GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 2473/2
Permit Holder:	HBJ Minerals Pty Ltd
Duration of Permit:	19 July 2008 – 19 July 2025

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 2473/2.

4. **Period in which clearing is authorised**
   The Permit Holder shall not clear any native vegetation after 19 July 2020.

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.

6. **Compliance with Assessment Sequence and Management Procedures**
   Prior to clearing any native vegetation under conditions 1, 2 and 3 of this Permit, the Permit Holder must comply with the Assessment Sequence and the Management Procedures set out in Part II of this Permit.

PART II – ASSESSMENT SEQUENCE AND MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

7. **Avoid, minimise etc 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:
   (a) avoid the clearing of native vegetation;
   (b) minimise the amount of native vegetation to be cleared; and
   (c) reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.

8. Weed control

(a) 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.

(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.

9. Fauna management

(a) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the area(s) shall be inspected by a *fauna specialist* for the presence of *Leipoa ocellata* (Malleefowl) mounds.

(b) Where *Leipoa ocellata* (Malleefowl) mounds are identified in relation to condition 9(a) of this Permit, the Permit Holder shall ensure that no clearing occurs within 50 metres of the identified *Leipoa ocellata* (Malleefowl) mounds, unless approved by the CEO.

10. 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) 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 10(a) on the cleared area(s), excluding the open pit.

(c) within 18 months of laying the vegetative material and topsoil on the cleared area in accordance with condition 10(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 10(c)(i) of this Permit will not result in a similar species composition, structure and density representative of native vegetation types occurring on similar *topography* within the local area, *revegetate* the area by deliberately *planting* and/or *direct seeding* native vegetation that will result in a similar species composition, structure and density representative of native vegetation types occurring on similar *topography* within the local 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 10(c)(ii) of this permit, the Permit Holder shall repeat condition 10(c)(i) and 10(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 representative of native vegetation types occurring on similar *topography* within the local area, as determined in condition 10(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 10(c)(ii), the CEO may require the Permit Holder to undertake additional *planting* and *direct seeding* in accordance with the requirements under condition 10(c)(ii).

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

11. 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) In relation to fauna management pursuant to condition 9 of this Permit, 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.

(c) In relation to the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* of areas pursuant to condition 10 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.

12. 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 11 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 2025 the Permit Holder must provide to the CEO a written report of records required under condition 11 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under condition 12(a) of this Permit.

DEFINITIONS

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

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 is engaged by the Permit Holder for the purpose of providing environmental advice, 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;

fauna specialist means a person with training and specific work experience in fauna identification or faunal assemblage surveys of Western Australian fauna;

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

topography means the natural relief or shape of a land surface such as a slope, flat or depression.

local provenance means native vegetation seeds and propagating material from natural sources within 50 kilometres 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.

weed/s means a species listed in Appendix 3 of the "Environmental Weed Strategy" published by the Department of Conservation and Land Management (1999), and plants declared under section 37 of the *Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act 1976*.

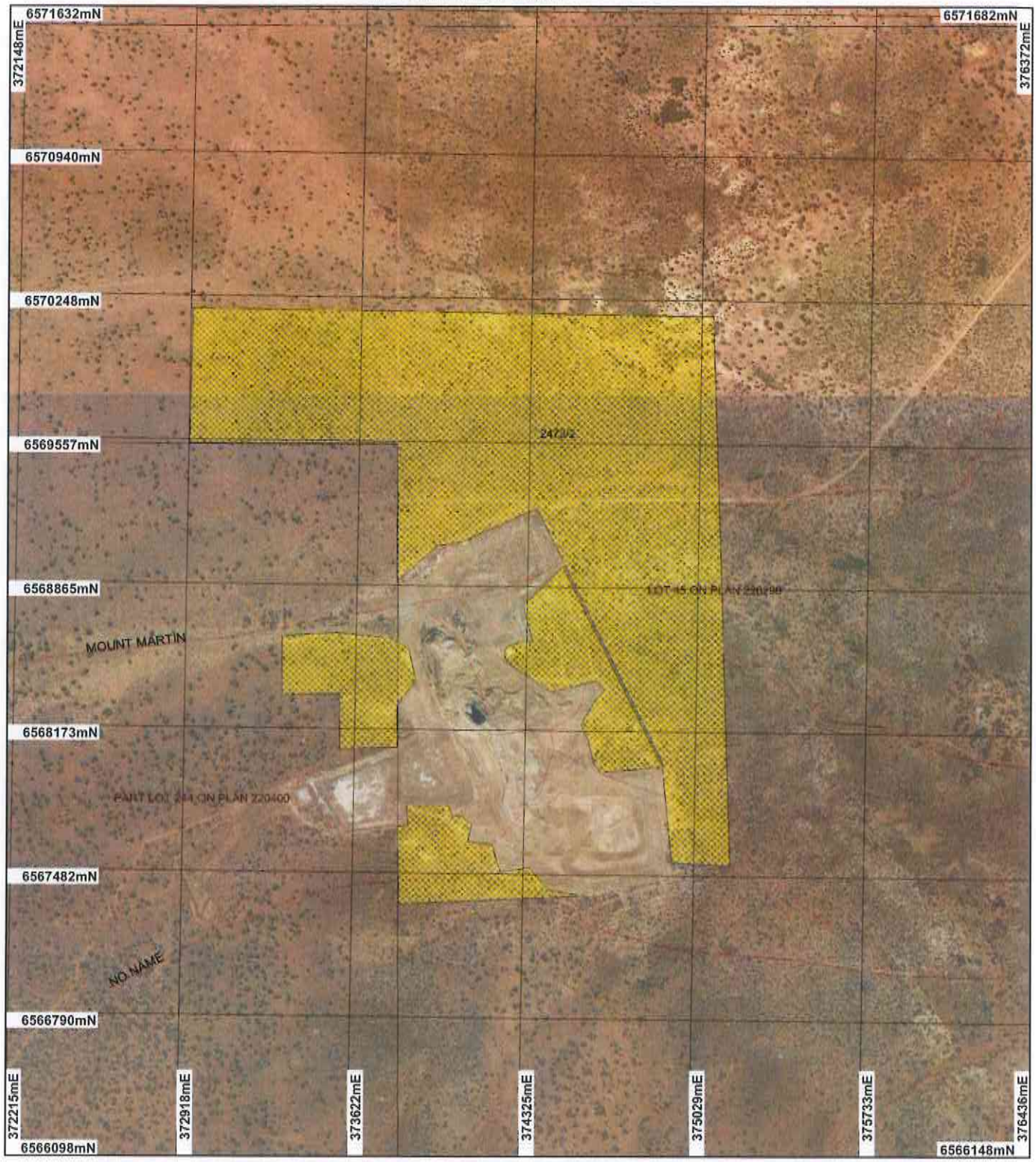
Roxane Shadbolt

Roxane Shadbolt
A/MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

Officer delegated under Section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

27 September 2012

Plan 2473/2



LEGEND

- Road Centrelines
- Cadastre for labelling
- Freehold
- Crown Reserve
- State Forest / Timber Reserve (cont)
- Marina Park
- Crown Lease
- Lease / Reserve
- Lease on State Forest / Timber Reserve
- Public Roads
- Unallocated Crown Land (cont)
- Water

Clearing Instruments

- Areas Approved to Clear

Kanowna 1.4m Orthomosaic - Landgate 2003

Lake Lefroy 3235 Mar 2011 Mosaic

N

0 — 625 m

Scale 1:24574
(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

Geocentric Datum Australia 1994

Note: the data in this map have not been projected. This may result in geometric distortion or measurement inaccuracies.

R. Shadbolt Date 27/9/12

Roxane Shadbolt

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

Information derived from this map should be confirmed with the data custodian acknowleged by the agency acronym in the legend.

Department of Environment and Conservation

Our environment, our future

Department of Environment and Conservation

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 2473/2

Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: **HBJ Minerals Pty Ltd**

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 45 ON PLAN 226298 (FEYSVILLE 6431)
PART LOT 214 ON PLAN 220400 (FEYSVILLE 6431)

Local Government Area: Shire of Kalgoolie - Boulder

Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
250		Mechanical Removal	Mineral Exploration

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant

Decision Date: 27 September 2012

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
Mapped Beard vegetation association 468 is described as Medium woodland; salmon gum & goldfields blackbutt (Shepherd et al. 2001). Mapped Beard vegetation association 9 is described as Medium woodland; coral gum (E. torquata) & goldfields blackbutt (E. le soufii) (Shepherd et al 2001).	The areas under application are for open pit mining, exploration of ore bodies, associated infrastructure and waster dumps (total area of 250ha). The new area under application consists of Eucalyptus lesouefii woodland, Salmon Gum (Eucalyptus salmonophloia) woodland, Transitional Eucalyptus woodland, Eucalyptus griffithsii woodland, Eucalyptus salmonophloia and E. lesouefii woodland over Tecticornia disarticulata, Eucalyptus ravida woodland, Eucalyptus stricklandii woodland over Acacia kalgoorliensis, Eucalyptus stricklandii woodland on rocky hills and Eucalyptus oleosa and E. stricklandii woodland over Tecticornia. Condition of revegetation ranges from very good to degraded (Keighery 1994) (Native Vegetation Solutions 2012).	Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994) To Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)	Vegetation association was established through flor survey undertaken by Native Vegetation Solutions (2012).

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

The proponent has applied to increase the clearing under permit 2473/1 by an additional 190ha (total 250 ha) and to extend the duration of the permit by 12 years.

An assessment of the new application area has shown that it consists of nine different vegetation types ranging from very good to degraded (Keighery 1994) condition (Native Vegetation Solutions 2012). Over 104 species were identified during a flora survey of the areas under application however, no rare or priority flora, threatened ecological communities or priority ecological communities have been recorded within the areas proposed to be cleared (Native Vegetation Solutions 2012).

A fauna assessment of the amended area found five different habitat types within the area under application, including greenstone hills and ridges supporting Eucalyptus woodlands with areas of dense Acacia spp. and Allocasuarina sp., stony slopes and adjacent stony plains supporting woodlands of Eucalyptus with sclerophyll shrubs, Eucalyptus woodlands with sclerophyll understorey on deep alluvial clays and loams , Salmon gum

woodland with Maireana sedifolia and minor drainage tracts supporting mixed shrublands on red loam (Bamford Consulting Ecologists 2012).

The impact of the proposed clearing on these fauna habitats is considered to be minimal as the majority of them are widespread and occur extensively within the local area (Bamford Consulting Ecologists 2012). Two fauna habitats, green stone hills and ridges supporting eucalyptus woodlands, and eucalyptus woodlands with large mature hollow bearing trees are considered regionally restricted fauna habitats and are considered likely to provide habitat for conservation significant fauna species. These species include the southwest carpet python (Morelia spilota imbricata), the Malleefowl (Leipoa ocellata) and the Central Long-eared Bat (Nyctophilus timoriensis) (Bamford Consulting Ecologists 2012). Therefore, the proposed clearing of these habitats may be at variance to principle (b). Avoid and minimise, fauna management and weed management measures will reduce this identified impact.

A minor non perennial watercourse intercepts the north-eastern corner of the areas under application. This area has been found to support mixed shrublands on red loam (Bamford Consulting Ecologists 2012). Given that a minor watercourse occurs within the area under application it is considered for the proposed clearing to be at variance to this Principle (f).

The assessment against the remaining clearing principles has not changed and can be found in the Clearing Permit Decision Report CPS 2473/1.

Methodology

Reference:
- Bamford Consulting Ecologists (2012)
- Keigehry (1994)
- Native Vegetation Solutions (2012)

GIS Database:
- Pre-European Vegetation
- Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia
- SAC Bio Datasets
-Hydrography, linear
-DEC Managed Lands

Planning instrument, Native Title, Previous EPA decision or other matter.

Comments

The proponent has applied to increase the clearing under permit 2473/1 by an additional 190ha (total 250 ha) and to extend the duration of the permit by 12 years. The areas under application are for open pit mining, exploration of ore bodies, associated infrastructure and waster dumps.

The areas under application are within the Proclaimed Groundwater Area of Goldfields. Therefore any abstraction of groundwater would require a licence.

The areas under application are located within Mining Lease M26/132 (also known as Part Lot 214 on Plan 220400) and Lot 45 on Plan 226298.

No submissions from the public have been received.

Due to the identified environmental impacts of the proposed clearing new conditions have been added to the Permit. In addition, administrative changes to the permit conditions have been made to bring the conditions in line with current Department of Environment and Conservation practice.

Methodology

GIS Databases:
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas

4. References

Bamford Consulting Ecologists (2012) Fauna Assessment of the Mount Martin Mining Lease Area. Prepared for Alacer Gold Corp. DEC ref A512245

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 Mt Martin Mining Area, Alcer Gold South Kalgoorlie Operations (M26/132). Prepared for Alacer Gold DEC ref A512245

Shepherd, D.P., Beeston, G.R., and Hopkins, A.J.M. (2001), Native Vegetation in Western Australia. Technical Report 249. Department of Agriculture Western Australia, South Perth.

5. Glossary

Term	Meaning
BCS	Biodiversity Coordination Section of DEC
CALM	Department of Conservation and Land Management (now BCS)
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection (now DEC)
DoE	Department of Environment
DoIR	Department of Industry and Resources
DRF	Declared Rare Flora
EPP	Environmental Protection Policy
GIS	Geographical Information System
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community
WRC	Water and Rivers Commission (now DEC)