



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 136/1

Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: AngloGold Ashanti Australia Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: M39/347

Colloquial name: Sunrise Dam gold mine

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
5		Mechanical Removal	Mining

2. Site information

2.1. Existing environment and information

2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description	Clearing Description	Vegetation Condition	Comment
Beard Vegetation Association 389; Succulent steppe with open low woodland; mulga over saltbush.	Chenopod scrublands are dominant vegetation type in area proposed to be cleared (IN17730).	Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994)	Vegetation condition was derived from site visit description from DAWA (2004).

3. Assessment of application against Clearing Principles

(a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.

Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

No information was provided to enable an assessment against this Principle. However given information provided in the flora survey (Mattiske Consulting Pty Ltd 2003), indicates that the vegetation does not have a high level of diversity and it is unlikely that this Principle will be adversely impacted.

Methodology Mattiske Consulting Pty Ltd (2003)

(b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.

Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The proposal is not likely to be at variance with this Principle as an interim fauna survey report indicates that no mammal, frog or reptile recorded is considered to be rare, threatened or vulnerable (Ninox, 2004). The Australian bustard was recorded on the lease (Priority 4 - Taxa in need of monitoring) (Ninox 2004). However, it is considered that the small area to be cleared in this instance is unlikely to have a significant impact on this species.

Methodology Ninox (2004)

(c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, significant flora.

Comments Proposal is not at variance to this Principle

The proposal is not at variance with this Principle as no Declared Rare or Priority Flora has been identified at the site under application (Mattiske Consulting 2003).

Methodology Mattiske Consulting (2003)
GIS database: Declared Rare and Priority Flora List - CALM 13/08/03.

(d) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a significant ecological community.

Comments Proposal is not at variance to this Principle

The proposal is not at variance with this Principle as no significant ecological communities have been identified for the area under application (Mattiske Consulting 2003)

Methodology Mattiske Consulting (2003)
GIS databases: Threatened Ecological Communities - CALM 15/7/03

(e) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.

Comments Proposal is not at variance to this Principle

The proposal is not at variance with this Principle as the vegetation is well represented.

	Pre-European area (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Remaining %*	Conservation status**	% in reserves/CALM-managed land
IBRA Bioregion- Murchison	28,206,195	28,206,195	100	Least Concern	
Beard veg type-389	739,637	739,292	100	Least Concern	0.3

* (Shepherd et al. 2001)

** (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002)

Methodology Shepherd et al. (2001)
GIS database: Pre-European Vegetation - DA 01/01.

(f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.

Comments Proposal is not at variance to this Principle

The proposal is not at variance with this Principle as there are management conditions as part of Department of Industry and Resource approvals that cover surface water drainage (Letter of Intent Submission to DOIR).

Methodology Letter of Intent Submission to DOIR, IN17730

(g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.

Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

Proposed clearing of 5ha for mining purposes is not likely to cause appreciable on site and off site land degradation subject to the implementation of appropriate management strategies to address any resultant water starvation issues

Methodology Site assessment by DAWA 2004

(h) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.

Comments Proposal is not at variance to this Principle

The proposal is not at variance with this Principle as there are no nearby conservation reserves.

Only 0.3% of Beard vegetation type 389 is protected in secure tenure. The benchmark of 15% representation in conservation reserves (JANIS Forests Criteria 1997) has not been met for this vegetation association. However, because of the largely uncleared state of this vegetation type, the proposal is not considered to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology GIS database - CALM Managed Lands and Water - CALM 01/08/04.

(i) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

The proposal is not likely to be at variance with this Principle as management strategies are in place to control surface water flow and acid rock drainage that may otherwise impact on ground water and downstream vegetation (Anglogold Ashanti 2004)

Methodology Anglogold Ashanti (2004)

(j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence of flooding.

Comments **Proposal is not at variance to this Principle**

The proposal is not at variance with this Principle as there are management conditions as part of Department of Industry and Resource approvals that cover surface water drainage that relate to flooding (Letter of Intent Submission to DOIR).

Methodology Letter of Intent Submission to DOIR IN17730

(k) Planning instrument or other matter.

Comments

No comment made.

Methodology

4. Assessor's recommendations

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Decision	Comment / recommendation
Aquaculture	Burning	0 0		
Mining	Mechanical Removal	5	Grant	Recommend that proposal is granted as there are no issues that are at variance with the Clearing Principles. Environmental management is being implemented via the Notice of Intent process (Department of Industry and Resources).

5. References

AngloGold Ashanti (2004) Clearing Permit Application with supporting documentation. DoE TRIM ref IN17730.

Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002) Biodiversity Action Planning. Action planning for native biodiversity at multiple scales; catchment bioregional, landscape, local. Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Victoria.

DOIR (2004) Notice of intent- Conditions set. Department of Industry and Resources. DoE TRIM ref NI852.

JANIS Forests Criteria (1997) Nationally agreed criteria for the establishment of a comprehensive, Adequate and Representative reserve System for Forests in Australia. A report by the Joint ANZECC/MCFFA National Forest Policy Statement Implementation Sub-committee. Regional Forests Agreement process. Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra.

Keighery, BJ (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

Mattiske Consulting (2003) Flora and Vegetation Survey of mining leases at Sunrise Dam Gold Mine, Laverton. Unpublished document prepared for AngloGold Australia Limited, Sunrise Dam. DoE TRIM ref AD56.

Ninox (2004) Interim report. Vertebrate fauna survey results. Autumn and winter 2004, Sunrise Dam. Unpublished report prepared for AngloGold Ashanti.

Shepherd, D.P., Beeston, G.R. and Hopkins, A.J.M. (2001) Native Vegetation in Western Australia, Extent, Type and Status. Resource Management Technical Report 249. Department of Agriculture, Western Australia