



# Clearing Permit Decision Report

## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: CPS 3823/3  
Permit type: Purpose

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Minjar Gold Pty Ltd

### 1.3. Property details

Property: Mining Lease 59/420  
Mining Lease 59/458  
Local Government Area: Shire of Yalgoo  
Colloquial name: Monaco Gold Project

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
30.69		Mechanical Removal	Mineral Production

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant  
Decision Date: 22 December 2016

## 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. One Beard vegetation association has been mapped within the application area (GIS Database):

202 – Shrublands; Mulga & *Acacia quadrimarginea*.

Mattiske Consulting Pty Ltd (2009) undertook a flora and vegetation survey of the Monaco project area (including the majority of proposed clearing area) in July 2009. The following six vegetation communities were described from the application area:

#### Woodlands

E1 - Low Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus horistes* over *Acacia ramulosa* var. *ramulosa* with *Melaleuca lateriflora* subsp. *acutifolia* with mixed shrubs over *Maireana georgei*, *Eremophila georgei*, *Olearia humilis*, *Ptilotus obovatus*, *Rhagodia drummondii* and mixed low shrubs on orange sandy loam on flats;

C2 - Woodland of *Callitris columellaris* and *Allocasuarina acutivalvis* subsp. *prinsepiana* over *Eremophila forrestii* with *Aluta aspera* subsp. *hesperia* and mixed low shrubs on deep orange sandy loams on flats;

#### Acacia Shrublands

A6 - Tall Open Scrub of *Acacia ramulosa* var. *ramulosa* with *Acacia burkittii*, *Acacia tetragonophylla* and *Grevillea obliquistigma* subsp. *obliquistigma* over *Philotheca brucei* subsp. *brucei* and *Scaevola spinescens* over annuals on orange brown sandy loam with rock cover on flats;

A7 - Tall Shrubland of *Acacia ramulosa* var. *ramulosa* with *Acacia sibina* over *Eremophila forrestii* with *Hibbertia stenophylla* and mixed shrubs over *Monachather paradoxus* and *Amphipogon caricinus* var. *caricinus* on orange sandy loam on flats;

A8 - Tall Shrubland of *Acacia ramulosa* var. *ramulosa* with *Allocasuarina acutivalvis* subsp. *prinsepiana*, *Grevillea obliquistigma* subsp. *obliquistigma*, *Acacia sibina* and *Acacia burkittii* over *Aluta aspera* subsp. *hesperia*, *Eremophila latrobei* subsp. *latrobei* and *Drummondita fulva* (P3) over *Monachather paradoxus*, *Cheilanthes adiantoides* and mixed low shrubs and annuals on orange brown sandy loam with rock cover on flats and slopes; and

A10 - Open Shrubland of *Acacia burkittii* with *Acacia sibina* and *Grevillea obliquistigma* subsp. *obliquistigma* over *Aluta aspera* subsp. *hesperia* with *Eremophila forrestii* and *Baeckea benthamii* (ms) on orange sandy loam on flats.

#### Clearing Description

Minjar Gold Pty Ltd have applied to clear up to 30.69 hectares of native vegetation at the Monaco project area to expand an existing open cut pit and waste rock dump, and to establish an ore transfer station, access roads and associated infrastructure (Minjar Gold Pty Ltd, 2010).

Native vegetation and topsoil removed during clearing operations will be stockpiled separately for use in future rehabilitation works (Minjar Gold Pty Ltd, 2010).

**Vegetation Condition**

Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery, 1994);

To

Excellent: Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery, 1994).

**Comment**

The vegetation condition rating is derived from information provided by Minjar Gold Pty Ltd (2010), Mattiske Consulting Pty Ltd (2009) and analysis of aerial photography and satellite imagery.

Clearing permit CPS 3823/1 was granted by the Department of Mines and Petroleum on 26 August 2010 and allowed for the clearing of 30.69 hectares of native vegetation. An application to amend this permit was granted by the Department of Mines and Petroleum on 1 November 2012 extending the duration of the permit from 31 December 2012 to 31 December 2016 and re-orientating the permit boundary.

Minjar Gold Pty Ltd has applied to extend the duration of the permit to 31 January 2019 and amend the annual reporting date to 31 January, to align with their clearing reports required under other permits.

### 3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

**Comments**

The amendment to extend the duration of the permit to 31 January 2019, amend the reporting date to 31 January each year, and a final reporting date of 31 January 2019 is unlikely to result in any significant change to the environmental impacts of the proposed clearing. The size of the area approved to clear (30.69 hectares) and the permit boundaries remain unchanged.

The assessment against the clearing Principles remains consistent with the assessment contained in decision report CPS 3823/2.

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

**Comments**

There is one Native Title Claim (WC97/72) over the area under application (GIS Database). This claim has been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal. 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 no registered Aboriginal Sites 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 and Conservation 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** DAA (2016)

### 4. References

- DAA (2016) Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System, Government of Western Australia, Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Perth, <<http://maps.dia.wa.gov.au/AHIS2/>> (accessed 12 December 2016).
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Mattiske Consulting Pty Ltd (2009) Flora and Vegetation Survey of the Monaco Project Area within tenements M59/420 and M59/458, Minjar Project Area. Prepared for Golden Stallion Resources Pty Ltd. September 2009.
- Minjar Gold Pty Ltd (2010) Monaco Project - Application for a Purpose Clearing Permit. June 2010.

## 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>DEE</b>	Department of the Environment and Energy, Australian Government
<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>DoE</b>	Department of the Environment, Australian Government (now DEE)
<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 DEE)
<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

### Definitions:

{DPaW (2015) **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.

**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.

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.