

Ausgold Exploration Pty Limited

# Stakeholder Engagement Plan

## Katanning Gold Project

March 2025

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## Stakeholder Engagement Plan Katanning Gold Project

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| Reviewed and approved by: | Alison Carter            | 10 April 2025 |    |

WSP acknowledges that every project we work on takes place on First Peoples lands. We recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as the first scientists and engineers and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

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# 1 Project background

## 1.1 About Ausgold Limited

Ausgold Limited (Ausgold) is a Perth-based gold exploration and development company with a suite of projects located in some of Australia's most prospective mineral provinces. Ausgold's principal operation is the 100 per cent owned Katanning Gold Project (KGP).

Ausgold holds several other active projects in its portfolio including the Yamarna Joint Venture (JV) and the Doolgunna Station JV in Western Australia, and Cracow in Queensland. These projects are all in close proximity to significant mineral discoveries that are either currently supporting mining operations or are still in the development phase: all are considered highly prospective projects. Progressing the KGP is the company's number one priority, however, Ausgold continues to advance Yamarna, Doolgunna Station and Cracow with low-cost, targeted exploration. Ausgold Limited is listed on the Australian Stock Exchange (ASX) under AUC.

## 1.2 Katanning Gold Project

The KGP is located approximately 40 kilometres northeast of the Wheatbelt town of Katanning in Western Australia's Great Southern region. Ausgold's tenements cover more than 4000 km<sup>2</sup> of the Katanning Greenstone Belt in the southwest corner of the Yilgarn Craton, which hosts some of Australia's largest gold deposits. See Figure 1.1.

The KGP dates back to the mid-1990s and was previously owned by a different company. Ausgold is committed to developing a full-scale mine and wants to be a good neighbour and active community member including through engagement described by this plan.

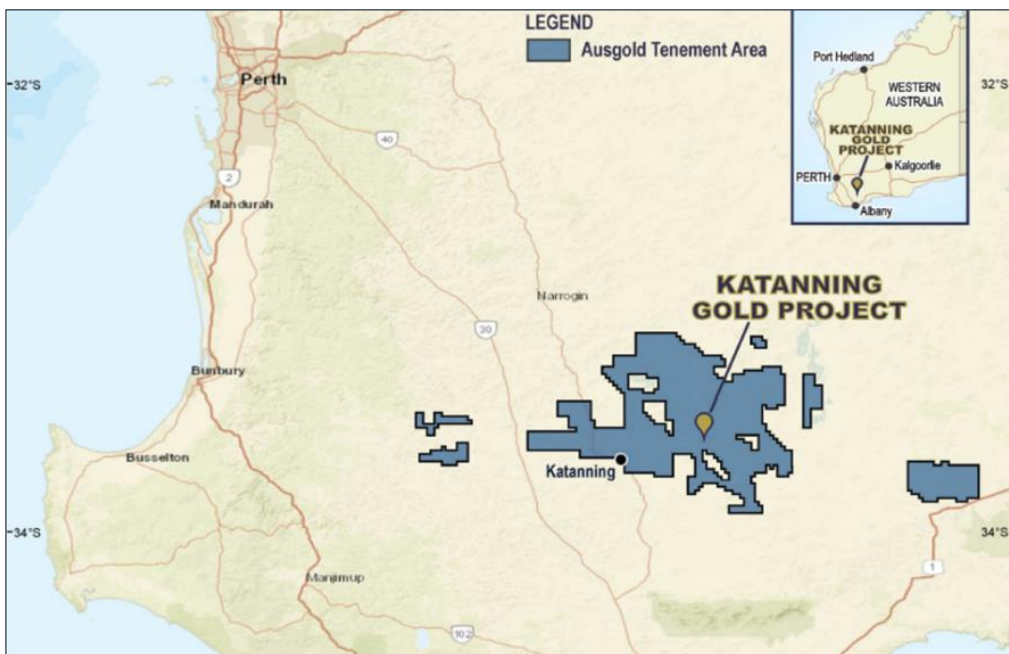


Figure 1.1 Ausgold's exploration (land) holdings

The ore body is close to the surface and will be mined through a series of open pits. Ausgold will build infrastructure surrounding these open pits to operate the mine by storing waste rock and processing the ore. The types of supporting infrastructure may include ore processing facilities, a tailings storage facility, ore storage areas, topsoil stockpiles, water infrastructure, workshops, and mine site offices. The general arrangement of the mine is shown at Figure 1.2.

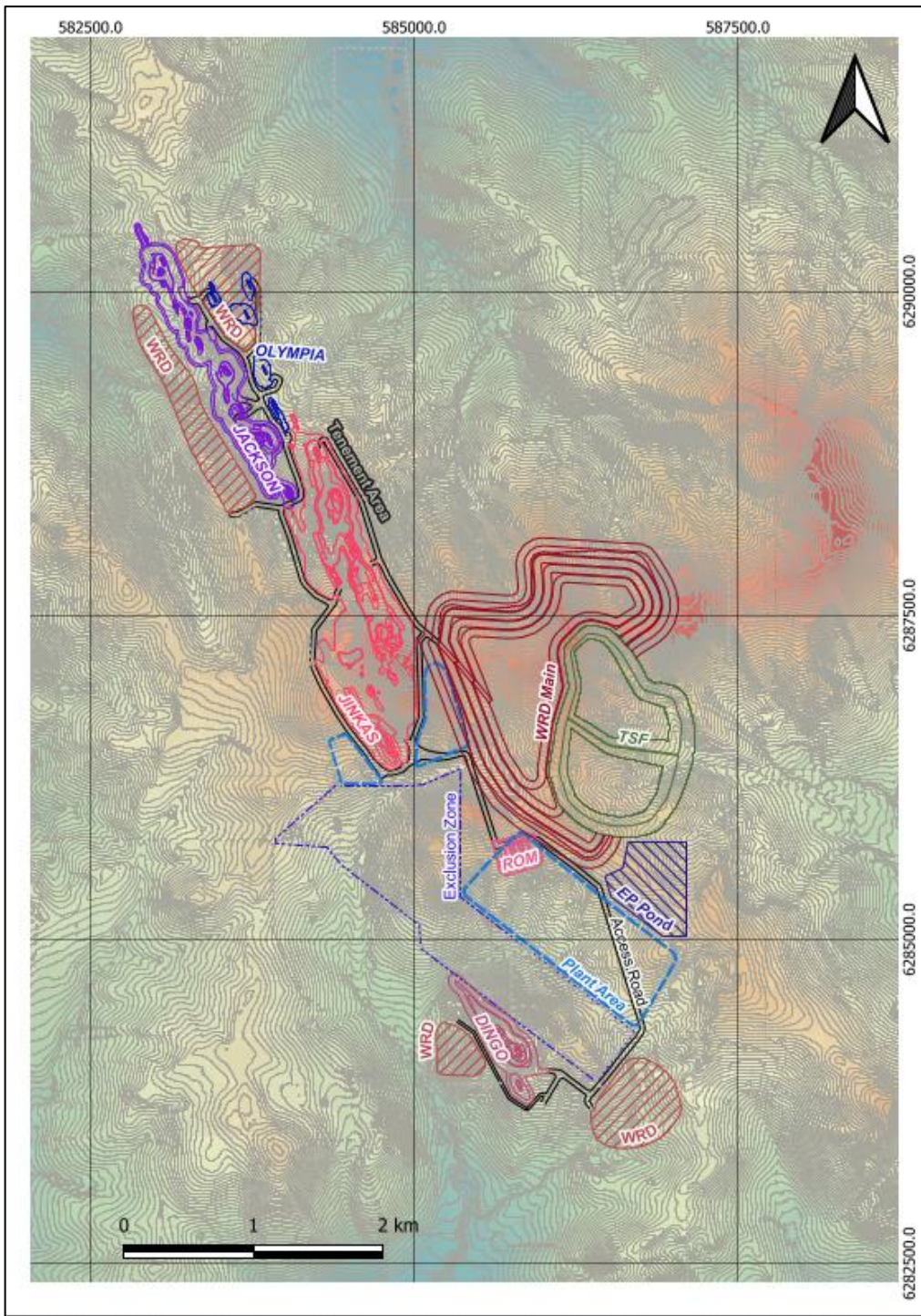


Figure 1.2 Kalgoorlie Gold Project | Mine site arrangement

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## 1.3 Project timeline

Prior to operations commencing on-site, Ausgold requires a formal environmental assessment and will obtain approvals in line with the processes set out by the State and Federal Governments. Ausgold has continued to measure and map the gold in the ore body through ground drilling and testing programs prior to 2024 and into early 2025. The mine is expected to open and commence production in 2027.

Gold doré from the KGP mine will be transported to the Perth Mint and refined into high-purity gold. The KGP mine is expected to process 1.27 million ounces of gold over its 10-year mine life.

During operations, the mine will require approximately 150 full-time employees and will offer opportunities for skills training. Ausgold and its mining contractors will preferentially contract local businesses to provide supporting services.

Below is Ausgold's target development timeline for the KGP. This is subject to change.



Figure 1.3 Ausgold timeline for the KGP

# 2 Stakeholder engagement plan

## 2.1 About this plan

This document (the Plan) sets out an approach to community and stakeholder engagement for the KGP. Plan elements, mechanisms and processes listed below support strategic and effective engagement to yield insights and exchange information relevant to different stakeholder groups.

The purpose of the Plan is to:

- Provide relevant background information on the project including local context
- Summarise past engagement
- Identify and analyse social risks and provide mitigation strategies for each
- Identify and analyse key stakeholders
- Outline key messages for communications and engagement
- Provide a draft engagement implementation plan, which includes the format of each activity.

## 2.2 Plan hierarchy

This Plan forms a suite of policy and planning documents to sustain effective stakeholder engagement, as shown at Figure 2.1 below.

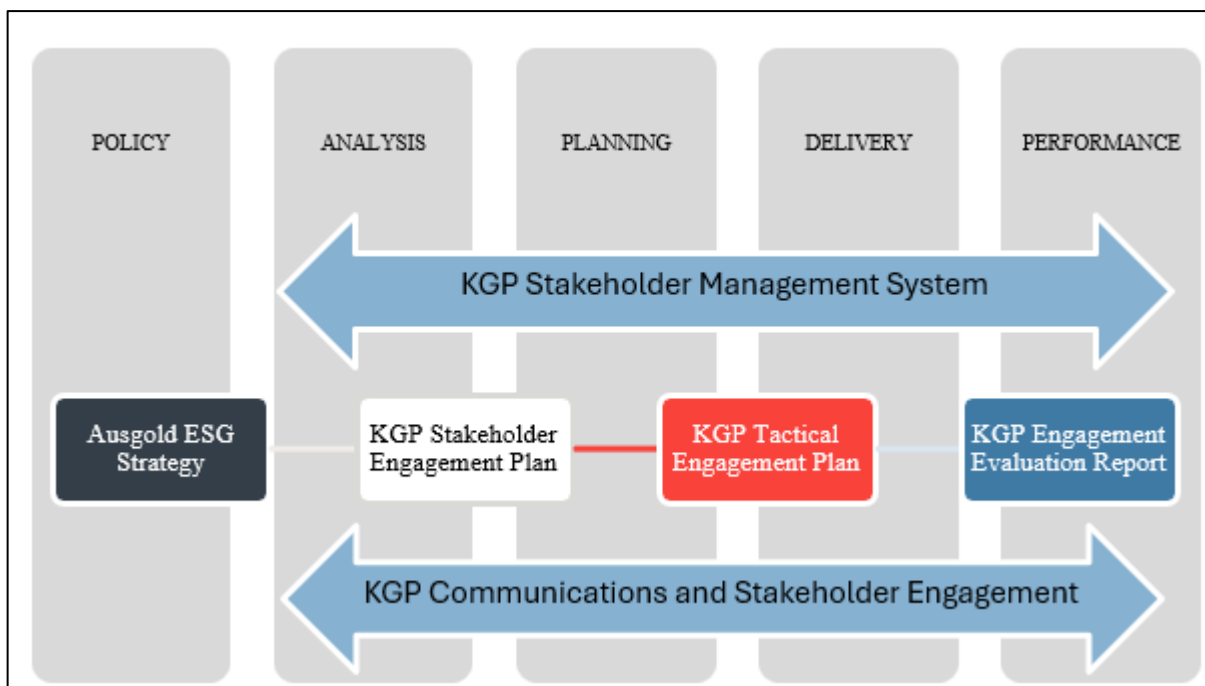


Figure 2.1 Ausgold KGP stakeholder engagement governance process

The Plan is developed and implemented via the KGP Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Planner. The Planner is a Microsoft Excel workbook containing worksheets as follows:

- Full Program
- Three-month Lookahead (April - June 2025)
- Engagement categories
- Stakeholder Groups
- Stakeholder List
- Mailing List
- Communications Channels
- Social Media
- Key Messages
- Engagement Objectives
- Negotiables
- Engagement Channels
- Approvals.


Stakeholder contact details and engagements are stored within the KGP Stakeholder Management System, currently an online platform called Simply Stakeholders.

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## 2.3 Applicable standards, policies and guidelines

The communications and engagement activities within this Plan incorporate and generally align with recommended practice community engagement, per the *International Association for Public Participation (IAP2)*.

[IAP2 Core Values](#) are used as a benchmark that defines the public's role in any public engagement/participation process. The engagement methodology is then tailored to provide the appropriate level of stakeholder involvement in the decision-making process. These levels correspond with the [IAP2 Spectrum](#) (see Figure 2.2).

| INCREASING IMPACT ON THE DECISION  |  |  |   |   |  |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|
|  | INFORM   | CONSULT  | INVOLVE   | COLLABORATE   | EMPOWER  |
| PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL  | To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions. | To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.  | To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.  | To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.                     | To place final decision making in the hands of the public. |
| PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC  | We will keep you informed.   | We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision. | We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision. | We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible. | We will implement what you decide.                         |

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Figure 2.2 IAP2 Spectrum of public participation

## 2.4 Engagement objectives

Messages and activities detailed in the plan may need to be adjusted to reflect any change in the engagement context to optimise key consultation objectives. The overarching engagement objectives for the Project are:

- 1 Build awareness of the Project
- 2 Generate support for the Project on matters of alignment
- 3 Build Ausgold’s reputation locally and positive sentiment towards the company in general
- 4 Gain and maintain community buy-in to the project development, enabling where possible the Project incorporates feedback and inputs by the community.

At an operational level, the communications and stakeholder engagement objectives are to:

- Understand community and stakeholder aspirations, opportunities, issues, and concerns associated with the Project
- Build, develop, and maintain relationships with key stakeholders and the community
- Build, develop, and maintain relationships with community members identifying as Aboriginal, and Traditional Owners and ILUA party in the region
- Satisfy or exceed community and stakeholder expectations for provision of information and engagement
- Satisfy or exceed regulators’ expectations for stakeholder engagement (environmental, development, and other regulatory approvals)
- Actively seek, listen to, address, and monitor any community concerns or requests for information in an open, transparent, and timely manner
- Record and honour commitments made to stakeholders
- Maintain a comprehensive database recording all community and stakeholder interactions.
- In support of these objectives, the Plan stipulates negotiables and non-negotiables to manage expectations and commitments. These are at Section 7.2 Negotiables and non-negotiables.

# 3 KGP regional context

## 3.1 Great Southern region overview

The Great Southern region features a diverse landscape, with the oldest granite ranges in the world, native forests, productive farmlands, award-winning wineries, and coastal scenery. In 2024, the region’s population was 65, 222 people with a median age of 45 years (compared to 38 years in WA). The average family weekly income for the region is \$1,723 compared to \$2,259 in Perth and \$2,214 in Western Australia.<sup>1</sup>

The Noongar people are the Traditional Owners of the lands of the region. The region covers the South West Native Title Settlement, which is the largest in Australian history. Two Indigenous Land Use Agreements are in place in the Great Southern: the Wagyl Kaip and Southern Noongar (WKSNI) Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA), and the Gnaala Karla Booja Indigenous Land Use Agreement. Four per cent of the region’s population identifies as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent (per Australian Bureau of Statistics definition), with the highest proportions based in the Shires of Gnowangerup, Broomehill-Tambellup, and Katanning. The KGP is situated entirely within the WKSNI Aboriginal Corporation ILUA, with a settlement made between the State Government and Traditional Owners in 2021.



Figure 3.1 Map of the Great Southern region. Source: Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC)

### 3.1.1 Labour markets

Residents of the Great Southern work in primary industry, and the services and trade industries, which include agriculture, healthcare and social assistance, education and training, and tourism. As of November 2024, the region supported more than 26,000 jobs. Data from the 2021 Australian Bureau of Statistics census indicate that the Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing industry is the largest regional employer, accounting for 16% of total jobs.<sup>2</sup> The tourism sector accounts for 7% of total employment and is predicted to grow. Limited employment is provided by Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services (0.9%), Information Media and Telecommunications (0.5%), and Mining (0.2%).

### 3.1.2 Liveability

As of February 2025, there were 306 houses, 12 units, and 213 properties with land for sale in the region.<sup>3</sup> The median house price is between \$463,21 and \$515,727 and the median rent is \$423 per week. In 2021, the Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC) invested \$22.1 million (including \$2.6 million in state funding) to construct 52 housing units to help address the shortage of quality, affordable housing. The Great Southern had a building approval

<sup>1</sup> Great Southern Development Commission (2024), <https://gsdc.wa.gov.au/app/uploads/2024/09/GSDC-Annual-Report-23-24-FINAL-web-2.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Great Southern Development Commission (2024), <https://gsdc.wa.gov.au/app/uploads/2024/11/Great-Southern-Economic-Snapshot-Pack-November-2024-Final.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Realestate.com (2025), <https://www.realestate.com.au/buy/property-land-in-great+southern+region,+wa/list-1?activeSort=relevance&sourcePage=rea:homepage&sourceElement=suburb-select:recent%20searches%20tiles>

value of \$235 million during the 2023-2024 financial year.<sup>4</sup> Engagement with various project stakeholders has also identified that housing remains a priority issue across Great Southern local government areas (LGAs).

### 3.1.3 *Social vulnerability*

The Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) combines Census data such as income, education, employment, occupation, housing, and family structure to summarise the socio-economic characteristics of an area. A score is calculated to provide a comparison of socio-economic status across defined populations, including at the LGA level. The Great Southern region has a combined SEIFA score of 983, indicating a relative disadvantage compared with broader Western Australia (score = 1,016).<sup>5</sup>

### 3.1.4 *Infrastructure*

The Great Southern region has three key road routes:

- Albany Highway runs north-south between Perth and Albany and serves as the main route connecting the region to the state capital.
- Great Southern Highway runs north-south between York and Cranbrook and serves as a main route for accessing Katanning and areas further south.
- South Coast Highway spans the southern coast from Walpole to Esperance, passing through Denmark and Albany.

Rail networks offer regional freight servicing to the agricultural industry. Currently, there are no regular passenger rail services in the region. The Great Southern Railway Line runs from the Port of Albany northwards to Beverley. Arc Infrastructure manages the rail line, and most movements are of CBH Group grain trains out of the Albany and Wagin depots.

The Port of Albany is the key sea gateway for the region. The port primarily handles bulk commodities such as grain, woodchips, and minerals.

Albany Regional Airport connects the region with Perth, Carnarvon, Esperance, and Monkey Mia, supporting both passenger travel and air freight services. There is also a small, regional airport in Katanning which is used by the Royal Flying Doctor Service, Emergency Services, Private Users and the Katanning Aero Club. The airport is owned and operated by the Katanning Shire Council.

### 3.1.5 *Disaster recovery and resilience*

Disaster recovery initiatives and services in the Great Southern Region focus on natural disasters such as bushfires, storms, and floods. Disaster recovery and emergency management are coordinated at the regional and LGA level, with active input from community volunteers.

In 2023, two Drought Resilience Plans were developed for the Great Southern region, an Inland and a Coastal Plan. The plans are funded by the Federal Government and identify actions for communities, local governments, and the agricultural sector to prepare for future droughts. Organisations such as the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES), and emergency management services like Bush Fire Ready, contribute to supporting disaster recovery. Many local emergency services are staffed by volunteers.

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<sup>4</sup> Great Southern Development Commission (2024), <https://www.gsd.c.wa.gov.au/app/uploads/2024/11/Great-Southern-Housing-Snapshot-Pack-November-2024-Final.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> WA Primary Health Alliance (2022), [https://www.wapha.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Needs-Assessment\\_Country-WA\\_Great-Southern.pdf](https://www.wapha.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Needs-Assessment_Country-WA_Great-Southern.pdf)

# 4 KGP location profile

## 4.1 KGP geographical context

While the town of Katanning is considered the major community of relevance to the KGP, several other communities will likely be involved with the project either through direct employment or service provision.

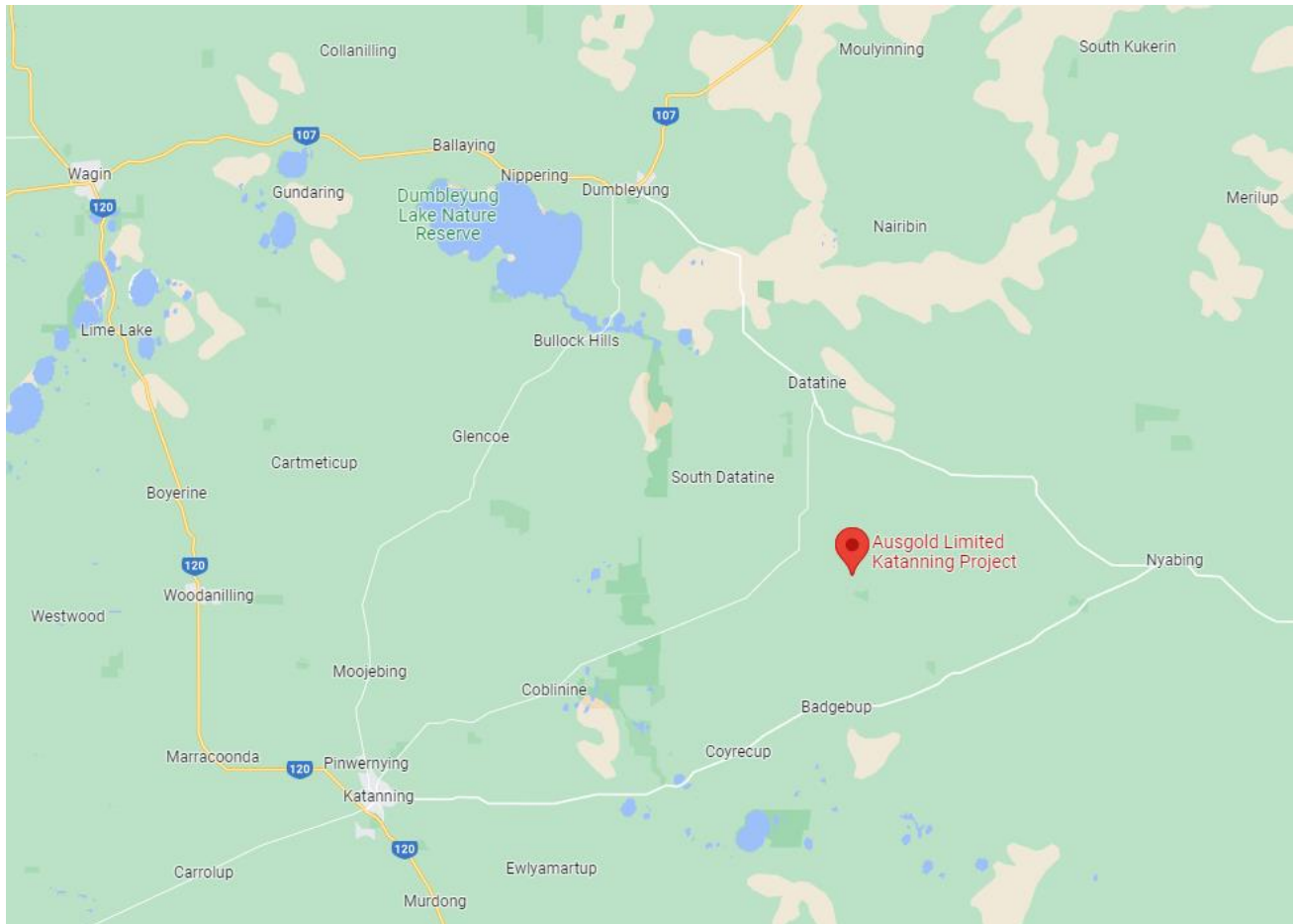


Figure 4.1 Ausgold's KGP operations in context with surrounding towns. Source: Google Maps

Areas of specific interest include Katanning, Dumbleyung, and Nyabing shown at Figure 4.1. Other nearby towns are:

- Badgebup
- Wagin
- Woodanilling.

---

## 4.2 Significant localities

### 4.2.1 Shire of Katanning (LGA)

The Shire of Katanning is a local government area located in the Great Southern region of Western Australia, approximately 280 kilometres southeast of Perth. Known for its rich agricultural history, Katanning is a diverse and vibrant community with a strong multicultural heritage. The region is home to several endemic species, including the endangered southern brown bandicoot and Carnaby's black cockatoo, which rely on remaining woodland for nesting and feeding. Lake Ewlyamartup, 17km east of Katanning, provides essential habitat for 95 bird species and is popular for recreational activities.<sup>6</sup>

Katanning features a \$5 million park at the town's entrance which hosts an extensive playground and facilities for visitors, funded by the State Government's Royalty for Regions Scheme.<sup>7</sup> The Katanning Sheep Yard located on the outskirts of town is the southern hemisphere's largest covered facility. The Western Australian Meat Marketing Cooperative (WAMMCO) owns the local abattoir and is one of the major employers in Katanning. Sheep are farmed for meat and merino wool.



Figure 4.2 Shire of Katanning. Source: ABS 2021

Katanning is relatively well serviced by government agencies, although the main regional hub for these services is Albany, around 170km south. Albany has well-resourced health, education, and community facilities. As with most regional areas, medical facilities are often short-staffed and access to specialist services is not consistent.

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<sup>6</sup> Shire of Katanning (2025), <https://www.katanning.wa.gov.au/explore/things-to-see-amp;-do/lake-ewlyamartup.aspx>

<sup>7</sup> Shire of Katanning (2025), <https://www.katanning.wa.gov.au/development/projects-initiatives/all-ages-playground.aspx>

Table 4.1 Results from 2021 Census: Katanning: Geography type local government areas

| Description   | Region (LGA 54340)  |
|---|---|
| <b>People and population</b>                            |   |
| Estimated resident population (no.)                     | 4,057   |
| Families  | 1,010   |
| Median age  | 39  |
| Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples (%)       | 8.8   |
| Top 3 countries of birth (%)                            | Australia (67.7)<br>Myanmar (3.3)<br>New Zealand (3.3)  |
| <b>Economy and industry</b>                             |   |
| Working age population (aged 15 and over) (%)           | 58.5  |
| Top 3 Methods of Travel (employed aged 15 and over) (%) | Car, as driver (67.3)<br>Car, as passenger (7.9)<br>Walked only (4.8)                           |
| Top 3 Industries (%)                                    | Meat Processing (13.7)<br>Primary Education (4.6)<br>Hospitals excl Psychiatric Hospitals (4.6) |
| Median weekly income (\$)                               | Personal (712)<br>Family (1,646)<br>Household (1,343)   |
| Median weekly rent (\$)                                 | 200   |
| <b>Aboriginal cultural heritage</b>                     |   |
| Land Use Agreement(s)                                   | Wagyl Kaip and Southern Noongar Indigenous Land Use Agreement                                   |
| Cultural heritage                                       | 9 Registered Sites, 12 Lodged   |

#### 4.2.2 Nyabing (Town)

Nyabing is a small rural town located in the Shire of Kent in the Great Southern region of Western Australia, about 320 kilometres southeast of Perth. Nyabing has strong agricultural roots and is key to the region's wool and cereal industries as a hub for grain and sheep farming. It is a CBH grain receival site in the Albany zone. Nyabing is approximately 20 minutes from the Ausgold KGP project site by road.

The town is known for its efforts in sustainability and community-driven development, like the Nyabing Community Hub project, which transformed a former hotel into a multifunctional space supporting local businesses and services. Nyabing borders Chinocup Nature Reserve, a hyper-saline lake system that supports many invertebrate and waterbird species, and several halophytic species of flora like saltbush and samphire.



Figure 4.3 Town of Nyabing. Source: ABS 2021

Table 4.2 Results from 2021 Census: Nyabing: Geography type suburbs and localities

| Description                                       | Region (SAL 51171) |
|---|--------------------|
| <b>People and population</b>                      |                    |
| Estimated resident population (no.)               | 260                |
| Families  | 63                 |
| Median age  | 37                 |
| Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples (%) | 1.2                |

| Description  | Region (SAL 51171)  |
|--|---|
| Top 3 countries of birth (%)                               | Australia (81.5)<br>England (2.3)<br>Estonia (2.3)  |
| <b>Economy and industry</b>                                |   |
| Working age population (aged 15 and over) (%)              | 70.8  |
| Top 3 methods of travel<br>(employed aged 15 and over) (%) | Car, as a driver (54.7)<br>Walked only (10.2)<br>Truck (2.2)  |
| Top 3 industries (%)                                       | Grain-sheep or Grain-Beef Cattle Farming (24.8)<br>Other Grain Growing (20.4)<br>Local Government Administration (13.1) |
| Median weekly income (\$)                                  | Personal (1,092)<br>Family (2,104)<br>Household (1,766)   |
| Median weekly rent (\$)                                    | 95  |
| <b>Aboriginal cultural heritage</b>                        |   |
| Land Use Agreement(s)                                      | Wagyl Kaip and Southern Noongar Indigenous Land Use Agreement   |
| Cultural heritage  | 1 Registered Site, 11 Lodged  |

## 4.3 Traditional owners

Ausgold's broader tenement holdings for the KGP are on Koreng (or Goreng) land, within Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar lands near the border of Ballardong lands. These areas are part of the South West Native Title Settlement (or Single Noongar Claim), which was determined under the Commonwealth Native Title legislation in April 2021. The full determination involved approximately 30,000 Noongar people and covers 200,000 km<sup>2</sup> of the south-west region of WA covered by six ILUAs for corresponding areas (see Figure 4.4).

The Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar region includes the Menang, Koreng (or Goreng), Keneang, Wilman, and Wudjari language groups from the Great Southern area of Western Australia. The region is approximately 52,246 km<sup>2</sup> and includes the towns of Albany, Bremer Bay, Boyup Brook, Bridgetown, Cranbrook, Denmark, Gnowangerup, Hopetoun, Jerramungup, Katanning, Kojonup, Mt Barker, Nyabing, Ravensthorpe, Tambellup, and Walpole.

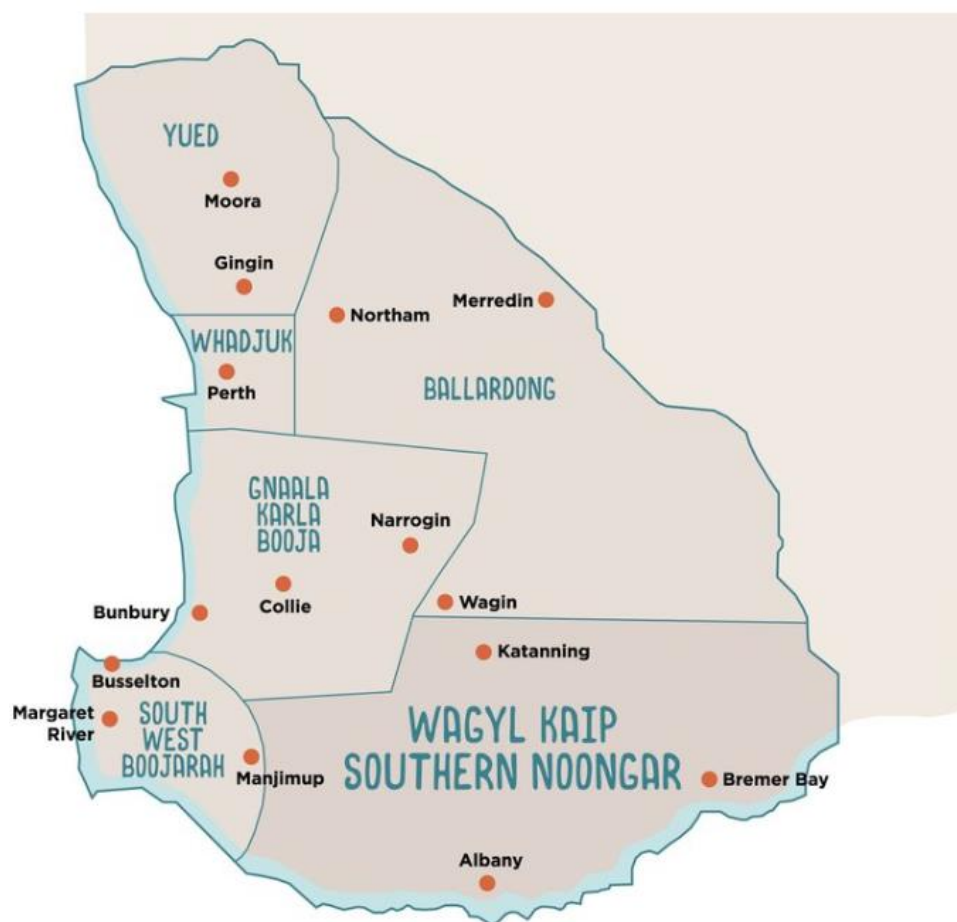


Figure 4.4 Map of the South West Native Title Settlement area. Source: Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar.

### 4.3.1 Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar Aboriginal Corporation

The Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar (WKSAN) Aboriginal Corporation represents the Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar Aboriginal people as part of the South West Native Title Settlement. The South West Native Title Settlement resulted in the Wagyl Kaip and Southern Noongar Indigenous Land Use Agreement being established which extinguished the Native Title.

The Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar Aboriginal Corporation Strategic Plan 2023-26 outlines key areas of strategic focus, including:

- *Our voice: Become the recognised voice of the WKSAN Nation and use that voice for our people and our region.*

- *Our Corporation: Leverage the Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) to achieve social and economic outcomes for our people, strengthen culture, and protect land and sea.*
- *Our relationships: Build relationships with other organisations to create and improve services and programs for WКСN people, culture, land, and sea.*<sup>8</sup>

#### 4.3.2 *Badgebup Aboriginal Corporation*

The Badgebup Aboriginal Corporation was established in 2012 to build capacity in the region in Koreng country and develop a 5-year action plan endorsed by the Wagyl Kaip Working Party. The Badgebup Aboriginal Corporation is focused on leading sustainable business enterprises in the Great Southern region, providing employment and training opportunities for local Noongar people, specialising in land management, bush foods, seed collecting and cultural heritage tours. In 2018, the corporation established the Ngoolark Rangers through a partnership with Greening Australia<sup>9</sup>.

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<sup>8</sup> Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar (2023), <https://wagylkaip.org.au/strategic-plan>

<sup>9</sup> Badgebup Aboriginal Corporation (2025), <https://badgebup.org.au/badgebup-aboriginal-corporation>

## 5 Social risk analysis

A separate Social Risk Register is maintained to identify, assess and manage social risks associated with Project activities. The register provides a description of each risk, assesses its likelihood and severity, identifies effects on Ausgold and the community, and outlines mitigation measures and opportunities linked to each risk.

This Plan supports integration and management of social risks by mapping corresponding communication and engagement tools that support or constitute risk controls. Key messages that correspond with social risks are documented in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan Program and indicated in the Social Risk Register. Consultation to date indicates risks at approvals and project construction and operations phases, can be categorised as shown at Table 5.1.

Table 5.1 KGP Count of social risks by engagement domain and risk category

| <b>Engagement category and social risk category</b> | <b>Count</b> |
|---|--------------|
| <b>Community</b>                                    | <b>16</b>    |
| Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Native Title       | 3            |
| Communications and community engagement             | 6            |
| Environmental                                       | 2            |
| People – Landowners                                 | 1            |
| People – Local community                            | 3            |
| Supply Chains                                       | 1            |
| <b>Economic</b>                                     | <b>7</b>     |
| People – Landowners                                 | 2            |
| People – Livelihoods                                | 3            |
| People – Local community                            | 2            |
| <b>Environmental</b>                                | <b>3</b>     |
| Environmental                                       | 3            |
| <b>Operational</b>                                  | <b>3</b>     |
| People – Health and wellbeing                       | 2            |
| Roads and infrastructure                            | 1            |
| <b>Grand Total</b>                                  | <b>29</b>    |

The Risk Register is a live document to be updated during the project. The Risk Register is a supplement to social impact assessment and management. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

### 5.1.1 Aboriginal cultural heritage sites of significance

Jinka Hill is a registered Aboriginal heritage site on the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System (ACHIS), within the KGP tenements (Site 5353 Jinker/Jinka's Hill)<sup>10</sup>. It is a site restricted to access by men only. The site features an Aboriginal stone arrangement which relates to Southern Noongar cultural heritage and storytelling not detailed on the ACHIS public database (see Figure 5.1).

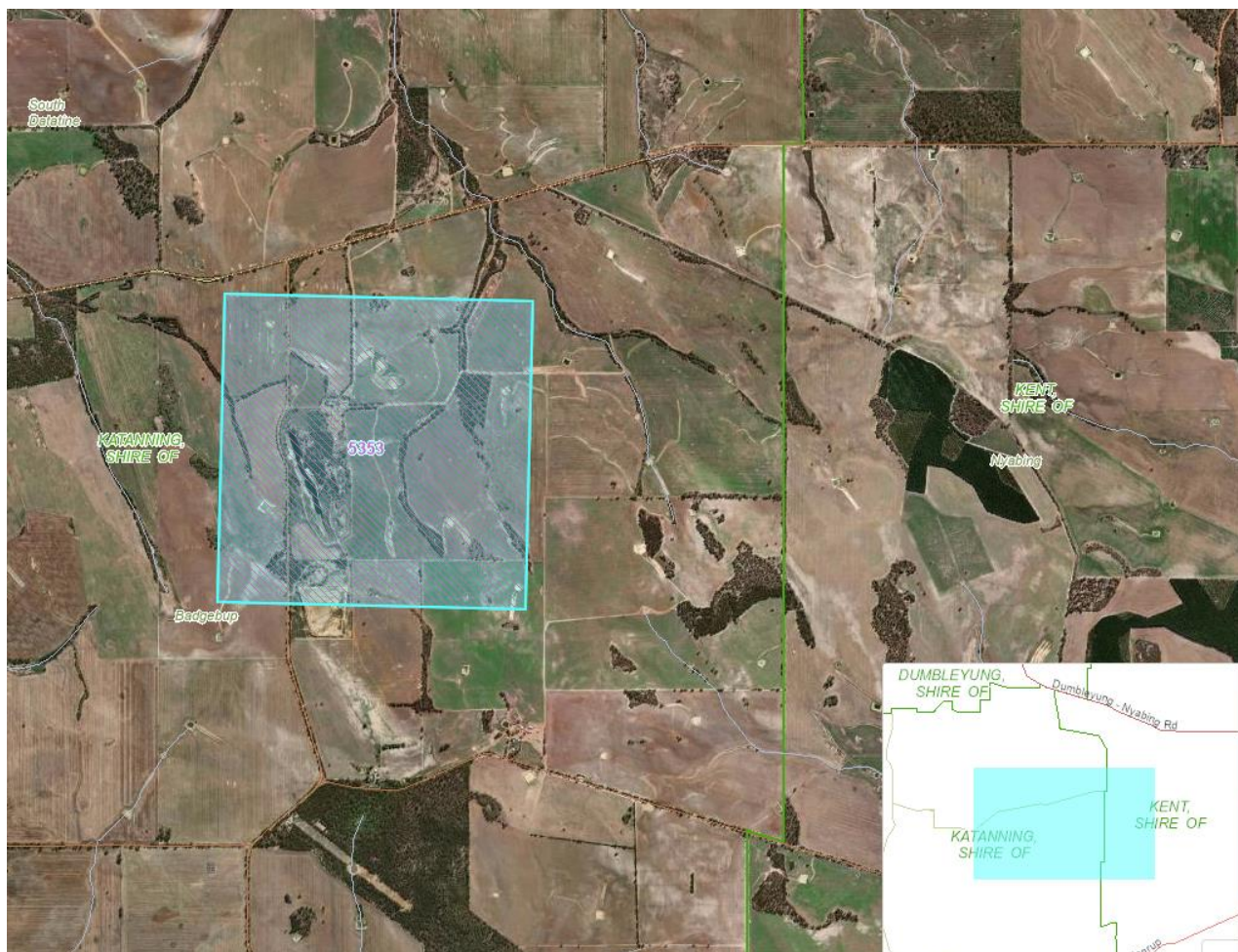


Figure 5.1 Registered Aboriginal site 5353 Jinker/Jinka Hill Source: ACHIS, 2025

The site will be fully demolished for the KGP to develop an open pit at Jinka Hill. Ausgold has informed the Wagyl Kaip Aboriginal Corporation and members of the Southern Noongar cultural advisory committee of this planned destruction. Consultation is continuing regarding measures to compensate for the loss of cultural heritage and associated impact on Traditional Owners. Ausgold wishes to develop a comprehensive Cultural Heritage Management Plan to support protection and mitigation of damage to other cultural heritage.

In the past, proponents including Ausgold have commissioned visits and salvage surveys at the site involving local male Southern Noongar knowledge holders as part of regulatory obligations under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2021*. Terra Rosa Consulting conducted a Heritage Survey of Jinka Hill and recorded the significance of the site, which has been documented and considered by Ausgold. Reports developed by Terra Rosa Consulting as guided by knowledge holders, stated the importance of maintaining the integrity of the soil beneath the stone arrangement and the significant impact to cultural heritage if the site is disturbed.

<sup>10</sup> Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (2025), <https://espatial.dplh.wa.gov.au/ACHIS/index.html?viewer=ACHIS>

After consultation and investigation with South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC) and Traditional Owners, on 24 January 2018, Ausgold received a Ministerial consent under Section 18 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* relating to exploration and mining on and around the site on 24 January 2018 with a number of conditions relating to salvage opportunities and consultation.

A summary of activities relating to Aboriginal cultural heritage surveys is at Appendix A.

### 5.1.2 *Identified risks*

The key risks relating to Aboriginal Cultural Heritage include:

- Grief and cultural loss experienced by Aboriginal people, particularly Traditional Owners due to the destruction and removal of the heritage site
- Lack of agreement on the terms of a Cultural Heritage Management Plan with the Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar Aboriginal Corporation (WKAC)
- Heritage value of Jinka Hill may not be fully documented by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH)
- Aboriginal community members are not able to share in the benefits of the KGP, including economic and social.

These risks will be mitigated by following the protocols of managing and supporting the preservation of Aboriginal heritage through corporate commitments and regulatory compliance, and continuing consultation with the Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar Aboriginal Corporation and other Traditional Owners.

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## 5.2 Environment

### 5.2.1 *Vegetation*

The KGP is situated in farmland that has been progressively cleared since its use for agriculture and has very little remnant native vegetation which forms intact habitat. The remaining eucalyptus woodlands are now highly protected by virtue of historical broadscale clearing. Offsets are typically required to be 'like for like' by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA). Project development is premised on avoidance of intact stands of eucalypt woodlands and native heathlands, where design allows.

### 5.2.2 *Fauna*

Threatened species present in the largest woodland habitat, known as the Wurgubup Reserve near the proposed KGP mine site and coincident with part of M70/488, include the Red-tailed Phascogale and Carnaby's Black Cockatoo. The Red-tailed Phascogale is a small carnivorous marsupial that makes its habitat in old logs and trees with ground cover. The Carnaby's Black Cockatoo is also present and is endemic to southwest Western Australia. Carnaby's Black Cockatoos require eucalypt woodland for nesting and eat seeds of native and non-native plant species and insect larvae.

### 5.2.3 *Water*

Gold mining requires a constant and reliable source of water to feed into the processing plant, however, mining processes can utilise brackish or saline waters. A potential positive agricultural effect of the KGP is that mining operations may lower the regional saline water table. Ausgold has conducted hydrogeology investigations to understand the effects to inform detailed environmental assessments and conclusions on potential benefits.

### 5.2.4 *Identified risks*

- Potential damage, either real or perceived, to local flora/vegetation, fauna, and landforms. This could lead to a decline in environmental and aesthetic values and impact the community's sense of place.

- Groundwater usage and soil-health implications, with reduced water access to shallow fresh aquifers or unforeseen soil salinity potentially harming farming, businesses, and the surrounding ecosystem.
- Visual amenity impacts from construction and mining activities on the area's aesthetic appeal in the view of the community.
- Vehicle strikes on roads pose a threat to fauna and livestock.
- Environmental considerations concerning the security of the KGP's tailings storage facility, including potential overflow events or seepage.

# 6 Stakeholder analysis

## 6.1 Stakeholder groups

Community and stakeholder engagement will be tailored to meet the specific needs of the engagement and communication preferences of each of the Project’s stakeholder groups. Stakeholder categories are provided at Table 6.1. All stakeholder data and categorisation is within the KGP Stakeholder Management System. A summary of stakeholder records by individual and organisation is provided at Appendix B.

Table 6.1 KGP Stakeholder categories and sub-categories

| <b>Government</b>                 | <b>First Nations</b>    | <b>Industry development</b> | <b>Community services</b> | <b>Local community</b>                 | <b>Operational</b> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--|--------------------|
| Federal Government Representative | Aboriginal Individual   | Agriculture                 | Education                 | Community/ Non-Government Organisation | Ausgold Workforce  |
| Federal Government Department     | Aboriginal Organisation | Hospitality                 | Healthcare                | Faith Leaders                          | Ausgold Board      |
| State Government Representative   | Traditional Owner/s     | Local Business              | Emergency Response        | Landowner                              | Associate          |
| State Government Department       |                         | Development Organisation    | Media                     | Local Resident                         |                    |
| Local Government Councillor       |                         | Retail                      |                           | Union                                  |                    |
| Local Government Office           |                         |                             |                           |  |                    |

## 6.2 Stakeholder influence/interest

Ausgold will provide relevant and targeted information throughout the Project in response to emerging issues and inputs provided through engagement activities. Stakeholder engagement (interactions) and associated sentiment should be documented within the KGP Stakeholder Management System to support tactical engagement and communications.

# 7 Approach to communications and engagement

## 7.1 Overview

Ausgold is committed to meaningful engagement throughout the project lifecycle with the community and its stakeholders. Ausgold will share public information and updates with the community to provide an indication of progress through design, approvals, construction, and operations, and engage with relevant stakeholders where project negotiables are present.

## 7.2 Negotiables and non-negotiables

The scope for ‘negotiables’ and ‘non-negotiables’ identified at this stage of the project are available below. The negotiable and non-negotiables will be reviewed bi-annually to remain current. This list is not exhaustive and should be used as a guide for discussions and engagement opportunities with the community and stakeholders.

Table 7.1 Project negotiables

| Negotiables  | Operational phase                                     |
|--|---|
| Design of methods of communication and engagement mechanisms                                 | Exploration<br>Approvals<br>Construction<br>Operation |
| Community activities, sponsorships and investments   | Exploration   |
| Communications and acceptable notification timeframes  | Exploration   |
| Level and type of engagement by Ausgold  | Approvals   |
| Communication mediums for the visual design of the site (3D, video, models, images etc.)     | Approvals   |
| Types of offsets used to account for significant residual environmental effects              | Approvals   |
| Use of contractors for construction and operations   | Construction<br>Operations                            |
| Siting and size of workers' accommodation village  | Construction<br>Operation                             |
| Public accessibility of the KGP site (tours, etc)  | Operation   |
| Emergency response access for community and local emergency services                         | Operation   |
| Local employment, creation of apprenticeships and traineeships                               | Operation   |
| Local supply and “buy local” procedures  | Construction<br>Operation<br>Closure                  |
| Community activities and social investments  | Exploration<br>Approvals<br>Construction<br>Operation |
| Design of the future site, including heritage interpretation and locations for community use | Closure   |

| <b>Negotiables</b>  | <b>Operational phase</b> |
|---|--------------------------|
| Land formed features of the site, subject to DEMIRS' Mining Act | Closure                  |
| Future access to and from the site                              | Closure                  |

Table 7.2 Project non-negotiables

| <b>Non-negotiables</b>   | <b>Theme</b>   |
|--|--|
| Existence and location of Ausgold's mining exploration   | Exploration  |
| Compliance with mining/environmental standards   | Exploration  |
| Safe, lawful use of road infrastructure  | Exploration<br>Construction<br>Operations<br>Closure |
| Right to pursue, develop and operate a mining operation  | Approvals  |
| Access to available resources i.e., land, power, water, minerals   | Approvals  |
| Independent statutory processes for environmental assessment and approvals   | Approvals  |
| Adoption of offsets to account for significant residual environmental effects  | Approvals  |
| Compliance with mining and environmental standards and regulations   | Construction   |
| Access to labour resources<br>"Buy Local" principle  | Construction/<br>Operations                          |
| Minimise the demand from workforce purchasing private houses in Katanning and regional towns by building and operating a Worker's Village on suitably zoned land | Construction/<br>Operation                           |
| Payment of royalties and other taxes   | Operation  |
| Compliance with mining and environmental standards and regulations (global/state/local/corporate)  | Closure  |
| Obligation to rehabilitate to meet WA legislative requirements   | Closure  |
| Adopt planning scheme uses that establish potential post-mining land uses  | Closure  |

## 7.3 Enquiries, feedback and response management

Ausgold has established a dedicated community email address and mobile number. This is to be included in all communications materials, directing enquiries to one point of contact. All enquiries and complaints should be responded to promptly to ensure concerns are investigated and addressed.

Community email: [community@ausgoldlimited.com](mailto:community@ausgoldlimited.com). Dedicated community mobile: [0423 802 725](tel:0423802725).

## 7.4 Team structure and escalation

The General Manager, Planning, Environment, and Approvals is responsible for providing stakeholder engagement services on the KGP. In all instances, approval by the General Manager, Planning, Environment, and Approvals is required for any internal or external communications or engagement.

In the event an enquiry or complaint is received through another team member, it will be provided to the General Manager, Planning, Environment, and Approvals, who may escalate the matter or seek further guidance through the senior executive or the Board. The Management team is illustrated at Figure 7.1 below.

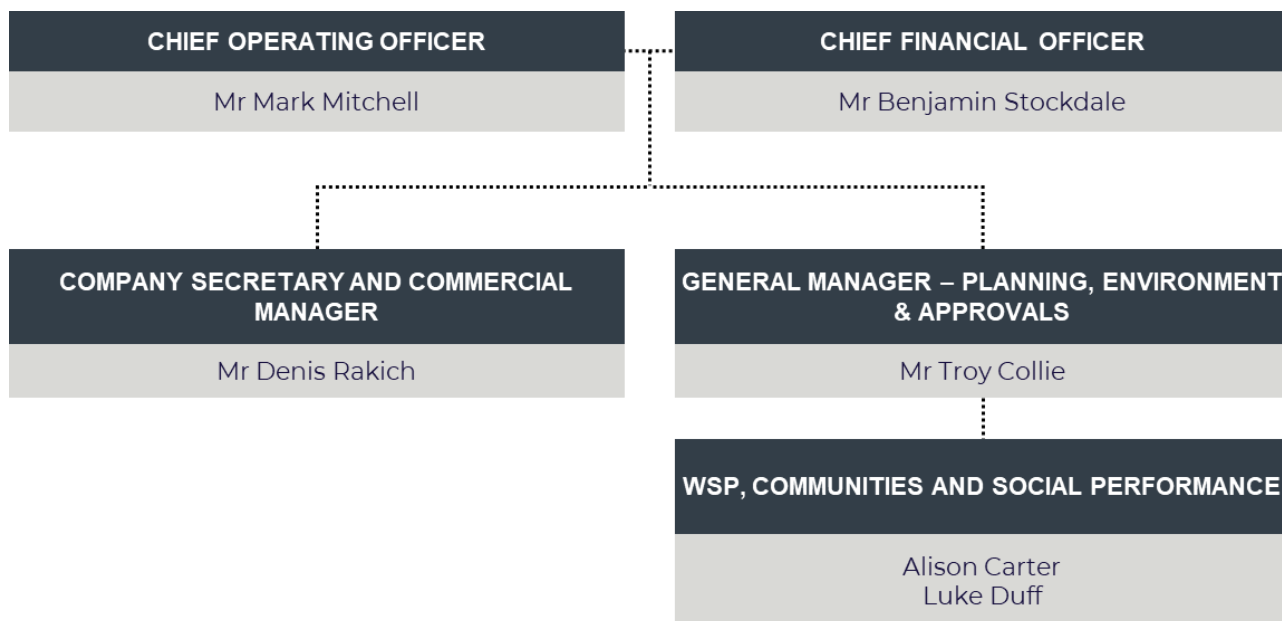


Figure 7.1 KGP engagement management team structure

## 7.5 Recording and reporting engagements

Ausgold records engagement with stakeholders within the KGP Stakeholder Engagement Management System *Simply Stakeholders* platform. The platform captures information on interactions with stakeholders as a record-keeping mechanism to demonstrate past engagement and conversations. The tool is also used to record future actions and commitments.

Information recorded in the system includes, but is not limited to:

- Method of contact
- Subject
- Name
- Organisation
- Topic of enquiry/complaint
- Sentiment
- Status (open/responded/closed/deferred)
- Date received
- Date closed (responded)
- Resolution summary.

## 7.6 Branding

All communications material will be consistent with Ausgold’s Style Guide and will include Ausgold’s logo. Other logos will not appear on public-facing communications materials unless explicitly agreed by Ausgold. All external communication materials will be branded as Ausgold.

# 8 Key messages

Key Messages present consistent information aligned to Ausgold policy, commitments and priorities and social risks.

---

## 8.1 Project overview

### 8.1.1 Primary message:

- Over the 10 years that we have been undertaking technical studies; we have learned more about our resources and have seen good results. We are committed to making this project a reality. Mining projects of this scale do take time to establish, and we still need to go through an extensive feasibility assessment, a government approval process and lock in financing.

### 8.1.2 Secondary messaging:

- We understand this project has been talked about for a long time and included a start and stop in the mid-1990s under another company; we can appreciate that this has been frustrating for the community and its caused confusion.
  - Ausgold is continuing to make progress towards realising a project as we have been conducting exploration activities.
  - Although our current timelines are subject to change, the earliest anticipated construction date is 2026.
- 

## 8.2 Project communications and engagement

### 8.2.1 Primary message:

- We want to be a good neighbours and active community members. You can call us at any time on our Community Mobile (0423 802 725) and one of our team will respond to discuss the project. You can also contact us via email at [community@ausgoldlimited.com](mailto:community@ausgoldlimited.com). To view the latest project information or complete a contact form, visit the Ausgold website ([ausgoldlimited.com](http://ausgoldlimited.com)). Finally, you can also share your views through one of our Community Reference Group (CRG) representatives.

### 8.2.2 Secondary messaging:

- We will always prioritise providing the community and the Shires that support you with project information where we can do so.
- As part of project planning, we will undertake a range of studies, including a Socio-economic Impact Assessment to help us better understand the impact of our project on the region.
- Ausgold want to engage with you now and into the future, for the life of our mine, so please tell us how you would like to be engaged and if there is anything we're doing now that we could be doing differently.
- Our Community Reference Group will consider aspects of the KGP in the context of community experience and expectations to help make decisions as project plans progress.
- The Reference Group will work together to identify and develop initiatives and activities that support biodiversity, community resilience and prosperity.
- The Reference Group will enable an exchange of information between Ausgold and representatives from the community, business, and government on defined topics, as follows:
  - Civic infrastructure and services

- Community, culture and assets
  - Land, vegetation and water resources
  - Local economic development.
- 

## 8.3 Environmental

### 8.3.1 *Primary message:*

- The majority of the KGP will be developed on cleared farmed land, and Ausgold will limit vegetation clearing during the design and planning phase and work to restore lands before and after closure. We will adopt offsetting measures to account for native vegetation losses; these aim to enhance current landscape connectivity and biodiversity values.
- KGP mining processes draw on deep groundwater will not reduce any surface or fresh water available for farming or land management, and all non-fresh water used at the KGP mine will be retained on the site.

### 8.3.2 *Secondary messaging:*

- Land clearing in the past (for farming, roads and townships) has reduced the habitat and presence of native flora, and fauna in the woodlands and heathlands of WA's Wheatbelt.
- Patches and parcels of eucalypt bushland and chenopod shrublands (saltbush) stand on and around the KGP site.
- Carnaby's Black Cockatoo, Red-tailed Phascogales and feral pests (cats and foxes) have all been recorded in nearby extensive woodlands. Ausgold plans to contribute to feral pest reduction and native biota enhancements.
- Deep, saline groundwater will be abstracted for KGP mining and processing. This could indirectly improve nearby land quality by reducing the volume of saline water in the district.
- No "salty" water will be released to the natural environment. Ausgold will recycle and re-use all water at the KGP mine or the water will finally evaporate.
- Ausgold is committed to responsible management of the land it is permitted to explore and develop for the KGP mine. Ausgold will restore the natural environment at the mine site and beyond.
- WA mines are regulated, and all operational and mine closure plans must be examined and approved by government authorities. These plans show how the land can be rehabilitated during the mining project to meet regulatory, interest group, and community expectations.
- Ausgold views partnerships as an important way to meet commitments about environmental management. We wish to work with local groups on seed collection and native plantings, support existing programs, or help create new ones. From 2025, seeds from local native flora will be collected to help:
  - Grow nursery plant stock to replenish parts of the countryside near the KGP mine.
  - Revegetate to enhance natural corridors and provide links for native fauna to move between remnant vegetation.
  - Stabilise the landscape on the KGP site after mining.
  - Support decarbonisation.

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## 8.4 Aboriginal cultural heritage and engagement

### 8.4.1 *Primary message:*

- Ausgold acknowledges the Noongar People as traditional custodians of the lands in which we live and work, in Koreng country in the northern part of the Wagyl Kaip region. We pay respect to their culture and traditions, and to their elders, past and present.
- Ausgold is committed to engaging with Southern Noongar people through the key steps of the project.

### 8.4.2 *Secondary messaging:*

- Ausgold has been engaging with the Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar People since 2014 and will continue this engagement into planning, construction, operations, and post-closure planning and implementation.
- In 2018, Ausgold received regulatory permission (a Section 18 consent under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972) to carry out its activities on land, including at Jinka’s Hill (Site ID5353).
- In 2020, Ausgold signed Noongar Standard Heritage Agreements with Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar Aboriginal Corporation for activities related to exploration.

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## 8.5 Project timeline

### 8.5.1 *Primary message:*

- The planning and design of the Katanning Gold Project will continue throughout 2025. From early 2026, we will move to approval and financing, followed by the commencement of construction in mid-to-late 2026. We expect our first gold pour to take place in 2027.

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## 8.6 Operational Impacts

### 8.6.1 *Primary message:*

- Once the KGP mine is approved, constructed and operating, dust and noise will be managed by technical measures such as acoustic dampening (noise reduction), barriers, and water sprayers. In the unlikely event of a nuisance, we have a community email ([community@ausgoldlimited.com](mailto:community@ausgoldlimited.com)) and dedicated community mobile (0423 802 725) available for feedback.
- Pits mined in the northern zone will cross the Warren Road within the Shire reserve and mined ore will be trucked back to the processing plant. Ausgold is closely examining ways to avoid permanent or long-term closure of the Warren Road carriageway.

### 8.6.2 *Secondary messaging:*

- Leftover materials (tailings) from ore processing will be permanently stored in an engineered constructed facility (Tailings Storage Facility). The chemical content of processed ‘tails’ will be made non-hazardous before storage.
- Mined rock that has no mineralised ore (waste rock) will be stored in perpetuity landforms at the KGP mine; these are engineered to be safe, stable and non-polluting. Final shaping occurs before closure in order for rehabilitation over cover by using soil and local plant seeds.
- The relatively small areas of cleared vegetation (mostly stranded eucalypts) will be rehabilitated by plantings of provenance species on other Ausgold-owned or nearby secured land.

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## 8.7 Local business and employment

### 8.7.1 *Primary message:*

- During operations, the mine will require approximately 150-200 full-time employees and will offer opportunities for skills uplift and training. Ausgold will also seek contracts with local and regional businesses to provide supporting services.
- During planning and development, Ausgold will engage with local and regional schools and TAFE to develop training packages for people to be “job ready” for the KGP.

### 8.7.2 *Secondary messaging:*

- Ausgold views community investment and social benefit programs as essential to supporting a prosperous and diverse community in Katanning, Kent, and Dumbleyung Shires.
- Ausgold will need a regional workforce and local suppliers to contract by providing supporting services across the life of the project and for different purposes.
- We do not want to affect viable local businesses and will offer opportunities for skills training in addition to support for education and development programs for young residents.
- Ausgold will also agree to contracts with established businesses to provide supporting services, including working with local Aboriginal-led businesses with deep knowledge and experience of the native flora, fauna, landscape, and cultural heritage.

# 9 Communication and engagement tools

Key Messages can be communicated through the channels and mechanisms listed below. The KGP Stakeholder Engagement Planner provides guidance on the methodologies for channels and mechanisms, as shown at Appendix D.

Table 9.1 Communication channels

| Communication channel | Purpose  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Company website       | The project website hosts key public information regarding the KGP and is regularly updated with the latest news and updates. The website is the source of truth when discovering information about the project.   |
| Project Update        | Project Updates will be released periodically when there is important information to share with the community and stakeholders. Project Updates provide detailed information about project developments and should be available in digital and hard copy format. |
| Fact Sheets           | Fact sheets provide detailed information on a specific subject, item, or issue. Fact sheets should be available in digital and hard copy format.   |
| Social media          | Social media will be used to share broad, general updates on the project and should always be directed back to the website as the source of truth.   |
| Community newsletters | Ausgold has published community newsletters in the past and has a list of subscribers.   |
| Phone line            | Ausgold has an established community phone line to receive and respond to enquiries.   |
| Email inbox           | Ausgold has an established community inbox to receive and respond to enquiries.  |
| News advertisements   | If necessary, news advertisements can be leveraged to share important information.   |
| ASX Updates           | ASX updates will be used to provide important information to investors.  |

Table 9.2 Engagement mechanisms

| Engagement Mechanism       | Purpose   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Katanning Shop Front       | The Shop Front provides a location for the local community to discuss the KGP and view project information such as fact sheets, posters, maps, etc. and speak to the project team directly.   |
| Stakeholder Presentations  | Stakeholder presentations will be used to deliver important information when required. Ausgold lets the community know it is happy to be invited to talk about the KGP.   |
| Traditional Owner Meetings | Traditional Owner meetings will be held at regular intervals to continue engagement with Southern Noongar people.   |
| Site Meetings (Landowners) | Landowner meetings will take place on an as-required basis to discuss the project and land use agreements.  |
| Local Business Briefings   | Business Briefings will be held in Katanning to provide updates on upcoming procurement packages to give local businesses a schedule of required services. Ausgold lets the community know it is happy to be invited to talk about the KGP. |

| <b>Engagement Mechanism</b>     | <b>Purpose</b>   |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Community Reference Group (CRG) | The Community Reference Group (CRG) will provide input into negotiable items as listed in this document, and act as a conduit to the community and raise concerns or topics on their behalf. |
| Three Shires Forum              | Regularly scheduled meetings with Shires (LGAs) of Kent, Dumbleyung, and Katanning.  |

# 10 Past engagement

## 10.1 Engagement register

Ausgold commenced consultation in 2014 with Traditional Owners in the region. Consultation has been ongoing with a range of stakeholders across the community, landowners, Traditional Owners, and Government. Some key engagements to date have been listed below. Appendix A provides a more detailed overview of prior engagements.

Table 10.1 Summary of key engagements 2014 to 2025

| Engagement  | Timing                 | Stakeholders                                   | Outcomes   |
|---|------------------------|--|--|
| Traditional Owner consultation  | 2014 - Present         | Traditional Owners<br>First Nations community  | Ausgold is continuing engagement with Traditional Owners and Corporations across items relating to Aboriginal Culture and History.   |
| Stakeholder identification workshops                                  | February to March 2022 | Ausgold Staff                                  | Mapped stakeholders to understand future engagement approaches.  |
| Community information forums  | March 2023             | Community/General Public                       | More than 140 stakeholders (landowners and community) attended the sessions which focused on the proposed timeline of the project, findings from the pre-feasibility study, and potential impacts and benefits of the project.                 |
| Community perceptions survey  | May 2023               | Community/General Public                       | 130 respondents provided feedback on concerns relating to housing, environmental (land use) and economic impact (inflation, services, infrastructure, roads) while perceived benefits included jobs, town prosperity, and population increase. |
| Social Economic Impact Assessment consultation                        | June 2023              | All  | 60 people participated in one-on-one interviews and focus groups. Concerns related to housing constraints, demand for workforce, and increased cost of living.   |
| Investor consultation   | August 2023            | All  | Consultation focused on investor community to define project milestones and feasibility.   |
| Development of social risks register incorporating stakeholder inputs | July 2024              | All  | Social factors were integrated into the Project risk register to identify controls and actions that support social impact management and meaningful consultation.  |
| Katanning Show  | October 2024           | Community/General Public                       | Ausgold had a presence at the Katanning Show to continue raising the project profile.  |
| Katanning Landcare Presentation                                       | November 2024          | Katanning Land Conservation District Committee | Presentation by Troy Collie to Katanning Land Conservation District Committee (Landcare) about Ausgold and the KGP project.  |

| <b>Engagement</b>   | <b>Timing</b>               | <b>Stakeholders</b>                              | <b>Outcomes</b>  |
|---|-----------------------------|--|--|
| Call for nominations –<br>CRG                                   | November 2024               | Community  | Ausgold advertised participation in the CRG.   |
| Three Shires Forum  | December 2024               | Shires of Kent,<br>Dumbleyung, and<br>Katanning. | Ausgold will schedule regular meetings with the Shires (LGAs) of Kent, Dumbleyung, and Katanning to discuss issues and opportunities.  |
| Community Reference<br>Group<br>— Inaugural meeting<br>— CRG #2 | February 2025<br>March 2025 | Community  | Ausgold established a CRG with representatives from across the community and hosted the first session in February 2025. A second meeting and inspection at KGP occurred in March 2025. |

# 11 Engagement planning

## 11.1 Approach

An engagement schedule will be reviewed quarterly and integrated with other project scheduling (particularly site-based activities). At this time, the commitment registers will also be reviewed to understand if there are any key issues or commitments that need to be addressed. The overarching Communications and Engagement Program from 2025-2028 is managed within the KGP Stakeholder Engagement Planner workbook, and at Appendix D.

A quarterly Tactical Engagement Plan (TEP) will be developed from the broader engagement schedule to provide a clear and effective overview of upcoming engagements. The TEP will set out the purpose of engagement, channels, timing, and stakeholders.

## 11.2 Engagement phases

Opportunities for engagement will be reviewed as the Project progresses from design through to operations. The topics and the stakeholders will change as future stages of the Project are progressed and delivered. A high-level overview of potential engagement opportunities against correlating phases is available below.



## 11.3 Tactical Engagement Plan (TEP)

A Tactical Engagement Plan (TEP) will be developed to provide a clear and effective overview of upcoming engagements. TEPs are effective for providing a succinct overview of upcoming engagements and their purpose. All TEPs will include:

- Type of engagement (meeting/survey/EOI/site visit)
- Engagement timing
- Purpose of Engagement
- Stakeholders
- Key messages.

The TEP process is intended to be agile and respond to upcoming engagement opportunities (within three months) and will assist in the forward planning of consultation opportunities. TEPs will require approval from the Manager, Planning, Environment, and Approvals prior to implementation.

## 11.4 Example of Tactical Engagement Plan (TEP)

### Ausgold Limited | Tactical Engagement Plan

#### EXAMPLE ONLY

|                        |  |               |
|------------------------|--|---------------|
| <b>Title</b>           | <b>Katanning Show Booth</b>  |               |
| <b>Location</b>        | Katanning Leisure And Function Centre (4 Pemble St, Katanning WA 6317) |               |
| <b>Timing</b>          | Friday, 25 October   |               |
| <b>Target Audience</b> | 1. General public  | 2. Landowners |
|                        | 3. Community Groups  | 4. Jobseekers |

| Action items      | Audience | Timing                  | Content summary  |
|-------------------|----------|-------------------------|--|
| Website update    | 1        | 1 October               | Provide an update on the website to notify the community of attendance at the Katanning Show.                                    |
| Social media post | 1        | 1 October<br>10 October | Provide an update on social media channels to notify the community of attendance at the Katanning Show.                          |
| Booth engagement  | 2/3/4    | 25 October              | Create a booth at the Katanning Show to engage with the local community, landowners, and jobseekers to build Ausgold's presence. |

| Key messages  |
|---|
| <p><b>Project Overview</b></p> <p><i>Primary message:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over the 10 years that we have been undertaking technical studies; we have learned more about our resources and have seen good results. We are committed to making this project a reality. Mining projects of this scale do take time to establish, and we still need to go through an extensive feasibility assessment, a government approval process and lock in financing.</li> </ul> <p><i>Secondary messaging:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We understand this project has been talked about for a long time and included a start and stop in the mid-1990s under another company; we can appreciate that this has been frustrating for the community and its caused confusion.</li> <li>Ausgold is continuing to make progress towards realising a project as we have been conducting exploration activities in earnest.</li> <li>Although our current timelines are subject to change, the earliest anticipated construction date is 2026.</li> </ul> |

## Key messages

### Local business and employment

#### *Primary message:*

- During operations, the mine will require approximately 150-200 full-time employees and will offer opportunities for skills uplift and training. Ausgold will also seek contracts with local and regional businesses to provide supporting services.
- During planning and development, Ausgold will engage with local and regional schools and TAFE to develop training packages for people to be “job ready” for the KGP.

#### *Secondary messaging:*

- Ausgold views community investment and social benefit programs as essential to supporting a prosperous and diverse community in Katanning, Kent, and Dumbleyung Shires.
- Ausgold will need a regional workforce and local suppliers to contract by providing supporting services across the life of the project and for different purposes.
- We do not want to affect viable local businesses and will offer opportunities for skills training in addition to support for education and development programs for young residents.
- Ausgold will also agree to contracts with established businesses to provide supporting services, including working with local Aboriginal-led businesses with deep knowledge and experience of the native flora, fauna, landscape, and cultural heritage.

# 12 Evaluation of the plan

## 12.1 Review

This Plan is a dynamic document and will generally be reviewed and adjusted to reflect the changing social, environmental, and approvals factors as they emerge, as well as the changing stages of the Project. This Plan will be comprehensively reviewed annually and will be approved by the Manager, Planning, Environment, and Approvals prior to implementation.

Performance against the plan objectives can be measured against indicators and data sources shown at Table 12.1.

Table 12.1 Engagement performance measurement

| Objective  | Indicator  | Target                          | Data source  |
|--|--|---------------------------------|--|
| Build awareness of the Project   | % stakeholders reporting awareness of KGP  | 75%                             | Annual community survey  |
| Generate support for the Project on matters of alignment   | % stakeholders in support of key project outcome areas<br>Number of initiatives                                    | 70% support in 75% of key areas | Survey of alignment with project goals/outcomes as part of annual community survey |
| Build Ausgold's reputation locally and positive sentiment towards the company  | % stakeholders who trust Ausgold and believe the KGP will contribute positively to regional development            | 75%                             | Sentiment survey as part of annual community survey                                |
| Gain and maintain community buy-in to the project development, enabling where possible the Project incorporates the feedback given by the community. | % engagement commitments and actions actioned by Ausgold   | 50%                             | Engagement register actioned status (and outcome?)                                 |
| Understand community and stakeholder aspirations, opportunities, issues, and concerns associated with the Project                                    | % Community Reference Group members satisfied that Ausgold understands the aspirations and concerns they represent | 80%                             | CRG meeting minutes  |
| Build, develop, and maintain relationships with key stakeholders and the community   | Number of CRG meetings held<br>% registered  | 1 per quarter<br>75%            | CRG meeting minutes<br>Engagement register   |

| Objective   | Indicator  | Target                                  | Data source   |
|---|--|---|---|
|   | stakeholders engaged   |   |   |
| Build, develop, and maintain relationships with Traditional Owners in the region  | Number of meetings with Traditional Owners<br>% First Nations stakeholders satisfied with benefit-sharing programs | 1 per quarter<br>75%                    | Targeted, culturally appropriate First Nations survey via Badgebup and/or Wagyl Kaip                    |
| Satisfy or exceed community and stakeholder expectations for provision of information and engagement                                | % stakeholders satisfied with information and engagement<br>% stakeholders wanting more information and engagement | >75%<br><25%                            | Short feedback survey after community information sessions<br>Sentiment survey as part of annual survey |
| Satisfy or exceed regulators' expectations for stakeholder engagement (environmental, development, and other regulatory approvals)  | % successful regulatory approvals<br>% feedback indicating expectations met  | 75%<br>75%                              | Pre-approval and post-approval meetings minutes<br>Regulatory approvals permits                         |
| Actively listen, address, and monitor any community concerns or requests for information in an open, transparent, and timely manner | All grievances responded to within two business days<br>% community concerns resolved                              | 80%                                     | Grievance register  |
| Record and honour commitments made to stakeholders  | % commitments actioned within 6 months<br>% commitments actioned within 12 months                                  | 75%<br>100%                             | Engagement/commitment register  |
| Maintain a comprehensive database recording all community and stakeholder interactions.   | All engagements logged within 2 weeks of interaction   | Quarterly review of engagement registry | Engagement register   |

## 12.2 Lessons learned

A 'lessons learned' workshop will be held annually with relevant personnel to review project findings, outcomes of engagements, and communications protocols. The lessons learned will be recorded in the Stakeholder Engagement Planner for future reference and incorporation into future iterations of the Plan.

# Appendix A

Past engagement



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# A1 Past engagement

## **Traditional Owner consultation relating to Aboriginal cultural heritage**

The Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar Aboriginal Corporation (WKAC) was established following the South West Native Title Settlement. Their region covers Katanning and the proposed site for the Project.

In 2014, Ausgold (via Heritage Link) engaged Terra Rosa to carry out a heritage assessment of Jinker/Jinka Hill (ID 5353), conducted with the Wagyl Kaip Traditional Owners, including Mr John Rodd.

In 2015, the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC) provided the names of Wagyl Kaip Traditional Owners to take part in another Heritage Survey over Jinker/Jinka Hill. SWALSC chose senior men, including Mr John Rodd. Ausgold engaged Terra Rosa to conduct this survey with the nominated Wagyl Kaip knowledge holders.

In 2018, Ausgold received regulatory and legal permission (a Section 18 consent under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972) to carry out activities on land including Jinka Hill.

In 2019, Ausgold (via Heritage link) invited the following knowledge holders nominated by SWALSC to take part in Cultural Salvage: Trevor Eades, Aden Eades, Dennis Johns, Robert Johns, and Toby Eades. The Salvage Team inspected the stone arrangement that forms a central component of Jinka Hill and discussed the process of consultation by Ausgold. The Wagyl Kaip and Southern Noongar representatives declined the opportunity to salvage the stone arrangement and stated that they were satisfied with the level of consultation to date. No further recommendations or requests were made by the Wagyl Kaip and Southern Noongar representatives regarding the management prior to the disturbance of Jinka Hill.

In 2020, Ausgold signed Noongar Standard Heritage Agreements with Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar Aboriginal Corporation regarding its exploration and planned mining activities. Since then, Ausgold has carried out minor and low-impact exploration works on farmed paddocks and, given the type of work, no activity notices have been lodged.

In February 2024 consultation commenced with WKAC via WSP regarding mining activity plans and approvals, and the development of a Cultural Heritage Management Plan, in the form of a Noongar Standard Heritage Agreement (NHSA). WSP has held an introductory phone call with WKAC CEO Noelene McCormick and provided information about KGP and a timeline of cultural heritage management activities by email. WSP has held two virtual meetings with WKAC Heritage Advisor, Emily Grey, and provided information and copies of the S18 approval and survey reports. WKAC has advised that a Noongar Standard Heritage Agreement (NHSA) is the appropriate mechanism for a CHMP with terms to be developed in consultation with the cultural advisory committee.

## **Stakeholder workshops – February to March 2022**

WSP (as Golder, now a WSP company) facilitated two internal workshops with Ausgold staff to rank known key stakeholders based on their level of influence and relative support for the Project. Two workshops were held as not all key staff were available to attend the first workshop date. This preliminary stakeholder analysis included:

- Individuals and groups with a direct interest in the Project – neighbouring property owners, Traditional Owners and influential residents.
- All tiers of government, LGAs, State and Federal governments, agencies, applicable politicians, and relevant ministerial portfolios (upper and lower houses).
- Individuals and/or groups with a potential interest and/or influence – environmental, not-for-profit groups and business lobby groups.

The Ausgold workshop participants demonstrated a good understanding of the potential attitudes and perceptions that external stakeholders may have about the proposed project, with approximately a third of the anticipated responses being concerns. As part of the workshop, participants were asked to write down what they thought stakeholders would say about Ausgold. The responses outlined below indicate a 36% negative to 64% positive perception rating.

- *Provide new opportunities*
- *Reason for having people stay in the region*
- *Provide business diversification*
- *Young workforce stimulates sporting teams in the region – sport is very important in country towns*
- *Ausgold could reduce the risk of uncertainty around farming – climate change*
- *Create a more diverse society*
- *Ausgold could stimulate development in town*
- *KGP could increase land prices*
- *Find gold on my property – I need a new house!*
- *An opportunity for employment*
- *A project that has been ongoing for years and is unlikely to be mined*
- *An opportunity to bring families to towns and numbers for sports clubs*
- *A disruption to the normal workforce/agricultural cycle*
- *An opportunity to provide services/contracts*
- *A risk of a repeat from mining in the 1990's – leaving a mess!*
- *A risk to the environment/native bushland that is remnant*
- *Will we get jobs?*
- *When/if is this going to happen?*
- *Will house prices go up? How big is the project? Will we be able to see the mine from town?*
- *With all the trucks who will fix the roads?*
- *Is it going to wreck the local farms?*
- *What will the workforce be and are they going to be FIFO or will they become part of the town?*
- *How long will the mine be open for?*
- *Will we be able to go back to farming after the mine is complete?*
- *Will there be pollution (dust/cyanide...)?*

### **Community information forums – March 2023**

In March 2023, two community information sessions were held (one for landholders, another for community members) in Katanning with representatives from both WSP and Ausgold. This marked the start of consultation with external stakeholders and the community. More than 140 stakeholders attended the sessions which focused on the proposed timeline of the project, findings from the pre-feasibility study, and potential impacts and benefits of the project. Names and emails were collected at the meetings producing 140 stakeholder records.

A number of themes were identified as areas of interest or concern from questions asked at the information sessions:

### **Community Perceptions Survey – May 2023**

In May 2023 WSP administered a community perception survey for the Katanning Gold Project. 130 responses were received, with 73 respondents providing contact details and added to the e-news subscription. Results indicated key concerns focused on housing, environmental (land use) and economic impact (inflation, services, infrastructure, roads) while perceived benefits included jobs, town prosperity, and population increase.

### **Social Economic Impact Assessment consultation – June 2023**

In June 2023, WSP conducted semi-structured interviews with community representatives and local stakeholders in Katanning and online, in line with the Social Economic Impact Assessment (SEIA) Community Consultation Plan prepared by WSP in May 2023. More than 100 people were invited to participate in the SEIA consultation. 60 people participated in one-on-one interviews and focus groups by the conclusion of the consultation period. A SEIA Community Consultation Report was issued to Ausgold in July 2023. Key findings from the consultation are below.

The top three community concerns included:

- Influx of mine workforce on an already severely constrained local housing market
- Increased demand for limited local skilled workforce placing additional strain on the viability of local businesses; and
- Increasing costs of goods and services to locals.

Other community concerns included:

- Increased traffic and potential closure of roads around the mine site
- Grief and loss for First Nations people in relation to heritage impacts
- Potential impacts to utilities (water, electricity, telecommunications)
- Loss of natural environment including biodiversity, increase in salinity, potential dust, and other environmental impacts
- Values, sense of place, aesthetic value and amenities (visual impacts), and well-being
- Increased strain on emergency and health services.

Community aspirations about benefits resulting from the project:

- Direct and indirect economic benefits, including for local residents, local businesses, and specific groups of people such as youth and First Nations residents
- Increased number of participants and volunteers for community sport, emergency services, and other community activities
- Increased sense of hope and resilience
- Increased number of retail outlets and availability of consumables
- New and upgraded facilities and services for local communities.

### **Suspension of community engagement – August 2023**

Suspension of community engagement activities from August 2023 (due to Ausgold operational priorities) has halted further implementation of the stakeholder engagement plan, which was intended to include distribution of information through newsletters or social media posts, or face-to-face engagement.

Ausgold has the opportunity to raise its visibility and accessibility with stakeholders and the Katanning community. Delays to technical studies including the social impact assessment and approach to cultural heritage impacts presents ongoing risks to reputation, progress with regulatory approvals, and community acceptance of the project.

# Appendix B

Stakeholders by category



# B1 Stakeholders by category

| Stakeholder category                   | Count      |
|--|------------|
| <b>Community Services</b>              | <b>27</b>  |
| Education                              | 13         |
| Emergency Response                     | 2          |
| Healthcare                             | 3          |
| Media                                  | 9          |
| <b>First Nations</b>                   | <b>30</b>  |
| Aboriginal Individual                  | 5          |
| Aboriginal Organisation                | 17         |
| Traditional Owner                      | 8          |
| <b>Government</b>                      | <b>70</b>  |
| Development Organisation               | 1          |
| Federal Government Representative      | 17         |
| Local Government Councillor            | 19         |
| Local Government Office                | 14         |
| State Government Department            | 4          |
| State Government Representative        | 15         |
| <b>Industry Development</b>            | <b>47</b>  |
| Agriculture                            | 9          |
| Development Organisation               | 18         |
| Hospitality                            | 3          |
| Local Business                         | 13         |
| Retail                                 | 4          |
| <b>Local Community</b>                 | <b>239</b> |
| Community/ Non-Government Organisation | 22         |
| Faith Leader                           | 1          |
| Landowner                              | 110        |
| Local Resident                         | 106        |
| <b>Operational</b>                     | <b>11</b>  |
| Associate                              | 1          |
| Ausgold Board                          | 9          |

| <b>Stakeholder category</b>            | <b>Count</b> |
|--|--------------|
| Ausgold Workforce                      | 1            |
| <b>ORGANISATION</b>                    | <b>137</b>   |
| <b>Community Services</b>              | <b>19</b>    |
| Education                              | 5            |
| Emergency Response                     | 1            |
| Healthcare                             | 5            |
| Media                                  | 8            |
| <b>First Nations</b>                   | <b>9</b>     |
| Aboriginal Organisation                | 9            |
| <b>Government</b>                      | <b>12</b>    |
| Federal Government Representative      | 1            |
| Local Government Office                | 7            |
| State Government Department            | 3            |
| State Government Representative        | 1            |
| <b>Industry Development</b>            | <b>60</b>    |
| Agriculture                            | 17           |
| Development Organisation               | 7            |
| Hospitality                            | 11           |
| Local Business                         | 23           |
| Retail                                 | 2            |
| <b>Local Community</b>                 | <b>36</b>    |
| Community/ Non-Government Organisation | 36           |
| <b>Operational</b>                     | <b>1</b>     |
| Ausgold Board                          | 1            |
| <b>Grand Total</b>                     | <b>561</b>   |

# Appendix C

Communications channels functions



# C1 Communications channels

## Company website

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Content Summary | The company website will be used to share the latest information on the KGP. The creation of a 'latest news' section of the website will be used to share regular updates. The website will also be used to drive subscriptions to the newsletter. |
| Audience        | General public, interested community, investors, landowners, local business, Government.   |
| Frequency       | Website updates will be completed as new information becomes available. At a minimum, website content should be reviewed monthly.  |

## Fact sheet

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Content Summary | <p>Fact sheets will provide information on areas of interest for the community and stakeholders. The fact sheets will be published on the Ausgold website and be available in the Katanning Shop Front.</p> <p>Topics may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community benefits</li> <li>Environment</li> <li>Aboriginal Heritage</li> <li>Community Impacts</li> <li>Jobs and business engagement</li> <li>Gold processing</li> <li>Mining information</li> </ul> |
| Audience        | General public, interested community, investors, landowners, local businesses, and Government.  |
| Frequency       | Fact sheets will be developed quarterly.  |

## Ausgold Corporate Facebook page

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Content Summary | <p>Facebook content will be developed based on the following content pillars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Employment and Local Business opportunities</li> <li>— Fun facts and figures</li> <li>— Project Updates</li> <li>— Community Investment</li> <li>— Events</li> <li>— Engagement Opportunities</li> </ul> |
| Audience        | Facebook content will be developed for the general public and interested parties.   |
| Frequency       | It is recommended that Ausgold aims for four posts on Facebook per month, with ad-hoc posts shared in instances where an engagement opportunity or event is present. The purpose of Facebook engagement is to increase the profile of Ausgold in the community and improve brand recognition.                                       |

## Ausgold LinkedIn page

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Content Summary | <p>LinkedIn content will be developed based on the following content pillars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Investor updates and shareholder information</li> <li>— ASX Announcements</li> <li>— Leadership and Team Updates</li> <li>— Milestone Achievements</li> </ul> |
| Audience        | LinkedIn content will be focused on investors, businesses, and industry professionals.   |
| Frequency       | It is recommended that Ausgold aims for four posts on LinkedIn per month to maintain an engaged audience and provide a consistent stream of information.   |

### **KGP Community newsletter**

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Content Summary | <p>Community newsletters will be developed quarterly and sent out to newsletter subscribers using EDM software (such as Mailchimp, Dynamics, or Campaign Monitor). They will also be available as hard copies in the Katanning Shop Front.</p> <p>Information provided in the newsletter will include excerpts from relevant fact sheets, project updates, the latest news, information about the team, upcoming events, summaries of engagement, CRG meetings, and more.</p> <p>The purpose of the newsletter is to engage community members, and further disseminate the information to landowners, interest groups, local businesses, jobseekers, Council, and beyond.</p> |
| Audience        | The audience for the community newsletters will be subscribers to the project information.  |
| Frequency       | Newsletters will be developed quarterly.  |

# Appendix D

KGP communications and engagement  
program



