



## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 180/1

Permit type: Area Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Hudson Resources Limited

### 1.3. Property details

Property: M70/128

Colloquial name: Mining lease on Victoria Location 7220, 80km from Yuna, Mullewa

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
4		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 266: Mosaic: Shrublands; bowgada scrub / Succulent steppe; saltbush & bluebush	The area under assessment (3.6 ha) is approximately 80 km north of Yuna and 500m east of Lake Neramyne. The area is located in a plain dominated by bowgada shrubland and acacia spp. over predominantly heavy/clay soils with poor infiltration. Stock grazing has removed most of the understory vegetation, and large areas of barren earth are evident throughout the area proposed for clearing (Photos - TRIM GD 205 & GD 201) .	Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994)	Observed during site visit - The area to be cleared has been degraded through grazing. Understorey species were almost completely absent, with large barren patches of earth observed. Significant signs of stock activity - including dung and tracks - were observed in the area (Photos - TRIM GD 205, GD 202 & GD 201).

## 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 by the proponent to make an assessment against this Principle. However, site inspection revealed that the area is significantly grazed and degraded by stock. The area displays a widespread loss of understory vegetation. It is therefore unlikely that the area under assessment represents an area of greater biodiversity than other, less disturbed areas.

**Methodology** Site visit.

### (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

No information was provided by the proponent to make an assessment against this Principle. The site displays evidence of significant stock activity (cattle, sheep & goats). No evidence of native fauna activity was observed during the site visit.

**Methodology** Site Visit.

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

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

The closest significant flora species is located 28km to the east-northeast (Prostanthera petrophilia - Priority 1 - poorly known taxa).

**Methodology** GIS Databases:  
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 likely to be at variance to this Principle**

Insufficient data is available to make an adequate assessment of this Principle. However, there are no known Threatened Ecological Communities within the area of the proposed clearing.

**Methodology** GIS Databases:  
Threatened Ecological Communities - CALM 15/07/2003.

**(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 proposed area is situated in the Extensive Landuse Zone of the Shire of Mullewa (Shepherd et al. 2001). The bioregion (Yalgoo) is predominantly uncleared, though degraded through overgrazing.

	Pre-European area (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Remaining %*	Conservation status**	Reserves/CALM-managed land, % veg
IBRA Bioregion - Yalgoo	4,293,913	4,244,964	98.9	Least Concern	
Shire- Mullewa	1,076,999	580,502	53.9	Least Concern	
Beard veg type 266	151,419	150,756	99.6	Least Concern	5.7

\* Shepherd et al. (2001)

\*\* Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)

**Methodology** Shepherd et al. 2001.  
GIS databases:  
- Interim Biographic Regionalisation of Australia - EA 18/10/2000.  
- Interim Biographic Regionalisation of Australia (subregions) - EA 18/10/2000.  
- 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 likely to be at variance to this Principle**

The area under assessment is located in the Murchison catchment, approximately 500m east of Lake Neramyne. It is not expected that the clearing will impact on Lake Neramyne or any other watercourses. The vegetation is not associated with a watercourse or wetland.

**Methodology** Site visit:  
GIS databases:  
- Hydrographic catchments - Catchments - DoE 03/04/2003  
- Hydrography, linear DoE 01/02/2004

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

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

DAWA (2004) reports:  
'The clearing of less than 4 hectares is unlikely to significantly increase the risk of land degradation. The site is already quite degraded from prior pastoral grazing operations and the proponent has submitted a rehabilitation plan as it is part on an ongoing mining concern.'

**Methodology** Site Visit.  
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**

There are no conservation areas near the area under application for clearing.

**Methodology**    GIS Database:  
CALM Managed Lands and Waters CALM 01/06/2004

**(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 at variance to this Principle**

The proposed area is not in or near to a PWDSA area and the proposal is not expected to impact on surface or ground water quality.

**Methodology**    Site Visit:  
GIS database:  
- PWDSA policy area.

**(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**

Due to the relatively small size of the area under application, the proposal is not expected to exacerbate flooding in the area.

**Methodology**    Site Visit

**(k) Planning instrument or other matter.**

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

No comment made.

**Methodology**

**4. Assessor's recommendations**

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Decision	Comment / recommendation
Mining	Mechanical Removal	4	<b>Grant</b>	The proposal does not appear to be at variance with any of the Clearing Principles. It is therefore recommended that the proposed clearing of up to 4 hectares of vegetation for the purpose of mining attapulgitic clay by Hudson Resources Inc. be approved.

**5. References**

DAWA (2004) Land degradation assessment. Midwest Regional Office, Department of Agriculture Western Australia. DoE TRIM ref GI 7.

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.

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

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.