

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORITY APPLICATION

Supporting Information

Blue Mountain Alluvial Gold Project

EPM 27175 & EPM 27183

South Kariboe Creek, Central Queensland

Application for Standard Conditions

Code of Environmental Compliance for Mining Lease Projects

ECR Minerals (Queensland) Pty Ltd

ACN 650 044 134

March 2026 - DRAFT FOR REVIEW

1. Application Summary

ECR Minerals (Queensland) Pty Ltd applies for an Environmental Authority under the Environmental Protection Act 1994 (Qld) for alluvial gold mining activities on a proposed Mining Lease over portions of EPM 27175 and EPM 27183, at the Blue Mountain project, South Kariboe Creek, central Queensland.

This application seeks Standard Conditions under the Code of Environmental Compliance for Mining Lease Projects, consistent with the EA granted for the comparable Raglan alluvial gold project (EPSL00017013, ML3665), which is also operated by ECR Minerals.

Item	Detail
Applicant	ECR Minerals (Queensland) Pty Ltd (ACN 650 044 134)
Parent Company	ECR Minerals plc (AIM: ECR)
Project	Blue Mountain Alluvial Gold Project
Location	South Kariboe Creek, approximately 95 km SSW of Gladstone, 35 km SE of Biloela
Existing Tenure	EPM 27175 and EPM 27183
Proposed ERA	Non-Scheduled Mining Activity - Mining Lease
EA Type Sought	Standard Conditions - Code of Environmental Compliance for Mining Lease Projects
Comparable EA Precedent	EPSL00017013 (Raglan Project, ML3665) - same operator, same activity type
Mining Method	Conventional alluvial mining - excavator extraction, gravity wash plant processing
Processing Method	Gravity separation only - no chemical reagents (no cyanide or other chemicals)
Phase 1 Throughput	10 tonnes per hour (mobile plant from Raglan)
Phase 2 Throughput	30 tonnes per hour (relocated or new plant)
Process Waste	Washed gravel and sand only - returned to mined voids as backfill

2. Basis for Standard Conditions Application

This application is made on the basis that the Blue Mountain project is substantially the same type and scale of operation as the Raglan project (ML3665), for which EA EPSL00017013 was granted under Standard Conditions on 12 August 2020.

2.1 Comparison with Raglan (EPSL00017013)

Feature	Raglan (ML3665)	Blue Mountain (Proposed)
Activity	Alluvial gold mining	Alluvial gold mining
ERA Classification	Non-Scheduled Mining Activity - ML	Non-Scheduled Mining Activity - ML
Processing	Gravity wash plant (30 tph)	Gravity wash plant (10 tph initial, 30 tph expansion)
Chemical reagents	None	None
Process waste	Washed gravel and sand	Washed gravel and sand
Waste disposal	Backfill to mined voids	Backfill to mined voids
Rehabilitation	Progressive	Progressive
Operator	Raglan Resources Pty Ltd (ECR subsidiary)	ECR Minerals (Queensland) Pty Ltd
Location	Near Raglan, central QLD	South Kariboe Creek, central QLD
EA Conditions	Standard Conditions (Code of Environmental Compliance for Mining Lease Projects)	Standard Conditions sought (same basis)

The Blue Mountain operation is materially identical to Raglan in terms of activity type, processing method, waste profile, and environmental impact. Phase 1 at Blue Mountain (10 tph) is in fact smaller than the Raglan operation (30 tph), representing a lower environmental risk profile.

2.2 Eligibility Criteria Compliance (ESR/2016/2241)

The following table confirms that the Blue Mountain project meets all eligibility criteria for Standard Conditions under ESR/2016/2241. The application seeks approval up to the Standard EA thresholds to allow operational flexibility as the project develops. In practice, this is a small-scale alluvial operation and actual disturbance and personnel numbers are expected to be well below these limits.

Eligibility Criterion	Threshold	Sought	Expected in Practice
Mining type	Alluvial mining	Alluvial mining	Alluvial mining

Total disturbance at any one time	Max 10 ha	Up to 10 ha	Typically 3-5 ha (progressive rehab)
Disturbance in riverine area	Max 5 ha	Up to 5 ha	Typically 2-3 ha
Mine workings	Max 5 ha	Up to 5 ha	Typically 2-3 ha
Persons at any one time	Max 20	Up to 20	Typically 3-5 persons

2.3 Operational Scale

While the application seeks approval up to the Standard EA thresholds, Blue Mountain is a small-scale alluvial operation. The expected operational footprint is significantly below the eligibility limits:

- Phase 1 (10 tph mobile plant): Typically 3-5 personnel on site, active disturbance of approximately 2-3 hectares at any time
- Phase 2 (30 tph plant): Typically 5-10 personnel on site, active disturbance of approximately 4-6 hectares at any time

Progressive rehabilitation ensures that as mining advances, completed areas are backfilled with processed material (washed gravel and sand) and overburden, shaped to a stable free-draining landform, and revegetated. This approach keeps the total active disturbance well within the Standard EA thresholds at all times, regardless of the total area mined over the life of the project.

Mining occurs along the South Kariboe Creek corridor, so the majority of active disturbance will be within the riverine area (as defined in Appendix 2 of ESR/2016/2241). Buffer zones will be maintained in accordance with the alluvial mining conditions in Schedule C.

2.5 Low Environmental Risk Profile

The alluvial gravity mining operation at Blue Mountain has a low environmental risk profile for the following reasons:

- No chemical processing - gravity separation only, no cyanide, no acid, no chemical reagents of any kind
- No contaminated waste streams - the only process output is washed gravel and sand, which is chemically identical to the material that was excavated
- No tailings dams - processed material is returned directly to the mined void as backfill
- Progressive rehabilitation - each mined area is backfilled and rehabilitated as mining advances, minimising the total disturbed area at any time
- Small operational footprint - Phase 1 in particular has a very small active disturbance area
- No air emissions beyond localised dust from earthmoving, managed through standard controls
- Temporary and reversible disturbance - the final rehabilitated landform will closely approximate the pre-mining surface

3. Project Description

3.1 Location

The Blue Mountain project is located approximately 95 km south-southwest of Gladstone and 35 km southeast of Biloela in central Queensland. The project area covers alluvial gold deposits along the South Kariboe Creek corridor and associated tributaries including Denny Gully. Access is via Kariboe Road.

[Insert location map]

3.2 Mining Method and Processing

The operation involves conventional alluvial mining: excavation of auriferous gravels using excavator and front-end loader, feeding to a gravity wash plant (trommel screen and gravity concentration circuit), recovery of gold, and return of processed material (washed gravel and sand) to the mined void for backfilling. Topsoil is stripped and stockpiled separately for use in rehabilitation.

No chemical reagents are used at any stage of the process. Water is recycled through a closed-loop settling pond system. The gravity-only process has been confirmed by Gekko Systems testwork (Report 13084, October 2024) which achieved 91.7% gold recovery.

3.3 Phased Development

Phase 1: Mobile wash plant at 10 tph throughput, relocated from the Raglan operation. Small crew of typically 3-5 personnel. This phase represents initial production and grade confirmation.

Phase 2: Expansion to 30 tph throughput capacity, either by upgrading the existing plant or installing a new unit. Crew typically 5-10 personnel. The operation remains small-scale throughout. Phase 2 is contingent on Phase 1 results.

Both phases use the same gravity-only processing method and progressive rehabilitation approach. The environmental impact profile does not materially change between phases - only the throughput rate and pace of mining advance.

3.4 Infrastructure

- Mobile or fixed wash plant with feed hopper
- Settling ponds for water recycling (closed-loop system)
- Bunded fuel storage area
- Site access via existing Kariboe Road
- Topsoil and overburden stockpile areas
- Portable amenities

No permanent buildings are proposed for Phase 1.

3.5 Hours of Operation

24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Initial operations are expected to be conducted during daytime hours (6:00 am to 6:00 pm) Monday to Friday, however the EA is sought with flexibility for extended hours and shift work as production requirements develop.

4. Environmental Management Summary

In addition to compliance with the Standard Environmental Conditions under the Code of Environmental Compliance for Mining Lease Projects, ECR Minerals will implement the following management practices:

4.1 Water Management

- Closed-loop water recycling system through settling ponds - minimal water consumption
- Buffer zones maintained between active mining and South Kariboe Creek
- Sediment fences and bunds around all disturbed areas
- No direct or indirect release of fuels, oils, or contaminants to any watercourse or groundwater
- All fuel and oil stored in bunded containment (110% capacity)
- Water quality monitoring upstream and downstream of operations
- Water licence to be obtained from the relevant water authority for any extraction

4.2 Land and Rehabilitation

- Topsoil stripped and stockpiled separately (maximum 2m height) before mining each area
- Progressive rehabilitation - each mining panel backfilled and rehabilitated within 6 months of completion
- Processed material (washed gravel and sand) and overburden returned to voids
- Final landform shaped to be free-draining and stable, approximating pre-mining surface
- Revegetation with appropriate local species or return to pastoral use as agreed with landholder
- Total active disturbance area minimised at all times through progressive approach

4.3 Air Quality and Noise

- Dust management through water sprays on haul routes and material handling areas
- Speed limits on internal roads (20 km/h)
- Noise management controls in place for any operations outside standard daytime hours, including consultation with nearby landholders
- Equipment maintained with appropriate mufflers and noise controls
- Cessation of dust-generating activities in excessively windy conditions

4.4 Waste Management

- Processed material (washed gravel and sand) - returned to mined voids as backfill (not a waste stream)
- General waste collected and removed to licensed waste facility
- Regulated waste (oils, filters) collected in designated containers and removed by licensed contractor

- No chemical processing waste - gravity-only process generates no chemical residues

4.5 Flora, Fauna and Cultural Heritage

- Pre-clearance ecological surveys prior to vegetation clearing in each new work area
- Clearing limited to minimum area required for active operations
- Riparian vegetation retention along creek within designated buffer zones
- Cultural heritage duty of care obligations observed - assessment to be completed prior to ground disturbance
- Engagement with Traditional Owners through the Native Title process

5. Financial Assurance

ECR Minerals will provide financial assurance in the amount and form required by the administering authority, in accordance with the Mineral and Energy Resources (Financial Provisioning) Act 2018.

The estimated rehabilitation cost (ERC) will be calculated based on the approved disturbance footprint and submitted to the Scheme Manager. Given the progressive rehabilitation approach (backfilling with the same material that was excavated), the rehabilitation liability at any point in time is limited to the small active mining area rather than the total lease area.

6. Applicant Contact Details

Item	Detail
Applicant	ECR Minerals (Queensland) Pty Ltd
ACN	650 044 134
Parent Company	ECR Minerals plc (AIM: ECR)
Contact Person	[Insert name and position]
Phone	[Insert phone number]
Email	[Insert email]
Registered Address	[Insert registered address]

Attachments

1. Copy of EA EPSL00017013 (Raglan Project, ML3665) - precedent for Standard Conditions
2. Location map showing project area, EPM boundaries, proposed ML area, and watercourses
3. Gekko Systems Testwork Report 13084 (October 2024) - confirms gravity-only processing
4. EPBC Act Protected Matters Search Tool report [to be completed]
5. Concurrent Mining Lease application reference [to be inserted at lodgement]