



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	2424/3
Duration of Permit:	From 14 February 2009 to 31 July 2024
Permit Holder:	Western Areas 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

General Purpose Lease 70/226
General Purpose Lease 70/231
Miscellaneous Licence 70/111
Miscellaneous Licence 74/44

2. Purpose for which clearing may be done

Clearing for the purpose of a de-watering pipeline and evaporation ponds.

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 55 hectares of native vegetation. All clearing must be within the areas cross-hatched yellow or shaded red on attached Plans 2424/3A and 2424/3B.

4. Application

This Permit allows the Permit Holder to authorise persons, including employees, contractors and agents of the Permit Holder, to clear native vegetation for the purposes of this Permit subject to compliance with the conditions of this Permit and approval from the Permit Holder.

PART II - MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

5. 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*:

- (i) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
- (ii) ensure that no *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.

6. Retain and spread vegetative material and topsoil

Where the Permit Holder clears an area for laying a de-watering pipeline, the Permit Holder shall:

- (a) retain the vegetative material and topsoil removed by clearing authorised under this Permit and stockpile the vegetative material and topsoil in an area that has already been cleared;
- (b) within 6 months following completion of clearing authorised under this Permit, lay the vegetative material and topsoil retained under Condition 6(a) on the cleared area, except for a four metre wide access track adjacent to the de-watering pipeline.

7. Mitigation - rehabilitation and revegetation

Where clearing occurs within the areas shaded red on attached Plan 2424/3A, the Permit Holder shall *revegetate* to provide ecological linkage between uncleared vegetation north of the application area to Jackson Nature Reserve, Reserve Number 34523, by:

- (a) respreading topsoil removed from within the areas shaded red and deliberately *planting* and/or *direct seeding* native vegetation that will result in similar species composition, structure and density of native vegetation to pre-clearing vegetation types in that area;
- (b) ensuring only *local provenance* seeds and propagating material sourced from within 30 kilometres of the area cleared are used to *revegetate* and *rehabilitate* the area;
- (c) revegetation to be maintained by controlling weeds and grazing by animals; and
- (d) within 18 months of undertaking *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* in accordance with Condition 7(a) of this Permit:
 - (i) engage an *environmental specialist* to determine the species composition, structure and density of the area *revegetated* and *rehabilitated*; and
 - (ii) where, in the opinion of an *environmental specialist*, the composition structure and density determined under Condition 7(d)(i) of this Permit will not result in a similar species composition, structure and density to that of pre-clearing vegetation types in that area, undertake additional *planting* and/or *direct seeding* of native vegetation that will result in a similar species composition, structure and density of native vegetation to pre-clearing vegetation types in that area in accordance with the requirements of Condition 7(b) of the Permit.

8. Flora Management

This Permit does not authorise the Permit Holder to clear *Stenanthemum liberum*.

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

9. Records to be kept

The Permit Holder must maintain the following records for activities done pursuant to this Permit:

- (a) In relation to the clearing of native vegetation authorised under this Permit:
 - (i) 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 or decimal degrees;
 - (ii) the date that the area was cleared;
 - (iii) the size of the area cleared (in hectares); and
 - (iv) purpose for which clearing was undertaken.
- (b) In relation to the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* of areas pursuant to Condition 7 of this Permit:
 - (i) the location of any areas *revegetated* and *rehabilitated*, 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) a description of the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* activities undertaken; and
 - (iii) the size of the area *revegetated* and *rehabilitated* (in hectares).

10. Reporting

- (a) The Permit Holder shall provide a report to the General Manager Environmental Compliance, Resource and Environmental Compliance Division, Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety 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) Prior to 31 July 2024, the Permit Holder must provide to the General Manager Environmental Compliance, Resource and Environmental Compliance Division, Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety a written report of records required under Condition 9 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under Condition 10(a) of this Permit.

DEFINITIONS

The following meanings are given to terms used in this Permit:

CEO means the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation or an officer with delegated authority under Section 20 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*;

direct seeding means a method of re-establishing vegetation through the establishment of a seed bed and the introduction of seeds of the desired plant species;

environmental specialist means a person who holds a tertiary qualification in environmental science or equivalent, and has experience relevant to the type of environmental advice that an environmental specialist is required to provide under this Permit, or who is approved by the *CEO* as a suitable environmental specialist;

fill means material used to increase the ground level, or fill a hollow;

local provenance means native vegetation seeds and propagating material from natural sources within 30 kilometres and the same Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) subregion of the area cleared;

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;

planting means the re-establishment of vegetation by creating favourable soil conditions and planting seedlings of the desired species;

regenerate/ed/ion means *revegetation* that can be established from in situ seed banks contained either within the topsoil or seed-bearing *mulch*;

rehabilitate/ed/ion means actively managing an area containing native vegetation in order to improve the ecological function of that area;

revegetate/ed/ion means the re-establishment of a cover of *local provenance* native vegetation in an area using methods such as natural *regeneration*, *direct seeding* and/or *planting*, so that the species composition, structure and density is similar to pre-clearing vegetation types in that area;

weed/s means any plant -

- (a) that is a declared pest under section 22 of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*; or
- (b) published in a Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions Regional Weed Rankings Summary, regardless of ranking; or
- (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.

Danielle Risbey

Danielle Risbey
Acting General Manager Environmental Compliance
Resource and Environmental Compliance Division
31 July 2019

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