



## CLEARING PERMIT

*Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986*

<b>Purpose Permit number:</b>	10471/1
<b>Duration of Permit:</b>	From 4 May 2024 to 3 May 2029
<b>Permit Holder:</b>	Great Western Exploration Limited

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**

Exploration Licence 69/3443

**2. Clearing authorised (purpose)**

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

**3. Area of Clearing**

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 4 hectares of native vegetation within the area shaded yellow in Figure 1 of Schedule 1.

**4. Directional clearing**

The Permit Holder shall must:

- conduct all clearing authorised under this permit in one direction towards adjacent vegetation; and
- allow a reasonable time for fauna present within the area being cleared to move into that adjacent native vegetation ahead of the clearing activity.

### **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

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*:

- (a) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
- (b) ensure that no known *weed*-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill* or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and
- (c) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.

## 7. Flora Management

- (a) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder shall engage a *botanist*, to conduct a *targeted flora survey* of the area(s) proposed to be cleared, for the presence of *threatened flora* listed in the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice* and *priority flora*, in accordance with *EPA Technical Guidance*.
- (b) Where *threatened flora* or *priority flora* are identified in relation to Condition 7(a) of this Permit, the Permit Holder shall ensure that:
  - (i) no clearing within 50 metres of the identified *threatened flora* occurs, unless first approved by the *CEO*;
  - (ii) no clearing of the identified *priority flora* occurs, unless first approved by the *CEO*; and
  - (iii) no clearing within 10 metres of the identified *priority flora* occurs, unless first approved by the *CEO*.

## 8. Fauna Management

- (a) Within two weeks prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder shall engage a *fauna specialist* to undertake *clearance surveys* for:
  - (i) brush-tailed mulgara (*Dasymercus blythi*);
  - (ii) greater bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*);
  - (iii) great desert skink (*Liopholis kintorei*); and
  - (iv) northern marsupial mole (*Notoryctes caurinus*).
- (b) Where brush-tailed mulgara, greater bilby, great desert skink, and/or northern marsupial mole burrows identified under Condition 8(a), the Permit Holder shall engage a *fauna specialist* to determine if the burrow is occupied.
- (c) Within two weeks prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder shall engage a *fauna specialist* to relocate any brush-tailed mulgara, greater bilby, great desert skink, and/or northern marsupial mole found under Condition 8(a) and 8(b) of this permit.
- (d) The Permit Holder shall engage a fauna spotter to traverse the project area ahead of clearing machinery, at the time of clearing and alert machinery operators to avoid brush-tailed mulgara, greater bilby, great desert skink, and/or northern marsupial mole or injury or mortality.
- (e) Where any brush-tailed mulgara, greater bilby, great desert skink, and/or northern marsupial mole are identified and relocated under Condition 8(a), 8(b), 8(c) and 8(d) of this Permit, the Permit Holder shall include the following in a report submitted to the *CEO*:
  - (i) the location of any evidence of brush-tailed mulgara, greater bilby, great desert skink, and/or northern marsupial mole recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;
  - (ii) the type of evidence recorded under Condition 8(e)(i) e.g. fauna individuals, burrows, mounds, scats, tracks;
  - (iii) the location and date where any brush-tailed mulgara, greater bilby, great desert skink, and/or northern marsupial mole were relocated using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;
  - (iv) the name of the *fauna specialist* that relocated the brush-tailed mulgara, greater bilby, great desert skink, and/or northern marsupial mole under Condition 8(c); and

- (v) a copy of the fauna licence authorising the relocation of the brush-tailed mulgara, greater bilby, great desert skink, and/or northern marsupial mole under Condition 8(c).

### **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**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Relevant matter</b>	<b>Specifications</b>
1.	In relation to the authorised clearing activities generally	<p>(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;</p> <p>(b) the date that the area was cleared;</p> <p>(c) the size of the area cleared (in hectares);</p> <p>(d) actions taken in accordance with Condition 4;</p> <p>(e) actions taken to avoid, minimise, and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing in accordance with Condition 5;</p> <p>(f) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of <i>weeds</i> in accordance with Condition 5; and</p> <p>(g) actions taken in accordance with Condition 8.</p>
2.	In relation to flora management pursuant to Condition 7	<p>(a) the name and location of each <i>threatened flora</i> and/or <i>priority flora</i> species, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings;</p> <p>(b) actions taken to demarcate each <i>threatened flora</i> and/or <i>priority flora</i> species recorded and their relevant buffers; and</p> <p>(c) actions taken to avoid the clearing of <i>threatened flora</i> and/or <i>priority flora</i> species.</p>

#### **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 3 May 2029, 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**

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
botanist	means a person who holds a tertiary qualification in environmental science or equivalent and has a minimum of 2 years work experience in identification and surveys of flora native to the bioregion being inspected or surveyed, or who is approved by the <i>CEO</i> as a suitable <i>botanist</i> for the bioregion.
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.
clearance survey/s	means a search of immediate impact areas prior to clearing to locate fauna. The clearance survey should focus on locating burrows, recent foraging signs, fresh tracks and scats.
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.
EPA Technical Guidance	means Environmental Protection Authority (2016), <i>Technical Guidance - Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment</i> , EPA, Western Australia.
EP Act	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> (WA)
fauna specialist	means a person who holds a tertiary qualification specialising in environmental science or equivalent, and has a minimum of 2 years work experience in fauna identification and surveys of fauna native to the region being inspected or surveyed, or who is approved by the <i>CEO</i> as a suitable fauna specialist for the bioregion, and who holds a valid fauna licence issued under the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> .
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.
priority flora	means those plant taxa described as priority flora classes 1, 2, 3, or 4 in the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' <i>Threatened and Priority Flora List for Western Australia</i> (as amended).
targeted flora survey	means a field-based investigation, including a review of established literature, of the biodiversity of flora and vegetation of the Permit Area, focusing on habitat suitable for flora species that are being targeted and carried out during the optimal time to identify those species. Where target flora are identified in the Permit Area, the survey should also include sufficient surrounding areas to place the Permit Area into local context.
threatened flora	means those plant taxa listed as threatened flora under the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> .
weed/s	means any plant – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) that is a declared pest under section 22 of the <i>Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007</i>; or</li> <li>(b) published in a Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions species-led ecological impact and invasiveness ranking summary, regardless of ranking; or</li> <li>(c) not indigenous to the area concerned.</li> </ul>

Term	Definition
<i>Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice</i>	means those plant taxa gazetted as a threatened flora pursuant to section 19(1) of the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> (as amended).

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**END OF CONDITIONS**

*Laura Copeland*

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**Laura Copeland** | Acting General Manager Mine Closure and Environmental Services  
Resource and Environmental Compliance Division  
11 April 2024

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).

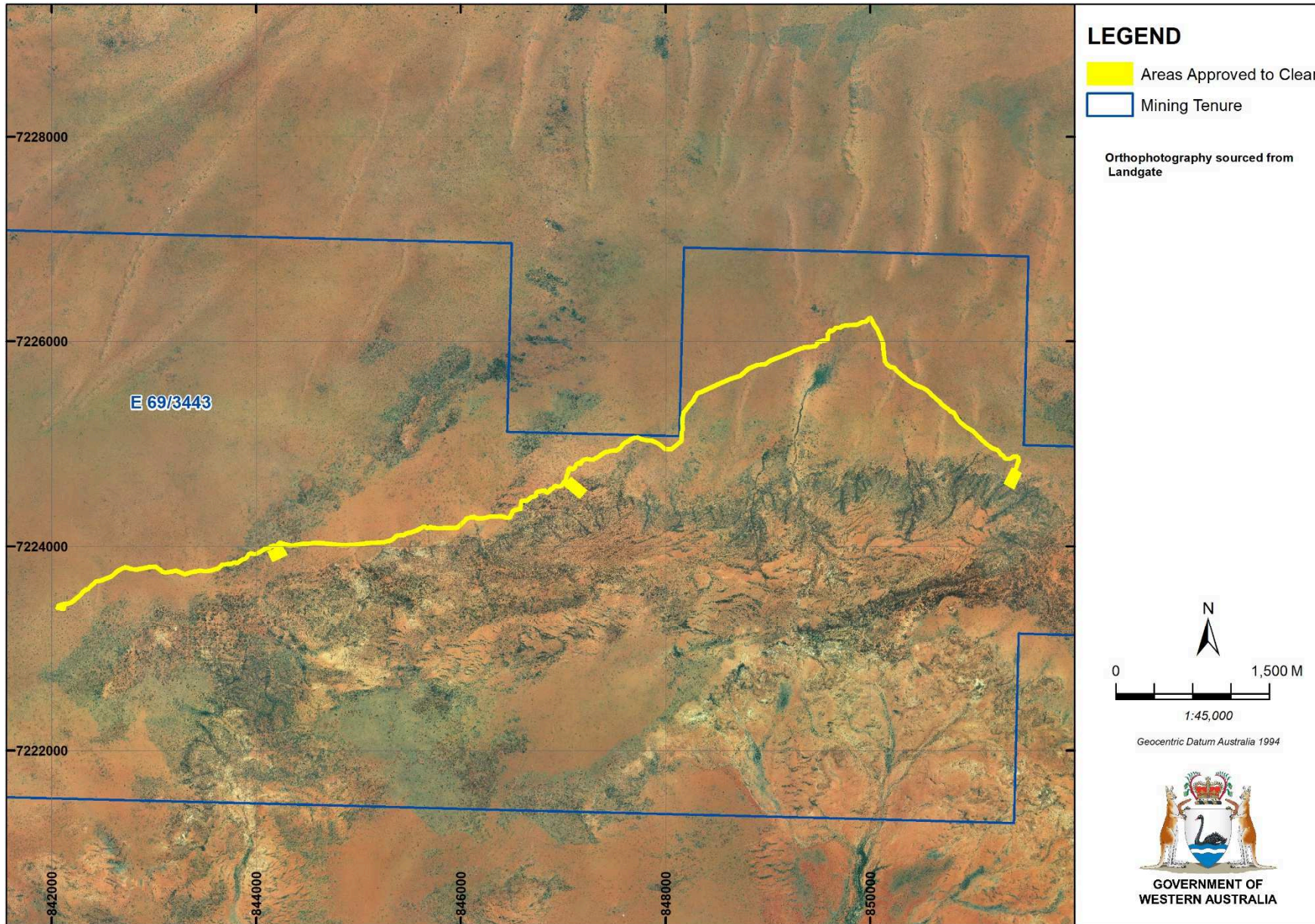


Figure 1: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur.