

Application for new permit or referral to clear native vegetation

This is the form to submit a referral of proposed clearing or apply for a clearing permit under Part V of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act).

Before you submit this form, please check you have completed all the fields for the form type and fully prepared any required supporting documents (including maps etc.). We will return / decline any forms that are not correctly completed.

To find out more about the stages of assessment for clearing permit forms, see the [Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits](#).

Part 1 – Form type

<p>Select your form type.</p> <p>NOTE: Where appropriate in this form, and unless stated otherwise, the terms 'application' and 'applicant' also mean 'referral' and 'referrer' respectively.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Referral of proposed clearing (s.51DA of the EP Act)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Application for an area permit (s.51E of the EP Act)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application for a purpose permit (s.51E of the EP Act)</p>
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Part 2 – Applicant details

2.1 Applicant name

<p>For area permits:</p> <p>If granted, the name(s) of (all) landowner(s) will be listed as 'permit holders' on the permit.</p> <p>For purpose permits:</p> <p>If granted, the name(s) of (all) applicant(s) will go on the permit.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Applying as an individual – complete the following:	
	Title	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs <input type="checkbox"/> Ms <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
	Name(s)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Applying as a body corporate or other entity formed at law – complete the following:	
	Name	
	Australian Company Number (ACN)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Applying as a government entity (e.g. government department, local government authority, or other statutory body)		
Name	Parks Australia, Christmas Island National Park. Parks Australia is managed by the Director of National Parks (DNP) – and is a Statutory Body. It is a Division of the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change,	

		Energy, the Environment and Water.
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2.2 Applicant contact details

Provide the contact details for the above (primary contact).

2.2 Applicant contact postal details

Provide the postal address for the above individual, body corporate or local government authority (primary contact).

2.3 Applicant contact – registered business address

If applying as a company, incorporated body, local government authority or public authority, please also supply the registered business office address.

2.4 Electronic correspondence consent

Both the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) and Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) prefer to send all correspondence via email. We request that you consent to receiving all correspondence relating to instruments and notices under Part V of the EP Act via email. Please indicate your consent in this section of the form.

I consent that all written correspondence between myself (the applicant) and DWER/DMIRS (as applicable) about the subject of this form will be exclusively via email, using the email address provided above.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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2.5 Contact details for enquiries

If different from the applicant's contact details, enter the contact details of a person with whom DWER or DMIRS should liaise with (e.g. a consultant).

Same as applicant's contact details	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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If 'No' – complete the following:

Contact name			
Position (if applicable)			
Company name (if applicable)			
Contact phone number (1)		Phone number (2)	
Business or postal address line 1			
Business or postal address line 2			
Suburb			
State		Postcode	
Email address			

Part 3 – Land details

- You must accurately describe the location of the land where your clearing is proposed.
- If you have a large number of properties, please provide the relevant details for each property in a separately attached supporting document.

3.1 Property details

I have a large number of properties and have given the relevant details in an attached supporting document.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes – skip to Part 4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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If 'No' – complete the following:

<u>Land description</u> Provide the following details, as applicable, for all properties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – volume and folio number – lot or location number(s) – crown lease or reserve number – pastoral lease number – mining tenement number 	The parcel of lands 'MCI 70/1A ML 106 Block 1' & MCI 70/1A 101 STP 17UVW are Unallocated Crown Land (UCL). They were surrendered from Mine Lease in February 2023. Control of the land rests with the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, and the Arts (DITRDCA), Commonwealth Government. Please see attached letter of authority from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Indian Ocean Territories Branch, DITRDCA (Attachment 1). Parks Australia/The Director of National Parks (DNP) is required under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with DITRDCA to carry out ecological restoration works of relinquished mine lease land, running the Christmas Island Minesite to Forest Rehabilitation (CIMFR) program.		
Street address – Line 1	MCI 70/1A ML 106 Block 1: Go along North-South Baseline Rd, 2.25 km south of the intersection with East West Baseline Rd, and head 0.5 km east. MCI 70/1A 101 STP 17UVW: Go along North-South Baseline Rd, 4.0 km south of the intersection with East West Baseline Rd, and head 1.0 km east.		
Street address – Line 2			
Suburb	Christmas Island		
State	WA	Postcode	6798
Local government area(s)	Christmas Island Unallocated Crown Land		
Land zoning	Christmas Island Unallocated Crown Land		

Part 4 – Relationship to landowner

Tell us which of the following options best describes you as the person completing and submitting this form. If you are filling out this form on behalf of the applicant, answer this question as though you are the applicant.

Proof of ownership may include:

- a certificate of title (that is less than 6 months old)
- a pastoral or mining lease
- public authority that has care, control or management of the land
- other form of lease, land tenure or specific arrangement.

Relationship to landowner (select one of the following options)	Complete the following
<input type="checkbox"/> I am the landowner	<input type="checkbox"/> Attach proof of ownership
<input type="checkbox"/> I am lodging a form on behalf of the landowner (e.g. a consultant)	<input type="checkbox"/> Attach proof of ownership
<input type="checkbox"/> I am acting on the landowner's behalf and will be jointly responsible for the clearing permit (i.e. joint form)	<input type="checkbox"/> Attach proof of ownership <input type="checkbox"/> Complete and attach an 'Acting on behalf and jointly responsible' letter
<input type="checkbox"/> I am likely to become the landowner	<input type="checkbox"/> Attach the Certificate of Title <input type="checkbox"/> Attach evidence of the pending transfer of ownership and/or contract of sale ('offer and acceptance')
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I will undertake the clearing activities with the landowner's authority and will be the permit holder	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attach proof of ownership <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Complete and attach an 'Authority to access and clear native vegetation' letter (if the applicant is not the landowner) ATTACHMENT 1- Letter to Parks_Clearing Permit_Letter of Authority_AS signed_Mar2023
<input type="checkbox"/> A person with multiple land parcels	<input type="checkbox"/> Attach proof of ownership <input type="checkbox"/> Complete and attach 'Authority to access and clear native vegetation' letter (if the applicant is not the landowner)

Part 5 – Proposed clearing

5.1 Maps and/or spatial data

<p>Select which map type(s) you will attach with your form.</p> <p>Note: We will decline / return forms (as applicable) if you do not provide sufficient information for this question.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An ESRI shapefile with the following properties (<i>preferred</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geometry type: polygon shape • Coordinate system: Geocentric Datum of Australia (GDA) 2020 (geographic latitude / longitude) • Datum: GDA 2020 <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An aerial photograph or map with a north arrow, clearly marking the proposed clearing area</p> <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An ESRI shapefile must use one of the following filename extensions: .shp, .shx, .dbf, and/or .prj • You must provide an ESRI shapefile if the form requires an assessment under an <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Cth) (EPBC Act) accredited process. See Part 8 of this form for more information.
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5.2 Size

- If you propose to clear a patch(s) of vegetation, enter a hectare value for the total size of the area (mark number of trees as zero).
- If you propose to remove only individual trees from the area(s) (i.e. the shrubs, grasses, groundcover plants will remain intact), provide the number of trees (and mark total area as estimated hectares).
Note: If any shrubs, grasses, and/or groundcover plants MAY be damaged in the clearing process, add this to the total area.
- If you propose to clear an area of vegetation within a larger footprint, enter the hectare value for the total size of the area to be cleared (mark number of trees as zero) and the size of the footprint. For example, 5 hectares of clearing within a 10 hectare footprint. This option is only available for **purpose permit** applications.
- Enter values for BOTH number of trees and the size of the area if you are clearing individual trees in one area AND a patch of vegetation in a different area.
- Please note the following area conversions/calculations:

1 hectare = 10,000 m ²	Area of circle = 3.14 x radius ²
1 acre = 0.4 hectares / 4,000 m ²	Area of a rectangle = length x width
1 tree = 0.01 hectares / 100 m ²	Area of a triangle = ½ length x perpendicular height

Total area of clearing proposed (hectares)	MCI 70/1A ML 106 Block 1: 5.0835 Ha MCI 70/1A 101 STP 17UVW: 2.373 Ha Total: 7.4565
Footprint of clearing (hectares) (purpose permit only)	Total: 7.4565
Number of individual trees to be removed	0

Note: Calculate the area of a tree based on the area encompassed by the tree's drip line; that being the outermost circumference of the tree's canopy.

5.3 Purpose

Provide the reason for proposed clearing (e.g. road construction, grazing and pasture, hazard reduction, horticulture, timber harvesting etc.)	The purpose of clearing at this site is to remove weedy/degraded vegetation and recover soil to allow redistribution to more useful areas and create habitat corridors connecting forest patches. Once soil is redistributed, it will be replanted with a biodiverse mix of native tree species.
Specify what the final land use will be after clearing	Rehabilitated Forest

5.4 Method

Proposed method of clearing (i.e. burning, cutting, draining, flooding, grazing, mechanical clearing/bulldozing or other – specify)	Primarily mechanical removal - Existing vegetation (weeds, ferns and regrowth) will be mulched in-situ to provide organic matter for establishing native tree plantings. Some weeds (e.g. <i>Leucaena leucocephala</i>) may require poisoning (e.g. with herbicide, Glyphosate) in addition to mechanical removal to ensure they do not resprout or lead to further germination in the field. Sub-surface soil to be ripped using a bulldozer and topsoil distributed by dump truck and excavator/loader.
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5.5 Timeframe

Period within which you propose to do the clearing (e.g. 1/7/2022 to 30/8/2024)	Start date: 30/06/2023 End date: 30/06/2028
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Note: The clearing referral process is not suitable for any clearing that is expected to take longer than two years.

5.6 Avoidance and mitigation

Explain how you have, or will, put avoidance and mitigation measures in place to eliminate, reduce, or otherwise mitigate the need for and scale of the proposed clearing of native vegetation.

Attach supporting documents to substantiate your explanation.

Your explanation should demonstrate you have planned the project so that the least clearing possible is to be undertaken. The following questions may help you frame your explanation:

- Why did you select this location and amount of clearing?
- What alternatives to clearing – e.g. engineering solutions – did you consider?
- What changes, if any, did you make to the location or amount of clearing to reduce the

impacts of the clearing?

Note: If you do not demonstrate adequate efforts to avoid and mitigate clearing, we will ask you to do so during the validation of this form.

<p>Provide the avoidance and mitigation details</p>	<p>The purpose of clearing at these sites is to remove weedy/degraded vegetation and recover soil to allow redistribution to more useful areas and create habitat corridors connecting forest patches. Once soil is redistributed, it will be replanted with a biodiverse mix of native tree species.</p> <p>Most of both areas have been previously cleared for mining. It was most recently re-cleared by Christmas Island Phosphate mine between ~2017-2021 under clearing permit CPS3472/6 (valid until 2025).</p> <p>MCI 70/1A ML 106 Block 1: As illustrated by a series of 15 photographs around the site (Attachment 2), the area is approximately 70% bare ground and the remainder is mostly covered by weeds such as False Coffee Bush (<i>Leucaena leucocephala</i>), Jamaican Cherry (<i>Muntingia calabura</i>), 'Gotcha' sensitive weed (<i>Mimosa diplotricha</i>), snakeweed (<i>Stachytarpheta cayennensis</i>), African Tulip Tree (<i>Spathodea campanulata</i>), Black Sage (<i>Cordia curassavica</i>) and others. Clumps of swordfern (<i>Nephrolepis biserrata</i>) are also establishing. Less than 15% of the area displays scattered native plants that have come up since previous clearing finished, and these are only common species (e.g. <i>Macaranga tanarius</i>, <i>Dysoxylum gaudichaudianum</i>, <i>Pipturus argenteus</i>, <i>Ficus microcarpa</i>). A comprehensive search determined there are no threatened or rare native plants in area.</p> <p>MCI 70/1A 101 STP 17UVW: As illustrated by a series of 7 photographs around the site (Attachment 2), the area is approximately 80% bare ground and the remainder is covered by weeds such as snakeweed (<i>Stachytarpheta cayennensis</i>) , Black Sage (<i>Cordia curassavica</i>) and others. Clumps of swordfern (<i>Nephrolepis biserrata</i>) are also establishing. Less than 5% of the area displays scattered native plants that have come up since previous clearing finished, and these are only common species (e.g. <i>Dysoxylum gaudichaudianum</i>, <i>Pandanus elatus</i>, <i>Ficus macrocarpa</i>, <i>Barringtonia racemosa</i>). A comprehensive search determined there are no threatened or rare native plants in area.</p> <p>Whilst we seek a permit for the areas identified, in reality we will keep native plants where possible as they can be important sources of seed and therefore improve rehabilitation outcomes. With this in mind, we will aim to selectively maneuver around these to remove introduced weeds and retain native species wherever possible and practical.</p> <p>It should be noted that the handful of common native plants that will be removed to access soil for rehabilitation purposes will be replaced with more than 20,000 native trees sourced from the Christmas Island National Park nursery.</p> <p>The clearing and rehabilitation works proposed here will provide an overwhelmingly positive improvement on the site and ecosystem function of the area. It will replace bare open ground with a vegetated corridor and facilitate the safe passage of endemic red crabs for their annual breeding migration towards the coast. In the absence of such a corridor, migrating crabs that attempt to cross the open field may die from heat exposure. Crabs can die crossing distances of as little as 20m in the heat of the day. Numerous crab skeletons were noticed during the assessment on the open areas.</p> <p>Given the reasons outlined above, and environmental imperative to carry out earthworks as soon as possible so completion can be achieved prior to the next crab migration (earthworks likely to start in June/July) we would like to think if there were ever any grounds to seek dispensation or a fast-tracked process, this would be it.</p>
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Part 6 – Offset

Do you want to submit a clearing offset proposal with your form? For more information on environmental offsets, refer to DWER's website and Fact Sheet 11: Environmental offsets for native vegetation clearing permits .	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If 'Yes' – please complete and attach Appendix A of the Clearing of native vegetation offsets procedure guideline as a supporting document for your form.	<input type="checkbox"/> Appendix A attached

Part 7 – Surveys for assessments (IBSA and IMSA)

Do you want to submit marine or biodiversity surveys in support of your form?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No – skip to Part 8
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7.1 Biodiversity surveys

If you want to submit any biodiversity surveys to support this form, you must follow the Environmental Protection Authority's (EPA) [Instructions for the preparation of data packages for the Index of Biodiversity Surveys for Assessments](#) (IBSA). If you do not meet the IBSA requirements, DWER/DMIRS (as applicable) may decline/return your form. For further information on IBSA, refer to [DWER's website](#).

Please provide the IBSA number(s) – or submission number(s) if the IBSA number has not yet been issued – in the space provided. Note that a submission number is not confirmation that a biodiversity survey has been accepted and is not the same as an IBSA number. IBSA numbers are only issued once a survey has been accepted. Once an IBSA number is issued, please notify DWER / DMIRS (as applicable). Please note DWER / DMIRS will suspend the assessment timeframes for your form until you provide the IBSA number(s).

Have you submitted all the biodiversity surveys that support this form to the IBSA portal, via ibsasubmissions.dwer.wa.gov.au ?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable
Provide an IBSA number (preferred) or a submission number(s)	

7.2 Marine surveys

If you want to submit any marine surveys to support this form, you must follow the EPA's [Instructions for the preparation of data packages for the Index of Marine Surveys for Assessments](#) (IMSA). If you do not meet the IMSA requirements, DWER may decline / return your form. For more information on IMSA, refer to [DWER's website](#).

Have you prepared all the marine surveys that support this form in accordance with the EPA's <i>Instructions for the preparation of data packages for the Index of Marine Surveys for Assessments</i> ?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable
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