



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Purpose Permit Number: 3182 / 1
File Number: A1176/200901
Duration of Permit: From 10 July 2010 to 31 December 2015

PERMIT HOLDER

Western Areas NL

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Exploration Licence 70/2148

PURPOSE FOR WHICH THE CLEARING MAY BE DONE

1. Clearing for the purpose of mineral exploration.

CONDITIONS

Authorised activity

1. The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 0.3 hectares of native vegetation within the areas cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 3182/1.

Avoid, minimise etc clearing

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.

Dieback and 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* and *dieback*:
 - (i) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
 - (ii) shall only move soils in *dry conditions*;
 - (iii) ensure that no *dieback* or *weed*-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill* or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and
 - (iv) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.

Fauna management

4. (a) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the areas 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 4(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 Director, Environment Division, Department of Mines and Petroleum.
5. (a) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the areas shall be inspected by a *fauna specialist* for the presence *Calypatorhynchus latirostris* hollows.
- (b) Where *Calypatorhynchus latirostris* hollows are identified in relation to Condition 5(a) of this Permit, the Permit Holder shall ensure that no clearing occurs within 50 metres of the identified *Calypatorhynchus latirostris* hollows.

Retain and spread vegetative material and topsoil

6. 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 within the areas cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 3182/1.
 - (b) within 12 months following completion of clearing authorised under this permit, *revegetate* and *rehabilitate* the areas that are no longer required for the purpose for which they were cleared under this Permit by:
 - (i) re-shaping the surface of the land so that it is consistent with the surrounding 5 metres of uncleared land;
 - (ii) ripping the ground on the contour to remove soil compaction; and
 - (iii) laying the vegetative material and topsoil retained under Condition 6(a).
 - (c) within 24 months of laying the vegetative material and topsoil on the cleared area in accordance with Condition 6(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 6(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 of native vegetation to pre-clearing vegetation types in that area and ensuring only *local provenance* seeds and propagating material are used.

Records to be kept

7. 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;
 - (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 fauna management pursuant to Conditions 4(a) and 4(b) 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.

- (c) In relation to the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* of areas pursuant to Conditions 6(a), 6(b) and 6(c) 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;
 - (ii) a description of the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* activities undertaken;
 - (iii) the size of the area *revegetated* and *rehabilitated* (in hectares); and
 - (iv) the species composition, structure and density of *revegetation* and *rehabilitation*.

Reporting

8. (a) The Permit Holder shall provide a report to the Director, Environment Division, Department of Mines and Petroleum by 31 July for the life of this permit, demonstrating adherence to all conditions of this permit, and setting out the records required under Conditions 7(a), 7(b) and 7(c) of this permit in relation to clearing carried out between 1 July and 30 June of the previous year.
- (b) Prior to 31 December 2015, the Permit Holder must provide to the Director, Environment Division, Department of Mines and Petroleum a written report of records required under Conditions 7(a), 7(b) and 7(c) of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under Condition 8(a) of this Permit.

Definitions

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

dieback means the effect of *Phytophthora* species on native vegetation;

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;

dry conditions means when soils (not dust) do not freely adhere to rubber tyres, tracks, vehicle chassis or wheel arches;

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;

local provenance means native vegetation seeds and propagating material from natural sources within 10 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 *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 *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*.



Phil Gorey
DIRECTOR
ENVIRONMENT DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND PETROLEUM

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

10 June 2010