



# Clearing Permit Decision Report

## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 376/6  
Permit type: Purpose Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

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

### 1.3. Property details

Property:

- Mining Lease 24/20
- Mining Lease 24/101
- Mining Lease 24/180
- Mining Lease 24/181
- Mining Lease 24/183
- Mining Lease 24/239
- Mining Lease 24/240
- Mining Lease 24/251
- Mining Lease 24/416
- Mining Lease 24/417
- Mining Lease 24/422
- Mining Lease 24/426
- Mining Lease 24/428
- Mining Lease 24/497
- Mining Lease 24/716
- Miscellaneous Licence 24/29
- Prospecting Licence 24/4253
- Prospecting Licence 24/4255

Local Government Area: City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder  
Colloquial name: Paddington Area

### 1.4. Application

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

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant  
Decision Date: 23 April 2015

## 2. Site Information

### 2.1. Existing environment and information

#### 2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

**Vegetation Description** Beard vegetation associations have been mapped for the whole of Western Australia and are useful to look at vegetation in a regional context. Six Beard vegetation associations have been mapped within the application area:

**Beard vegetation association 10:** Medium woodland; red mallee group;

**Beard vegetation association 125:** Bare areas; salt lakes;

**Beard vegetation association 2903:** Medium woodland; Salmon gum, Goldfields blackbutt, gimlet and *Allocasuarina cristata*;

**Beard vegetation association 468:** Medium woodland; salmon gum and Goldfield blackbutt;

**Beard vegetation association 480:** Succulent steppe with open low woodland; mulga and sheoak over saltbush;and

**Beard vegetation association 540:** Succulent steppe with open low woodland; sheoak over saltbush (GIS Database).

Van Etten (2005) has surveyed the flora and mapped the vegetation for the Paddington mining area. Five plant communities have been described within the area proposed to be cleared:

Community 1 - Mixed *Acacia* spp, *Eremophila* spp, *Dodonaea lobulata* with emergent *Casuarina pauper* and mallee. Eucalyptus on hill tops and rocky upper slopes;

Community 2 - Woodland of *Eucalyptus clelandii* with broombush understorey on dissected residual plateaus with ironstone gravels;

Community 3 - Open woodland of *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* with understorey of mixed chenopod shrubs situated on lower slopes, floodplains and valley floors over deep sandy loams;

Community 4 - Open woodland of *Callitris glaucophylla* and/or *Eucalyptus oleosa* with *Acacia masliniana* over *Triodia scariosa* open hummock grassland situated on sandy dunes around salt lakes; and

Community 5 - Low open shrubland of mixed *Halosarcia* spp on low rises and dunes fringing salt lakes.

Plant community 3 is the most widespread over the Paddington lease area, however, each community was found in numerous patches across the study area and immediate surrounds. None of them appear to be locally restricted in distribution within the Paddington vicinity (van Etten, 2005).

**Clearing Description** Paddington Gold Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 100 hectares of native vegetation within a total boundary of approximately 4,596 hectares, for the purpose of mining operations. The project is located approximately 20 kilometres north of Kalgoorlie, in the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder

**Vegetation Condition** Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery, 1994);

**Comment** The Paddington area has been subject to relatively intensive mining activity for the last 100 years with much of the area selectively logged in the early years to provide timber for mining-related infrastructure. The area has also been operated as a pastoral station during this time and as a result has been heavily grazed (van Etten, 2005). Despite the obvious disturbance from these activities, the associated impacts appear to be low with the general condition of vegetation across the study area being rated 'good to excellent' (van Etten, 2005).

Mining operations will allow for future exploration drilling, mining activity (open pits and waste dumps) and related infrastructure (roads, water and powerlines). There will be up to 20 hectares of clearing within the project area at any one time (MBS Environmental, 2005)

The amendment to clearing permit CPS 376/5 was initiated by the Department of Mines and Petroleum and is for administrative purposes. There are no additional environmental impacts as a result of this amendment.

### 3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

The amendment to clearing permit CPS 376/5 is for administrative purposes. There are no additional environmental impacts as a result of this amendment. The size of the area approved to clear and the permit boundaries remain unchanged.

The assessment against the clearing principles remains consistent with the assessment in decision report CPS 376/4.

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

#### Comments

There are two native title claims over the area under application (WC98/027 and WC98/029) (GIS Database). The native title claim WC98/27 was registered with the NNTT on 15 June 1998. The native title claim WC10/14 was filed at the Federal Court on 14 October 2010. However, the mining tenure has been granted in accordance with the future act regime of the *Native Title Act 1993* and the nature of the act (i.e. the proposed clearing activity) has been provided for in that process, therefore, the granting of a clearing permit is not a future act under the *Native Title Act 1993*.

According to available databases, there is no known registered Aboriginal Site of Significance within the application area (GIS Database). It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

It is the proponent's responsibility to liaise with the Department of Environment Regulation, the Department of Parks and Wildlife and the Department of Water, to determine whether a Works Approval, Water Licence, Bed and Banks Permit, or any other licences or approvals are required for the proposed works.

**Methodology** GIS Databases:  
- Aboriginal Sites of Significance  
- Native Title Claims - Registered with the NNTT  
- Native Title Claims - Filed at the Federal Court

### 4. 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.  
MBS Environmental (2005) Purpose Permit Application Assessment of Clearing Principles. Prepared for Placer Dome

## 5. Glossary

### Acronyms:

<b>BoM</b>	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government
<b>DAA</b>	Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia
<b>DAFWA</b>	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia
<b>DEC</b>	Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (now DPaW and DER)
<b>DER</b>	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia
<b>DMP</b>	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia
<b>DRF</b>	Declared Rare Flora
<b>DotE</b>	Department of the Environment, Australian Government
<b>DoW</b>	Department of Water, Western Australia
<b>DPaW</b>	Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia
<b>DSEWPaC</b>	Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (now DotE)
<b>EPA</b>	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
<b>EP Act</b>	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia
<b>EPBC Act</b>	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Federal Act)
<b>GIS</b>	Geographical Information System
<b>ha</b>	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
<b>IBRA</b>	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
<b>IUCN</b>	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – commonly known as the World Conservation Union
<b>PEC</b>	Priority Ecological Community, Western Australia
<b>RIWI Act</b>	<i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> , Western Australia
<b>s.17</b>	Section 17 of the <i>Environment Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia
<b>TEC</b>	Threatened Ecological Community

### Definitions:

{DPaW (2013) Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora and Fauna. Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia}:-

- T**      **Threatened species:**  
Specially protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, listed under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna or the Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora (which may also be referred to as Declared Rare Flora).  
  
Threatened Fauna and Flora are further recognised by the Department according to their level of threat using IUCN Red List criteria. For example Carnaby's Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus latirostris* is specially protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* as a threatened species with a ranking of Endangered.  
  
Rankings:  
CR: Critically Endangered - considered to be facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.  
EN: Endangered - considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild.  
VU: Vulnerable - considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.
- X**      **Presumed Extinct species:**  
Specially protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, listed under Schedule 2 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Presumed Extinct Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Presumed Extinct Flora (which may also be referred to as Declared Rare Flora).
- IA**      **Migratory birds protected under an international agreement:**  
Specially protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, listed under Schedule 3 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice.  
Birds that are subject to an agreement between governments of Australia and Japan, China and The Republic of Korea relating to the protection of migratory birds and birds in danger of extinction.
- S**      **Other specially protected fauna:**  
Specially protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, listed under Schedule 4 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice.
- P1**      **Priority One - Poorly-known species:**  
Species that are known from one or a few collections or sight records (generally less than five), all on lands not managed for conservation, e.g. agricultural or pastoral lands, urban areas, Shire, rail reserves and Main Roads WA road, gravel and soil reserves, and active mineral leases and under threat of habitat destruction or degradation. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more localities but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and appear to be under immediate threat from known threatening processes.
- P2**      **Priority Two - Poorly-known species:**  
Species that are known from one or a few collections or sight records, some of which are on lands not under

imminent threat of habitat destruction or degradation, e.g. national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves, State forest, unallocated Crown land, water reserves, etc. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more localities but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and appear to be under threat from known threatening processes.

**P3**

**Priority Three - Poorly-known species:**

Species that are known from collections or sight records from several localities not under imminent threat, or from few but widespread localities with either large population size or significant remaining areas of apparently suitable habitat, much of it not under imminent threat. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from several localities but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and known threatening processes exist that could affect them.

**P4**

**Priority Four - Rare, Near Threatened and other species in need of monitoring:**

- (a) Rare. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed, or for which sufficient knowledge is available, and that are considered not currently threatened or in need of special protection, but could be if present circumstances change. These species are usually represented on conservation lands.
- (b) Near Threatened. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed and that do not qualify for Conservation Dependent, but that are close to qualifying for Vulnerable.
- (c) Species that have been removed from the list of threatened species during the past five years for reasons other than taxonomy.

**P5**

**Priority Five - Conservation Dependent species:**

**Species that are not threatened but are subject to a specific conservation program, the cessation of which would result in the species becoming threatened within five years.**

**Principles for clearing native vegetation:**

- (a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.
- (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.
- (c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora.
- (d) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a threatened ecological community.
- (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.
- (f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.
- (g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.
- (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.
- (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.
- (j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.