



Ref: OBJ-002463

Mr. Chris Lang  
141 Lismore-Skipton Road  
**Lismore Victoria 3324**

Dear Mr. Lang

**Exploration Licence Application EL007469 - Providence Gold & Minerals Pty Ltd**

I write to advise you about my decision to grant an exploration licence to Providence Gold & Minerals Pty Ltd.

I have made this decision after considering your objection of 30 April 2021. I also undertook an assessment in accordance with the requirements of the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990* to ensure the licensee could meet all requirements of the Act.

The licensee is permitted to explore in the area specified in the licence, subject to the conditions set in the licence.

In this case, the licensee intends to explore for Gold using the following types of exploration activities:

- Desktop analyses of available geological mapping and other data;
- Field surveys to collect soil and rock
- Field surveys to collect new data on rock formations using non-intrusive equipment
- Field surveys to collect rock samples using authorised drilling equipment, subject to a subsequent approved work plan.

Actual techniques will be outlined in a Work Plan, which must be approved by Earth Resources Regulation and may change over time depending on progress of work undertaken.

The exploration licence does not confer any right to start mining activities.

**Licence Conditions**

The licence holder must comply with the following conditions:

- Obtain consent from the owner or occupier of land to enter their land, or enter into a compensation agreement with the owner or occupier of land for any loss or damage;
- Meet the requirements for specified low impact exploration activities; or
- Hold an approved work plan identifying any possible risks to the environment, the public, or to land, property or infrastructure near the activities, and describing what will be done to minimise or eliminate the risks;
- Submit a bond in the form of a bank guarantee to Earth Resources Regulation to cover the cost estimated by us to rehabilitate any disturbed area of land;

- Consult and inform community members about the proposed exploration activities, including providing timely updates;
- Adhere to standard environmental conditions applicable to all licences;
- Adhere to site-specific environmental conditions, including management of environmental impacts and site rehabilitation; and
- Apply to obtain a separate mining or prospecting licence before any mining can occur.

### **Land Owner Rights**

The following legal requirements are in place to recognise the rights of land owners:

- The licensee must obtain written consent from land owners to access the land, or alternatively enter into a compensation agreement with the land owner for use of their land;
- The licensee is required to rehabilitate any disturbed area; and
- Land owners are not obliged to agree to allow access to the licensee.

If an agreement is not reached, the land owner or the licensee can lodge a dispute with the Mining Warden for mediation between the parties or apply to the Victorian Civil Administration Tribunal (VCAT) for a hearing and decision on the matter.

Further information on these processes can be found at:

<http://earthresources.vic.gov.au/about-us/legislation/mining-warden>  
[www.vcat.gov.au](http://www.vcat.gov.au)

### **Compliance**

Our Earth Resources Regulation inspectors monitor and audit licence holders' operations. Any breach may result in a fine being issued, or in more serious cases the licence being cancelled. Undertaking exploration, appraisal or extraction without the necessary approvals is illegal, and may result in a prosecution through the courts.

Please contact Andrew Radojkovic, Regional Manager, South West on 0419329449, if you believe that any unauthorised activities are taking place. We will investigate your concerns at the earliest possible opportunity.

Thank you for your effort and time in providing comments on the earlier licence application.

You are welcome to contact Rebecca Gatwech, Licensing Officer, at [rebecca.gatwech@ecodev.vic.gov.au](mailto:rebecca.gatwech@ecodev.vic.gov.au) if you would like more information. Alternatively, further information is available on our website at <http://earthresources.vic.gov.au/earth-resources-regulation>

Yours sincerely



**Laura Helm**

Director Statutory Authorisations

Date: 21 October 2021