



Licence number	L8978/2016/1	
Licence holder	Big Bell Gold Operations Pty Ltd	
ACN	090 642 809	
Registered business address	Level 6, 197 St Georges Terrace, Parliament Place PERTH WA 6000	
DWER file number	DER2016/000908-1	
Duration	05/09/2016 to	04/09/2036
Date of issue	01/09/2016	
Date of amendment	13 June 2022	
Premises details	Comet Project CUE WA 6640 Mining Tenements M21/08, M21/72, L21/16 As depicted in Schedule 1	

Prescribed premises category description (Schedule 1, <i>Environmental Protection Regulations 1987</i>)	Assessed production / design capacity
Category 6: Mine dewatering	500,000 tonnes per annual period

This amended licence is granted to the licence holder, subject to the attached conditions, on 13 June 2022 by:

**MANAGER, RESOURCE INDUSTRIES
INDUSTRY REGULATION**

an officer delegated under section 20 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (WA)

Contents

Contents	2
Introduction	2
Licence conditions	4
1 General	4
2 Emissions	7
3 Monitoring	8
4 Information	9
Schedule 1: Maps	11
Schedule 2: Reporting & notification forms	13

Introduction

This Introduction is not part of the Licence conditions.

DWER's industry licensing role

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) is a government department for the state of Western Australia in the portfolio of the Minister for Environment. DWER's purpose is to advise on and implement strategies for a healthy environment for the benefit of all current and future Western Australians.

DWER has responsibilities under Part V of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (the Act) for the licensing of prescribed premises. Through this process DWER works with the business owners, community, consultants, industry and other representatives to prevent, control and abate pollution and environmental harm to conserve and protect the environment. DWER also monitors and audits compliance with works approvals and licence conditions, takes enforcement action as appropriate and develops and implements licensing and industry regulation policy

Licence requirements

This Licence is issued under Part V of the Act. Conditions contained within the Licence relate to the prevention, reduction or control of emissions and discharges to the environment and to the monitoring and reporting of them.

Where other statutory instruments impose obligations on the Premises/Licence Holder, the intention is not to replicate them in the licence conditions. You should therefore ensure that you are aware of all your statutory obligations under the Act and any other statutory instrument. Legislation can be accessed through the State Law Publisher website using the following link: <https://www.legislation.wa.gov.au/legislation/statutes.nsf/default.html>

For your Premises relevant statutory instruments include but are not limited to obligations under the:

- *Environmental Protection (Unauthorised Discharges) Regulations 2004* – these Regulations make it an offence to discharge certain materials such as contaminated stormwater into the environment other than in the circumstances set out in the Regulations.
- *Environmental Protection (Controlled Waste) Regulations 2004* - these Regulations place obligations on you if you produce, accept, transport or dispose of controlled waste.

- *Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997* – these Regulations require noise emissions from the Premises to comply with the assigned noise levels set out in the Regulations.

You must comply with your Licence. Non-compliance with your Licence is an offence and strict penalties exist for those who do not comply.

Licence holders are also reminded of the requirements of section 53 of the Act which places restrictions on making certain changes to prescribed premises unless the changes are in accordance with a works approval, licence, closure notice or environmental protection notice.

Licence fees

If you have a licence that is issued for more than one year, you are required to pay an annual licence fee prior to the anniversary date of issue of your licence. Non payment of annual licence fees will result in your licence ceasing to have effect meaning that it will no longer be valid and you will need to apply for a new licence for your Premises.

Ministerial conditions

If your Premises has been assessed under Part IV of the Act you may have had conditions imposed by the Minister for Environment. You are required to comply with any conditions imposed by the Minister.

Premises description and Licence summary

The Comet Project (Project) is located approximately 25 kilometres (km) east of Cue, and about 600 km northwest of Perth. The surrounding land consists of pastoral and exploration leases. Lake Austin, which is a major ephemeral wetland (salt lake), is approximately 20 km to the south of the Project.

Big Bell Gold Operations Pty Ltd (BBGO) dewateres the Comet, Comet North and Pinnacles underground voids, with dewatering water being discharged into the previously mined Eclipse and Venus pits. A proposed discharge point at Friars pit is also situated within adjacent Licence L8644/2012/1 (held by BBGO). The addition of tenement L21/16 to L8978/2016/1 has facilitated a link between the two Licences as shown in Figure 1. L21/16 will be utilised to construct a dewatering pipeline to Friars pit.

Power for the Project is supplied by mobile generators which have a combined total output of less than trigger thresholds set out in the *Environmental Protection Regulation 1987*, whereby a works approval and registration or licence would be required.

BBGO also operates a 150 tonne per annum (tpa) inert landfill at the Project however the capacity is less than the 500 tpa trigger threshold set out in the *Environmental Protection Regulation 1987*, whereby a works approval and registration or licence would be required.

The licences and works approvals issued for the Premises are:

Instrument log		
Instrument	Issued	Description
W5972/2016/1	30/06/2016	Works Approval to install mine dewatering infrastructure
L8978/2016/1	25/08/2016	New Licence
L8978/2016/1	13/06/2022	Update to format of the licence. Eclipse pit added as a discharge point. Addition of mining tenement L21/16. Construction of dewatering pipeline on L21/16.

Severance

It is the intent of these Licence conditions that they shall operate so that, if a condition or a part of a condition is beyond the power of this Licence to impose, or is otherwise *ultra vires* or invalid, that condition or part of a condition shall be severed and the remainder of these conditions shall nevertheless be valid to the extent that they are within the power of this Licence to impose and are not otherwise *ultra vires* or invalid.

END OF INTRODUCTION

Licence conditions

1 General

1.1 Interpretation

1.1.1 In the Licence, definitions from the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* apply unless the contrary intention appears.

1.1.2 For the purposes of this Licence, unless the contrary intention appears:

‘Act’ means the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*;

‘Annual Audit Compliance Report’ means a report in a format approved by the CEO as presented by the Licence Holder or as specified by the CEO from time to time and published on the Department’s website;

‘annual period’ means the inclusive period from 29 August until 28 August in the following year;

‘AS/NZS 2033’ means the Australian Standard AS/NZS 2033: Installation of polyethylene pipe systems

‘AS/NZS 4129’ means the Australian Standard AS/NZS 4129: fittings for polyethylene (PE) pipes for pressure applications

‘AS/NZS 4130’ means the Australian Standard AS/NZS 4130 Polyethylene pipes for pressure applications

‘AS/NZS 4131’ means the Australian Standard AS/NZS 4130 Polyethylene compounds for pressure pipes and fittings.

‘AS/NZS 5667.1’ means the Australian Standard AS/NZS 5667.1 *Water Quality – Sampling – Guidance of the Design of sampling programs, sampling techniques and the preservation and handling of samples*;

‘AS/NZS 5667.10’ means the Australian Standard AS/NZS 5667.10 *Water Quality – Sampling – Guidance on sampling of waste waters*;

‘CEO’ means Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Environment Regulation;

‘CEO’ for the purpose of correspondence means;

Director General

Department administering the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Locked Bag 10

Joondalup DC WA 6919

‘freeboard’ means the distance between the maximum water surface elevations and the top of retaining banks or structures at their lowest point;

‘Licence’ means this Licence numbered L8978/2016/1 and issued under the Act;

‘Licence Holder’ means the person or organisation named as Licence Holder on page 1 of the Licence;

‘m³’ means cubic metres;

‘mbgl’ means metres below ground level;

‘NATA’ means the National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia;

‘NATA accredited’ means in relation to the analysis of a sample that the laboratory is NATA accredited for the specified analysis at the time of the analysis;

‘Premises’ means the area defined in the Premises Map in Schedule 1 and listed as the Premises address on page 1 of the Licence;

‘Schedule 1’ means Schedule 1 of this Licence unless otherwise stated;

‘Schedule 2’ means Schedule 2 of this Licence unless otherwise stated; and

‘usual working day’ means 0800 – 1700 hours, Monday to Friday excluding public holidays in Western Australia.

1.1.3 Any reference to an Australian or other standard in the Licence means the relevant parts of the standard in force from time to time during the term of this Licence.

1.1.4 Any reference to a guideline or code of practice in the Licence means the version of that guideline or code of practice in force from time to time, and shall include any amendments or replacements to that guideline or code of practice made during the term of this Licence.

1.2 Premise operation

1.2.1 The Licence Holder shall record and investigate the exceedance of any descriptive or numerical limit in this section.

1.2.2 The Licence Holder shall ensure that any dewatering effluent shall only be used for dust suppression in a manner that minimises damage to surrounding vegetation.

1.2.3 The Licence Holder shall ensure that dewatering effluent is discharged into dams with the relevant infrastructure requirements and at the location specified in Table 1.2.1 and identified in Schedule 1.

Table 1.2.1: Containment infrastructure		
Containment point reference	Material	Infrastructure requirements
Venus pit	Dewatering effluent	Maintain a minimum freeboard of 3 metres
Eclipse pit	Dewatering effluent	Maintain a minimum freeboard of 4 metres

- 1.2.4 The Licence Holder shall ensure that all dewatering pipelines are either:
- (a) equipped with telemetry systems and pressure sensors along pipelines to allow the detection of leaks and failures;
 - (b) equipped with automatic cut-outs in the event of a pipe failure; or
 - (c) provided with secondary containment sufficient to contain any spill for a period equal to the time between routine inspections.

- 1.2.5 The Licence Holder shall:
- (a) undertake inspections as detailed in Table 1.2.2;
 - (b) where any inspection identifies that an appropriate level of environmental protection is not being maintained, take corrective action to mitigate adverse environmental consequences as soon as practicable; and
 - (c) maintain a record of all inspections undertaken.

Table 1.2.2: Inspection of infrastructure		
Scope of inspection	Type of inspection	Frequency of inspection
Dewatering effluent pipelines	Visual integrity	Daily
Freeboard at the Venus pit	Visual to confirm required freeboard capacity is available	Daily
Freeboard at the Eclipse pit	Visual to confirm required freeboard capacity is available	Daily

- 1.2.6 The Licence Holder must install and undertake the works for the infrastructure and equipment:
- (a) specified in column 1; and
 - (b) to the requirements specified in column 2
- of Table 1.2.3 below:

Table 1.2.3: Construction requirements	
Column 1: Infrastructure/equipment	Column 2: Requirements (design and construction)
Dewatering pipelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Constructed according to Australian Standards AS/NZS 2033, 4129, 4130 and 4131 for polyethylene pipes; (b) Tested prior to operation: hydro-testing, calibration of flow meters and pressure transmitters; <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (c) equipped with telemetry systems and pressure sensors along pipelines to allow the detection of leaks and failures; or (d) equipped with automatic cut-outs in the event of a pipe failure; or (e) provided with secondary containment sufficient to contain any spill for a period equal to the time between routine inspections.

- 1.2.7 The Licence Holder must within 30 days of each item of infrastructure required by condition 1.2.6 being constructed:
- (a) undertake an audit of their compliance with the requirements of condition 1.2.6; and
 - (b) prepare and submit to the CEO an audit report on that compliance.
- 1.2.8 The Licence Holder must manage dust generation from mobile equipment movements during dewatering pipeline constructions by:
- (a) limiting activities to minimise dust generation on cleared areas where possible; and
 - (b) wetting down unsealed roads and exposed areas with a water truck as required to minimise dust emissions.

2 Emissions

2.1 General

- 2.1.1 The Licence Holder shall record and investigate the exceedance of any descriptive or numerical limit specified in any part of section 2 of this Licence.

2.2 Point source emissions to groundwater

- 2.2.1 The Licence Holder shall ensure that where waste is emitted to groundwater from the emission point in Table 2.2.1, and identified on the map of emission points in Schedule 1, it is done so in accordance with the conditions of this Licence.

Table 2.2.1: Emission points to groundwater		
Emission point reference	Description	Source including abatement
Venus pit	Dewatering waste water discharge into a disused mine pit.	Water from dewatering of the Comet, Comet North, Eclipse and Pinnacles pits
Eclipse pit	Dewatering waste water discharged into mine pit	Water from dewatering of the Comet and Comet North pits

- 2.2.2 The Licence Holder shall not cause or allow point source emissions to groundwater greater than the limits listed in Table 2.2.2.

Table 2.2.2: Point source emission limits to groundwater			
Emission point reference	Parameter	Limit (including units)	Averaging period
Venus and Eclipse pit discharge	Volume of dewatering effluent water	500,000 tonnes	Annual period
	Total recoverable hydrocarbons	15 mg/L	Spot sample

3 Monitoring

3.1 General monitoring

- 3.1.1 The Licence Holder shall ensure that:
- (a) all water samples are collected and preserved in accordance with AS/NZS 5667.1;
 - (b) all wastewater sampling is conducted in accordance with AS/NZS 5667.10; and
 - (c) all laboratory samples are submitted to and tested by a laboratory with current NATA accreditation for the parameters being measured unless indicated otherwise in the relevant table.
- 3.1.2 The Licence Holder shall ensure that:
- (a) quarterly monitoring is undertaken at least 45 days apart; and
 - (b) annual monitoring is undertaken at least 9 months apart.
- 3.1.3 The Licence Holder shall ensure that all monitoring equipment used on the Premises to comply with the conditions of this Licence is calibrated in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications and the requirements of the Licence.
- 3.1.4 The Licence Holder shall, where the requirements for calibration cannot be practicably met, or a discrepancy exists in the interpretation of the requirements, bring these issues to the attention of the CEO accompanied with a report comprising details of any modifications to the methods.

3.2 Monitoring of point source emissions to groundwater

- 3.2.1 The Licence Holder shall undertake the monitoring in Table 3.2.1 according to the specifications in that table.

Table 3.2.1: Monitoring of point source emissions to groundwater					
Emission point reference	Parameter	Units	Limit	Averaging Period	Frequency
Dewatering discharge outlet into the Venus pit and Eclipse pit	Volumetric flow rate	m ³	None specified	Monthly	Continuous
	Arsenic; Cadmium; Chromium; Copper; Manganese; Mercury; Molybdenum; Nickel; Total Nitrogen; and Zinc	mg/L		Spot sample	Annually
	Standing water level in pit	mbgl	As per freeboard in condition 1.2.3		Quarterly

	Total recoverable hydrocarbons	mg/L	15		
	Total dissolved solids		None specified		
	pH ¹	-			

Note 1: In-field non-NATA accredited analysis permitted.

4 Information

4.1 Records

4.1.1 All information and records required by the Licence shall:

- (a) be legible;
- (b) if amended, be amended in such a way that the original and subsequent amendments remain legible or are capable of retrieval;
- (c) except for records listed in 4.1.1(d) be retained for at least 6 years from the date the records were made or until the expiry of the Licence or any subsequent licence; and
- (d) for those following records, be retained until the expiry of the Licence and any subsequent licence:
 - (i) off-site environmental effects; or
 - (ii) matters which affect the condition of the land or waters.

4.1.2 The Licence Holder shall ensure that:

- (a) any person left in charge of the Premises is aware of the conditions of the Licence and has access at all times to the Licence or copies thereof; and
- (b) any person who performs tasks on the Premises is informed of all of the conditions of the Licence that relate to the tasks which that person is performing.

4.1.3 The Licence Holder shall complete an Annual Audit Compliance Report indicating the extent to which the Licence Holder has complied with the conditions of the Licence, and any previous licence issued under Part V of the Act for the Premises for the previous annual period.

4.1.4 The Licence Holder shall implement a complaints management system that as a minimum, records the number and details of complaints received concerning the environmental impact of the activities undertaken at the Premises and any action taken in response to the complaint.

4.2 Reporting

4.2.1 The Licence Holder shall submit to the CEO an Annual Environmental Report within 90 calendar days after the end of the annual period. The report shall contain the information listed in Table 4.2.1 in the format or form specified in that table.

Table 4.2.1: Annual Environmental Report		
Condition or table (if relevant)	Parameter	Format or form
-	Summary of any failure or malfunction of any pollution control equipment and any environmental incidents that have occurred during the annual period and any action taken	None specified
3.2.1 Table 3.2.1	Monitoring of point source emissions to groundwater	
4.1.3	Compliance	Annual Audit Compliance Report (AACR) ¹
4.1.4	Complaints summary	None specified

Note 1: Available from the DWER website.

4.3 Notification

4.3.1 The Licence Holder shall ensure that the parameters listed in Table 4.3.1 are notified to the CEO in accordance with the notification requirements of the table.

Table 4.3.1: Notification requirements			
Condition or table (if relevant)	Parameter	Notification requirement ¹	Format or form ²
-	Breach of any limit specified in the Licence	Part A: As soon as practicable but no later than 5pm of the next usual working day. Part B: As soon as practicable	N1

Note 1: Notification requirements in the Licence shall not negate the requirement to comply with s72 of the Act

Note 2: Forms are in Schedule 2

Schedule 1: Maps

Premises map

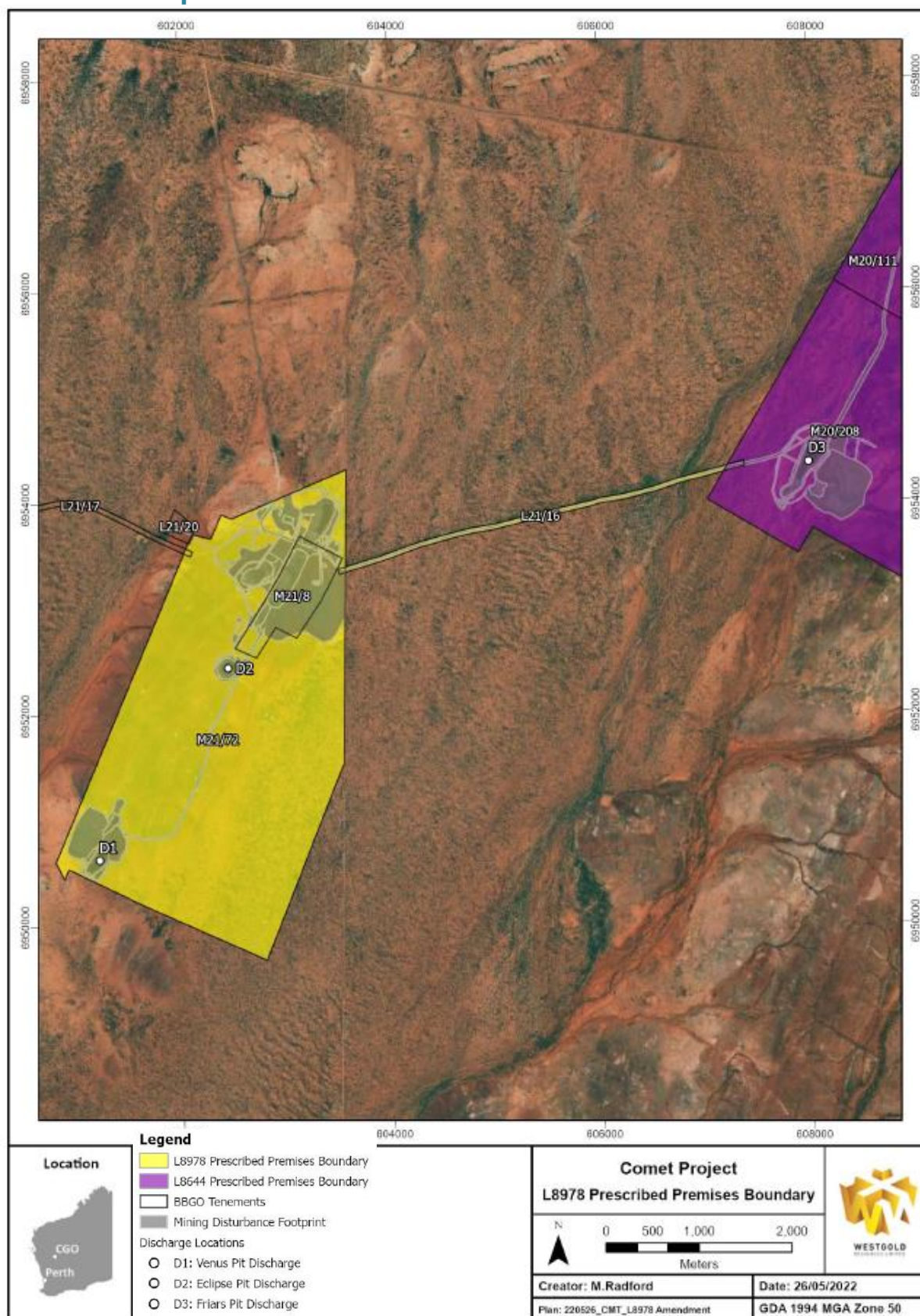


Figure 1: Prescribed premises

L8978/2016/1 (13 June 2022)

IR-T06 Licence template (v7.0) (February 2020)

Map of Emission Points

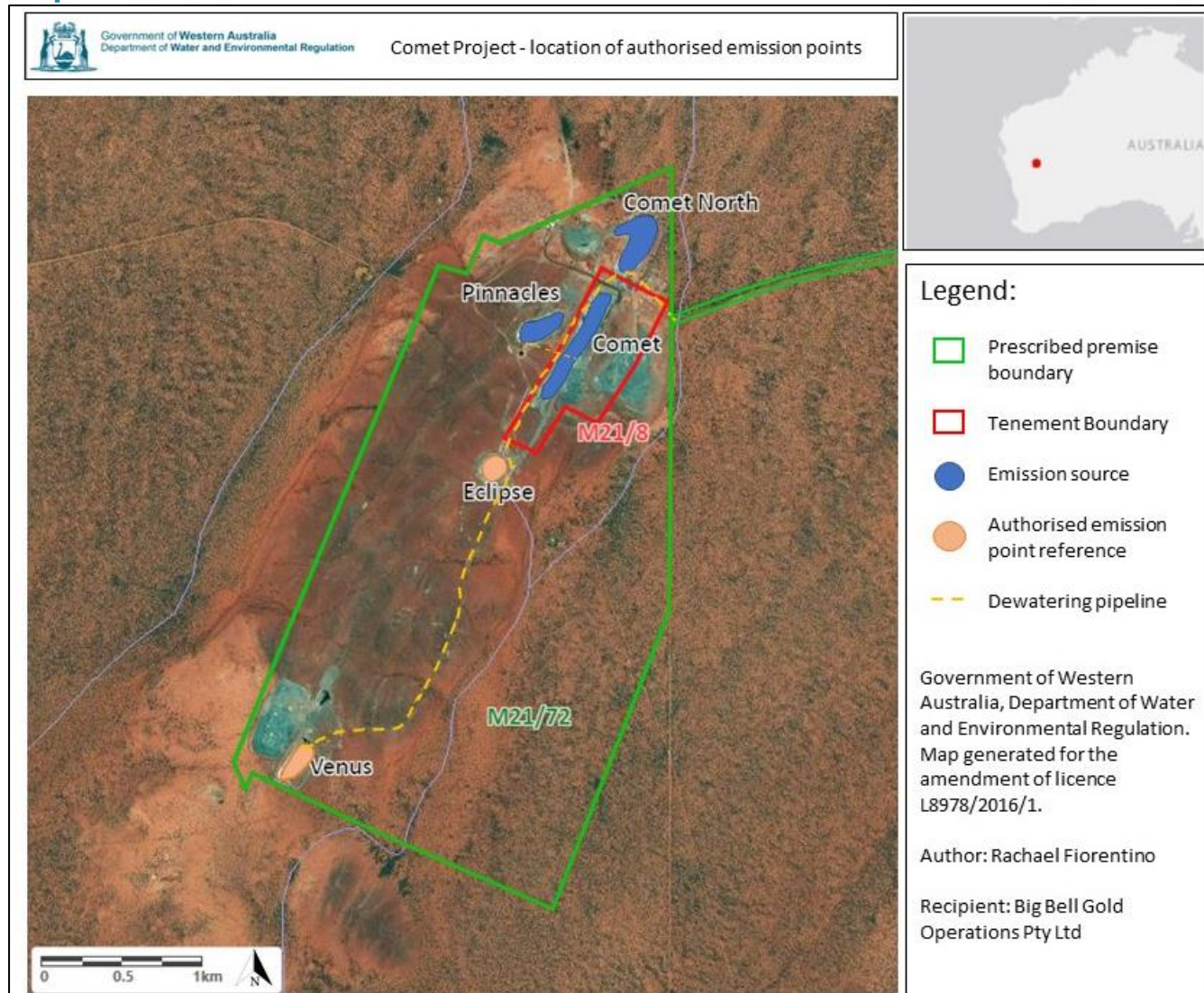


Figure 2: Location of authorised emission points under condition 2.2.1 (Venus and Eclipse)

Schedule 2: Reporting & notification forms

These forms are provided for the proponent to report monitoring and other data required by the Licence. They can be requested in an electronic format.

Licence: L8978/2016/1 Licence Holder: Big Bell Gold Operations Pty Ltd
Form: N1 Date of breach: _____

Notification of detection of the breach of a limit or any failure or malfunction of any pollution control equipment or any incident which has caused, is causing or may cause pollution.

These pages outline the information that the operator must provide.

Units of measurement used in information supplied under Part A and B requirements shall be appropriate to the circumstances of the emission. Where appropriate, a comparison should be made of actual emissions and authorised emission limits.

Part A

Licence Number	
Name of operator	
Location of Premises	
Time and date of the detection	

Notification requirements for the breach of a limit	
Emission point reference/ source	
Parameter(s)	
Limit	
Measured value	
Date and time of monitoring	
Measures taken, or intended to be taken, to stop the emission	

Part B

Any more accurate information on the matters for notification under Part A.	
Measures taken, or intended to be taken, to prevent a recurrence of the incident.	
Measures taken, or intended to be taken, to rectify, limit or prevent any pollution of the environment which has been or may be caused by the emission.	
The dates of any previous N1 notifications for the Premises in the preceding 24 months.	

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

Name	
Post	
Signature on behalf of Big Bell Gold Operations Pty Ltd	
Date	