

Bird in Hand Gold Project Mining Lease Application MC 4473

CHAPTER 6 IMPACT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY



BIRD IN HAND GOLD PROJECT MINING LEASE PROPOSAL



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6 IMPACT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

This chapter describes the impact assessment methodology that was adopted for the Mining Lease Application (MLA) for the Bird in Hand Gold Project (the 'Project' or 'BIHGP'). This has been completed in accordance with the *Ministerial Determination for a Mining Proposal for the Bird-in-Hand Gold Project*, which describes the "*minimum information required to be provided in a mining proposal and/or management plan for a mineral lease (ML) and any associated miscellaneous purposes licence (MPL) applications for a project incorporating the Bird-in-Hand Gold Deposit located in Woodside South Australia*". The BIHGP Ministerial Determination (MD) was tailored for the BIHGP in accordance with Regulations 30(3) and 49(3) of the *Mining Regulations 2011*.

The impact assessment for the proposed BIHGP has been undertaken in accordance with the BIHGP MD and considers the adverse and beneficial environmental (biophysical, social and economic) effects associated with the proposed activities. In undertaking the impact assessment, the following definitions have been adopted:

- Environment: Section 6(4) of the *Mining Act 1971* (Mining Act), states that the environment includes:
 - Land, air, water (including both surface and underground water and sea water), organisms, ecosystems, native fauna and other features or elements of the natural environment;
 - Buildings, structures and other forms of infrastructure and cultural artefacts;
 - Existing or permissible land use;
 - Public health, safety or amenity;
 - The geological heritage values of an area; and,
 - The aesthetic or cultural values of an area.
- Environmental Aspect: Elements of the project that interact with the environment, including land disturbance, discharges to land, atmospheric emissions, releases to water, resource use, waste generation, energy generation and alteration to amenity.
- Environmental Element: An element of the environment that may be impacted by mining activities.
- Environmental Impact: Any change to the environment wholly or partially, directly or indirectly, caused by mining operations which is confirmed through the presence of a source, pathway and environmental receptor.
- Environmental Risk: Actual or potential threat of adverse effects to environmental, community and economic values arising from unexpected or unplanned events associated with the project. Unexpected or unplanned events include failure of environmental controls, measured impacts being greater than predicted impacts and natural disasters such as bushfire.
- Environmental Values: Qualities of the environment, an environmental component or receptor that society values and requires protection from the effects (both real and potential) of proposed activities under legislation, government policy or in response to community and stakeholder expectations.

The impact assessment process recognises that, even with controls in place, normal or planned operation of the BIHGP may result in changes to environmental, community and economic values. The aim of the impact assessment was to identify all potential environmental impacts using the steps outlined below.



6.1 IDENTIFICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The environmental elements of the project were identified based on the description of the existing environment (Chapter 2), description of proposed mining operations (Chapter 3) and the results of community consultation/stakeholder engagement (Chapter 5). Environmental elements that could be impacted by, or were seen to be sensitive to project operations, were then the subject of technical studies to further describe the existing environment and validate the views of affected parties.

The complete impact assessment table has been included in Appendix E1, however, each chapter provides a summary of the relevant potential impact evets, control measures and outcomes associated with each confirmed source-pathway-receptor.

6.2 IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL IMPACT EVENTS

Potential impact events are specific events that may result in an environmental impact, described through the identification of a source, pathway and receptor (S-P-R). Impact events may be natural (e.g. rainfall, earthquake, wind), caused by third party activities, or caused directly or indirectly by mining operations.

Potential impact events were considered for each environmental element through each phase of operation (Appendix E1). Identification of impact events did not take account of any management controls that may be used to minimise or eliminate an impact.

6.2.1 DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE, PATHWAY, RECEPTOR

The source of the impact describes the hazard and origin of the event, e.g. Generated dust from operational activities.

The pathway describes the means or route by which a receptor can be exposed to, or be affected by, an identified source, e.g. wind.

The receptor is a specific component of an environmental element, e.g. health of surrounding residents. A receptor will have a degree of significance or value as determined by stakeholder engagement, science, cultural or philosophical views or recognised in legislative or other standards. Where there has been no judged value or significance attributed to a receptor, it can be assumed that there could be no potential impact on that receptor.

This aligns with s. 35(a)(a)(ii)(A) of the Mining Act, as well as s. 6.1.2 and 6.3 of the BIHGP MD.

6.2.2 DESCRIPTION OF LIMITATIONS AND UNCERTAINTY

Any uncertainties (including knowledge gaps) and assumptions pertaining to the identification and description of the S-P-R's were described. This included whether there was sufficient representative data (baseline environmental data) and information available to perform an assessment, which is particularly relevant when the determination of a S-P-R involved modelled predictions. The sensitivity of the impact to a change in assumptions applied to the S-P-R was also considered.

Limitations could derive from such factors as:

• Availability of baseline and contextual information.



- Any scope limitations in technical studies, for example, whether information is based on desktop studies or fieldwork; or whether the scope was limited to only considering certain factors and not others.
- The competency/experience of the person undertaking the technical studies on which the information is based.
- The proportion of the planned task achieved in the studies. For a range of factors (e.g. adverse weather), it may not have been possible to complete a study as planned.
- The timing of a study, e.g. whether an ecological study was completed at the optimum time of year/season to detect target species.
- Intensity of the sampling/data collection in studies (in retrospect, whether the intensity was adequate).
- Inadequate information on the effectiveness of proposed control and management strategies.

Limitations and sensitivity to change of assumptions ratings are presented in Table 6-1

This aligns with s. 30 (2)(c) of the Mining Regulations, as well as s. 6.1.2.4 and 6.2.2 of the BIHGP MD.

TABLE 6-1 | CRITERIA FOR CATEGORISING LIMITATIONS AND SENSITIVITY TO CHANGE OF ASSUMPTIONS

Category	Criteria								
Limitations	Limitations in the impact assessment								
Low	Sufficient information available to undertake a rigorous science based assessment. Additional studies/sampling would be unlikely to result in any significant new information that would change conclusions reached.								
Medium	Some deficiencies in the information available. Additional information may change conclusions reached but not in a substantial way.								
High	Significant gaps in the information required and/or low level of confidence in the reliability of information obtained. Potential for improved information to significantly change the conclusions reached in the assessment.								
Sensitivity t	o change of any assumptions								
Low	Sensitivity testing demonstrates conclusions reached in the impact assessment are highly unlikely to change if assumptions are found to be incorrect								
Medium	Sensitivity testing shows conclusions reached in the impact assessment may change if assumptions are found to be incorrect but the level of impact would not increase significantly.								
High	Conclusions reached in the impact assessment would be erroneous and could not be relied on if assumptions were found to be incorrect. Sensitivity testing not undertaken, or unable to be undertaken with meaningful results.								

6.2.3 CONFIRMATION OF IMPACT EVENTS

Confirmation of an S-P-R linkage was provided through science-based analysis of the presence of, and interactions between, the source, pathway and receptor, and where relevant was backed by site-specific data. Where an S-P-R linkage was determined not to exist, justification (evidence) was provided to clearly demonstrate how that conclusion was reached.

An impact event will only occur if a source, pathway and receptor are all present. Consistent with the BIHGP MD, potential impact events were not considered further where no receptors of concern were identified for an environmental element or where the source/hazard was of such low intensity or concentration that it could not reasonably be expected to cause harm to a receptor.

Where a source, pathway and receptor were all present such that an environmental impact could reasonably be expected to occur, or where knowledge gaps made it uncertain as to whether the source,



pathway and receptor were present, an environmental risk assessment was undertaken to determine the expected impact on a receptor.

This aligns with s. 6.1.2.5 of the BIHGP MD.

6.3 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Faults, failures and unplanned events may occur with the potential to cause environmental impact despite best efforts to avoid or mitigate impacts. Risks may also arise as a result of uncertainties around the assessment of impacts. The effect of these events/uncertainties may be that the actual impact on an environmental value from the project is greater (or less) than expected. Unlike the identification of potential impact events, the risk assessment considers the type and effectiveness of proposed control measures.

6.3.1 IDENTIFICATION OF CONTROL MEASURES AND FACTORS THAT WILL LIMIT IMPACTS

Consistent with Section 35(1)(a)(ii)(B) of the Mining Act, the assessment considered the measures and strategies that are being proposed by Terramin to manage, limit and/or prevent impacts. Terramin apply a hierarchy of controls in the following order:

- Elimination (prevention) Redesign as to eliminate the impact.
- Design/engineering (physical) controls Minimise the impact through physical barriers, controls and treatments.
- Management system (procedure) controls Manage the risk through procedures and the way the activity is conducted by personnel.

This aligns with s. 35(1)(a)(ii) of the Mining Act, as well as s. 6.2.1 of the BIHGP MD.

6.3.2 TECHNICAL REVIEW TO FURTHER UNDERSTAND THE IMPACT OR EFFECTIVENESS OF PROPOSED DESIGN OR MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

To determine the predicted impact, design and/or management strategies in regard to the Project all water management strategies were peer reviewed in accordance with section 2.6.1 and 6.2 of the BIHGP MD as required. Peer reviews were undertaken by independent experts in their appropriate fields, and included hydrogeologists from Innovative Groundwater Solutions, and water management experts from Golder Associates in Canada.

The economic impact assessment has also been peer reviewed, as required by 6.3 of the BIHGP MD. This peer review was completed by the South Australian Centre for Economic Studies at the University of Adelaide by a suitably qualified (experienced in economic impact assessment) independent expert.

A profile of each independent peer reviewer is included in the appropriate chapters groundwater (chapter 10) and economic environment (chapter 24)).

Technical studies regarding all other designs and aspects included baseline surveys, development of conceptual models or numerical models (if required), literature reviews and desktop assessments to develop residual risks which are considered as low as reasonably practicable (ALARP) and have been discussed in detail in each of the respective aspect chapters (chapter 7 to 24).



6.3.3 CATEGORISATION OF IMPACT

Identified impacts and benefits were categorised as being negligible, low, medium or high (Table 6-2). Impact criteria were developed to standardise the assessment and categorisation of impacts for the project. The impact assessment has focused on the major issues associated with the project, being those impacts identified as either medium or high. The impacts identified as low or negligible have been addressed only to the extent necessary to demonstrate that they have been considered.

The factors relevant to developing the project impact criteria included legislative criteria, the duration and frequency of the impact, the nature of the affected receiver and the geographic scale of the impact.

This aligns with s. 35(1)(a)(ii)(A) of the Mining Act, s. 30(1)(b) of the Mining Regulations, as well as s. 6.1.2.5 of the MD (description of the likely impact from the source on the environmental receptor).

Cotogony	Impacts	Popofita			
Category	Legislative Criteria Exist	Legislative Criteria Do Not Exist	Denents		
Negligible 1	A negative change below detectable limits.	A negative change below detectable limits. OR No change to environmental value(s) ³ .	A positive change below detectable limits.		
Low 2	Detectable negative change that is within regulatory limits/standards.	A short-term (<3 years) negative change affecting receivers located within the project area ² boundary (local receiver) only. OR A long-term (>3 years) negative change with insignificant but detectable change.	A short-term (<3 years) positive change experienced within the project area2 only. OR A long term (>3 years) positive change with insignificant but detectable change.		
Medium 3	A periodic and/or temporary non- compliance of a regulatory limit/standard1.	A long-term (>3 years) negative change affecting receivers located within the project area ² boundary (local receiver) only. OR A short-term (<3 years) negative change affecting receivers outside of4 the project area ² boundary, but not regionally.	A long-term (>3 years) positive change experienced within the project area ² only. OR A short-term (<3 years) positive change experienced outside of4 the project area ² boundary (local receiver), but not regionally.		
High 4	A regular or consistent non-compliance.	A negative change affecting regional receivers, state-wide receivers or environmental value(s) ³ .	A positive change experienced by the region (Adelaide Hills), the state or by environmental value(s) ³ .		

 TABLE 6-2
 CRITERIA FOR CATEGORISING RESIDUAL PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND BENEFITS

1. Periodic and temporary impact is defined as a daily exceedance of a specified limit occurring no more than once every two weeks.

2. Project area is defined as the land within the proposed ML boundary.

3. Environmental value is an element of the environment that is afforded protection under legislation, including through licensing and permitting (eg listed species, native vegetation, groundwater abstraction, level of service for roads).

4. Outside of the project area but not regionally considered to be receiving environments within 5 km of the project area to account for the extent of measurable impacts and to capture landowners with property adjacent to the proposed mine site.

6.3.4 RATING LEVEL OF CERTAINTY IN CONTROL STRATEGIES AND MODELLING

Significant uncertainties and assumptions pertaining to the likely effectiveness of proposed control measures in managing and mitigating impacts were assessed and a qualitative rating applied as shown



in Table 6-3. The impact assessment also provided a description of actions that could reduce the level of uncertainty.

This aligns with s. 30(2)(b) and (c) of the Mining Regulations, as well as s. 6.1, 6.2, 6.3 of the MD.

Level of Certainty	Understanding of Source, Pathway, Receptor	Extent to which Modelling has been Validated	Effectiveness of Design Measures	Effectiveness of Management Measures
High	Limitations in information rated as low.	Excellent baseline data available. Model has been run and provides accurate predictions over different seasons. Model has been extensively used and is regarded by discipline experts as leading practice and/or the impact assessment does not rely to any significant extent on the use of a model.	Widely used and demonstrated to be effective at a range of mining sites including sites with similar topographical/climatic conditions. Requires minimal checking and failure risk has been shown to be low.	Management measures are considered routine and used effectively throughout industry. Reduction in the level of impact from an unmitigated level does not rely primarily on the management measures.
Medium	Limitations in information rated as medium.	Some baseline data available. Model shows a reasonable approximation of real conditions but relies on a number of assumptions and sufficient data not available to demonstrate the model accurately portrays seasonal conditions.	Has been used at sites with similar conditions but requires regular checking or maintenance to ensure performance. OR: Has only been used at limited sites. Effectiveness has not been established in the long term or at sites similar to the project site.	Management measures have been effectively used at a limited number of sites and have not been demonstrated at similar sites or in the long term and/or reduction in the level of impact from an unmitigated level relies primarily on the management measures.
Low	Limitations in information rated as high.	Minimal baseline data. Model is unable to be validated with current data.	Measures are novel and have not been demonstrated in the field.	Management measures are novel and/or heavily reliant on specialised technical expertise.

TABLE 6-3 | RATING LEVEL OF CERTAINTY

6.3.5 RISK RANKING

Risk rankings considered both the consequences and likelihood of each impact event. The risk matrix presented in Table 6-4 uses:

- Credible worst case consequence that could occur if assumptions made were found to be incorrect or unexpected events occur (that is, "raw risk" where control measures are not in place) (Table 6-5)
- Likelihood of such a consequence occurring (Table 6-6).

This aligns with s. 30(1)(b) of the Mining Regulations.



TABLE 6-4 | RISK MATRIX

			Consequences							
			1	2	3	4	5			
			Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Major	Catastrophic			
Frequency	uency A Almost Certain B Likely		Low	Medium	High	Extreme	Extreme			
			Low	Medium	High	Extreme	Extreme			
	С	Possible	Low	Low	Medium	High	Extreme			
	D	Unlikely	Low	Low	Medium	High	High			
	E	Rare	Low	Low	Low	Medium	High			



TABLE 6-5 | CRITERIA FOR CATEGORISING CONSEQUENCE

Category	Level	Effect on fauna (inc. listed)	Effect on viability of listed species	Effect on behaviour of fauna	Effect on flora community	Ground and surface water	Groundwater - Recharge	Air Quality	Soil Quality	Landform	Cultural	Social	Injury and/or fatality
Insignificant	1	Insignificant effect.	Insignificant effect.	Local short term behavioural effect.	Local short term decrease in abundance of some species without reduction in local community viability.	Minimal change with no significant loss of quality.	Insignificant effect.	Insignificant effect.	Insignificant effect.	Insignificant effect.	No impact to items of cultural significance.	No impact or minor social impacts on local population. Mostly repairable.	No injuries.
Minor	2	Local short term effect.	Local short term decrease in abundance with no lasting effects on local population.	Local long term behavioural effect that does not unduly affect the ecology of the population.	Local long term decrease in abundance of some species resulting in little or no change to community structure.	Local minor short term reduction or change in quality.	Local minor change in recharge patterns within sub-catchments.	Local short term and minor surpass of air quality standard.	Local contamination that can be immediately remediated.	Minor change in geomorphology within localised portions of landform.	Minor damage to items of cultural significance.	Ongoing social issues.	Minor level of injuries resulting in time off work.
Moderate	3	Local long term effect with no significant effects on the ecology of the species.	Local long term decrease in abundance without reduction in local population viability.	Local long term behavioural impact that significantly affects the ecology of the population.	Regional long term decrease in abundance of some species and / or local loss of some species diversity resulting in some change to the community structure.	Local minor long term or widespread short term, or local major short term reduction or change in water quality.	Local moderate changes in recharge patterns within sub-catchments.	Local minor long term surpass of air quality standard. Widespread minor short term surpass of air quality standard. Local major short term surpass of air quality standard.	Local contamination that can be remediated in long term.	Widespread minor changes in geomorphology. OR Localised major changes in geomorphology.	Substantial damage to items of cultural significance.	Ongoing serious social issues. OR Significant damage to local landholder property/ structures repairable/reversible in the short term.	Minor level of injuries requiring off- site (doctor) medical treatment (hospitalisation).
Major	4	Local long term effect that significantly affects the ecology of the species.	Regional long term decrease in abundance and / or local loss resulting in reduction in regional viability.	Local long term behavioural impact that significantly affects the ecology of the species.	Regional long term decrease in abundance of numerous species and / or some loss of species diversity resulting in significant changes to community structure.	Widespread (regional) major short term reduction or change in quality.	Widespread major changes in recharge patterns within sub-catchments. OR Minor changes in regional recharge patterns.	Widespread (regional) major short- term surpass of air quality standard.	Local contamination that cannot be remediated in long term. OR Widespread contamination that can be remediated in long term.	Major changes in geomorphology resulting in effects beyond footprint.	Irreparable damage to items of cultural significance.	Very serious wide spread social impacts. OR Significant damage to local landholder property/ structures reparable/reversible in the long term.	Irreversible disability or impairment or serious injuries requiring long term hospitalisation. OR Single fatality.
Catastrophic	5	Regional extinction of the species.	Regional extinction of the species.	Irreversible widespread behavioural impact that significantly affects the ecology of the species.	Regional long term loss of numerous species resulting in the dominance of only a few species.	Regional long term reduction or change in water quality.	Regional major changes in recharge patterns.	Regional long term surpass of air quality standard.	Widespread contamination that cannot be remediated.	Widespread and ongoing major changes in geomorphology, resulting in effects beyond footprint of landform and flow on instabilities.	Irreparable damage to highly valued items of great cultural significance.	Complete breakdown of social order.	Several fatalities.

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TABLE 6-6 | CRITERIA FOR CATEGORISING LIKELIHOOD

Descriptor	Level	General Description	Chance (per annum)	Frequency
Almost Certain	А	This event is expected to occur in most circumstances. Expected to occur at least once each year.	>90%	1/year
Likely	В	This event may occur in some given circumstances. May occur during any given year.	20%	1/5 years
Possible	С	This event might occur at some time. Not likely to occur in any given year, but is possible.	5%	1/25 years
Unlikely	D	This event could occur at some time. Very unlikely to occur in any given year.	1%	1/100 years
Rare	E	This event may only occur in very exceptional circumstances. Examples of this have occurred historically, but it is not anticipated.	<1%	<1/100 years

Note: The intention is to describe the probability or frequency of an event on an annualised basis such that the impacts or exposure (risks) faced by society and the environment are recorded as those present during any given year of the life of the project, including the construction phase.

6.4 OUTCOMES AND CRITERIA

Under s. 6.2.3 of the BIHGP MD and s. 35(1)(a)(ii)(C) of the Mining Act, Mining Lease Proposals (MLPs) must include "a statement of the environmental outcomes that are accordingly expected to occur", taking into account the findings from the impact assessment, along with "a draft statement of the criteria to be adopted to measure the expected environmental outcomes".

An outcome is a statement of the acceptable impact on the environment (which may be no impact) caused by the proposed mining activities. Outcome statements must be accompanied by draft measurement assessment criteria which are designed to demonstrate that the outcome has been achieved. These measurement criteria and leading indicators are indicative only and will be developed further through the PEPR.

Outcomes have been developed for all impact events where a S-P-R linkage is present (prior to the implementation of control and management strategies) such that an environmental impact that is not trivial in consequence could reasonably be expected to occur.

Each outcome is supported by measurement assessment criteria (required by s. 35(1)(a)(ii)(c) of the Mining Act and s. 6.2.4 of the BIHGP MD) that will be used during specific phases of the project life to assess compliance against the proposed outcomes. Where there is a high level of reliance on control strategies to reduce risk to the environment, draft leading indicator criteria have been developed (Regulation 65(2)(e) and s. 6.2.5 of the BIHGP MD). These will be monitored to give an early warning that the control measure is failing and the outcome is potentially at risk of not being achieved. This allows prompt action to be taken to address the risk and ensure ongoing compliance. Again, these are draft only and will be developed further through the PEPR.

The complete impact assessment table has been included in Appendix E1, however, each chapter provides a summary of the relevant potential impact evets, control measures and outcomes associated with each confirmed S-P-R linkage.

All outcomes are included in each aspect section and a complete list of outcomes is included in Appendix D1.