




Legend

-  Proposed additional clearing permit area
-  CPS 9648/2 approved clearing area
-  Tenement boundary (M70/1382)



PROJECT Lake Lockhart

DRAWING TITLE Figure 1 - Proposed clearing permit

CLIENT Regan Scott Grant/Melita Grant



PO Box 5178
 West Busselton
 Western Australia 6280
 Mobile 0418 950 852

Project Number 2351
 Drawing Number Figure 1
 Revision A
 Date 20/06/2023
 Sheet 1 of 1

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Designed | PN |
| Drawn | PN |
| Checked | |
| Approved | |
| Local Authority | Shire of Lake Grace |

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APPENDIX A – CLEARING PERMIT 9648/2



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Purpose Permit number: | 9648/2 |
| Duration of Permit: | From 17 September 2022 to 16 September 2027 |
| Permit Holder: | Regan Scott Grant |

The Permit Holder is authorised to clear native vegetation subject to the following conditions of this Permit.

PART I - CLEARING AUTHORISED

1. Land on which clearing is to be done

Mining Lease 70/1382
Miscellaneous Licence 70/193

2. Clearing authorised (purpose)

The Permit Holder is authorised to clear native vegetation for the purpose of gypsum extraction and associated activities.

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 70 hectares of native vegetation within the areas cross-hatched yellow in Figure 1 of Schedule 1.

4. Type of Clearing Authorised

The Permit Holder shall not clear native vegetation unless the purpose for which the clearing is authorised is enacted within three months of the authorised clearing being undertaken.

PART II - MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

5. Avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing

In determining the amount of native vegetation to be cleared under this Permit, the Permit Holder must apply the following principles, set out in descending order of preference:

- avoid the clearing of native vegetation;
- minimise the amount of native vegetation to be cleared; and
- reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.

6. Weed control

- (a) When undertaking any clearing or other activity authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder must take the following steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *weeds*:
- (i) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
 - (ii) ensure that no known or *weed*-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill* or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and
 - (iii) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.
- (b) At least once in each 12 month period for the term of this Permit, the Permit Holder must remove or kill any weeds growing within areas cleared under this Permit.

7. Vegetation Management

- (a) where practicable the Permit Holder shall avoid clearing *riparian vegetation*; and
- (b) where a *wetland* is to be impacted by clearing, the Permit Holder shall ensure that the existing surface flow is maintained.

8. Fauna Management

The Permit Holder must conduct clearing activities in a slow, progressive manner into one direction to allow fauna to move into adjacent native vegetation ahead of the clearing activity.

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

9. Records to be kept

The Permit Holder must maintain records relating to the listed relevant matters in accordance with the specifications detailed in Table 1.

Table 1: Records that must be kept

| No. | Relevant matter | Specifications |
|-----|---|---|
| 1. | In relation to the authorised clearing activities generally | <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) the location where the clearing occurred, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings;(b) the date that the area was cleared;(c) the size of the area cleared (in hectares);(d) actions taken to avoid, minimise, and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing in accordance with Condition 5; and(e) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of <i>weeds</i> in accordance with Condition 6; and(f) actions taken in accordance with Conditions 7 and 8. |

10. Reporting

- (a) The Permit Holder shall provide a report to the *CEO* by 31 July each year for the life of this Permit, demonstrating adherence to all conditions of this Permit, and setting out the records required under Condition 9 of this Permit in relation to clearing carried out between 1 July and 30 June of the previous financial year.
- (b) If no clearing authorised under this Permit was undertaken between 1 July and 30 June of the previous financial year, a written report confirming that no clearing under this permit has been carried out, must be provided to the *CEO* by 31 July of each year.
- (c) Prior to 16 September 2027, the Permit Holder must provide to the *CEO* a written report of records required under Condition 9 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under Condition 10(a) or 10(b) of this Permit.

DEFINITIONS

In this Permit, the terms in Table 2 have the meanings defined.

Table 2: Definitions

| Term | Definition |
|---------------------|--|
| CEO | the Chief Executive Officer of the Department responsible for administering the clearing provisions contained within the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> or an Officer with delegated authority under Section 20 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> . |
| clearing | has the meaning given under section 3(1) of the EP Act. |
| condition/s | a condition to which this clearing permit is subject under section 51H of the EP Act. |
| department | means the department established under section 35 of the <i>Public Sector Management Act 1994</i> (WA) and designated as responsible for the administration of the EP Act, which includes Part V Division 3. |
| EP Act | <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> (WA) |
| fill | means material used to increase the ground level, or to fill a depression. |
| mulch | means the use of organic matter, wood chips or rocks to slow the movement of water across the soil surface and to reduce evaporation. |
| native vegetation | has the meaning given under section 3(1) and section 51A of the EP Act. |
| riparian vegetation | has the meaning given to it in Regulation 3 of the Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulation 2004. |
| weed/s | means any plant – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) that is a declared pest under section 22 of the <i>Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007</i>; or (b) published in a Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions species-led ecological impact and invasiveness ranking summary, regardless of ranking; or (c) not indigenous to the area concerned. |
| wetland/s | means an area of seasonally, intermittently or permanently waterlogged or inundated land, whether natural or otherwise, and includes a lake, swamp, marsh, spring, dampland, tidal flat or estuary. |

END OF CONDITIONS



Travis Inman
 General Manager Mine Closure and Environmental Services
 Resource and Environmental Compliance Division
 09 March 2023

Officer with delegated authority under Section 20
 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*

SCHEDULE 1

The boundary of the area authorised to be cleared is shown in the map below (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur

Lakeside Minerals

Malleefowl Survey



Prepared for: **Lakeside Minerals**

Magenta Rd, Magenta WA 6355

Prepared by: **Mike Bamford and Eliza-Joyce Mellersh**

MJ & AR Bamford CONSULTING ECOLOGISTS

23 Plover Way

Kingsley WA 6026



10th January 2023

1 Introduction

Bamford Consulting Ecologists (BCE) was commissioned by Lakeside Minerals to conduct a targeted Malleefowl mound survey within their tenement on Lake Lockhart. Lake Lockhart is a natural salt lake located approximately 390km south-east of Perth. Located in the Mallee bioregion and Western Mallee sub-bioregion, Lake Lockhart is part of a network of salt lakes in the south-west of Western Australia and is a natural source of gypsum (Department of Water, 2008). Gypsum is a naturally-occurring source of sulphur and is the targeted resource for Lakeside Minerals. This report presents the results of the Malleefowl mound survey in the access track and proposed clearing zone.

Lakeside minerals is authorised under their clearing permit (EPA 1986) to:

- (a) Within two weeks prior to undertaking any clearing, engage an *environmental specialist* to conduct an inspection of the area to be cleared to identify *active (in use) Malleefowl (Leipoa ocellata) mounds*.
- (b) Where an *active (in use) Malleefowl mound* is identified under Condition 10(a) of this Permit, the Permit

Holder shall ensure that no clearing occurs within 50 metres of the mound, during the months of September through to January, unless first approved by the *CEO*.

1.1 Survey area

The survey area consists of an access track (and laydown area) and a proposed clearing zone; these are located west of the tenement which lies entirely on Lake Lockhart (**Figure 1-1**). The entire survey area is approximately 0.9km² in size, with the access track approximately 0.1km² in size and the proposed clearing zone approximately 0.8km² in size (**Figure 1-1**).

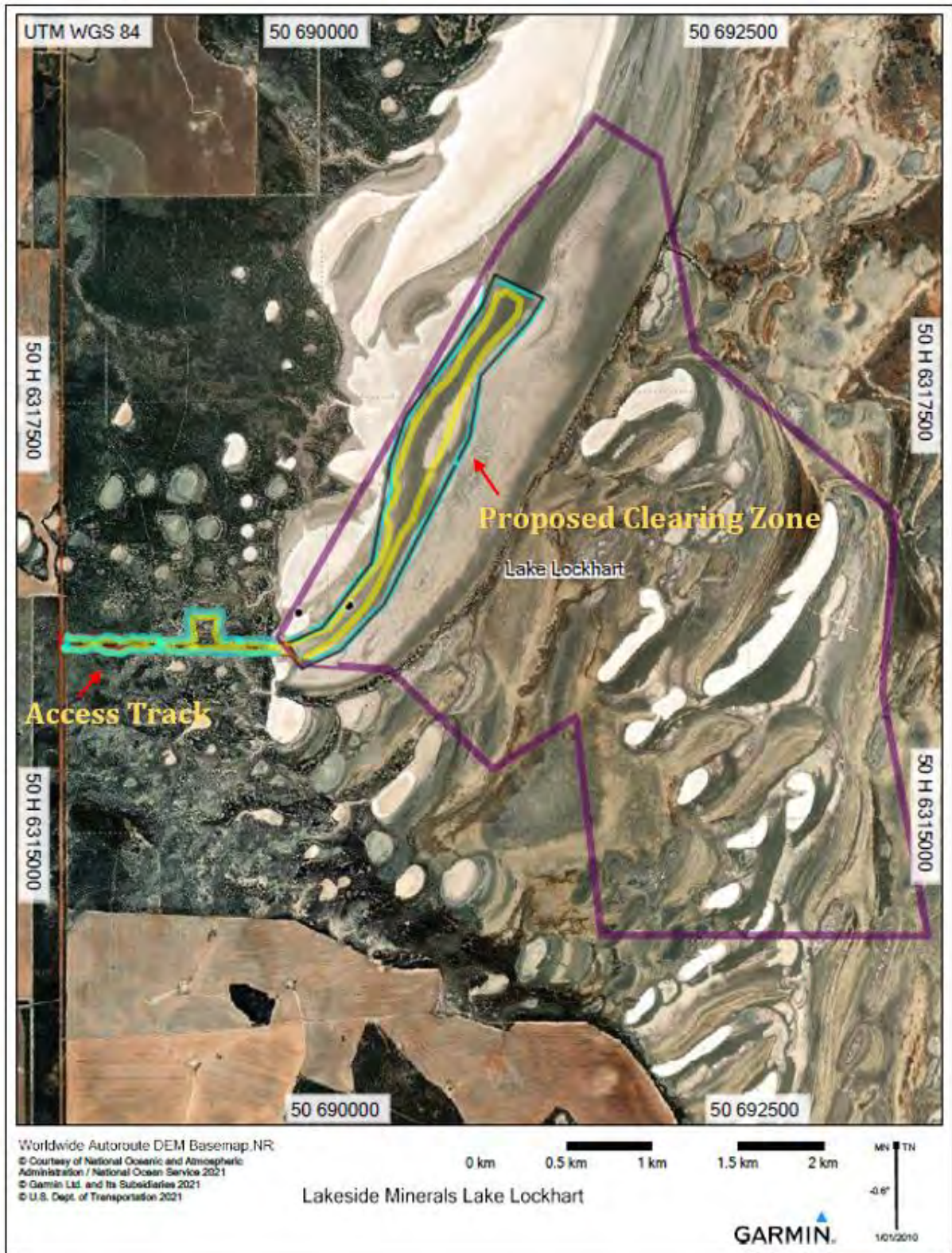


Figure 1-1 Location of survey area showing tenement boundary (purple), access track (red), proposed clearing zone (grey), and GPS tracks of personnel during site visit (blue and yellow).

1.2 Malleefowl

The Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) is currently federally-listed as Vulnerable on the *Environment and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999* and state-listed as Vulnerable on the *Western Australian Biodiversity Conservation (BC) Act 2016*. Malleefowl lives within scrubland and woodland dominated by eucalyptus woodland and wattle species (Burbidge 2004; DotE 2019; DAWE 2022). The Malleefowl is distributed throughout the Southern third of Australia in suitable semi-arid habitats (Menkhorst *et al.* 2017). They are restricted to arid and semi-arid regions of WA with populations known from the Mallee bioregion.

The Malleefowl is threatened due to impacts from feral predation, mortality of individuals (such as roadkill), and habitat loss and fragmentation. Protecting breeding habitat and avoiding impact to active breeding mounds is critical to their survival. As a result, Lakeside Minerals is required to search for active Malleefowl mounds within two weeks prior to any planned clearing to ensure breeding mounds are not impacted by clearing activities in accordance to their clearing permit (EPA 1986).

2 Methods

The survey area was visited on 21st of October 2022 by Eliza-Joyce Mellersh (BSc.) and Sebastian Lloyd (Volunteer). This involved walking along and within the boundaries of the access track and proposed clearing area and searching 50 m either side of the personnel for mounds.

Malleefowl mounds are distinctive in the landscape, and even very old mounds can be obvious.

Figure 1-1 shows the GPS tracks taken by survey personnel. Opportunistic records of all fauna were recorded at all times.

3 Results

3.1 Overview

No active or inactive Malleefowl mounds were recorded throughout the survey area. Eight bird species were opportunistically recorded in the survey area (Appendix 1); these species are considered typical of the area and none is of conservation significance.

3.2 Access Track

The access track is 1 km long and 8 m wide with the layby area 300 m wide (**Figure 1-1**).

Vegetation and substrate within the access track is primarily *Melaleuca* shrubland with sporadic emergent *Eucalyptus* Mallee with an understorey of salt-tolerant shrubs, such as *Tecticornia*, on white sandy soils (Figure 3-1).



Figure 3-1. Vegetation within access track

3.3 Proposed Clearing Zone

The proposed clearing zone is located on the salt lake and is approximately 2.6 km long and between 180 m – 400 m wide. Vegetation and substrate within the proposed clearing zone consists of an understorey of salt-tolerant shrubs, such as *Tecticornia*, on sandy white soils. No Malleefowl mounds were recorded within or adjacent to the proposed clearing zone.



Figure 3-2. Vegetation in proposed clearing zone

4 Summary

No active or inactive Malleefowl mounds were found throughout the survey area and neither the access track nor the salt lake provides the sort of habitat that the species uses for mound construction. As suitable Malleefowl habitat does not occur on salt lakes, no further Malleefowl surveys will be required as part of this clearing proposal. However, should the mining tenement boundaries move towards woodland vegetation, further Malleefowl surveys will be required as woodland is suitable for Malleefowl breeding.

Appendix

Appendix 1. Birds recorded opportunistically during site visit.

| Common Name | Species |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Red-capped Plover | <i>Charadrius ruficapillus</i> |
| Grey Currawong | <i>Strepera versicolor</i> |
| Australian Raven | <i>Corvus coronoides</i> |
| Australian Magpie | <i>Gymnorhina tibicen</i> |
| Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo | <i>Chrysococcyx osculans</i> |
| Rufous Whistler | <i>Pachycephala rufiventris</i> |
| Crested Bellbird | <i>Oreoica gutturalis</i> |
| Galah | <i>Eolophus roseicapilla</i> |

References

Department of Water. (2008). *Waterway assessment for the lower Lockhart River: Caroline Gap to Old Beverly Road*. Water resource management series Report No. WRM 54. Retrieved from

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DAWE. (2022). *Leipoa ocellata* in Species Profile and Threats Database. Department of the Environment. Available from: <http://www.environment.gov.au/sprat>

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