

## **Ecological Investigation and Recommendations – J Hill, Senior Environmental Advisor, Henty Gold Mine**

**26<sup>th</sup> Novemeber 2012**

Exploration Drill Sites – Newton Dam Spillway and Tyndall Creek

Location: Newton Dam Spillway: E379946 N5358899  
Tyndall Creek: E381413 N5357057

This short report covers the findings of a site visit and desktop study into the ecological values of two proposed drill pads for exploration purposes related to the Henty Gold Mine.

Desktop investigations using the Natural Values Atlas (full reports attached) indicated:

- There have been no threatened flora species previously recorded within 500m of the site.
- Two threatened flora species *Planocarpa sulcata* and *Orites milliganii* recorded within 5000m of the sites, however it should be noted that both of these species are generally associated with higher elevations in an alpine situation. It is considered highly unlikely that these species occur near the site and were not observed during the field assessment.
- No threatened fauna species within 500m of the site.
- Several fauna species have previously been recorded within 5000m of the site (see NVA), however it is unlikely that significant habitat is located within the sites.
- No raptor nests previously recorded within 500m or 5000m of the sites.
- No weed species previously recorded within 500m of the sites.

The TASVeg community mapped in the Newton Dam Spillway area is Western wet scrub (SWW).

The TASVeg community mapped in the Tyndall Creek area is Western buttongrass moorland (MBW) these are not listed as threatened communities under Schedule 3A of the Nature Conservation Act 2002.

### **Site assessment outcomes:**

The vegetation communities located in the Newton Dam Spillway is consistent with the TASVEG mapping. The vegetation community located at the Tyndall creek site varies a little from the mapped community of Western buttongrass moorland and is the floristics of the site are more consistent with Buttongrass moorland with emergent shrubs (MBS). This community is not listed as threatened under Schedule 3A of the Nature Conservation Act 2002.

The sites were both assessed for potential threatened species *Planocarpa sulcata* and *Orites milliganii*, neither species were detected and are unlikely to occur in either of the mapped vegetation types or at that altitude.



**Newton Dam Spillway Vegetation and proposed drill site location**



**Tyndall Creek Vegetation and proposed drill site location**

## **Conclusions and recommendations**

- Impacts to vegetation will be minimal as the sites require minimal clearance of vegetation and will utilize some existing road area. The vegetation communities are not threatened, and no threatened species were noted during the site inspection.
- It is recommended that larger shrubs be maintained where possible and that cleared vegetation and the peat layer are retained to assist in rehabilitation of the site once drilling operations have been completed.
- It is considered that the proposed vegetation removal will have little to no impact on threatened fauna habitat values.
- Drill rig water supply pumping equipment must be appropriately banded and hydrocarbon spill response supplies are onsite and readily available.
- Any hydrocarbon spill in this location should be speedily dealt with and reported to Darren French or James Hill.