

MINERAL RESOURCES (SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT) ACT 1990
INSTRUMENT OF RENEWAL - RETENTION LICENCE

I, Laura Helm, acting as the delegate of the Minister and pursuant to section 31 of the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990* (the Act), hereby renew the retention licence according to Table 1 below and subject to the Conditions and Schedule of Conditions below.

TABLE 1

LICENCE TYPE	Retention Licence
LICENCE NUMBER	RL2023
DATE OF GRANT OF LICENCE	21 May 2015
NAME/S OF LICENSEE/S	Gippsland Critical Minerals Pty Ltd
ADDRESS/ES OF LICENSEE/S	48 Bailey Street, Bairnsdale, Victoria 3875
LOCATION	(8322) Stratford
AREA OF RENEWED LICENCE	467.9 hectares
LICENCE RENEWED TO EXPIRE	20 May 2027
STRATUM OF LAND	Not applicable
GENERAL NATURE AND PURPOSE OF ANY CHANGED CONDITIONS	To ensure that the conditions remain appropriate to work done under the licence.

Signed by



Laura Helm
Director Statutory Authorisations

Date: 23/10/2024

Date of Registration 23/10/2024 Time of Registration 1:38 pm 
REGISTRAR Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990

F 90016399

RETENTION LICENCE RENEWAL CONDITIONS

1. The licensee must expend in connection with retention licence activities on the land a minimum of -
 \$0 in the first year of the term of the renewed licence,
 \$30,000 in the second year of the term of the renewed licence,
 \$30,000 in the third year of the term of the renewed licence,
 \$270,000 in the fourth year of the term of the renewed licence,
 \$250,000 in the fifth year of the term of the renewed licence,
 \$200,000 in the sixth year of the term of the renewed licence
unless this requirement is varied or application of this requirement is suspended for a specified period, in accordance with the Act.
2. The reporting date is **30 September** annually, commencing on the year after the decision to renew this licence is made.
3. In addition to the annual reporting the licensee must provide:
 - a. a report each year on 30 March on the completion and progress of the project milestones under specific condition 1.1, commencing on the year after the decision to renew this licence is made.
 - b. quarterly reports on 30 September, 31 December, 30 March and 30 June each year, commencing on the quarter after the decision to renew this licence is made, providing information on the community engagement activities listed within the project milestones. The report must demonstrate that reasonably practicable actions have been taken to address concerns through the community engagement process and include complaints, enquiries and feedback that have been received and how those complaints, enquiries and feedback are being addressed.

RETENTION LICENCE SCHEDULE OF CONDITIONS

IMPORTANT NOTE: The conditions in this schedule address a wide range of activities. You may not have approval for all the activities described. Work other than “low impact exploration” may only be undertaken in accordance with a work plan approved by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, DEECA.

For further information about compliance with licence conditions or requirements for work plans refer to the *Code of Practice for Mineral Exploration* and *Standard Work Plan Guidelines for Exploration or Area Work Plan Guidelines for Exploration* available at www.resources.vic.gov.au.

PART A SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

1. WORK PROGRAM

- 1.1 The licence is granted subject to compliance with and completion of the program of work (outlined in the schedule of project milestones), being undertaken during the term of the licence.
- 1.2 The program of work may be varied with the agreement of the Minister. This does not apply if the variation only involves work which is additional to that described in the program of work.
- 1.3 During the term of the licence, the Minister may request updated details of the proposed program of work.

YEAR 1 – GEOLOGICAL WORK / PROJECT DEVELOPMENT	
Milestone 1	
Category: Deferred Work	
Work Description: Technical work deferred following IAT Tribunal & Planning Ministers assessments.	
	Year 1 Expenditure - \$0
YEAR 2 - GEOLOGICAL WORK / PROJECT DEVELOPMENT	
Milestone 2	
Category: Resource Restatement	
Work Description: Re-statement of part of the Glenaladale resource which covers RL2023 which included rare earths as a co-product. Resources shown to have increased in value due to higher rare earths prices.	
	Year 2 Expenditure - \$30,000
YEAR 3 - GEOLOGICAL WORK / PROJECT DEVELOPMENT	
Milestone 3	
Category: Stakeholder Engagement	
Work Description: Independent assessment of stakeholder and community attitudes towards the project.	
	Year 3 Expenditure - \$30,000

YEAR 4 – GEOLOGICAL WORK / PROJECT DEVELOPMENT
Milestone 4 Category: Data review Work Description: Review of existing data by new GCM staff and comparison of data with 2020 drilling program results. Establish a detailed exploration program for the area. Milestone 5 Category: Stakeholder and community engagement – Reset Work Description: Early Benefit Sharing Plan to be developed in partnership with the local community following targeted consultation and engagement efforts. This might include the expansion of the community grants program, regional development and jobs programs, apprenticeship programs, Gippsland-first procurement plans, First Nations jobs and other training programs to build local capability (outlined in more detail in the CEP and following consultation with the community). Commission recurring statistically significant social research surveys and focus groups to baseline and monitor community sentiment. Conduct quarterly focus groups by a suitably qualified third-party provider with randomised sample representatives of community and key stakeholder groups to assess stakeholder values, expectations, attitudes, and priorities. Establish a virtual or physical information center to answer questions and exhibit project updates to the local community. Milestone 6 Category: Assays & Drilling Work Description: Complete assays on historic samples and update the geological model. Infill drilling commences as part of larger Glenaladale resource drilling. Year 4 Expenditure - \$270,000
YEAR 5 – GEOLOGICAL WORK / PROJECT DEVELOPMENT
Milestone 7 Category: Stakeholder and community engagement – Ongoing Work Description: Consult and involve, as necessary, the local community in project milestones. Engagement with the community via an established information centre. Review results of recurring statistically significant social research surveys and focus groups to baseline and monitor community sentiment. Conduct quarterly focus groups by a suitably qualified third-party provider with randomised sample representatives of community and key stakeholder groups to assess stakeholder values, expectations, attitudes, and priorities. Develop a procurement plan to give preference to local businesses and young people through an apprenticeship, traineeship and internship initiatives. Milestone 8 Category: Infill drilling Work Description: Infill drilling to convert resources from inferred to indicated. Complete scoping requirements for the completion of a Pre-Feasibility Study. Year 5 Expenditure - \$250,000
YEAR 6 – GEOLOGICAL WORK / PROJECT DEVELOPMENT
Milestone 9 Category: Pre-feasibility study Work Description: Complete Pre-Feasibility Study. Commence baseline studies and assessments for Pre-Feasibility Study. Milestone 10 Category: Stakeholder and community engagement – Ongoing Work Description: Consult and involve, as necessary, the local community in project milestones. Engagement with the community via an established information center. Review results of recurring statistically significant social research surveys and focus groups to baseline and monitor community sentiment. Conduct quarterly focus groups by a suitably qualified third-party provider with randomised sample representatives of community and key stakeholder groups to assess stakeholder values, expectations, attitudes, and priorities. Year 6 Expenditure - \$250,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE - \$830,000

PART B GENERAL CONDITIONS**2. GENERAL**

- 2.1 The licence holder must not undertake, cause or allow the undertaking of any exploration for coal seam gas.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

- 3.1 The licensee must ensure that the relevant ERR Deputy Chief Inspector is at all times aware of the appropriate contact person for activities conducted under the license.
- 3.2 Prior to commencing ground intrusive work or work involving the removal or damaging of native vegetation under the definition of low impact exploration the licensee must submit a rehabilitation bond to the satisfaction of the Minister
- 3.3 Where ground intrusive work or work involving the removal or damaging of native vegetation is carried out under the definition of low impact exploration the licensee must notify the Crown land manager (for works on Crown land) and the ERR Chief Inspector at least 7 days prior to the commencement of work. Notification must include:
- Start date, and
 - Proposed ground intrusive work, and/or
 - Proposed removal or damaging of native vegetation, and
 - Location.

4. NATIVE VEGETATION AND FAUNA

- 4.1 The licensee must take all reasonable measures to avoid, minimise and/or offset the removal and disturbance of native vegetation and faunal habitats.

5. BOX IRONBARK REGION

- 5.1 Where activities are proposed to be undertaken in a Box-Ironbark Region, the licensee must undertake a preliminary assessment of vegetation and faunal habitats of areas of interest in that Box-Ironbark region to identify and mark areas or sites to be avoided in the project area.

6. PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE

- 6.1 Prior to commencing any work, the licensee must have public liability insurance that covers all work authorised under the licence and ensure the insurance is valid at all times while work occurs under the licence.

7. PUBLIC SAFETY ZONE

- 7.1 The licensee must take all reasonable measures to minimise their impact on the operation of a Public Safety Zone.

8. SOIL MANAGEMENT

- 8.1 The licensee must take all reasonable measures to minimise impacts on the physical and biological health of soil.

9. PLANT PESTS AND DISEASES, WEEDS AND PEST ANIMALS

- 9.1 The licensee must ensure that all soil that is imported into the licence area is free of plant pests and disease, and noxious weeds.
- 9.2 The licensee must take all reasonable measures to minimise the spread of weeds, pest animals and plant diseases whilst undertaking on ground activities.
- 9.3 The licensees must adhere to any biosecurity protocols that have been adopted on private or Crown land.

10. WATER QUALITY AND AQUATIC HABITAT

- 10.1 The licensee must design, install and maintain erosion and sediment controls to prevent erosion of areas of disturbed land and sedimentation of waterways.

10.2 Where activities are being conducted in waters or on the banks of waterways with water in them, the licensee must take all reasonable measures to minimise sedimentation of the waterway.

10.3 The licensee must take all reasonable measures to prevent contaminated runoff from entering receiving waterways.

11. FUELS, LUBRICANTS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

11.1 The licensee must take all reasonable measures to prevent contamination of the environment by the release of fuels, lubricants and hazardous materials.

11.2 The licensee must ensure that spills of hazardous materials are cleaned up as quickly as practicable. Such spillage must not be cleaned up by hosing, sweeping or otherwise releasing such contaminant into waterways.

11.3 Within the Box Ironbark region, the licensee must install trays or similar apparatus beneath machinery to protect the soil and vegetation from oil/fuel leaks or spills.

12. ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE

12.1 The licensee must ensure Aboriginal cultural heritage is not harmed as a result of works undertaken within the licence area.

12.2 Within areas where ground intrusive exploration works or the removal of native vegetation are proposed on Crown land in the Box Ironbark Region, an assessment of Aboriginal cultural heritage values must be undertaken.

13. HERITAGE (NON-INDIGENOUS)

13.1 The licensee must ensure non-indigenous cultural heritage is not harmed as a result of works undertaken within the licence area.

13.2 Within areas where ground intrusive exploration works or the removal of native vegetation are proposed on Crown land in the Box Ironbark Region, an assessment of non-indigenous cultural heritage values must be undertaken.

14. FIRE PRECAUTION

14.1 The licensee must take all reasonable measures to prevent the ignition and spread of fire.

14.2 Prior to undertaking any activities, the licensee must develop and implement a fire response and readiness plan.

15. WASTE AND REDUNDANT EQUIPMENT

15.1 The licensee must ensure all waste generated on site is disposed of at an appropriate waste management facility.

16. CAMPING

16.1 The licensee may only establish campsites with the permission of the Crown land manager or private landowner/occupier.

16.2 The licensee must select, establish and manage campsites to minimise risks to the environment and/or the health and safety of people.

17. NOISE

17.1 Within the licensed area, the licensee must ensure that noise generated by activities does not exceed limits set by the Environment Protection Authority, Victoria and the local council.

17.2 The licensee must take all reasonable measures to avoid causing nuisance noise.

18. AIR EMISSIONS, DUST AND LIGHTING

18.1 The licensee must take all reasonable measures to prevent adverse impacts as a result of the release of dust, odour and/or emission of light.

19. LIVESTOCK, DOMESTIC ANIMALS AND CROPS

- 19.1 The licensee must take all reasonable measures to prevent adverse impacts to livestock¹, domestic animals and crops.

20. GEOPHYSICAL AND GEOCHEMICAL SURVEYS AND GRIDLINES

- 20.1 In designing and constructing geophysical and geochemical surveys, the licensee must take all reasonable measures to prevent adverse impacts to the environment and/or the health and safety of people.
- 20.2 Prior to designing and constructing geophysical and geochemical surveys, the licensee must consult with the Crown land manager and/or private landowner/occupier about the position of gridlines and geophysical lines.

21. EXPLOSIVES

- 21.1 When using explosives or high electrical currents, all reasonable measures must be taken to prevent harm or disturbance to people, domestic animals, livestock and wildlife.

22. TRACKS AND ROADS

- 22.1 In designing and constructing tracks and roads, the licensee must take all reasonable measures to prevent adverse impact to the environment.
- 22.2 Prior to designing and constructing tracks and roads, the licensee must consult with the public land manager, responsible road authority and/or private landowner/ occupier.
- 22.3 Prior to using a closed road, the licensee must gain consent from the responsible road authority.
- 22.4 Prior to conducting ground intrusive works on a road, the licensee must gain consent from the responsible road authority.

23. DRILL SITES, COSTEANS, TRENCHES AND BULK SAMPLING EXCAVATIONS

- 23.1 The licensee must take all reasonable measures to prevent adverse impacts of establishing costeans, drill holes, bulk sample excavations and trenches to the environment and/or the health and safety of people.

24. DRILLHOLE OPERATIONS, CONSTRUCTION AND DECOMMISSIONING

- 24.1 The licensee must ensure that all reasonable measures are taken to minimise the impacts of drilling operations and that the operations are conducted in a manner that ensures protection of the environment, human health and amenity.
- 24.2 The licensee must prevent contamination of aquifers as a result of drilling operations.
- 24.3 The licensee must ensure that where a drillhole is to be left open overnight or longer, a temporary cap is fitted.
- 24.4 The licensee must ensure that when drilling for coal seam gas (CSG) the blowout prevention equipment (including accumulators) of a well is installed, operated, maintained and pressure tested.
- 24.5 The licensee must ensure that the permanent abandonment of CSG wells include the installation of appropriate concrete surface plugs to ensure the integrity of the well and formations.
- 24.6 The licensee must ensure that accurate records of decommissioning procedures are kept to provide future reference, and to demonstrate to DEECA that the drillholes have been satisfactorily plugged and abandoned.

25. UNDERGROUND EXPLORATION

- 25.1 The licensee must ensure that during underground exploration and development works, access shafts, adits and declines are made safe.
- 25.2 The licensee must ensure that on completion of underground exploration and development works, access shafts, adits or declines no longer required are permanently closed off and the site made safe for the public and wildlife.

26. REHABILITATION

¹ For the purpose of these conditions, bees are defined as livestock.

- 26.1 The licensee must ensure that disturbed areas are rehabilitated as soon as possible after the completion of works.
- 26.2 The licensee must ensure that indigenous species used in rehabilitation are sourced from the local area, of local provenance and appropriate to the site's Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC).
- 27. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING, MONITORING AND AUDITING**
- 27.1 The licensee must implement a program for monitoring environmental impacts and rehabilitation.
- 27.2 The licensee must submit an Annual Report that includes:
- A report about the environmental management of activities including the results of any environmental audits conducted.
 - Quantity, area and type of native vegetation removed.
 - Details of current progressive rehabilitation activities.
 - A rehabilitation report detailing completed rehabilitation activities over that year.
- 27.3 The licensee must notify DEECA as soon as practical of any environmental incident which results in:
- An emission not authorised by licence, work authority or work plan.
 - Any deviations from conditions or environmental standards outlined for the site.
- 27.4 Within seven (7) days of an environmental incident, the licensee must prepare and forward a report to DEECA detailing the following information:
- the cause, time and duration of the incident.
 - the native vegetation or threatened flora/fauna affected by the incident (if applicable).
 - the type, volume and concentration of every pollutant discharged as a result of the incident.
 - action taken by the licensee in relation to the incident.
 - action taken to prevent any recurrence of the incident.
- 28. DOCUMENTATION AND RECORDS**
- 28.1 The licensee must record activities undertaken and results arising from the environmental and rehabilitation monitoring program, any auditing undertaken, and any complaints received.
- 28.2 The licensee must ensure that documentation generated through the environmental and rehabilitation monitoring program, auditing and any complaints received is appropriately stored and accessible to relevant personnel and is available upon request by an ERR Inspector.

PLAN OF AREA Retention Licence No. 2023 Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990 Energy, Environment and Climate Action	Name of Licensee: Gippsland Critical Minerals Pty Ltd MUNICIPALITY OF Wellington PARISH OF Narrang and Nindoo TOTAL AREA 467.90 Hectares NET AREA 467.90 Hectares
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Date of Registration
23/10/2024

Time of Registration
1:38 pm

REGISTRAR
 Mineral Resources
 (Sustainable Development)
 Act 1990

F 90016399

Crown Land and road and road reserves

ALL MEASUREMENTS ARE IN METRES

Locality Map

Certified correct Licensed Surveyor Subject to Survey Date	Checked Christy Thiagarajah Date 27 / 06 / 2024 Record plan Stratford
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