



Improving Community Safety at the Pro-Force Plant Site



Derelict processing plant at Pro-Force. Source DMP 2016

Background

The abandoned mine site, Pro-Force, is located approximately two kilometres south-east of the Coolgardie town-site in Western Australia (WA).

The Pro-Force site is adjacent to the Gorge, which is a public use area and water reserve that is regularly visited by tourists and the local community, particular when full of water.

The former gold processing plant site was previously operated by Pro-Force Mining Contractor Pty Ltd from 1996 to 2004.

The Pro-Force site as been selected as a pilot site for the Abandoned Mines Program, using funds from the WA Government's Mining Rehabilitation Fund (MRF). More information on the Abandoned Mines Program can be found via the following link: <http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/Environment/Abandoned- Mines- Project-15518.aspx>.

A map illustrating the site layout and proposed works for the Pro-Force site is provided on page 4 of this factsheet.

Community concerns at Pro-Force

The derelict processing plant and other site features have been in situ for more than a decade and have been an ongoing public safety concern for the local community.

There have also been other concerns raised regarding anti-social behaviour, illegal dumping and the quantity of scrap material at the site.

From a safety perspective, the most prominent hazards associated with the project site are the derelict processing plant, an unsealed vertical shaft and a five metre deep excavated trench adjacent to the Coolgardie-Esperance Highway.

Addressing community concerns

The *Mining Rehabilitation Fund Act 2012* (the MRF Act) was passed by WA parliament and the MRF became operational in 2013. The MRF requires all tenement holders regulated under the *Mining Act 1978* to annually report areas of disturbance on their tenements and pay a levy based on the area of disturbance.

Funds from the MRF will be used to rehabilitate future abandoned mine sites, when all other avenues to ensure rehabilitation have been exhausted.

Interest generated from the MRF shall be used to rehabilitate legacy abandoned mine sites (sites that have not had an MRF reporting obligation), through the Abandoned Mines Program.

The Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) has identified the need to reduce safety and environmental risks associated with the Pro-Force site as part of the Abandoned Mines Program.

The focus of the proposed works will be on addressing the safety risks associated with the remaining infrastructure, the unsealed vertical shaft, and the deep excavated trench. Other works to make the site safe and stable may be undertaken and will be based on the outcomes from the site assessment and stakeholder consultation.

Approach

In February 2016, a stakeholder identification workshop was undertaken in Coolgardie that identified all stakeholders for the Pro-Force site.

Stakeholder consultation is detailed in Stage 1 of the project.



Unsealed shaft. Source DMP 2016

Stage 1

Involves DMP in conjunction with the Shire of Coolgardie and other key stakeholders:

1. Undertaking a detailed site assessment to identify the type and degree of safety and environmental issues and possible solutions.
2. Facilitating consultation with the general public via a community workshop, to ensure that the associated works will achieve a long term solution which is supported by the community.

Stage 1 is due to be completed by the end of August 2016.

Stage 2

Involves undertaking works to make the site safe and stable. A layout of the Pro-Force site and the proposed works for consultation is provided on page 4 of this publication.

Stage 2 is due to be completed by the end of December 2016.

How to find out more

DMP will be providing regular updates regarding Pro-Force on the Abandoned Mines webpage. <http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/Environment/Abandoned-Mines-Project-15518.aspx>.

Further information on the Pro-Force project is available from the Abandoned Mines project team who can be contacted on:

Phone: (08) 9222 3162

Email: abandonedmines@dmp.wa.gov.au

Stage 3

Involves DMP, in conjunction with the Shire of Coolgardie and other key stakeholders:

Monitoring the site works implemented in Stage 2.

Undertaking further consultation regarding the longer term safety and environmental solutions of the site.

Stage 3 is due to be completed by the end of April 2017.



Excavated trench with pipeline and Coolgardie-Esperance Highway in distance. Source DMP 2014

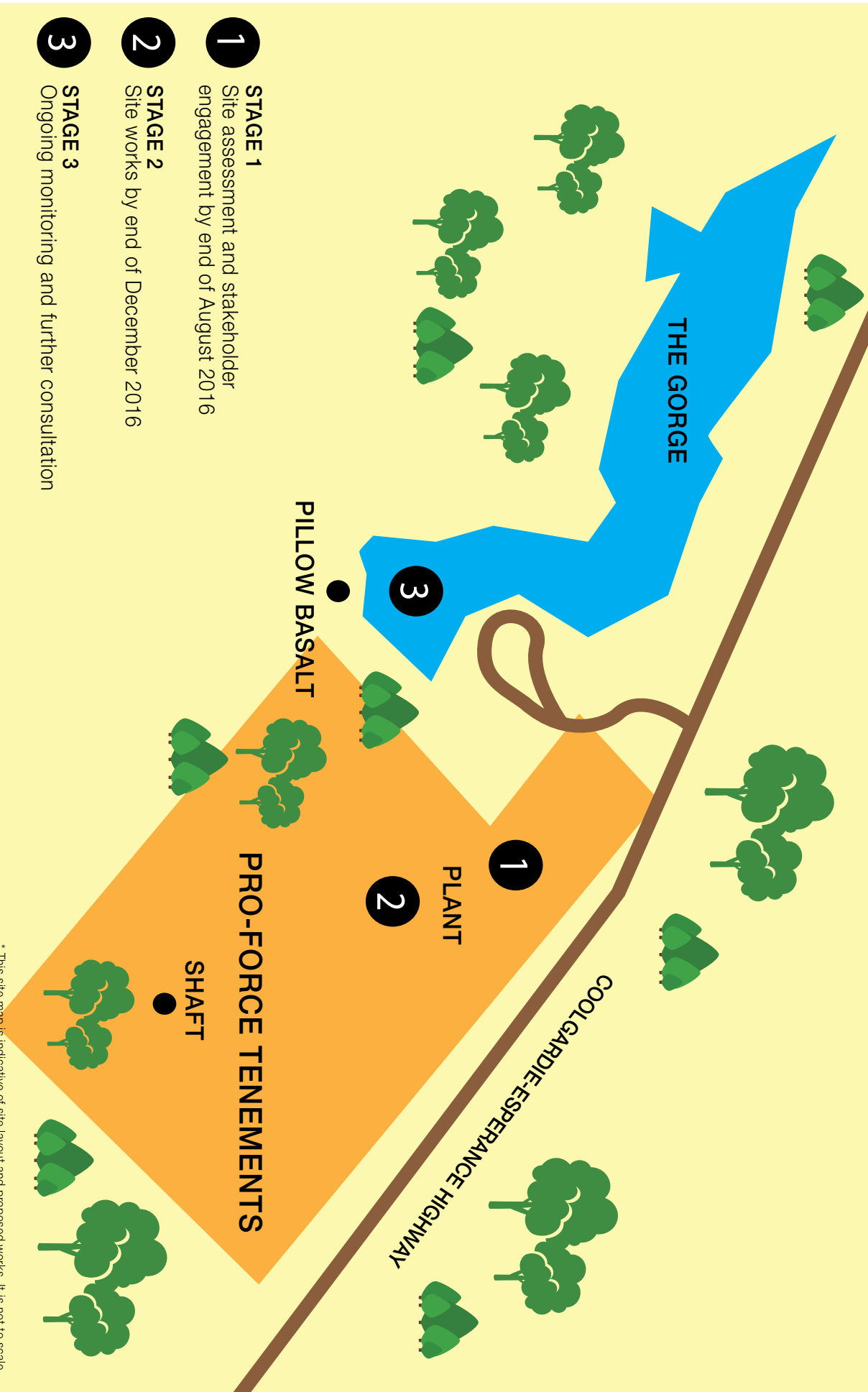


The Gorge after rainfall. Source DMP 2016

MAP OF PROPOSED WORKS FOR PRO-FORCE

← COOLGARDIE

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- 1** **STAGE 1**
Site assessment and stakeholder engagement by end of August 2016
- 2** **STAGE 2**
Site works by end of December 2016
- 3** **STAGE 3**
Ongoing monitoring and further consultation

* This site map is indicative of site layout and proposed works. It is not to scale.