

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Purpose Permit Number:

2996 / 1

File Number:

A0269/200901

Duration of Permit:

From 23 May 2009 to 31 July 2012

PERMIT HOLDER

Saracen Gold Mines Pty Ltd

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Mining Lease 31/30 Mining Lease 31/380 Mining Lease 31/381

PURPOSE FOR WHICH THE CLEARING MAY BE DONE

1. Clearing for the purposes of mineral production.

CONDITIONS

1. The Permit Holder must not clear more than 24 hectares of native vegetation. All clearing must be within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 2996/1.

Guiding Principles

- 2. 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:
 - (i) avoid the clearing of native vegetation;
 - (ii) minimise the amount of native vegetation to be cleared; and
 - (iii) reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.

Weed control

- 3. 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.

Retain vegetative material and topsoil, revegetation and rehabilitation

4. The Permit Holder shall 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.

Watercourse management

5. The Permit Holder shall not clear native vegetation within 50 metres of the *riparian vegetation* of any *watercourse* or *wetland* within the area cross-hatched yellow on Plan 2996/1.

Records to be kept

- 6. The Permit Holder must maintain the following records for activities done pursuant to this Permit: In relation to the clearing of native vegetation authorised under this Permit:
 - 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;
 - (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.

Reporting

7. The Permit Holder shall provide an annual report to the Director, Environment Division, Department of Mines and Petroleum 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 6 of this permit in relation to clearing carried out between 1 July and 30 June of the previous year.

Definitions

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

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

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;

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 Agricultural and Related Resources Protection Act 1976.

riparian vegetation has the meaning given to it in Regulation 3 of the Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004;

watercourse has the meaning given to it in section 3 of the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914;

wetland/s means an area of seasonally, intermittently or permanently waterlogged or inundated land, whether natural or otherwise, and includes a lake, swamp, marsh, spring, dampland, tidal flat or estuary.

Tim Griffin

A/DIRECTOR GENERAL

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND PETROLEUM

Officer with delegated authority under Section 20

of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

23 April 2009