



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 2473/3
Permit Holder:	Northern Star (HBJ) Pty Ltd
Duration of Permit:	19 July 2008 – 19 July 2030

The Permit Holder is authorised to clear native vegetation subject to the following conditions of this Permit.

PART I – CLEARING AUTHORISED

1. Purpose for which clearing may be done

Clearing for the purpose of mineral production, exploration activities, associated infrastructure and waste dumps.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Lot 45 on Deposited Plan 226298, Feysville
Part Lot 214 on Deposited Plan 220400, Feysville

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 250 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 2473/3.

4. Period in which clearing is authorised

The Permit Holder shall not clear any native vegetation after 19 July 2025.

5. 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 – ASSESSMENT SEQUENCE AND MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

6. Avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing

In determining the amount of native vegetation to be cleared authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder must have regard to the following principles, set out in 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.

7. 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*:
 - clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
 - 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.
- (b) At least once in each 12 month period for the term of this Permit, the Permit Holder must remove or kill any *weeds* growing within areas cleared under this Permit.

8. Fauna management

- (a) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder shall engage a *fauna specialist* to conduct a *fauna survey* within the Permit Area to identify *Leipoa ocellata* (Malleefowl) mounds and *Leipoa ocellata* (Malleefowl) *critical habitat*.
- (b) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder shall provide the results of the *fauna survey* in a report to the *CEO*.
- (c) The *fauna survey* report must include;
 - (i) the location of each *Leipoa ocellata* (Malleefowl) mound, 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, to the *CEO*.
 - (ii) The location of the *Leipoa ocellata* (Malleefowl) *critical habitat*, 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, to the *CEO*.
 - (iii) the methodology used to survey the Permit Area and to establish the *Leipoa ocellata* (Malleefowl) *critical habitat* and identify the mound/s;
 - (iv) the extent of the *critical habitat* of the *Leipoa ocellata* (Malleefowl) shown on a map; and
 - (v) a description of the *critical habitat* found.
- (d) Where *Leipoa ocellata* (Malleefowl) mounds are identified under condition 8(a) of this Permit, the Permit Holder shall ensure that no clearing occurs within 50 metres of the identified *Leipoa ocellata* (Malleefowl) mounds, unless first approved by the *CEO*.

9. Retain vegetative material and topsoil, revegetation and rehabilitation

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) the Permit Holder must, within six months following clearing authorised under this permit, *revegetate* and *rehabilitate* the area(s) that are no longer required for the purpose for which they were cleared, excluding the open pit, under this Permit by;
 - (i) ripping the ground on the contour to remove soil compaction; and
 - (ii) laying the vegetative material and topsoil retained under condition 9(a) on the cleared area(s), excluding the open pit.
- (c) the Permit Holder must, within 18 months of laying the vegetative material and topsoil on the cleared area in accordance with condition 9(b) 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 9(c)(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, *revegetate* the area by deliberately *planting* and/or *direct seeding* native vegetation that will result in a similar species composition, structure and density to that of pre-clearing vegetation types in that area, and ensuring only *local provenance* seeds and propagating material are used.
- (d) Where additional *planting* or *direct seeding* of native vegetation is undertaken in accordance with condition 9(c)(ii) of this permit, the Permit Holder shall repeat condition 9(c)(i) and 9(c)(ii) within 24 months of undertaking the additional *planting* or *direct seeding* of native vegetation.
- (e) Where a determination by an *environmental specialist* that the composition, structure and density within areas *revegetated* and *rehabilitated* will result in a similar species composition, structure and density to that of pre-clearing vegetation types in that area, as determined in condition 9(c)(i) and (ii) of this permit, that determination shall be submitted for the *CEO*'s consideration. If the *CEO* does not agree with the determination made under condition 9(c)(ii),

the CEO may require the Permit Holder to undertake additional *planting* and *direct seeding* in accordance with the requirements under condition 9(c)(ii).

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

10. Records must 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 species composition, structure and density of the cleared area;
 - (ii) 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;
 - (iii) the date that the area was cleared; and
 - (iv) the size of the area cleared (in hectares).
- (b) Actions taken in accordance with fauna management pursuant to condition 8 of this Permit.
- (c) In relation to the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* of areas pursuant to condition 9 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;
 - (iii) the size of the area *revegetated* and *rehabilitated* (in hectares);
 - (iv) the species composition, structure and density of *revegetation* and *rehabilitation*, and
 - (v) a copy of the environmental specialist's report.

11. Reporting

- (a) The Permit Holder must provide to the CEO on or before 30 June of each year, a written report:
 - (i) of records required under condition 10 of this Permit; and
 - (ii) concerning activities done by the Permit Holder under this Permit between 1 January and 31 December of the preceding year.
- (b) Prior to 19 April 2030 the Permit Holder must provide to the CEO a written report of records required under condition 10 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under condition 11(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 responsible for the administration of the clearing provisions under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*;

critical habitat means any part of the Permit Area comprising of the habitat of flora or fauna species and its population, that is critical for the health and long term survival of the flora or fauna species and its population;

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;

fauna specialist means a person who holds a tertiary qualification specialising in environmental science or equivalent, and has a minimum of two (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 CEO as a suitable fauna specialist for the bioregion, and who holds a valid fauna licence issued under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*;

fauna survey means a field-based investigation, including a review of established literature, of the biodiversity of fauna and/or fauna habitat of the Permit Area. Where conservation significant fauna are identified in the Permit Area, the survey should also include sufficient surrounding areas to place the Permit Area into local context;

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 50 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 re-establishment of vegetation from in situ seed banks and propagating material (such as lignotubers, bulbs, rhizomes) 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; and

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 Parks and Wildlife Regional Weed Rankings Summary, regardless of ranking; or
- (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.



Meenu Vitarana
A/MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

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

17 September 2020

Plan 2473/3

121°39'4.320"E

121°40'39.360"E

121°42'14.400"E

30°59'3.480"S

31°0'5.760"S

31°1'8.040"S

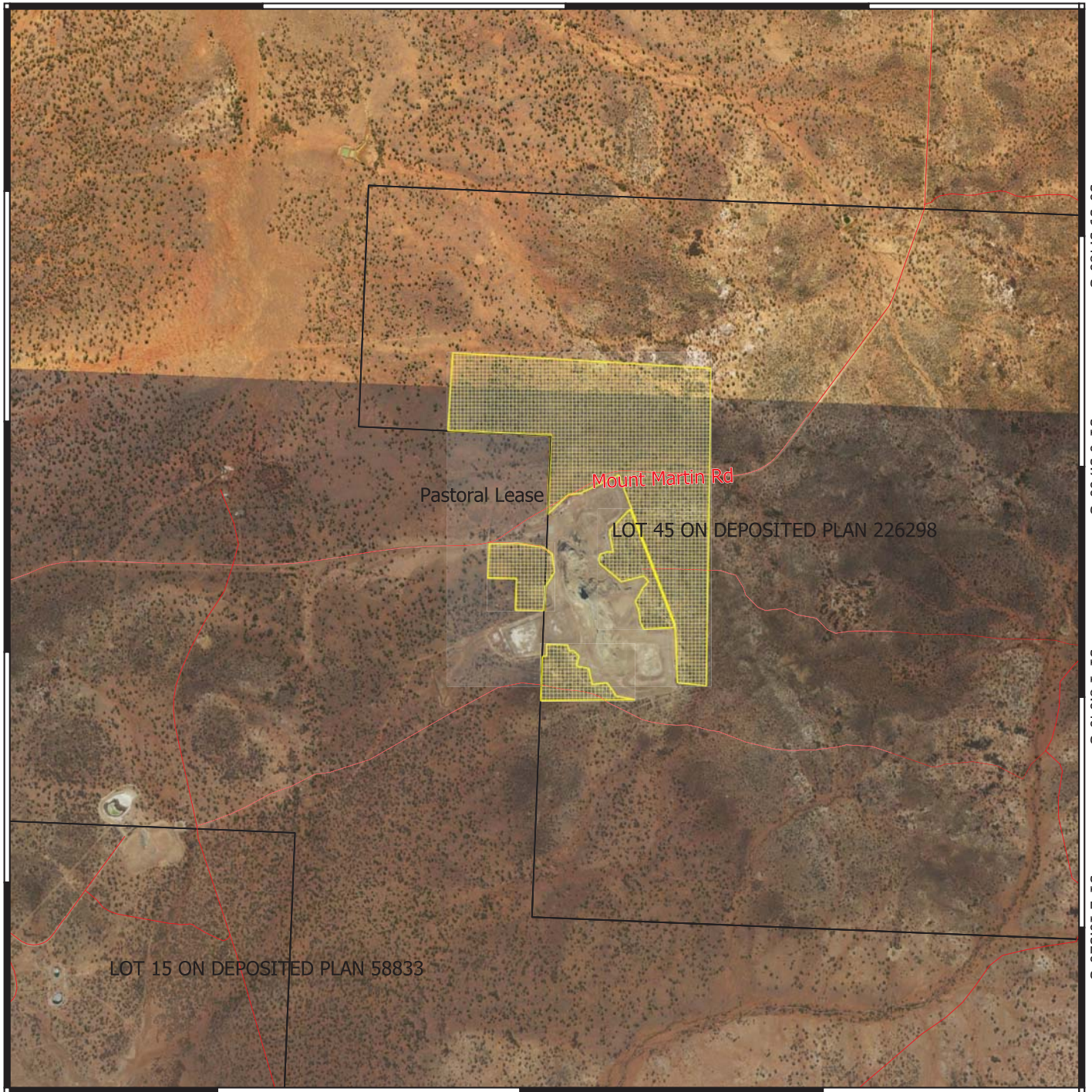
31°2'10.320"S

30°59'3.480"S

31°0'5.760"S

31°1'8.040"S

31°2'10.320"S




121°39'4.320"E

121°40'39.360"E

121°42'14.400"E


CPS layers

 CPS areas approved to clear

base layers

 Road Centrelines

Map Layers

 Land TenureLGATE - 226

 Local Government Authorities



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Officer delegated under section 20 of the
Environmental Protection Act 1986

1:45748

MGA Zone 50
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994





1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 2473/3
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Northern Star (HBJ) Pty Ltd
Application received date: 3 June 2020

1.3. Property details

Property: Lot 45 on Plan 226298, Feysville
Part Lot 214 on Plan 220400, Feysville
Local Government Authority: City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
Localities: Feysville

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	Purpose category:
250	N/A	Mechanical	Mineral exploration

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted
Decision Date: 17 September 2020

Reasons for Decision: The clearing permit amendment application has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with section 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. It has been concluded that the previous assessment for Clearing Permit CPS 2473/2 is still relevant.

The Delegated Officer noted that the amendment relates only to extending the duration of Clearing Permit CPS 2473/2 for 10 years, within which the period in which clearing is authorised will be extended for 5 years, and therefore the proposed clearing is unlikely to lead to any unacceptable impact to the environment.

The Delegated Officer decided to grant Clearing Permit CPS 2473/3 subject to avoid and minimise, weed management, fauna management, revegetation and rehabilitation, record keeping and reporting conditions.

2. Site Information

Clearing Description: The application is for amending the duration of clearing permit CPS 2473/2 by five years for the proposed clearing of up to 250 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 45 on Plan 226298 and Part Lot 214 on Plan 220400, Feysville, for the purpose of mineral production, exploration activities, associated infrastructure and waste dumps. The Permit Holder name has changed from HBJ Minerals Pty Ltd to Northern Star (HBJ) Pty Ltd.

Vegetation Description The vegetation within the application area is mapped within the following Beard vegetation associations:

- 9, described as medium woodland; coral gum (*Eucalyptus torquata*) & goldfields blackbutt; and
- 468, described as medium woodland; salmon gum & goldfields blackbutt (Shepherd et al, 2001).

A desktop assessment and past surveys of the application area indicate that the vegetation consists of the following vegetation associations:

- Goldfields blackbutt (*Eucalyptus lesouefii*) woodland;
- Salmon gum (*Eucalyptus salmonophloia*) woodland;
- Transitional *Eucalyptus* woodland;
- *Eucalyptus griffithsii* woodland;
- Salmon gum and Goldfields blackbutt woodland over *Tecticornia disarticulata*;
- *Eucalyptus ravida* woodland;
- *Eucalyptus stricklandii* woodland over *Acacia kalgoorliensis*;
- *Eucalyptus stricklandii* woodland on rocky hills; and
- *Eucalyptus oleosa* and *Eucalyptus stricklandii* woodland over *Tecticornia* spp. (Native Vegetation Solutions, 2012).

Vegetation Condition

The condition of the vegetation within the application area ranges from 'Very Good' to 'Degraded' (Keighery, 1994) condition, defined as:

- Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery, 1994).
- Completely Degraded: No longer intact, completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994).

Soil Type

The soil type within the application area is mapped within the following Pilbara soil landscape subsystems:

- Littoral Land System (286Li), described as Bare coastal mudflats with mangroves on seaward fringes, samphire flats, sandy islands coastal dunes and beaches; and
- Uaroo Land System (281Ua), described as Broad sandy plains supporting shrubby hard and soft spinifex grasses (Schoknecht et al., 2004).

Local Area

The local area referred to in the assessment of this application is defined as a 20 kilometre radius measured from the perimeter of the application area.

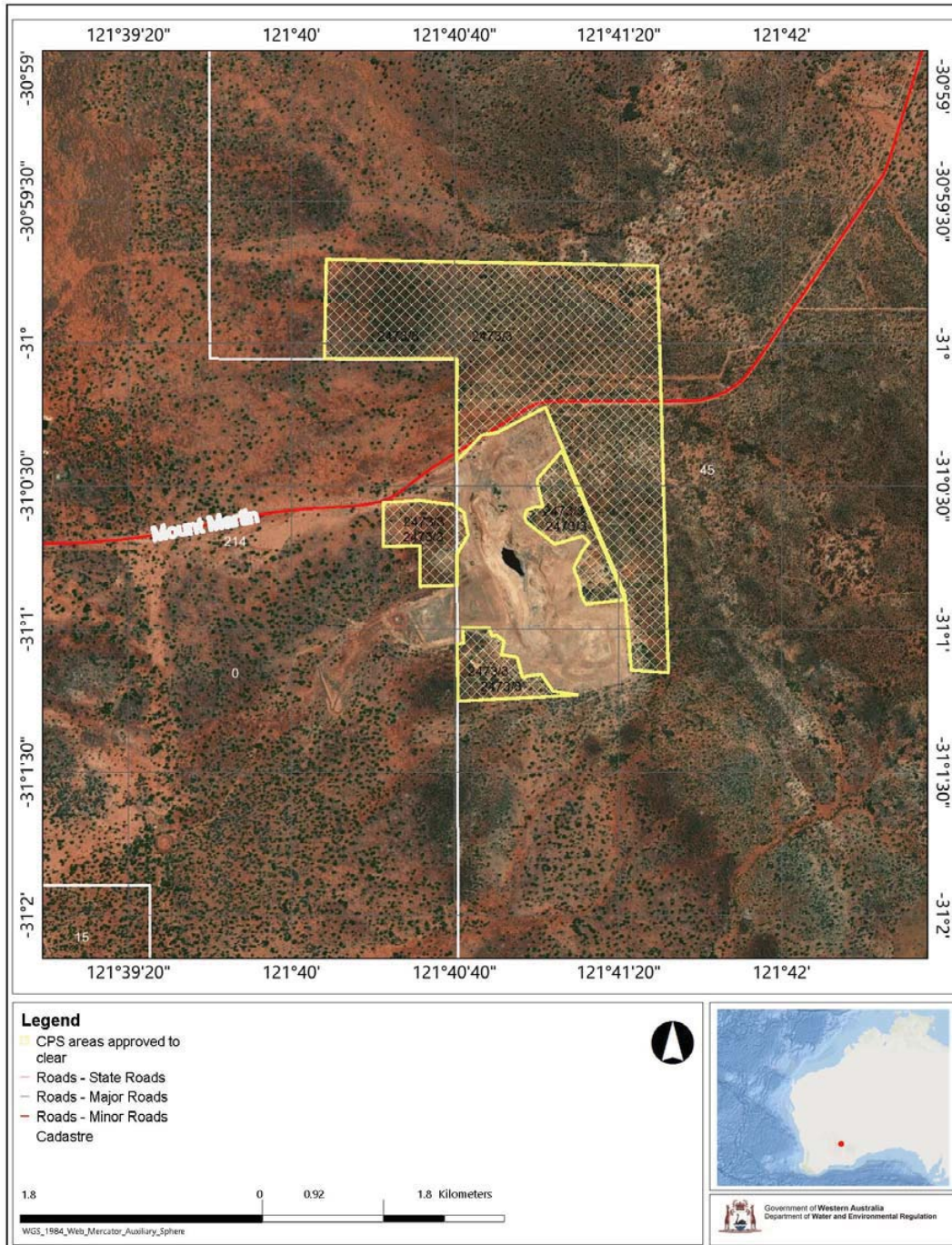


Figure 1. The areas cross-hatched yellow indicate the areas authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles and planning instruments and other matters

The applicant applied to amend Clearing Permit CPS 2473/2, to extend the period in which clearing is authorised for 5 years until 1 July 2025, and the duration of the permit for 10 years until 1 July 2030.

The assessment against the clearing principles outlined in Schedule 5 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* is unchanged and can be found in the Decision Reports prepared for Clearing Permit CPS 2473/2 and Clearing Permit CPS 2473/1. The permit conditions have been updated to align with current regulatory practices of the department.

Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder advised that they had no objections or requirements in relation to the proposed amendment of Clearing Permit CPS 2473/2 (City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 2020).

The Permit Holder no longer trades as HBJ Minerals Pty Ltd and has undergone a change in name to Northern Star (HBJ) Pty Ltd, the Permit has been updated accordingly.

The remaining assessments against Planning and Other Matters are still relevant and can be found in the Decision Reports prepared for Clearing Permit CPS 2473/2 and Clearing Permit CPS 2473/1.

4. References

- City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder (2020) Comments regarding the proposed amendment to Clearing Permit CPS 2473/2. DWER Ref: A1927823.
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Native Vegetation Solutions (2012) Level 1 Flora and Vegetation Survey for the Expansion of Mount Martin Mining Area, Alcer Gold South Kalgoorlie Operations (M26/132). Prepared for Alacer Gold. DWER Ref: A512245.
- Schoknecht, N., Tille, P. and Purdie, B. (2004) Soil-landscape mapping in South-Western Australia – Overview of Methodology and outputs' Resource Management Technical Report No. 280. Department of Agriculture.
- 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.

Publicly available GIS Databases used (sourced from www.data.wa.gov.au):

- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- Bush Forever Areas 2000 (DPLH-019)
- Cadastre Address (LGATE-002)
- CAWSA Part 2A Clearing Control Catchments (DWER-004)
- Consanguineous Wetlands Suites (DBCA-020)
- Contours (DPIRD-073)
- DBCA – Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- DBCA Statewide Vegetation Statistics
- Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia – Western Australia (DBCA-045)
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Flood Risk (DPIRD-007)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- Hydrography Linear (Hierarchy) (DWER-031)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Local Planning Scheme – Zones and Reserves (DPLH-071)
- Native Vegetation Extent (DPIRD-005)
- Pre-European Vegetation (DPIRD-006)
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- Regional Parks (DBCA-026)
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Rivers (DWER-036)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil and Landscape Mapping – Best Available
- Soil Landscape Land Quality datasets

Restricted GIS Databases used:

- ICMS (Incident Complaints Management System)– Points and Polygons
- Threatened Flora (TPFL)
- Threatened Flora (WAHerb)
- Threatened Fauna
- Threatened Ecological Communities and Priority Ecological Communities
- Threatened Ecological Communities and Priority Ecological Communities (Buffers)