

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety

# 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

Select your <u>form type</u> .	□ Referral of proposed clearing (s.51DA of the EP Act)
NOTE: Where appropriate in this form, and unless stated otherwise, the terms 'application' and 'applicant' also mean 'referral' and 'referrer' respectively.	<ul> <li>□ Application for an area permit (s.51E of the EP Act)</li> <li>⊠ Application for a purpose permit (s.51E of the EP Act)</li> </ul>

## Part 2 – Applicant details

#### 2.1 Applicant name

For area	□ Applying as an individual – complete the following:			
permits: If granted, the name(s) of (all) landowner(s) will be listed as	Title	□ Mr □ Mrs □ Ms □ Other:		
	Name(s)			
'permit holders' on the permit.	⊠ Applying as a following:	body corporate or other entity formed at law – complete the		
For purpose permits:	Name	IGO Newsearch Pty Ltd		
lf granted, the name(s) of (all)	Australian Com	pany Number (ACN) 142 192 701		
applicant(s) will go on the permit.		government entity (e.g. government department, local nority, or other statutory body)		
	Name			

## 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.	⊠ Yes	□ 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).

□ Yes

 $\boxtimes$  No

Same as applicant's contact details

If 'No' – complete the following:

## 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	□ Yes – skip to Part 4	🛛 No
relevant details in an attached supporting document.		

If 'No' – complete the following:

Land description			
Provide the following details, as applicable, for all properties:	E80/4608		
<ul> <li>volume and folio number</li> <li>lot or location number(s)</li> <li>crown lease or reserve number</li> <li>pastoral lease number</li> <li>mining tenement number</li> </ul>	E80/5199		
Street address – Line 1			
Street address – Line 2			
Suburb			
State	WA	Postcode	
Local government area(s)	Shire of Halls Creek		
Land zoning			

# 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
⊠ I am the landowner	⊠ Attach proof of ownership
□ I am lodging a form on behalf of the landowner (e.g. a consultant)	□ Attach proof of ownership
□ I am acting on the landowner's behalf and will be jointly responsible for the clearing permit (i.e. joint form)	<ul> <li>Attach proof of ownership</li> <li>Complete and attach an 'Acting on behalf and jointly responsible' letter</li> </ul>
□ I am likely to become the landowner	<ul> <li>Attach the Certificate of Title</li> <li>Attach evidence of the pending transfer of ownership and/or contract of sale ('offer and acceptance')</li> </ul>
□ I will undertake the clearing activities with the landowner's authority and will be the permit holder	<ul> <li>Attach proof of ownership</li> <li>Complete and attach an 'Authority to access and clear native vegetation' letter (if the applicant is not the landowner)</li> </ul>
☐ A person with multiple land parcels	<ul> <li>Attach proof of ownership</li> <li>Complete and attach 'Authority to access and clear native vegetation' letter (if the applicant is not the landowner)</li> </ul>

# Part 5 – Proposed clearing

Select which map type(s) you will attach with your form.	<ul> <li>An ESRI shapefile with the following properties (<i>preferred</i>)</li> <li>Geometry type: polygon shape</li> </ul>
Note: We will decline / return forms (as applicable) if you do not provide sufficient information for this question.	<ul> <li>Coordinate system: Geocentric Datum of Australia (GDA) 2020 (geographic latitude / longitude)</li> <li>Datum: GDA 2020</li> </ul>
	An aerial photograph or map with a north arrow, clearly marking the proposed clearing area
	Note:
	<ul> <li>An ESRI shapefile must use one of the following filename extensions: .shp, .shx, .dbf, and/or .prj</li> </ul>
	• 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.

5.1 Maps and/or spatial data

#### 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 <sup>2</sup>	Area of circle = $3.14 \text{ x radius}^2$
1 acre = 0.4 hectares / $4,000 \text{ m}^2$	Area of a rectangle = length x width
1 tree = 0.01 hectares / 100 $m^2$	Area of a triangle = $\frac{1}{2}$ length x perpendicular height

Total area of clearing proposed (hectares)	2.7 На
Footprint of clearing (hectares) (purpose permit only)	8.0 Ha
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.)	Repair/reinstate existing road that is in poor condition due to infrequent use and wet season damage/vegetation regrowth and recent fire.
Specify what the final land use will be after clearing	Road to access drilling area (approved under permit CPS 10130-1). Upon completion of drilling, road is likely to remain open as it is utilized periodically by Traditional Owners to visit nearby cultural heritage site.

#### 5.4 Method

		1
Proposed method of clearing	Road maintenance will be carried out	l
(i.e. burning, cutting, draining, flooding, grazing,	using mechanical clearing and some	l
mechanical clearing/bulldozing or other – specify)	pruning of overhanging branches.	I

#### 5.5 Timeframe

Period within which you propose to do the clearing (e.g. 1/7/2022 to 30/8/2024)	Start date: 01/12/2023
	End date: 01/12/2024

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.

### Avoidance:

Provide the avoidance and mitigation details

The proposed clearing will follow a pre-existing road alignment that has been subject to disturbance from historic maintenance activities and use. Clearing will be limited to within windrows of the existing road, where they are visible and avoid disturbance to adjacent remnant vegetation as much as possible. Where the road is indistinguishable due to erosion and vegetation (predominantly grass) regrowth following the wet season, then clearing will follow the historical alignment using a GPS track. The track is however mostly expected to be visible, due to a recent wildfire in the region that burnt most of the proposed disturbance area.

In parts, there are several drainage crossing points, the proposed clearing alignment route that has been selected, follows tracks that have the least number of drainage crossings and avoid disturbance to riparian vegetation. A buffer of 15m (7.5m either side of centre line) is also applied to the application area to allow flexibility to select the lowest impact route.

All clearing and work activities will be directly supervised by IGO Exploration personnel, under direction from the Exploration Manager and Senior Environmental Advisor.

## Mitigation:

To mitigate impacts as much as possible to environmental values during clearing activities, IGO Limited will implement the following management measures:

Flora and Vegetation Management

- Proposed clearing will be confined to the existing, previously cleared/disturbed road corridor (though now has some vegetation regrowth due to infrequent use), and therefore vegetation impacts will be contained within a discrete, previously disturbed area and will avoid surrounding remnant vegetation as much as possible.
- Clearing will only be undertaken on sections of the road where necessary to allow safe passage of vehicles. Some sections of vegetation will be left intact (e.g. where low herbs/grasses occur on mid-section of road between wheel tracks).
- In some sections where drainage line crossing is required, several historic tracks traverse the location. The crossing points were selected to minimise disturbance to the drainage line and riparian vegetation as much as possible.
- Prior to clearing, an IGO environment team representative with botanical experience, will conduct a search along the road corridor for any conservation significant flora species. Any suspected conservation significant flora species will be avoided if possible, however if this is unachievable, consultation will be undertaken with DMIRS Resource and Environmental Compliance Division. A recent (July 2023) targeted conservation significant flora survey undertaken by a consultant Principal Botanist at two areas adjacent to the road where clearing is proposed, did not find any conservation significant species. Additionally, a post-survey likelihood assessment found that of the 36 conservation significant species detected in database searches, 24 were

considered unlikely to occur due to lack of suitable habitat. The habitat in which the targeted surveys occurred is comparable to the road alignment where clearing is proposed, therefore conservation significant species are not expected to be encountered, however on ground searches will be conducted as per above commitment.

 All proposed land clearing will be subject to and processed through the Land Clearing Request process, as per the IGO Exploration Land Clearing Procedure, whereby both the Environmental and Heritage team will review the proposal and complete a desktop assessment, followed by field visits if required, prior to any ground disturbing work being undertaken.

#### Weed Management

The following measures will be implemented to minimise the potential spread of weeds:

- All earth-moving machinery to be cleaned of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared.
- Movement of machines and other vehicles will be restricted to the limits of the areas to be cleared.
- No soil, mulch or fill will be brought into the area to be cleared. If material is required to repair washouts, in situ material will be used (i.e. through grading).

#### Fauna Management

• Clearing will be conducted in a slow, progressive manner in one direction to allow fauna to move into adjacent native vegetation ahead of the clearing activity.

## Surface Water Management

The following management measures will be implemented to reduce potential impacts on surface water environments:

- Drainage line crossings will be at preexisting crossing points where riparian vegetation is absent or has been previously cleared and disturbed.
- Vehicle movement across drainage lines will be kept to a minimum to reduce erosion, compaction and sedimentation.

#### Fire Management

- No fires will be allowed. Fire advice from the department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) will be observed including fire bans. During Restricted or Prohibited fire periods, a spotter will be utilised for high ignition risk tasks in areas of substantial vegetation cover and/or other fuel load
- Exploration personnel will be made aware of the risks of bushfires and precautions to minimise fire risks, including knowledge of

	escape routes and training in the use of fire extinguishers and fire prevention methods	
•	All vehicles will be fitted with appropriate fire extinguishers at all times; and	
•	Highly flammable substances will be appropriately stored during all exploration activities.	
Waste Management		
•	All waste will be removed from site and/or appropriately disposed of in a licensed landfill facility.	
Hydrocarbon and Other Chemical Management		
•	All Spills will be managed as per the Exploration Hazardous Substance Clean Up and Disposal procedure and where required, reported to the necessary external regulators.	
•	Any soils visibly contaminated with hydrocarbons will be removed and suitably disposed of at an off-site facility.	
•	Minimal quantities of chemicals and hydrocarbons will be stored within the service vehicle	
•	Containment and absorption equipment will be available.	
•	Waste hydrocarbons will be collected, stored in appropriate within a bunded area and transported off site for disposal to an approved waste facility	
•	A hazardous waste manifest will be maintained for the offsite disposal of waste hydrocarbons in compliance with regulatory requirements	
•	Spillages will be reported using the INX system to the Exploration Manager and Environmental Advisor	
Dust and Noi	se Management	
•	Vehicles will travel within speed limits within the areas to minimise both dust and noise;	
•	All vehicles and machinery will be regularly maintained to ensure they are operating optimally and not producing unnecessary noise;	
•	Equipment on site is fitted with muffling devices to minimise noise;	

# Part 6 – Offset

Do you want to submit a clearing offset proposal with your form? For more information on environmental offsets, refer to <u>DWER's website</u> and <u>Fact Sheet 11: Environmental offsets</u> for native vegetation clearing permits.

🗆 Yes 🖾 No

If 'Yes' – please complete and attach Appendix A of the <u>*Clearing of native vegetation offsets procedure*</u> guideline as a supporting document for your form.

# Part 7 – Surveys for assessments (IBSA and IMSA)

Do you want to submit marine or biodiversity surveys in support of your form?

#### 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 <u>DWER's website</u>.

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 <u>ibsasubmissions.dwer.wa.gov.au</u> ?	<ul><li>☑ Yes</li><li>□ Not applicable</li></ul>
Provide an IBSA number (preferred) or a submission number(s)	IBSA-2023-0134

#### 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 <u>DWER's website</u>.

Have you prepared all the marine surveys that support this form in	□ Yes
accordance with the EPA's Instructions for the preparation of data	
packages for the Index of Marine Surveys for Assessments?	☑ Not applicable

 $\boxtimes$  Yes  $\square$  No – skip to Part 8