) The Permit Holder shall provide a report to the CEO by 31 July each year for the life of this Permit, demonstrating adherence to all conditions of this Permit, and setting out the records required under Condition 11 of this Permit in relation to clearing carried out between 1 July and 30 June of the previous financial year.
- (b) Prior to 1 June 2025, the Permit Holder must provide to the CEO a written report of records required under Condition 11 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under Condition 12(a) of this Permit.

DEFINITIONS

The following meanings are given to terms used in this Permit:

CEO means the Chief Executive Officer of the Department responsible for administering the clearing provisions contained within the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* or an Officer with delegated authority under Section 20 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*;

critical habitat means any part of the Permit Area comprising of the habitat of flora or fauna species and its population, that is critical for the health and long term survival of the flora or fauna species and its population;

fill means material used to increase the ground level, or fill a hollow;

fauna specialist means a person who holds a tertiary qualification specializing in environmental science or equivalent, and has a minimum of 2 years work experience in fauna identification and surveys of fauna native to the region being inspected or surveyed, or who is approved by the CEO as a suitable fauna specialist for the bioregion, and who holds a valid fauna licence issued under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*;

fauna survey means a field-based investigation, including a review of established literature, of the biodiversity of fauna and/or fauna habitat of the Permit Area. Where conservation significant fauna are identified in the Permit Area, the survey should also include sufficient surrounding areas to place the Permit Area into local context;

mulch means the use of organic matter, wood chips or rocks to slow the movement of water across the soil surface and to reduce evaporation;

priority flora means those plant taxa described as priority flora classes 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 in the *Department of Parks and Wildlife's Threatened and Priority Flora List for Western Australia* (as amended);

riparian vegetation has the meaning given to it in Regulation 3 of the Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004;

watercourse has the meaning given to it in section 3 of the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*;

weed/s means any plant -

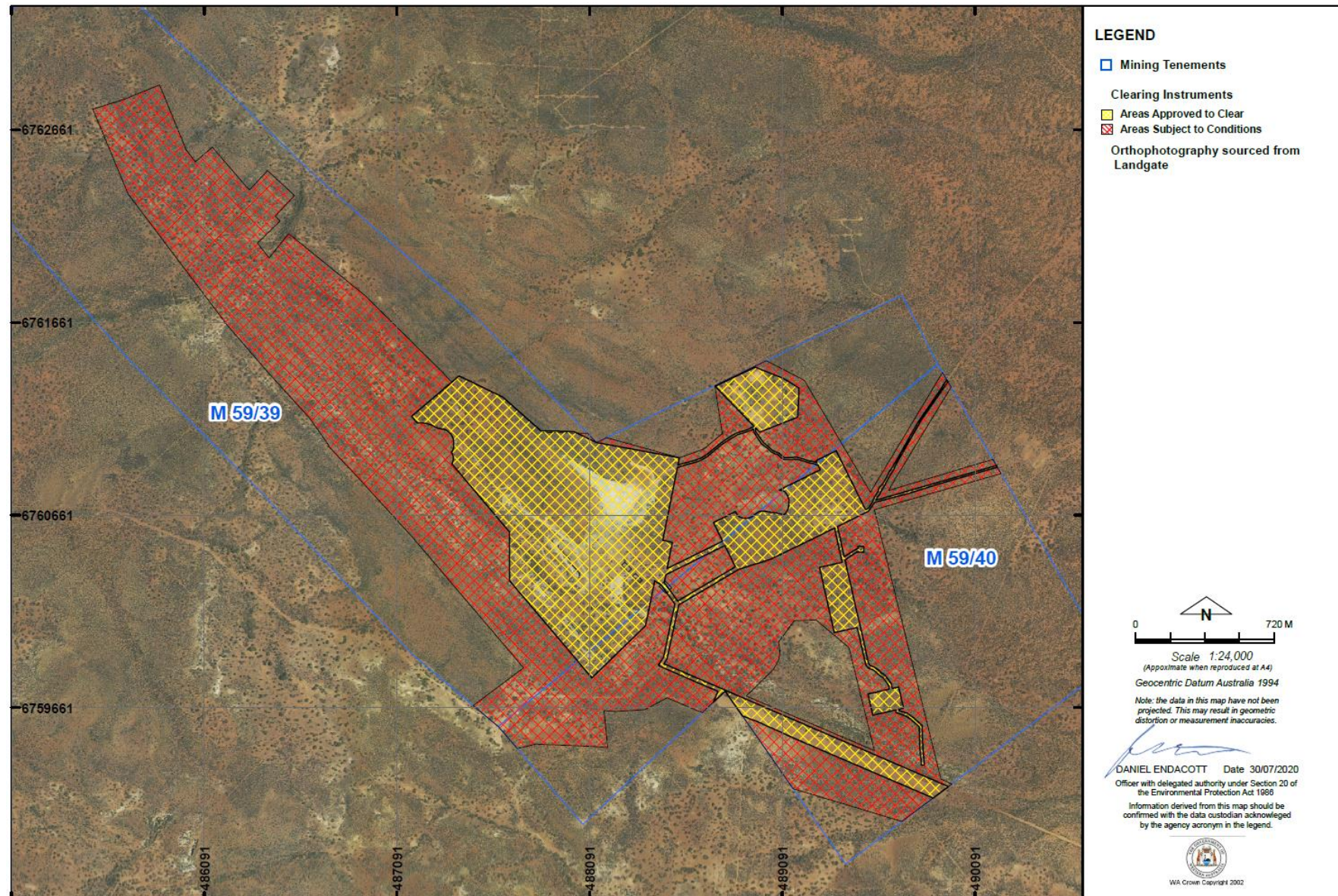
- (a) that is a declared pest under section 22 of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*; or
- (b) published in a Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions Regional Weed Rankings Summary, regardless of ranking; or
- (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.

wetland/s means an area of seasonally, intermittently or permanently waterlogged or inundated land, whether natural or otherwise, and includes a lake, swamp, marsh, spring, dampland, tidal flat or estuary.



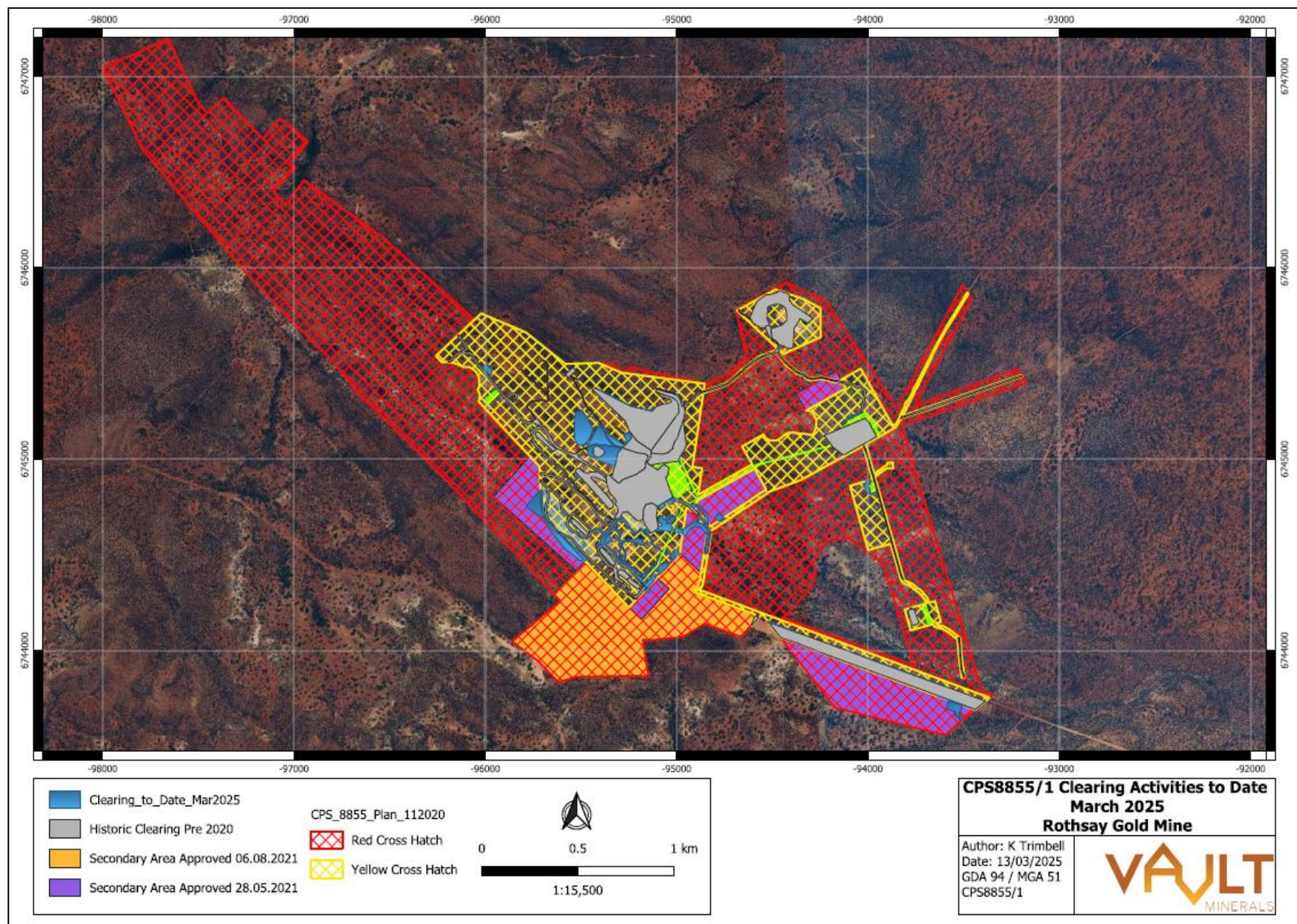
Dan Endacott
General Manager Environmental Compliance
Resource and Environmental Compliance Division
30 July 2020

Officer with delegated authority under Section 20
of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*




Appendix B

Clearing activities to date



Appendix C

Vehicle Hygiene Inspection Form

	Site: Deflector Gold Copper Mine	Approved By: Environment Superintendent	FRM-E-DEF-03	1.1
	VEHICLE & MOBILE EQUIPMENT WEED INSPECTION			Release Date: 5/09/2020
				Review Due: 05/09/2022
FORM			Page 1 of 1	

All vehicles and mobile equipment arriving at Deflector must be clean and free of built up mud, soil, seeds and vegetation. An inspection checklist MUST be completed prior to entering the Deflector Project area. If the inspection detects a FAIL, the vehicle / mobile equipment / machinery must be cleaned to the standards below and re-inspected, as per instructions from the Environmental Department.

Equipment Owner:		Arrival Date:	
Equipment Type:		Equipment ID:	
Equipment Type:		Equipment ID:	
Equipment Type:		Equipment ID:	
Equipment Type:		Equipment ID:	

INSPECTION CHECKLIST	PASS	FAIL	N/A
Tyres and Rims			
Between dual wheels (if fitted)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Check for wheel mounted counter – weights	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gaps in split rim wheels	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gashes or cuts in tyres	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dozers and Excavators (If Applicable)			
Examine tracks carefully	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Check idler wheels (these support the tracks)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Check removable track adjusted guards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arms / booms – pivot points are usually only area of concern	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chassis and Machinery Body			
Inspect mud guards and wheel flares for hollows and crevices	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Check for void spaces in rear brake assemblies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Check if any sections or channels are hollow and determine if there is a possible entry point for contamination	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Check if plates are covering a compartment or space that may have collected soil etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Inspect Underside of Machinery			
Wheel arches, wheel trims	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Axels and differentials	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any spare tyres	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bash plates or underside armoring	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckets / Blades / Scoops (If Applicable)			
Between teeth and adaptors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wear plates	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Inspect hollow section arms and blades for hollows that may contain soil etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Check cutter points / wear blades	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments:			
Inspection Completed By:			
Position:		Date:	