



GOVERNMENT OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## **CLEARING PERMIT**

*Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986*

### **PERMIT DETAILS**

Area Permit Number: 3486/1  
File Number: DEC13666  
Duration of Permit: From 7 February 2010 to 31 January 2013

### **PERMIT HOLDER**

Bell Springs Aboriginal Corporation

### **LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE**

LOT 718 ON PLAN 189639

### **AUTHORISED ACTIVITY**

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 20 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 3486/1.

### **CONDITIONS**

Nil.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Faulkner', written over a horizontal line.

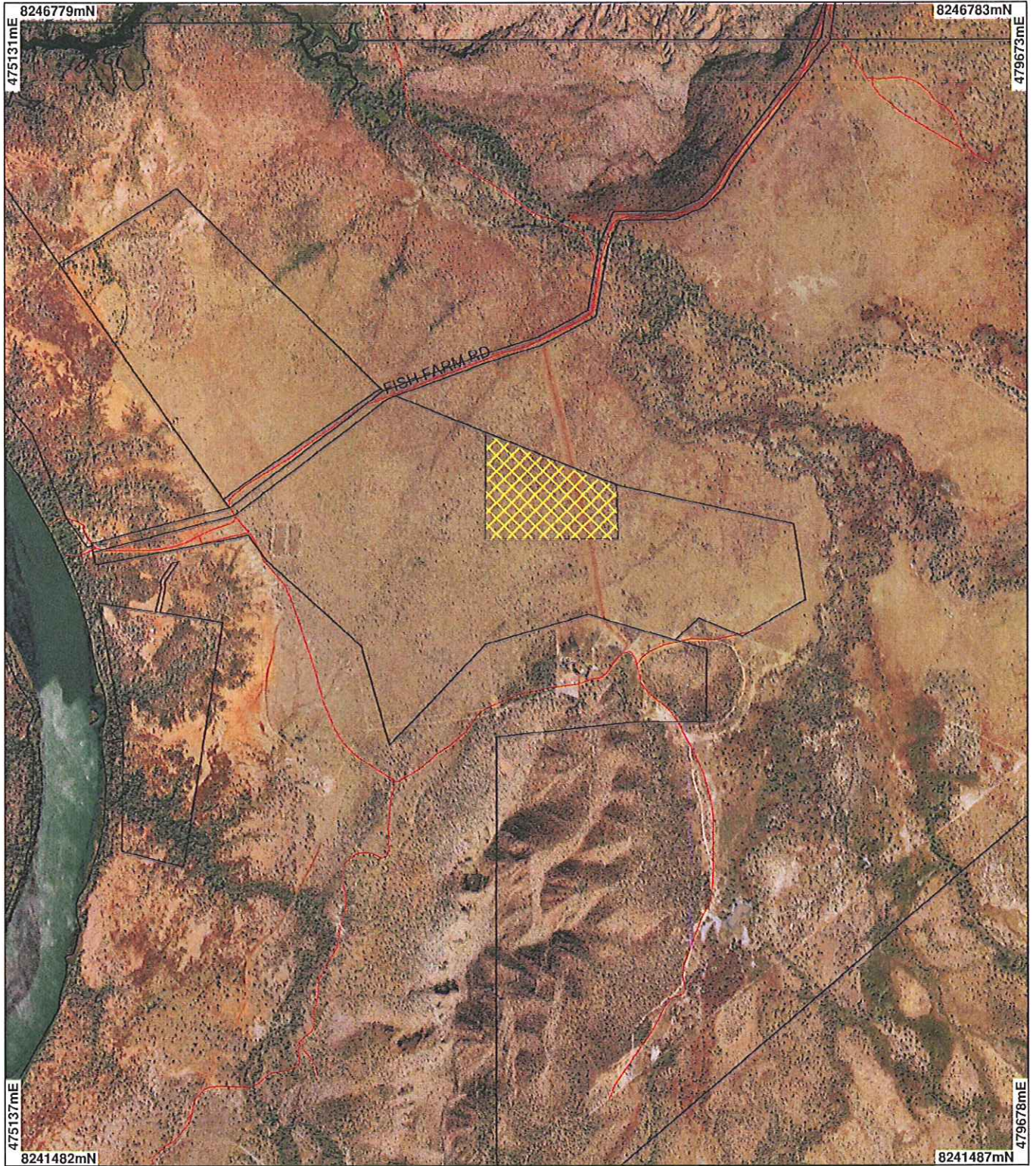
Kelly Faulkner  
Manager  
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

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

7 January 2010

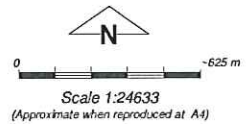


# Plan 3486/1



## LEGEND

- Clearing Instruments**
-  Areas Approved to Clear
  -  Road Centrelines
  -  Cadastre
- Kununurra 50cm Orthomosaic  
- Landgate 2005



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

 Date 7/1/10  
K Faulkner

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 acknowledged by the agency acronym in the legend.



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## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 3486/1  
Permit type: Area Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Bell Springs Aboriginal Corporation

### 1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 718 ON PLAN 189639 ( KUNUNURRA 6743)

Local Government Area:

Colloquial name:

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
20		Mechanical Removal	Grazing & Pasture

## 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
Beard Vegetation Association: 65 - grasslands, tall bunch grass savanna, sparse low tree, terminalia; mitchell grass ( <i>Astrelba pectinata</i> & spp.) (Shepherd, 2007)	<p>The area under application has been subject to grazing pressure since February 2003.</p> <p>Going by aerial photography, the area under application appears sparsely vegetated with limited ground cover and lacking any substantial mid and/or upper storey vegetation. This appearance is typical of a vegetation community represented by Beard Vegetation Association Lake Argyle 65 - i.e. Grasslands of tall bunch grass savanna and sparse low trees.</p> <p>The proponent advised that by clearing an <i>Acacia</i> species (<i>Bohemia</i>) and exotic weedy and prickly species, which by their habits are inhibiting the growth of the grass, the native grass should respond well.</p>	Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994)	Vegetation description was derived from aerial photography and known history of grazing history.

## 3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

### Comments

The proposal to clear native vegetation (shrubs) within a 20ha site to encourage the growth of, and later to harvest, the native grass *Iseilema vaginiflorum* (Red Flinders Grass) for cattle feed, is unlikely to have any significant environmental impacts. Based on aerial photography and the fact that the area has been subject to grazing since 2003, the vegetation is considered to be in a good to degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition. The vegetation association for the region has been classified as 'Lake Argyle 65 - grasslands, tall bunch grass savanna, sparse low tree, terminalia; mitchell grass (*Astrelba pectinata* & spp.)' (Shepherd 2007).

There are no declared rare flora species or threatened ecological communities in the vicinity of the project; the

vegetation association to be harvested is well represented elsewhere in the bioregion (greater than 98% remaining). In addition, the area under application, with its grass type groundcover and very scattered (and minimal) low trees, is unlikely to be suitable habitat to support any avian or mammalian fauna species in the short or long term.

The area under application is relatively flat. The proposed removal of the shrub species on any contours may contribute to short term soil water erosion until such time that the grass has regenerated. The proponent has indicated this issue can be minimised if the clearing is undertaken at the appropriate time of year, or if no clearing occurs at all in these areas.

It is considered therefore that the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to any of the clearing principles.

**Methodology** Keighery (1994)  
Shepherd (2007)

GIS - SAC Biodata sets:

- Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas
- Soils - Northcote et al. (1968)
- DEFL, WAHERB, Fauna, TEC accessed 16.12.09
- Imagery - Erskine 50cm Orthomosaic Landgate 2004; Wyndham 50cm
- Department of Water (2006)
- ANCA wetlands
- DEC Managed Lands and Waters
- EPP Lakes Policy Area
- EPP, Wetlands
- Hydrography linear
- EPP Lakes Policy Area

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

##### **Comments**

Notification under the Native Title Act is not required as the purpose of the lease over Lot 718 on Plan 189639 (Grazing and hay production) is the same as the purpose of the proposed clearing.

The lease over Lot 718 on Plan 189639 expires on 1 February 2013.

CPS 265/1 was granted, with no conditions, to clear 50ha in the western section of Lot 718. This permit expired 8 May 2007.

##### **Methodology**

#### **4. Assessor's comments**

##### **Comment**

The application has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with s51O of the Environmental Protection Act 1986, and the proposed clearing was found to be not likely to be at variance to the Principles.

#### **5. References**

- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Shepherd, D.P. (2007). Adapted from: 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. Includes subsequent updates for 2006 from Vegetation Extent dataset ANZWA1050000124.

#### **6. 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 (now DEC)
DMP	Department of Mines and Petroleum (ex DoIR)
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)