

# Tropicana Joint Venture

## IGO Exploration EPBC Compliance Report 2015

DATE	NAME	STATUS
16/03/2016	Independence Group	Draft – Issued for Comment
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## 1 Background

<b>Project Name:</b>	Tropicana Joint Venture
<b>Exploration Tenements:</b>	E39/1028, E381029, E39/1090
<b>POW Registered ID's:</b>	53260, 54723
<b>Tenement Holder:</b>	Independence Group and AngloGold Ashanti Australia Ltd
<b>Report Period:</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> January 2015 to 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2015

### 1.1 EPBC Referral No: 2008/4463 and Approval

This report prepared by Independence Group (IGO) should be read in the context that during 2014 and subsequently 2015, AngloGold Ashanti Australia (AGAA) handed over a number of tenements within the EPBC Referral area to the management of IGO, to which this report refers.

As a result, a number of the required compliance activities were undertaken, and in some cases completed, by AGAA, whilst AGAA was the managing operator and IGO the joint venture partners. Accordingly, there is extensive reference to the AGAA 2015 Compliance Report, which will be made available via the Tropicana Joint Venture website in May 2016.

The reader can refer also to:

AGAA 2013 *Australia Exploration Groups 2 and 3 EPBC Compliance Report 2013*  
<http://www.tropicanajv.com.au/irm/content/document-library1.aspx?RID=406>

AGAA 2014 *Australia Exploration Groups 2 and 3 EPBC Compliance Report 2014*  
<http://www.tropicanajv.com.au/irm/content/document-library1.aspx?RID=406>

Exploration activities predominantly within the Groups 2 and 3 area of the Tropicana Joint Venture Project (TJV) were referred to the Federal Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (DSEWPaC now Department of Environment DoE) in September 2008 by AngloGold Ashanti Australia (AGAA) as it was identified that the activities may significantly impact two matters of national environmental significance as listed in the Federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act), these being; Listed Threatened Species and Ecological Communities and Listed Migratory Species. DoE determined the proposed activities to be a "Controlled Action" requiring Federal assessment via an instrument to be determined at a later date and depending on the status of the proposed activities under State Legislation.

In February 2010, the proposed activities were referred to the State Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) under Section 38 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 to enable a level of assessment to be determined. The EPA set a level of assessment of "Not Assessed – Public Advice Given" with the recommendation that a Conservation and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) be developed in consultation with then Western Australian Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC now Department of Environmental Regulation DER).

A CEMP was prepared for the proposed exploration activities in consultation with the DEC Environmental Management Branch. The plan identified the existing environmental values, potential impacts from the proposed exploration activities and the management and mitigation of those potential impacts. The CEMP, dated 17 December 2010, was approved by the WA Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW) and



DSEWPaC (currently Department of Environment DoE) in January 2011. On the 27th of October 2011 approval was granted to AGAA to begin exploration activities within the EPBC referral area subject to a number of conditions.

AGAA formally communicated the start of works in the area on the 10th of April 2012, however DSEWPaC informed the company of its requirements to have in place an approved Southern Marsupial Mole (SMM) Monitoring Program. This led to a request for variations of the EPBC conditions, which were approved, together with the Monitoring Program, on 19 February 2013.

The planning of the drilling programs for the EPBC Referral area commenced thereafter, making 19 February 2013 the 'commencement of the action' under the EPBC conditions. After this date, works were conducted by AGAA on behalf of the TJV under consolidated Programs of Work (POW's) which are approved by the Environmental Division of the Western Australia Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP)

In October 2014, IGO signed a reverse JV with AGAA for base metal exploration over selected tenements, subsequently named the Salt Creek Joint Venture (SCJV). Under the SCJV, IGO are the operators of the tenements and are subject to the same conditions that AGAA were operating under. Works conducted by IGO on behalf of the SCJV are undertaken using the standard POW application outlined and approved by the Environmental Division of the Western Australia DMP.

IGO and AGAA are committed to all of the conditions outlined and will continue to work with the DoE, DPaW and DMP. This report is made available to the public in accordance with Condition 7 of the approved Variation to Conditions, which states:

*"Within three months of every 12 months anniversary of the commencement of the action, the person taking the action must make public a report on their website addressing compliance with the conditions of this approval over the previous 12 months. Including implementation of any management plans specified in the conditions."*

## 1.2 Location, Climate and Landscape

The EPBC Referral area lies approximately 330 km northeast of Kalgoorlie on the western edge of the Great Victoria Desert as shown in Figure 1. The Plumridge Lakes Nature Reserve lies immediately to the northeast of the exploration area and the Queen Victoria Springs Nature Reserve lies to the southwest.

The EPBC Referral area is primarily situated within the Great Victoria Desert bioregion (GVD1) with the northern section entering the Central Sub region (GVD2) and the southern tip within the Coolgardie Eastern Goldfields bioregion. As such its climate can be described as arid, with hot summers and cool winters and an average rainfall of 200-300 mm annually. The area's landforms consist of salt lakes, lake derived dunes, Aeolian sand dunes and sand plains, and red soils with sparse subcrop.

Spinifex (*Triodia spp*) and mallee (*Eucalyptus kingsmilli*, *E. youngiana*) with scattered marble gum (*E.gongylocarpa*) and native desert pines (*Callitris spp*) cover the sandy areas, while Mulga and Acacia woodlands occur through the red soil and outcrop areas. The salt lakes are fringed with salt bush (*Atriplex*



*spp*), bluebush (*Kochia spp.*) and pearl bush (*Maireaina spp.*). The Priority Ecological Community (PEC) known as the “Yellow Sandplain Communities of the Great Victoria Desert” can also be found along the western edges of the EPBC Referral Area.

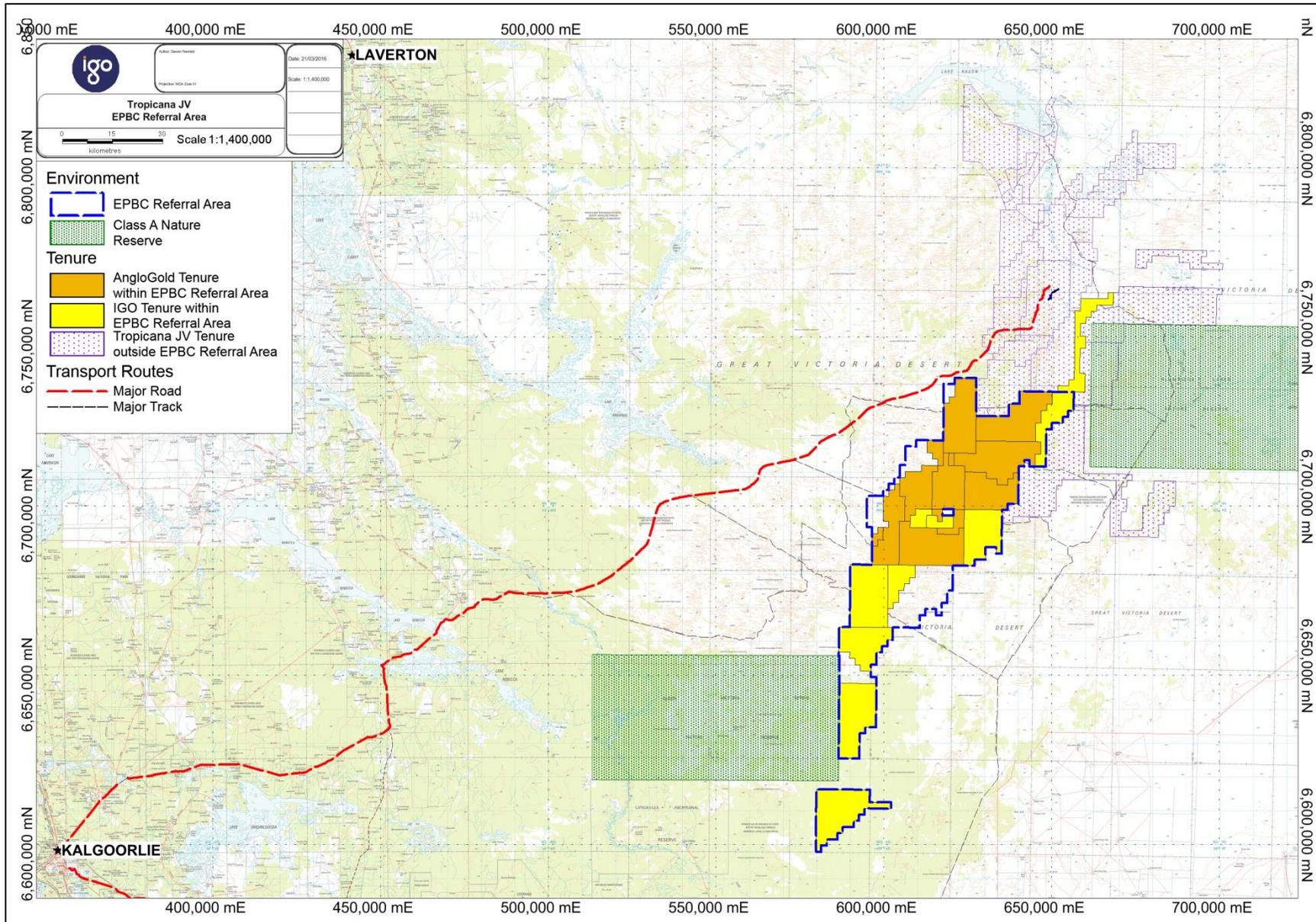


Figure 1: Location of the EPBC Referral Area and Tropicana JV Tenure active during 2015



### 1.3 Tenement and POW Details

When the EPBC Referral No: 2008/4463 was originally approved all tenements within the area were held and managed by AGAA under the Tropicana Joint Venture (TJV). On 30 October 2014 and subsequently on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2015, several tenements within the referral area were offered to IGO to be managed under the Salt Creek JV (SCJV). Tenements that were active in 2015 within the EPBC referral area currently managed by IGO are listed in Table 1 and tenements that were active in 2015 within the EPBC referral area currently managed by AGAA are listed in Table 2. Pending tenements listed under the TJV are excluded from the Figures and Tables throughout.

**Table 1: IGO managed tenure within the EPBC Referral Area**

Tenement	Group Report	Current Status	EPBC Referral Area	Work Completed by IGO during period	Active POW Reg. Id's
E 39/1238	C056/2005 - Tropicana Group 2	Surrendered - 27/02/2015	Yes	No	
E 39/1759	C056/2005 - Tropicana Group 2	Surrendered - 27/02/2015	Yes	No	
E 39/1037	C056/2005 - Tropicana Group 2	Surrendered - 03/09/2015	Yes	No	
E 28/1364	C057/2005 - Tropicana Group 3	Surrendered - 30/03/2015	Yes	Yes	
E 28/1366	C057/2005 - Tropicana Group 3	Surrendered - 30/03/2015	Yes	Yes	
E 28/1367	C057/2005 - Tropicana Group 3	Surrendered - 30/03/2015	Yes	Yes	
E 39/1028	C057/2005 - Tropicana Group 3	Active	Yes	Yes	54723
E 39/1029	C057/2005 - Tropicana Group 3	Active	Yes	Yes	54723
E 39/1090	C048/2012 - Tropicana Group 6	Active	Yes	Yes	53260

**Table 2: AGAA managed tenure within the EPBC Referral Area**

Tenement	Group Report	Current Status	EPBC Referral Area
E 39/1012	C154/2002 Tropicana Group 1 (formerly Group 2)	Active	Yes
E 39/1013	C154/2002 Tropicana Group 1 (formerly Group 2)	Active	Yes
E 39/948	C154/2002 Tropicana Group 1 (formerly Tropicana West)	Active	Yes
E 39/1038	C056/2005 - Tropicana Group 2	Surrendered - 16/03/2015	Yes
E 39/1042	C056/2005 - Tropicana Group 2	Surrendered - 16/03/2015	Yes
E39/1763	C056/2005 - Tropicana Group 2	Surrendered - 16/03/2015	Yes
E 39/1040	C056/2005 - Tropicana Group 2	Surrendered - 16/03/2015	Yes
E 39/1041	C056/2005 - Tropicana Group 2	Surrendered - 16/03/2015	Yes
E 39/1214	C056/2005 - Tropicana Group 2	Surrendered - 16/03/2015	Yes
E 39/1043	C056/2005 - Tropicana Group 2	Surrendered - 16/03/2015	Yes
E 39/1044	C056/2005 - Tropicana Group 2	Surrendered - 16/03/2015	Yes



## 1.4 Environmental Management System

As part of the handover of AGAA managed tenements to IGO, specifically Salt Creek Joint Venture, IGO have adopted the relevant plans and procedures which AGAA had in place for management of the EPBC referral area.

## 1.5 Definitions

In reading this report, reference should be made to the following definitions contained within the EPBC Referral Approval and Variation to Conditions Attached to Approval enacted by DoE in relation to EPBC 2008/4463.

*The EPBC Act is the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.*

*The Minister means the minister administering the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 and includes a delegate of the minister.*

*The Department means the Australian Government Department administering the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.*

*To commence the action means any preparatory work required to be undertaken including clearing vegetation, the erection of any onsite temporary structures and the use of heavy duty equipment for the purpose of breaking the ground for mining, buildings or infrastructure.*

*Disturbance includes the clearance of native vegetation, construction of access tracks, establishment of drill pads and sumps or any other supporting infrastructure for exploration activities.*

*Clearance of native vegetation includes the cutting down, felling, thinning, logging, removing, killing, destroying, poisoning, ringbarking, uprooting or burning of native vegetation.*

*Exploration drilling includes activities that require the clearing of vegetation to facilitate access prior to undertaking any work, such as Aircore Drilling, Reverse Circulation Drilling and Diamond drilling.*

*National Malleefowl Monitoring Database means that national database for the monitoring of Malleefowl available on the internet at <http://database.malleefowlvictoria.org.au/Start.aspx>*

*Adjacent: means any Malleefowl mounds immediately outside the 100 metre buffer area as identified in approval condition 2 (d) and Sandhill Dunnart habitat immediately outside the 50 metre buffer area as detailed in approval condition 4 (b) and located within EPBC tenement areas as shown in Figure 2 & Figure 3*

*Targeted exploration program: An area which, having been geologically assessed for prospectivity, warrants on ground exploration. Typical activities potentially include ground disturbing work such as drilling programs, and /or less invasive activities such as surface geochemical sampling and ground based geophysical surveys. Such programs will represent the location of any ground disturbance, such as drill lines, drill hole locations and associated works, and any required access/egress tracks.*



## 2 EPBC Act Compliance

This report presents the EPBC Act conditions, under which IGO are permitted to conduct exploration activities on existing exploration tenements in the Great Victorian Desert bioregion, collectively known as the EPBC Referral Area (Figure 1).

The wording of the EPBC Act Conditions is provided below in italicised, black, bold text. Against each condition, IGO has provided an explanation regarding how this condition has been met. The explanation is provided in standard, grey text.

### 2.1 Condition 1

Condition 1 reads:

***Within 14 Days after the commencement of the action, the person taking the action must advise the Department in writing of the actual date of commencement.***

Reference should be made to the EPBC Compliance Report 2013 available at:  
<http://www.tropicanajv.com.au/irm/content/document-library1.aspx?RID=406>

### 2.2 Condition 2

Condition 2 reads:

***In order to protect the Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*), the person undertaking the action must implement the following mitigation measures;***

- a. Undertake a monitoring program of Malleefowl mounds identified within the Malleefowl Preservation Group report dated November 2009, on an annual basis during the Malleefowl breeding season (September through to March), starting within the year exploration drilling commences. The monitoring program must be undertaken in accordance with the National Manual for the Malleefowl Monitoring System (2007)***

None of the Malleefowl mounds identified in the Malleefowl Preservation Group (MPG) survey are currently (2015 breeding season) within active SCJV tenure Figure 2. As such, a Malleefowl monitoring program was not undertaken during the 2015 breeding season.

- b. Prior to the commencement of each targeted exploration program, undertake inspection for evidence of Malleefowl mounds. Where evidence is observed, undertake a further targeted survey for Malleefowl and mounds within the area of observations and surrounding suitable habitat within one month of the initial inspection, in accordance with the Department's Survey Guidelines for Australia's Threatened Birds (DEWGA 2010).***

Prior to drilling, IGO completes an Environmental Inspection of the proposed area for drilling and associated activities for the presence of flora and fauna of environmental value, including Malleefowl. In addition, all IGO employees and contractors are required to report any sightings of Malleefowl and/or their mounds.



An Environmental Inspection Notification Report (EIN) is prepared after the completion of the inspection with proposed modifications to the planned drill program in order to minimise environmental impact and to ensure the required buffers are implemented.

During the 2015 reporting period no Malleefowl mounds were identified within the EPBC referral area. As such, no targeted surveys were undertaken.

- c. Submit the results of the inspection, monitoring program and targeted surveys to the National Malleefowl Monitoring Database within two months of completion of each activity.***

No Malleefowl mounds identified in the MPG survey are within active SCJV tenure and no new Malleefowl mounds were identified during IGO Environmental Inspections. As such, no results have been submitted to the Malleefowl Monitoring Database.

- d. Prior to the commencement of any targeted exploration activities, establish a buffer zone of a minimum of 100 metres around any identified mounds, including those identified in the targeted survey in condition 2(b) that occur adjacent to each targeted exploration area, as identified in Figure 2. No disturbance must occur within the buffer zone.***

IGO maintains a record of any mounds previously recorded and the locations of active and inactive Malleefowl mounds subsequently identified in the field. GPS units accurate to  $\pm 5\text{m}$  are used to capture the data in the field. The data is then stored using a Geographic Information System (GIS) software package called MapInfo. The GIS software allows a 100m buffer to be added around any Malleefowl mounds identified. This data is circulated to IGO employees prior to fieldwork being undertaken to prevent any work being undertaken within the buffered areas.

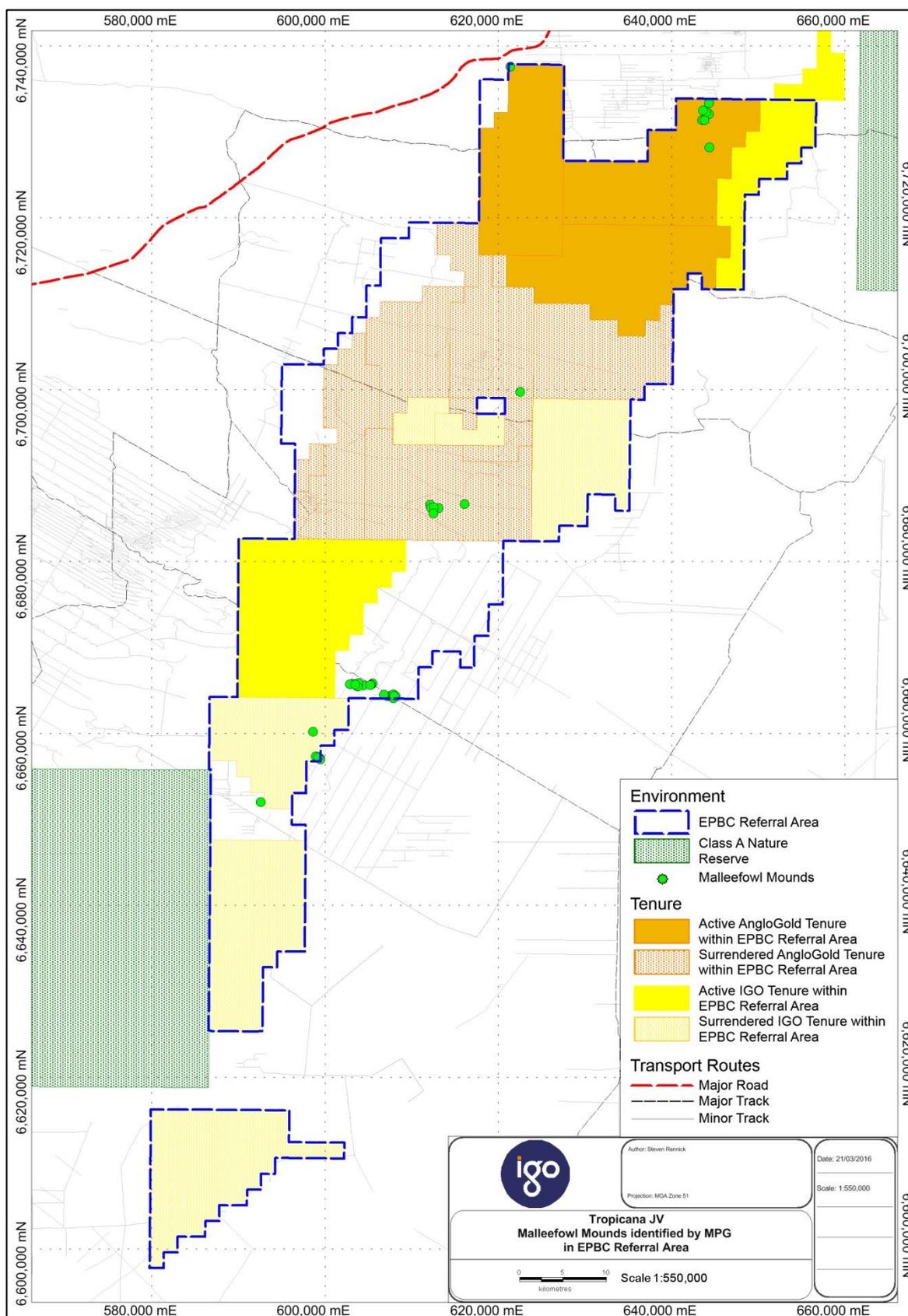


Figure 2: TJV Tenure with Malleefowl mounds identified by MPG within the EPBC Referral Area

## 2.3 Condition 3

Condition 3 reads:

***In order to protect the Southern Marsupial Mole (SMM), the person undertaking the action must implement the following mitigation measures:***

***a. Installation of access tracks along sand dunes must be avoided;***

The Environmental Inspection process described in 2.2b is also used to identify sand dunes within the proposed drilling area. IGO field and geological staff undertake a ground inspection of the drilling area to ensure that proposed holes and access tracks are not installed along dune systems. Dune positional data is mapped and the required buffer zone/s established digitally using GIS software

IGO avoids the installation of tracks along sand dunes due to their environmental significance and also the impracticality for traversing dunes with heavy exploration equipment and the mitigation of vehicle rollover risk.

***b. Access tracks must be designed and installed to minimise impacts on SMM habitat including minimising the use of soft-sandy uplands, and position tracks in areas between dunes;***

Originally, AGAA engaged the services of Dr Joe Benshemesh to provide environmental expertise in relation to the habitat and behaviours of the SMM. The SMM program approved by DoE is that prime habitat is located in the upper crest of the sand dunes.

Details of the SMM habitat outlined in the SMM Program are provided in the EPBC Compliance Report 2014 available at:

<http://www.tropicanajv.com.au/irm/content/document-library1.aspx?RID=406>

Accordingly, AGAA determined prime SMM habitat to be within 40m of the crest of a sand dune. AGAA and IGO establish a 40m buffer around all sand dunes to ensure no work is undertaken within the prime SMM habitat. Access tracks are designed during the Environmental Inspection to avoid any sand dunes and associated buffer zones.

***c. By the end of October 2012, submit a SMM monitoring program to the Minister for approval. The program must include details of a progressive monitoring strategy to monitor the potential impacts from exploration drilling on prime SMM habitat and evidence of the SMM population, and details of targeted surveys within suitable SMM habitat areas adjacent to the proposed exploration program;***

The SMM Monitoring Program was developed in liaison with Dr Joe Benshemesh and submitted to DoE for approval on 14 December 2012. The program was approved by DoE on 19 February 2013.

Details of early SMM survey works are provided in EPBC Compliance Report 2013 available at:

<http://www.tropicanajv.com.au/irm/content/document-library1.aspx?RID=406>

In June 2014, AGAA undertook the second phase of the SMM monitoring program, completing the estimated 200 trenches and associated mole hole readings. The first half of the program was completed in 2013 by AGAA environmental team members, after being deemed competent by Dr. Joe Benshemesh.

In 2014, AGAA were privileged to enlist the involvement of members of the Spinifex Land Management Pila Nguru Aboriginal Corporation. The story was provided for public interest in Appendix C of the 2014 compliance report available at:

<http://www.tropicanajv.com.au/irm/content/document-library1.aspx?RID=406>

**d. The approved SMM Monitoring Program must be implemented,**

The implementation of the SMM Monitoring Program has been handled in full by AGAA. The SMM Monitoring Program was implemented in 2013, as described in 3c. The Program stipulates that a baseline survey of 200 monitoring trenches must be completed within 2 years. The first stage of the monitoring program was undertaken in November 2013 with 100 trenches completed. The second stage was completed in June 2014. The data for both stages of the baseline survey was collated and provided to Dr Joe Benshemesh in December 2014. The results and analysis of the surveys was completed by Dr Joe Benshemesh in January 2015 and submitted to the DoE on the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2015.

The survey reports are available in Appendix D in the EPBC Compliance Report 2014 available at:

<http://www.tropicanajv.com.au/irm/content/document-library1.aspx?RID=406>

In accordance with the SMM monitoring program (Section 6.2) AGAA committed to undertake further monitoring programs in the event of an escalation of exploration impact. Specifically, if exploration is increased from low impact reconnaissance exploration drilling to medium impact prospect exploration and resource definition drilling, additional monitoring is required. This condition applies if the work is within 20m of the 40m buffer zone around sand dunes. The objective of the follow up survey is to study the effects of the more intense drilling on marsupial moles as a precaution. To date no escalation in impact has been undertaken, thus further monitoring of SMM has not been required under the conditions.

Section 11 of the SMM Monitoring Program recommends that AGAA re-evaluate the monitoring program and give due consideration if any new information that may come to hand regarding SMM habitat, behaviours and/or populations. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December 2015 the Federal Minister removed the Southern Marsupial Mole from the 'Endangered' category listing in the *EPBC Act*. The Federal Threatened Species Scientific Committee demonstrated that the species was no longer deemed to be in immediate danger of extinction. Dr Joe Benshemesh's extensive surveys undertaken between 2004 and 2010 revealed that the SMM are widespread and common throughout much of their known range and concluded that there was no evidence of an ongoing decline (Threatened Species Scientific Committee 2015).

In light of the change in conservation status of the SMM Mole, consideration should be given to the value for additional surveys if more intense drilling were to occur in the EPBC referral area in the future.

**e. Areas identified as prime SMM habitat, including those identified through the targeted surveys and monitoring programs required under condition 3 (c), must be avoided, including through establishment of a buffer zone of a minimum of 40 metres around any**



***SMM habitat. The buffer zones must be established and managed in accordance with the approved SMM monitoring program.***

As discussed in 2.3a the environmental inspection process is used to identify sand dunes within the proposed drilling area and to establish the required 40m buffer. The location of the dunes and the buffers are provided to IGO employees to ensure that no clearing occurs within the buffered areas. Accordingly, prime SMM habitat remains undisturbed.

## 2.4 Condition 4

Condition 4 reads:

***In order to protect the Sandhill Dunnart, the person undertaking the action must implement the following mitigation measures;***

- a. Implement the avoidance measures detailed in Section 6 of the Tropicana Joint Venture Group 2 and Group 3 Exploration Areas Conservation and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) dated 14 December 2010, as relevant to the Sandhill Dunnart. Where these measures cannot be implemented, the person undertaking the action must undertake a detailed monitoring program and follow up monitoring for the duration of the exploration activities. The monitoring program must target those Sandhill Dunnart habitats identified in the Sandhill Dunnart assessment undertaken by GHD in 2009 (reported in GHD report, Sandhill Dunnart habitat assessment, Group 2 & 3 tenements, dated July 2010) and are located adjacent to areas of exploration activities within Group 2 and Group 3 tenements as identified at Figure 3.***

Reference should be made to the 2013 EPBC Compliance Report (location below) for a discussion on the procedures developed by AGAA and GHD for the identification of Sandhill Dunnart habitats.

<http://www.tropicanaajv.com.au/irm/content/document-library1.aspx?RID=406>

During 2015, the practices identified in the 2013 Compliance Report and the measures detailed in Section 6 of the CEMP were implemented to avoid the destruction of Sandhill Dunnart habitat. As such, identified and potential habitats were avoided and a 'detailed monitoring program' was not required.

Locations of those habitats identified by GHD consultants and documented in their 2009 report are provided in Attachment B (Appendix B).

Whilst AGAA and IGO are both working in compliance to the CEMP in relation to the protection of sandhill dunnart, the approvals process via the Western Australian Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP)



differs slightly. AGAA work under 'Consolidated Programmes of Works' as agreed by DMP, whilst SCJV approvals are based on standard industry practice of single, non-consolidated POW's.

- b. Prior to the commencement of any targeted exploration activities, establish a buffer zone of a minimum of 50 metres around any identified Sandhill Dunnart habitat and 100 metres around all confirmed habitat based on the results of the monitoring program in condition 4(a). No disturbance must occur within the buffer zones.***

IGO has implemented the required 100 metre buffer around those Sandhill Dunnart habitats identified by GHD that are within the EPBC Referral Area and IGO implements a 50m buffer around any potential Sandhill Dunnart habitats identified during the environmental inspection process described in 2.2b.

Figure 3 illustrates the TJV Tenure with Sandhill Dunnart Habitats identified by GHD within the EPBC referral area.

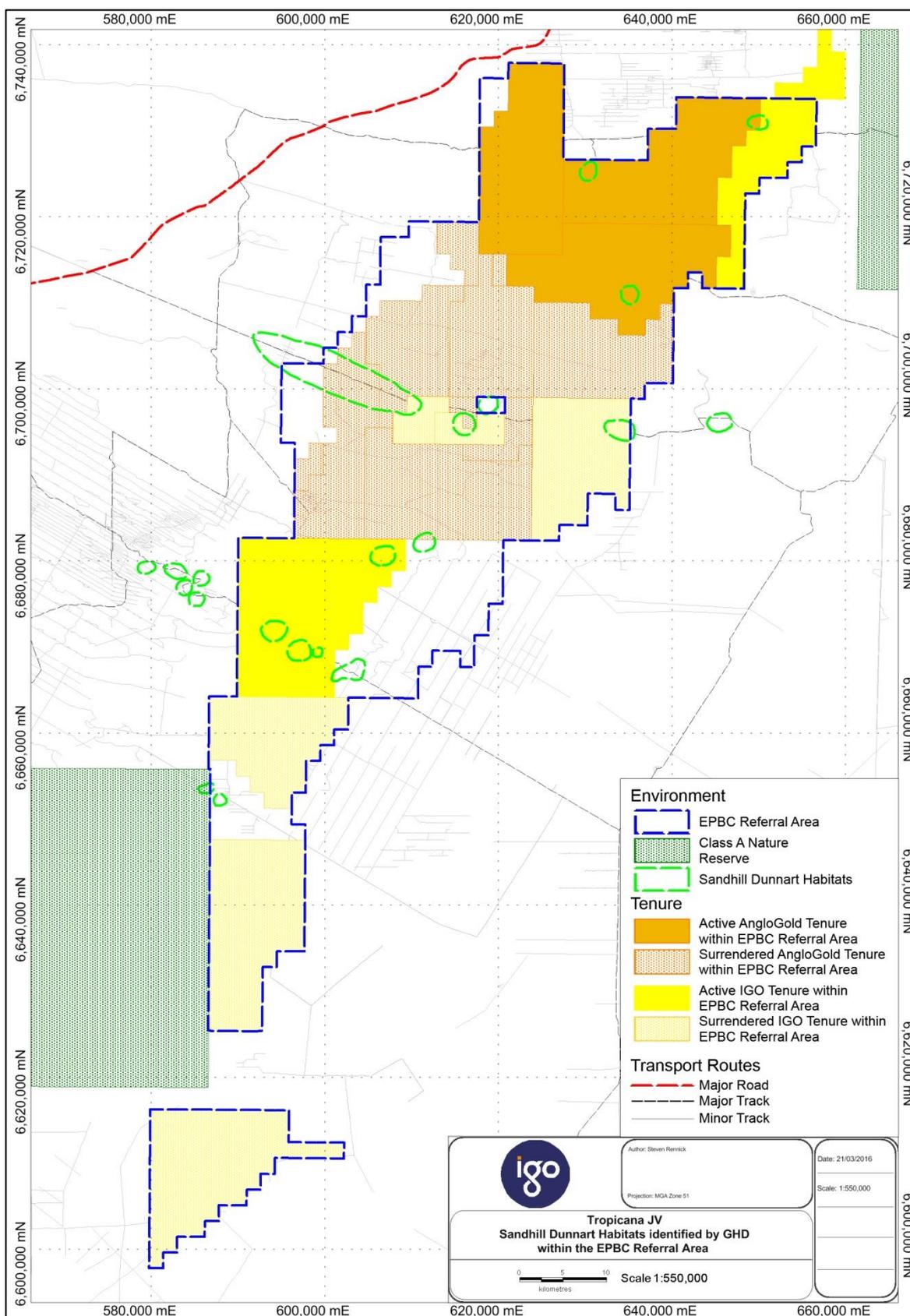


Figure 3: TJV Tenure with Sandhill Dunnart Habitats identified by GHD within the EPBC referral area



## 2.5 Condition 5

Condition 5 reads:

***The results of the inspections, targeted surveys and monitoring programs in conditions 2, 3 and 4 must be made available publically on the Tropicana JV website in accordance with condition 7.***

### 2.5.1 Malleefowl Monitoring

As no Malleefowl mounds identified in the Malleefowl Preservation Group survey are within active SCJV tenure, and no new Malleefowl mounds were identified in the pre-drilling environmental inspections, no results have been submitted to the Malleefowl Monitoring Database for 2015

### 2.5.2 Southern Marsupial Mole Monitoring

The requirements under this condition were completed by AGAA in 2015; no further work was required under the SCJV management.

The key findings of the report can be found in Appendix D of the 2014 compliance report available at:

<http://www.tropicanaJV.com.au/irm/content/document-library1.aspx?RID=406>

Locational data of the survey sites has been excluded for confidentiality reasons.

### 2.5.3 Sandhill Dunnart Monitoring

Prior to undertaking any ground disturbing works, IGO undertake an on-ground assessment for flora and fauna of environmental significance. The assessment is captured in an EIN. During 2015, IGO undertook two EIN's within the EPBC Referral Area ahead of planned drilling programs. IGO can report that during both EIN's the drilling programs were adjusted to avoid areas of 'potential' and 'prime' habitat.

The actual location of the habitats identified by IGO cannot be provided due to the confidential nature of drill program locations.

## 2.6 Condition 6

Condition 6 reads:

***The person taking action must, within 12 months of the commencement of the action, complete and submit to the Minister for approval a detailed Rehabilitation Plan for the progressive rehabilitation and revegetation of the project area.***

***This Rehabilitation Plan must include, at a minimum, the following information:***

- a. the desired outcomes/objectives of implementing the plan;***



- b. details of the vegetation communities to be re-established and the timing of progressive rehabilitation;**
- c. criteria to determine success of re-establishment of vegetation communities;**
- d. a process to progressively report to the Department the rehabilitation management actions undertaken and the outcomes of those actions, and the mechanisms to be used to identify the need for improved management;**
- e. a description of the potential risks to successful management and rehabilitation on the project site, and a description of the contingency measures that would be implemented to mitigate these risks; and**
- f. details of parties responsible for reviewing and implementing the Plan.**

**The approved Rehabilitation Plan must be implemented.**

On 5 December 2014, GFXA received approval of the Rehabilitation Review and Management Plan for Exploration (Great Victoria Desert) Version 3 (The Rehabilitation Management Plan) from the Department of the Environment, in accordance with Condition 6.

Rehabilitation in the EPBC Referral Area completed by IGO is progressively undertaken in accordance with the Rehabilitation Management Plan. All track and drill site rehabilitation has been documented and recorded in databases detailing the location, date and level of rehabilitation completed.

## 2.7 Condition 7

Condition 7 reads:

***Within three months of every 12 months anniversary of the commencement of the action, the person taking the action must publish a report on their website addressing compliance with the conditions of this approval over the previous 12 months, including implementation of any management and monitoring programs as specified in the conditions. Non-compliance with any of the conditions of this approval must be reported to the Department at the same time as the compliance report is published.***

This report serves to fulfill this condition. Reference may be made to the 2014 EPBC Compliance Report completed by AGAA available at:

<http://www.tropicanajv.com.au/irm/content/document-library1.aspx?RID=406>

Should further information be required please contact IGO directly through the General Manager – New Business: [Matt.Dusci@igo.com.au](mailto:Matt.Dusci@igo.com.au) and/or Sustainability Manager [Keith.Ashby@igo.com.au](mailto:Keith.Ashby@igo.com.au)

## 2.8 Condition 8

Condition 8 reads:



***Upon the direction of the Minister, the person taking the action must ensure that an independent audit of compliance with the conditions of approval is conducted and a report submitted to the Minister. The independent auditor must be approved by the Minister prior to the commencement of the audit. Audit criteria must be agreed to by the minister and the audit report must address the criteria to the satisfaction of the Minister.***

Should such a direction be issued by the Minister, IGO will arrange an independent audit.

## 2.9 Condition 9

Condition 9 reads:

***If the person talking the action wishes to carry out any activity otherwise than in accordance with the Condition 7, the person taking the action must submit for the Minister's written approval a revised version of any such plan. The varied activity shall not commence until the Minister has approved the varied plan in writing. If the Minister approves such a revised plan, that plan must be implemented in place of the plan originally approved. Unless the Minister has approved the revised plan, then the person taking the action must continue to implement the plan originally approved.***

Condition 9 is subject to condition 8 being undertaken by the Minister.

## 2.10 Condition 10

Condition 10 reads:

***If the Minister believes that is necessary or convenient for the better protection of the listed threatened species and communities to do so, the Minister may request the person taking the action make specified revisions to the plans approved pursuant to these conditions and submit the revised plan for the Minister's written approval. The person taking the action must comply with any such request. The revised approved plan must be implemented. Unless the Minister has approved the revised plan then the person taking the action must continue to implement the plan originally approved.***

Condition 10 is subject to condition 8 being undertaken by the Minister.

## 2.11 Condition 11

Condition 11 reads:

***If, at any time after 5 years from the date of this approval, the person taking the action has not commenced the action, then the person taking the action must not substantially commence the action without the written agreement of the Minister.***



Work formally commenced after approval was granted to the EPBC Condition Variation in February 2013, however; should IGO cease works within the area for more than 5 years, the Minister shall be informed before work re-commences.

## 2.12 Condition 12

Condition 12 reads:

***The person taking the action must maintain accurate records substantiating all activities associated with or relevant to the conditions of approval, including measures taken to implement the management plans required by this approval, and make them available upon request to the Department. Such records may be subject to audit by the Department or an independent auditor in accordance with section 458 of the EPBC Act, or used to verify compliance with the conditions of approval. Summaries of audits will be posted on the Department's website. The results of audits may also be publicised through the general media.***

For activities prior to the 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2014 relating to the EPBC referral area AGAA can provide any records required by the Department of Environment. For activities post the 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2014 IGO can provide any records required by the Department of Environment.

## 3 Conclusion

In October 2014, IGO signed a reverse JV (SCJV) with AGAA to complete base metal exploration over a selection of tenements offered by AGAA. Under the SCJV, IGO are the managers of the tenements and are subject to the same environmental conditions that AGAA were previously operating under as managers. A portion of the tenements in the SCJV fall into the federally regulated EPBC 2008/4463 Referral Area; this report serves to provide an update on IGO's commitment to meeting the conditions outlined in EPBC 2008/4463, in accordance with previous work undertaken on behalf of the JV partners by AGAA.

### References

EPBC Threatened Species Scientific Committee 2015, *Commonwealth Listing Advice EBC Act*  
[http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon\\_id=296](http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon_id=296)

AGAA 2013 *Australia Exploration Groups 2 and 3 EPBC Compliance Report 2013*  
<http://www.tropicanajv.com.au/irm/content/document-library1.aspx?RID=406>

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