



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 371/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: **Paddington Gold Pty Ltd**

1.3. Property details

Property: M16/44
M16/45
Local Government Area: Shire Of Coolgardie
Colloquial name: Bullant Mining Area

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
50		Mechanical Removal	Mining

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 468 - Medium woodland; salmon gum and Goldfield blackbutt	A vegetation study was submitted by Placer Dome (TRIM ref N1960)	Pristine: No obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994)	All areas proposed to be cleared will be rehabilitated (except for pits) once work is completed.

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

(a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
A total of 94 flora taxa were collected from the 33 sites at Mt Pleasant (another nearby mining area proposed for clearing by the same proponent). Of those identified to species level, none were found to be DRF or Priority Flora. The level of richness recorded in the study is generally low to medium compared to other communities / areas of W.A. Although detailed vegetation studies of the Mt Pleasant area are lacking, regional-scale studies and studies in adjoining districts indicate that the plant communities found at Mt Pleasant are widespread and common throughout the area.
CALM advises that the floristic variation from the Mt Pleasant area to the Bullant area is unlikely to be significant. Therefore the proposal is not likely to be at variance with this Clearing Principle.

Methodology van Ettan (2005), CALM (2005)

(b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
In the introduction of the draft document 'Placer Dome Exploration drilling: clearing management (sic) plan Kalgoorlie Region', the proponent states: This management plan outlines the procedures in place to ensure that the adverse impacts on the environment, specifically those on native vegetation from exploration drilling are minimised. These procedures ensure that clearing conducted by Placer Dome is not at variance with the following clearing principles, which are considered during the assessment of a clearing permit:
- Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia;
Despite this assurance, there is no documentary evidence that the proponent has undertaken any fauna survey work in the area that is proposed to be cleared.
Until it has been determined (by a targeted fauna survey) whether the area includes significant habitat for fauna, it is not possible to ascertain the likely impacts of the proposal. However, because the area will be rehabilitated (except for any pits) it is considered that this proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Clearing Principle.

Methodology Placer Dome correspondence (AD156)

(c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, significant flora.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

Ecotec WA Pty Ltd conducted a flora survey of the (then) proposed Bullant haul road on 17 July 2002. The report concludes: 'No rare endangered or otherwise classified plant species were located during this survey.' The proponent indicates in a letter to the Department of Environment (15 October 2004) that 'detailed vegetation mapping of the area covered by this permit will be conducted in January 2005.' It is not known whether this undertaking was completed, since no documentary evidence was provided with the application. In 2004 the proponent undertook to conduct vegetation mapping of the area, however it is not known whether this undertaking was completed, since no documentary evidence of such a survey was provided with this application. According to the available CALM datasets, no declared rare or priority flora taxa are recorded from within the area of the proposed clearing. The Ecotec WA Pty Ltd report of 2002 arrived at the same conclusion in relation to the Bullant haul road. In the absence of the documented results of the detailed vegetation mapping of the Bullant area (that was planned for January 2005) CALM advises that the proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle. This advice may be revised in the advent that the aforesaid document is produced for review.

Methodology CALM (2005)

(d) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a significant ecological community.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

No Threatened Ecological Communities have been recorded in the area. Therefore this proposal is not likely to be at variance with this Principle.

Methodology CALM (2005) GIS Database- Threatened Ecological Communities CALM 15/7/2003

(e) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.

Comments **Proposal is not at variance to this Principle**

The vegetation proposed to be cleared is well represented and most areas will be rehabilitated once works have been completed. Therefore the proposal is not at variance with this Clearing Principle.

	Pre-European area (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Remaining %*	Conservation status**	% in reserves/CALM-managed land
IBRA Bioregion-Coolgardie Shire of Coolgardie	12,917,718	12,719,084	98.5	Least concern	
Beard veg type-468	476,124	476,120	100	Least concern	0.0***

* Shepherd et al. (2001)

** Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)

*** The benchmark of 15% representation in conservation reserves (JANIS, 1997) has not been met for vegetation association 468

Methodology Shepherd et al. (2001), Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002), JANIS (1997)

(f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

The applicant is bound by other approval processes (Notice of Intent to Mine) to manage surface drainage so that wetlands and watercourses do not experience negative impacts. Therefore this proposal is not likely to be at variance with this Clearing Principle.

Methodology Placer Dome correspondence TRIM ref AD156

(g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

DAWA (2005) advise that the proposal is not likely to cause appreciable land degradation subject to the implementation of surface water control measures.

Methodology DAWA (2005) (DOE TRIM Ref NI 1006)

(h) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.

Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The clearing associated with this proposal is unlikely to impact on the environmental and conservation values of the listed CALM managed areas based on their separating distances. This proposal is not likely to be at variance with this Principle.

Methodology CALM (2005)

(i) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.

Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The applicant is bound by other approval processes (Notice of Intent to Mine) to manage activities likely to impact on water quality. Therefore this proposal is not likely to be at variance with this Clearing Principle.

Methodology Placer Dome correspondence TRIM ref AD156

(j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence of flooding.

Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The applicant is bound by other approval processes (Notice of Intent to Mine) to manage surface drainage so that flood events are unlikely to be different as a result of vegetation clearing. Therefore this proposal is not likely to be at variance with this Clearing Principle.

Methodology Placer Dome correspondence TRIM ref AD156

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

Comments

There is a Native Title Claim over the area under application by the Central West Goldfields, Maduwongga and Widji peoples. However, mining tenements for purposes consistent with the clearing have been granted so therefore the granting of a clearing permit is not a future act under the Native Title Act.

Department of Industry and Resources (DoIR) have no objection to the clearing proposal.

Methodology Direct interest letter response - DoIR (ND629)

4. Assessor's recommendations

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Decision	Comment / recommendation
Mining	Mechanical Removal	50	Grant	It is recommended that the Purpose Permit for clearing of native vegetation be granted subject to conditions as the proposal is not at variance to the Clearing Principles. Conditions relate to reporting on clearing carried out and will be supplied to the Department of Environment on an annual basis.

5. References

CALM Land clearing proposal advice. Advice to A/Director General, Department of Environment (DoE). Department of Conservation and Land Management, Western Australia. DoE TRIM ref IN21645.

DAWA Land degradation assessment advice. Office of the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation, Department of Agriculture Western Australia. DoE TRIM ref NI1006.

Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002) Biodiversity Action Planning. Action planning for native biodiversity at multiple scales ; catchment bioregional, landscape, local. Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Victoria.

Keighery, BJ (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

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.

van Ettan (2005) Vegetation and Flora of the Mt Pleasant Mining Area, Kalgoorlie West Operations. Unpublished report prepared for Placer Dome, April 2005.