



# Clearing Permit Decision Report

## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 376/7  
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  
Mining Lease 24/962  
Miscellaneous Licence 24/29  
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: 30 November 2017

## 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 4,546 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).  
to  
Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (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)

Clearing Permit CPS 376/1 was granted on 22 December 2005 and authorised the clearing of 100 hectares within a boundary of approximately 4,596 hectares. An Appeal was received and following the decision of the Appeals Convenor, the Permit was amended (CPS 376/2) to include five additional Permit Conditions. CPS 376/2 was amended on 10 December 2009 to extend the duration of the Permit until 9 December 2012. CPS 376/3 was subsequently amended on 20 October 2011 to amend the annual reporting date. CPS 376/4 was amended on 12 July 2012 to extend the duration of the permit to 9 December 2017. An amendment to CPS 376/5 was initiated by the Department of Mines and Petroleum (now Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety) to replace a condition on the permit that had incorrectly been removed during the previous amendment.

### 3. Assessment of application against Clearing Principles

#### Comments

Paddington Gold has applied to amend CPS 376/6 to extend the duration of the permit to 9 December 2022 as all clearing activities under this permit have not been completed. The amendment will also change the clearing permit boundary. The change in permit boundary is a result of Prospecting Licence 24/4253 expiring and no longer being part of the permit area and also realigning other areas of the permit boundary. The change in the permit boundary will reduce the area from approximately 4,596 hectares to 4,546 hectares. The amount of clearing authorised will remain the same at 100 hectares.

The amended permit boundary includes approximately 65 hectares that was covered by the previous boundary. The vegetation within these areas is similar to vegetation within the previous permit boundary (GIS Database). There are no records of any Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities, Threatened flora and priority flora within these new areas (GIS Database). Current permit conditions requiring targeted flora and fauna surveys to be undertaken prior to clearing will minimise the potential impacts on conservation significant flora and fauna.

The proposed amendment is unlikely to result in any significant change to the environmental impacts of the proposed clearing. The assessment against the clearing principles remains consistent with the assessment contained in previous decision reports.

**Methodology** GIS Database:  
- Imagery  
- Pre-European Vegetation  
- Threatened and Priority Flora  
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities boundaries  
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities buffered

## Planning Instrument, Native Title, previous EPA decision or other matter.

### Comments

There is one native title claim over the area under application (DPLH, 2017). This claim has been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on behalf of the claimant group. 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*.

There are four registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the application area (DPLH, 2017). 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 Water and Environmental Regulation and the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions, to determine whether a Works Approval, Water Licence, Bed and Banks Permit, or any other licences or approvals are required for the proposed works.

The amendment application was advertised on Month 2017 by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

**Methodology** DPLH (2017)

## 4. References

DPLH (2017) Aboriginal Heritage Enquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage.  
<http://maps.daa.wa.gov.au/AHIS/> (Accessed 27 November 2017).

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 Paddington Tenements, by MBS Environmental, April 2005.

van Etten (2005) Vegetation and Flora of the Paddington Mining Area. Report prepared for Placer Dome Inc. by Centre for Ecosystem Management, Edith Cowan University, April 2005.

## 5. Glossary

### Acronyms:

<b>BoM</b>	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government
<b>DAA</b>	Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia (now DPLH)
<b>DAFWA</b>	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (now DPIRD)
<b>DBCA</b>	Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia
<b>DEC</b>	Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (now DBCA and DWER)
<b>DEE</b>	Department of the Environment and Energy, Australian Government
<b>DER</b>	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia (now DWER)
<b>DMIRS</b>	Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Western Australia
<b>DMP</b>	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia (now DMIRS)
<b>DPIRD</b>	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia
<b>DPLH</b>	Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Western Australia
<b>DRF</b>	Declared Rare Flora
<b>DoE</b>	Department of the Environment, Australian Government (now DEE)
<b>DoW</b>	Department of Water, Western Australia (now DWER)
<b>DPaW</b>	Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia (now DBCA)
<b>DSEWPaC</b>	Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (now DEE)
<b>DWER</b>	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Western Australia
<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

RIWI Act      *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*, Western Australia  
TEC            Threatened Ecological Community

### **Definitions:**

{DPaW (2017) Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora and Fauna. Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia):-

- T**            **Threatened species:**  
Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, listed under Schedules 1 to 4 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora (which may also be referred to as Declared Rare Flora).  
**Threatened fauna** is that subset of 'Specially Protected Fauna' declared to be 'likely to become extinct' pursuant to section 14(4) of the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*.  
**Threatened flora** is flora that has been declared to be 'likely to become extinct or is rare, or otherwise in need of special protection', pursuant to section 23F(2) of the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*.  
The assessment of the conservation status of these species is based on their national extent and ranked according to their level of threat using IUCN Red List categories and criteria as detailed below.
- CR**            **Critically endangered species**  
Threatened species considered to be facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild. Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, in Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora.
- EN**            **Endangered species**  
Threatened species considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild. Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, in Schedule 2 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora.
- VU**            **Vulnerable species**  
Threatened species considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild. Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, in Schedule 3 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora.
- EX**            **Presumed extinct species**  
Species which have been adequately searched for and there is no reasonable doubt that the last individual has died. Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, in Schedule 4 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Presumed Extinct Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Presumed Extinct Flora.
- IA**            **Migratory birds protected under an international agreement**  
Birds that are subject to an agreement between the government of Australia and the governments of Japan (JAMBA), China (CAMBA) and The Republic of Korea (ROKAMBA), and the Bonn Convention, relating to the protection of migratory birds. Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, in Schedule 5 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice.
- CD**            **Conservation dependent fauna**  
Fauna of special conservation need being species dependent on ongoing conservation intervention to prevent it becoming eligible for listing as threatened. Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, in Schedule 6 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice.
- OS**            **Other specially protected fauna**  
Fauna otherwise in need of special protection to ensure their conservation. Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, in Schedule 7 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice.
- P**            **Priority species**  
Species which are poorly known; or  
Species that are adequately known, are rare but not threatened, and require regular monitoring. Assessment of Priority codes is based on the Western Australian distribution of the species, unless the distribution in WA is part of a contiguous population extending into adjacent States, as defined by the known spread of locations.
- P1**            **Priority One - Poorly-known species:**  
Species that are known from one or a few locations (generally five or less) which are potentially at risk.

All occurrences are either: very small; or on lands not managed for conservation, e.g. agricultural or pastoral lands, urban areas, road and rail reserves, gravel reserves and active mineral leases; or otherwise under threat of habitat destruction or degradation. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and appear to be under immediate threat from known threatening processes. Such species are in urgent need of further survey.

**P2 Priority Two - Poorly-known species:**

Species that are known from one or a few locations (generally five or less), some of which are on lands managed primarily for nature conservation, e.g. national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves and other lands with secure tenure being managed for conservation. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and appear to be under threat from known threatening processes. Such species are in urgent need of further survey.

**P3 Priority Three - Poorly-known species:**

Species that are known from several locations, and the species does not appear to be under imminent threat, or from few but widespread locations 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 locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and known threatening processes exist that could affect them. Such species are in need of further survey.

**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 are close to qualifying for Vulnerable, but are not listed as Conservation Dependent.

(c) Species that have been removed from the list of threatened species during the past five years for reasons other than taxonomy.

**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.