



Vegetation Clearing and Ground Disturbance Management Plan

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RMS Group

Environment

1. PURPOSE

This vegetation clearing and ground disturbance management plan is in place to:

- Minimise environmental harm and make considered decisions about land use
- Manage compliance with relevant statutory requirements and RMS environmental management protocols;
- Capture information that will be included for reporting purposes and planning of rehabilitation activities;

2. SCOPE

This Vegetation Clearing and Ground Disturbance Management Plan provides a tool that describes the requirements to be considered prior to the commencement of any clearing activities. This Management Plan describes the approach to managing clearing of vegetation and ground disturbance as well as risks and compliance with statutory requirements.

This Management Plan is relevant to personnel and contractors engaging in vegetation clearing or ground disturbance activities and applies to all Ramelius Resources Ltd ("Ramelius" or "RMS") projects. This Management Plan will be managed in accordance with the overarching Environmental Management System.

Each Ramelius project has a vegetation clearing and ground disturbance procedure that will provide site specific information on site permits, approvals, and environmental aspects. Site procedures will include additional detail on the process, as well as the location and storage of data.

3. RELATED DOCUMENTS

This Management plan and does not negate the requirement to comply with any other procedures or management plans.

- **RMS Flora and Vegetation Management Plan** (in development)
- *Site Specific* **Vegetation Clearing and Ground Disturbance Procedures**
 - **EMO Clearing and Ground Disturbance Procedure**
 - **MAR Ground Disturbance Permit Procedure**
 - **MMG Clearing and Ground Disturbance Procedure**
 - **SYM Ground Disturbance Permit Procedure**
 - **TAM Ground Disturbance Permit Procedure**
- **RMS Internal Clearing Form** (in development)
- **RMS Excavations (to dig) Procedure**
- **RMS Vehicle Hygiene Weed Inspection Form** (in development)



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4. ACCOUNTABILITIES

Role	Responsibilities
Senior Site Executive	Ensures this management plan is implemented and understood by all personnel and contractors engaging in clearing or ground disturbance activities. Implements a process to review the requirements of this management plan prior to commencement of clearing or ground disturbance activities onsite. Provides adequate resources to enable personnel to comply with management plan.
Manager or Superintendent	Identifies a requirement to clear vegetation or conduct ground disturbance activities and liaises with Environmental Advisor.
Environmental Advisor	Review scopes of proposed clearing, conducts assessment of environmental and heritage information and ensures compliance with statutory requirements. Maintains records of cleared areas.
Surveyor	Conducts field assessment and delineates boundary of proposed clearing area in accordance with GIS files supplied by the Environmental Advisor.
Area Supervisor	Ensures works are undertaken in accordance with the Internal Clearing Form. Liaises with Environmental Advisor.
Earthworks personnel	Does not commence work without an Internal Clearing Form and undertakes works in accordance with the form and only within the area marked by Surveyor.

5. DEFINITIONS

Term	Definition
Vegetation Clearing Ground Disturbance	Clearing is the removal and loss of any flora or vegetation (plant) species. Includes native and pastoral species as well as areas that have been revegetation or where regrowth has occurred spontaneously. Ground disturbance is any activity occurring that will result in the removal and loss of vegetation and/or surface soils. Examples of ground disturbance include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use of any ground engaging tools (dozer, grader, excavator)• Removal of vegetation, topsoil, subsoil or gravel• Grading of a natural ground surface• Alteration of a surface water flow path• Creation of an exploration track or pad• Driving vehicles off authorised roads and access tracks.
Remnant Vegetation/Bushland	Ground covered by native vegetation in its natural state. This includes any vegetation that has had the ground disturbed around it. For example, an isolated stand of trees or single large tree.
Historical Disturbance	Areas that were previously cleared by historical mining that was not approved by current legislation (typically early to mid-1900s) that now supports vegetation regrowth. Examples of historical mining activities are: mullock dumps; surface tails deposits; shafts; costeans, remnants of dry blowing, battery or vat-leaching operations.
Actively Cleared	Vegetation that has been removed/cleared in compliance with environmental statutory requirements.



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Term	Definition
Internal Clearing Form	Internal document that provides consent to commence vegetation clearing and ground disturbance activities and is a mechanism to record cleared areas for reporting and monitoring purposes.
Native Vegetation Clearing Permit (NVCP)	<p>Permit received from the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation & Safety (DEMIRS) to undertake clearing.</p> <p>There are two types of NVCP Purpose Permit which provides clearing up to a maximum area within a nominated disturbance envelope; and Area Permit which provides clearing of specifically nominated areas that cannot be changed.</p> <p>Ramelius operates projects within a number of jurisdictions which have different rules and regulations applied. For example a project located within the Wheatbelt has different considerations to a project located within the Goldfields.</p> <p>A Schedule 6 exemption applies to some but not all project areas. Some projects fall within Environmentally Sensitive Areas or have other limitations or conditions imposed which affect the decision to clear vegetation or conduct ground disturbance activities.</p>
Project(s)	For the purposes of this document, “project/s” refers to all subsidiaries, sites, mines, exploration and development operations under Ramelius.

6. PROCESS FOR CLEARING NATIVE VEGETATION AND GROUND DISTURBANCE ACTIVITIES

Process	Role	Accountabilities
1	Senior Site Executive	<p>Ensures this management plan is implemented and understood by all personnel and contractors engaging in clearing or ground disturbance activities.</p> <p>Implements a process to review the requirements of this management plan prior to commencement of clearing or ground disturbance activities onsite.</p>
2	Manager or Superintendent	<p>Identifies a requirement to clear vegetation or conduct ground disturbance activities.</p> <p>Notifies Environmental Advisor and provides relevant information and schedule.</p>
3	Site Environmental Advisor or Corporate Senior Environmental Advisor	<p>Review scope of proposed clearing or ground disturbance.</p> <p>Conducts a field assessment of proposed clearing (where there is no environmental personnel onsite, a field assessment is at the discretion of the GEM).</p> <p>Produce GIS record of proposed clearing and check is within the boundary and remaining area balance an existing NVCP.</p> <p>Assess area to determine if any environmental sensitivities or heritage sites.</p> <p>If a NVCP does not exist, prepare application for permit in consultation with SSE.</p> <p>If proposed activities comply with existing NVCP, an Internal Clearing Form will be issued.</p> <p>A register and GIS record of all vegetation clearing will be maintained and the remaining area balance of the NVCP updated.</p>



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Process	Role	Accountabilities
4	Surveyor	<p>Receives the GIS files from Environmental Advisor and marks out the perimeter of proposed clearing area with wooden pegs and bunting tape.</p> <p>Physically walks boundary of proposed clearance with Works Supervisor and Environmental Superintendent/Coordinator prior to commencing earthworks where appropriate.</p> <p>Accurately and clearly pegs out the area to be cleared.</p> <p>Signs Internal Clearing Form indicating that area has been surveyed and marked out in accordance with GIS files.</p>
5	Area Supervisor	<p>Ensures that a signed copy of the Internal Clearing Form is received prior to commencement of vegetation clearing or ground disturbance activities.</p> <p>Conducts a field assessment of boundary of proposed clearing area, as indicated by survey pegs, prior to commencing earthworks and signs the Internal Clearing Form to confirm this has been done.</p> <p>Notifies Environmental Advisor if any environmental or heritage sensitivities are observed or suspected during earthworks activities.</p> <p>Notifies Environmental Advisor when earthworks are complete.</p>
6	Earthworks personnel	<p>Reviews a copy of the Internal Clearing Form.</p> <p>Receives instructions for clearing of vegetation or ground disturbance from Area Supervisor.</p> <p>Stops earthworks immediately and reports to Area Supervisor if any environmental or heritage sensitivities are observed or suspected.</p> <p>Reports to Area Supervisor when activities are completed.</p>

7. DOCUMENT REVIEW

Any improvements or suggestions should be directed to the Group Environmental Manager (GEM).

This Clearing and Ground Disturbance Management Plan shall be reviewed annually, in response to a change to the statutory requirements, change to industry practice, when deemed appropriate by the GEM.