

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR AN EXPLORATION LICENCE

Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990 – Section 15(5)

Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) (Mineral Industries) Regulations 2019 – Regulation 22(1) and Schedule 1

1. Name and address of applicant(s):

Mercator Gold Australia Pty Ltd
PO Box 440, Hove SA 5048

2. Contact details of applicant (for map and other information requests):

Melissa Say, Authorised Agent (as employee of Australian Mining & Exploration Title Services)
Mobile: 0429 787 593 Email: vic@amets.com.au

3. Applicant's Website (see notes) Further information about this application is available at the following websites: www.amets.com.au/victoria-tenements/ and www.earthresources.vic.gov.au/licenceapplications

4. Details of the application:

Application number: EL006713

Locality of the land to which the application relates: Approx. 1km west and 1.5km south of Creswick, 9km north-north-east of Ballarat.

Approximate area of the application (Graticular Sections): 66

Date of the application: 31 March 2021

Term the licence is applied for: 5 years

Outline of the proposed program of work: Desktop studies, mapping, geochemical sampling, drilling.

5. Objections or Comments:

Any person may object or comment to a licence being granted by:

- a. putting the objection or comment in writing; and
- b. including the grounds on which it is made

Objections or comments must be lodged within 21 days after the latest date on which the application was advertised and can be lodged online or posted to:

The Minister for Resources

c/- Manager Licensing, Earth Resources Regulation, GPO Box 4509, Melbourne Victoria 3001

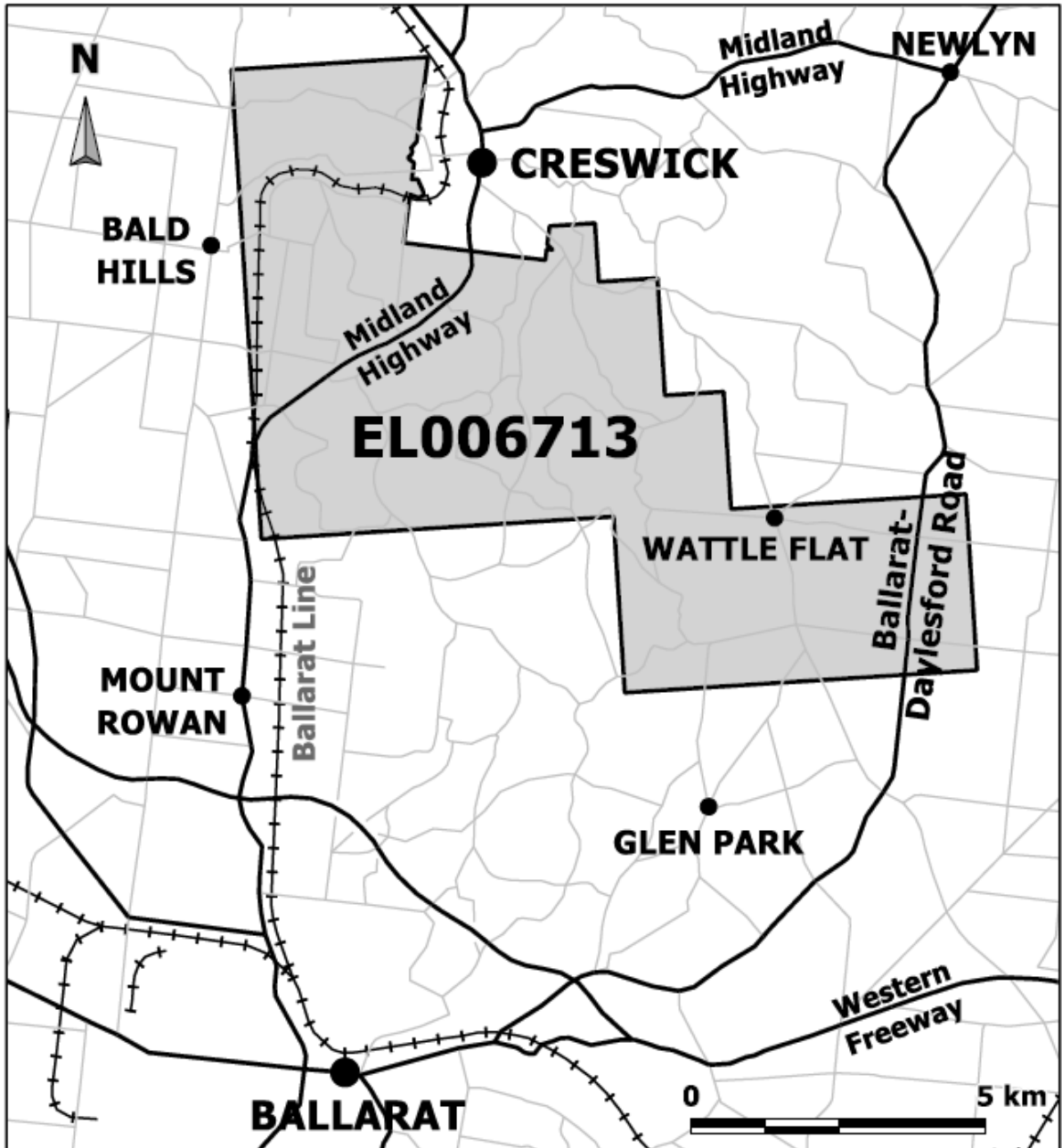
It is recommended that objections or comments are lodged online to ensure timely consideration:

<https://rram.force.com/ObjectionSubmission>

Enquiries can be made by writing to the Manager Licensing at the above address or by phoning the Earth Resources Information Centre on 1300 366 356.

6. Other information:

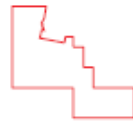
- a. Subject to other requirements being satisfied, an exploration licence, if granted, entitles the holder of the licence to explore and search for minerals in the relevant land, but does not entitle the holder to undertake mining.
- b. Further information regarding the requirements that must be complied with prior to work being undertaken is available on the department's Community & Land Use page: <https://earthresources.vic.gov.au/community-and-land-use>



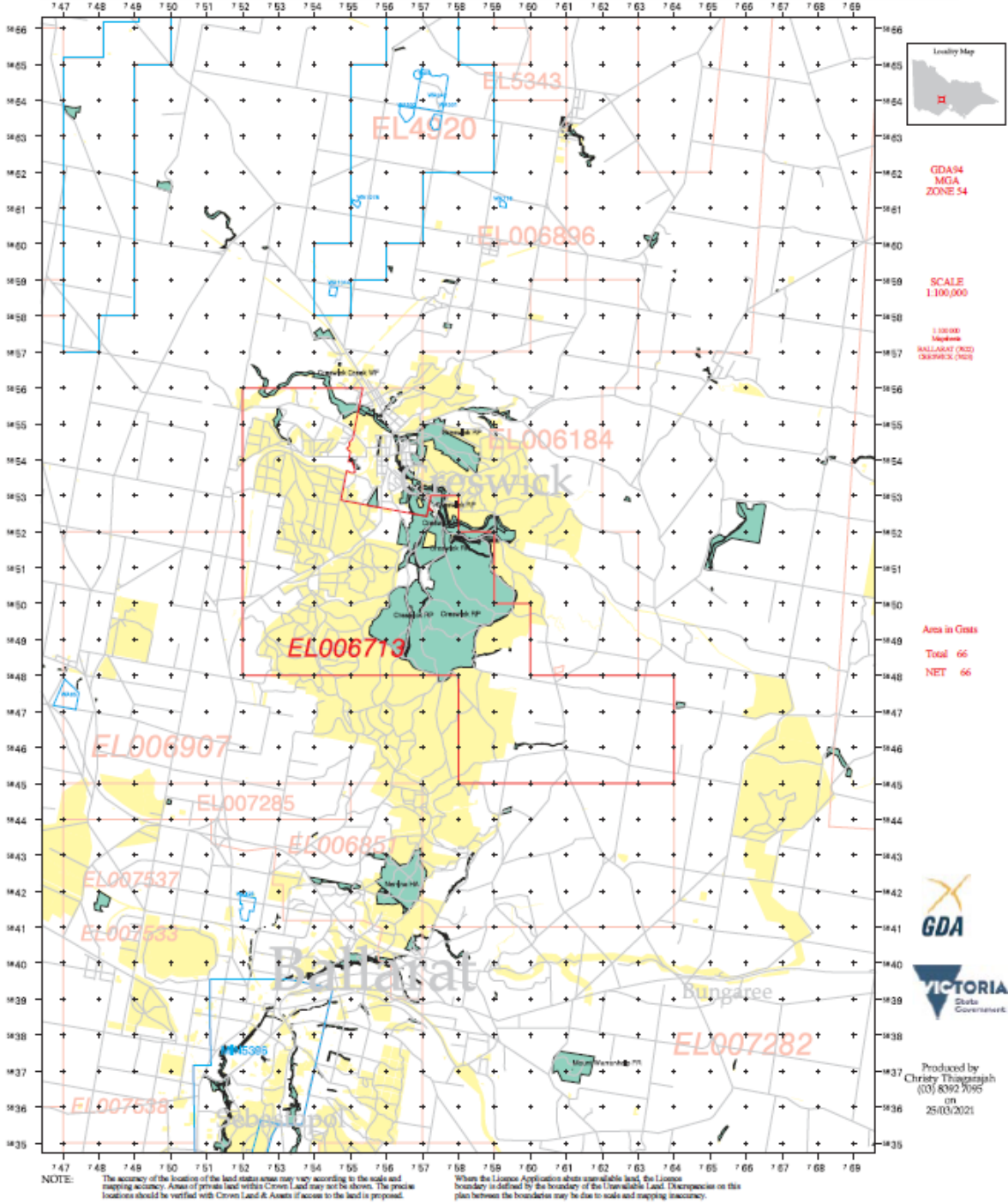
EXPLORATION LICENCE APPLICATION 006713

- Unavailable for Searching or Exploration or Mining MRSDA 1990 Sec 6. Includes National, State & Wilderness Parks and Reference Areas
- Exempted from being subject to Exploration &/or Mining Licences. MRSDA 1990 Sec 7. May be revoked by notice in the Govt Gazette.
- Restricted Crown Land. Schedule 3 of MRSDA 1990. Consent required to do work on the land.
- Other Crown Land
- Commonwealth Land. Subject to Commonwealth legislation.
- Exploration Initiative Area exempted for a limited time from being subject to Exploration and/or Mining Licences. MRSDA 1990 Sec. 7
- Land not included in the Licence due to a licence or licence application existing or having priority at the date of application.

Public Title Approximate Limit
or Determination Area (grey)



Main Supply Catchment
Area (grey)



GDA94
MGA
ZONE 54

SCALE
1:100,000

1:50,000
MapScale
BALLARAT (M2)
ORANGEVALE (M2)

Area in Cents

Total 66
NET 66



Produced by
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on
25/03/2021

NOTE: The accuracy of the location of the land status areas may vary according to the scale and mapping accuracy. Areas of private land within Crown Land may not be shown. The precise locations should be verified with Crown Land & Areas of access to the land is proposed.

Where the Licence Application shows unavailable land, the Licence boundary is defined by the boundary of the Unavailable Land. Discrepancies on this plan between the boundaries may be due to scale and mapping inaccuracy.

Work Program

In the first year historic research will be conducted concurrent with initial ground activities of field mapping and soil geochemical sampling. Field mapping and soil geochemical sampling will be conducted using a GPS and portable, hand-held XRF (pXRF). Approximately 1 kg of soil will be collected for pXRF analysis and selected samples will be sent to a laboratory for gold analysis. No geophysical surveys are planned. Interpretation and review of mapping and geochemical data will follow to select areas for drilling. Approvals for drilling (diamond or RC) will follow in the latter part of the first year. Sites selected for initial drilling will preferably be chosen where there will be minimal disturbance with no vegetation removal (such as on existing tracks) where drilling meets the criteria for the Low Impact Exploration. This drilling will commence in the first year and continue into the second year. Follow-up drilling or further drill testing of differing portions of the reef system will follow in the second, third, fourth and fifth years depending on results of the initial drilling. On-going mapping and geochemical sampling will be conducted if warranted. Work Plans will be compiled for approval by the relevant statutory bodies for drilling where relevant and not considered Low Impact. Liaison with relevant stakeholders will be conducted where relevant.

Community Engagement Strategy

The licensee attaches the highest importance to good community relations and being a good neighbour to the businesses and residents of its areas of operation. Its parent companies have operated in jurisdictions around the world including areas of significant population and community sensitivity and follow best practice wherever they operate.

In general terms, the licensee's community engagement plan is based on the following:

- Identify individuals or groups which may be impacted by the operations on the licence. This would involve the compilation of a list of landowners, persons living on or in the vicinity of the licence and other community groups which may be impacted by the operations.
- The licensee has established a Technical Advisory Board with geologists and other specialists' resident in the license areas to advise at each stage on which groups or individuals should be consulted or approached and provide feedback.
- Contact will be maintained with representative groups such as the Victorian Farmers Federation, lobbying or special interest groups that may have an interest, and government bodies with a particular interest in the land on which the licence is situated.
- The senior management of the licensee will make themselves easily available for discussion or information meetings with local residents, either individually or collectively.

It will be necessary to identify the expectations or attitudes of these groups and individuals. Often a direct face to face approach is the best way to engage many members of the community.

The licensee will need to assess the impact of their operation on these individuals and groups. Following the consultation, the full impact would be assessed by guidelines provided by the Department.

An assessment will be made following the consultation as to what level of community input and involvement can be achieved. There are likely to be a range of matters which may need to be considered. Ideally, many of the ideas and suggestions will be mutually beneficial to both the licensee and the local community. Matters such as operating hours or attitudes to working on days of high fire danger or working on hot and windy days may be matters which the local community could have views which need to be considered by the licensees.

Any contact or complaint will be noted in a complaints book, and the licensee will promptly make suitable arrangements to contact the complainant. Where possible, the matter would be settled between the two parties, but the local Inspector or the Mining Warden may be requested to assist in resolving any issue or mediating on the matter.

Such interaction with the community will be used to identify any issues that may be arising from the operations on the licence and will attempt to accommodate the views of the stakeholders in dealing with any such issues.

The community is welcomed for their interest and input into minimising and mitigating any adverse impacts on the area and meeting the expectations of the community for the peaceful enjoyment of their local environment.

The licensee is mindful of the need to maintain these exceptionally good community relations and to ensure that the channels of communication between the licence holder and the community in which it operates are kept open. All discussion with the community is based on mutual trust and respect.

Environmental Strategy

All exploration activities will be conducted strictly in accordance with law, regulation, and best practice. All rehabilitation will be carried out as soon as is practicable after exploration activities have taken place and in line with the current Guidelines for environmental management in exploration and mining. Before any field activities are carried out, appropriate environmental management specialists will be engaged to ensure all staff and contractors are aware of all site-specific environmental sensitivities, such as weeds and endangered flora and fauna and will act accordingly.

The licensee is committed to minimising or where possible avoiding environmental impact and will work in accordance with the Guidelines as determined by the Victorian Government and will facilitate effective rehabilitation of all disturbed areas. No wetlands, waterways or lakes will be impacted by exploration activities.