



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 3833/2
Permit type: Purpose

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Saracen Gold Mines Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: Mining Lease 28/166
Mining Lease 28/167
Mining Lease 28/269
Local Government Area: City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
Colloquial name: Karari Stage 3 Project

1.4. Application

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

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 31 October 2013

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. Two Beard vegetation associations have been mapped within the application area:

20: Low woodland; mulga mixed with *Casuarina cristata* & *Eucalyptus* sp.; and

24: Low woodland; *Casuarina cristata* (GIS Database; Government of Western Australia, 2013).

The application area was surveyed by Mattiske Consulting Pty Ltd staff on the 14 and 15 April 2010 (Mattiske Consulting Pty Ltd, 2010). The following vegetation types were identified within the application area;

E1: Low open woodland of *Eucalyptus oleosa* subsp. *oleosa* over an open scrub of *Acacia aneura* var. *intermedia* and *Acacia ayersiana* with occasional *Casuarina pauper* over low to open low shrubland of *Acacia burkittii*, *Acacia ramulosa* var. *ramulosa*, *Dodonaea lobulata*, *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia*, *Ptilotus obovatus*, *Maireana sedifolia* and *Maireana georgei* on red clay loam flats and minor drainage areas;

E2: Woodland to open woodland of *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* occasionally with *Eucalyptus lesouefii* and *Eucalyptus concinna* over low shrubland to open low shrubland of *Eremophila scoparia*, *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia*, *Acacia hemiteles*, *Atriplex vesicaria*, *Atriplex nummularia*, *Dodonaea lobulata*, *Maireana sedifolia* and *Maireana triptera* on shallow calcrete red/brown clay loams often with a fine calcrete or ironstone mantle;

E3: Low open woodland of *Eucalyptus oleosa* subsp. *oleosa* over scrub of *Acacia aneura* var. *intermedia*, *Acacia ayersiana* and *Grevillea nematophylla* over an open low shrubland of *Acacia burkittii*, *Acacia tetragonophylla*, *Acacia ramulosa* var. *ramulosa*, *Scaevola spinescens*, *Dodonaea lobulata*, *Dodonaea rigida*, *Spartothamnella teucriflora*, *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* and *Ptilotus obovatus* on red clay loam flats and wash plains, with a mantle of ironstone and calcrete pebbles;

C1: Open low woodland of *Casuarina pauper* over an open low shrubland of *Scaevola spinescens*, *Acacia nyssophylla*, *Eremophila scoparia*, *Eremophila glabra*, *Dodonaea lobulata*, *Eremophila oldfieldii* subsp. *angustifolia*, *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* on slopes and flats in shallow red/brown clay loams on calcrete often with rocky calcrete, ironstone and quartz mantles;

C2: Open low woodland of *Casuarina pauper* with occasional *Acacia* and *Eucalyptus* species over an open low shrubland of *Olearia muelleri*, *Ptilotus obovatus* and *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* on rocky calcrete rises with red/brown clay loam;

C3: Open low woodland of *Casuarina pauper* and occasionally *Eucalyptus concinna* over a scrub of *Acacia ayersiana*, *Acacia aneura* var. *intermedia* and *Grevillea nematophylla* over an open low shrubland of *Scaevola*

spinescens, *Dodonaea rigida*, *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia*, *Acacia kempeana* and *Ptilotus obovatus* on red clay loam on flats often with a fine ironstone mantle;

S1: Scrub of *Acacia ayersiana* and *Grevillea nematophylla* with occasional *Casuarina pauper* and *Eucalyptus* species over a low to open low shrubland of *Acacia tetragonophylla*, *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia*, *Ptilotus obovatus*, *Dodonaea rigida* and *Scaevola spinescens* on red clay loam flats;

A1: Closed scrub of *Acacia aneura* var. *intermedia* to open scrub of *Acacia burkittii* and *Acacia tetragonophylla* over open low shrubland of *Eremophila oldfieldii* subsp. *angustifolia*, *Eremophila glabra*, and *Dodonaea lobulata* on red/brown clay loams and sandy loams in drainage lines and areas; and

A2: Scrub of *Acacia aneura* var. *intermedia*, *Acacia ayersiana* and *Grevillea nematophylla* with emergent *Eucalyptus oleosa* subsp. *oleosa* and *Casuarina pauper* over a low shrubland of *Acacia burkittii*, *Acacia tetragonophylla*, *Acacia ramulosa* var. *ramulosa*, *Scaevola spinescens*, *Dodonaea lobulata*, *Dodonaea rigida*, *Spartothamnella teucriflora* and *Ptilotus obovatus* on red clay loam flats and wash plains sometimes with a mantle of ironstone and calcrete pebbles (Mattiske Consulting Pty Ltd, 2010).

Clearing Description	<p>Karari Stage 3 Project.</p> <p>Saracen Gold Mines Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 150 hectares of native vegetation, within a total boundary of approximately 290 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production. The proposed clearing is for a cutback of the existing open pit, waste rock landforms, roads and a go-bay. The project is located approximately 105 kilometres north-east of Kalgoorlie in the City of Kalgoorlie Boulder.</p>
Vegetation Condition	<p>Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery, 1994);</p> <p>To</p> <p>Excellent: Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery, 1994).</p>
Comment	<p>The Karari Stage 3 Project forms part of Saracen Gold Mines Pty Ltd Carosue Dam Operations (Saracen Gold Mines Pty Ltd, 2010). The Karari open pit is located 1 kilometre south-east of the Carosue Dam Operations processing plant and approximately 2 kilometres south of the Whirling Dervish open pit (Saracen Gold Mines Pty Ltd, 2010). The Karari Stage 3 Project will be supported by existing infrastructure such as run of mine (ROM) pads, workshops and offices located at the Carosue Dam Operations site (Saracen Gold Mines Pty Ltd, 2010).</p> <p>The vegetation condition was derived from a vegetation survey conducted by Mattiske Consulting Pty Ltd (2010).</p> <p>Clearing permit CPS 3833/1 was granted by the Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) on 2 September 2010 and was valid from 2 October 2010 to 30 November 2013. The clearing permit authorised the clearing of up to 150 hectares of native vegetation. An application for an amendment was submitted to the DMP on 18 September 2013 to extend the duration of the permit for an additional five years to cover future clearing. The amount of clearing authorised and the clearing permit boundary will remain the same.</p>

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

Saracen Gold Mines Pty Ltd has applied to extend the duration of the clearing permit by five years. The amount of clearing authorised and the clearing permit boundary will remain unchanged. There are no additional environmental impacts associated with this amendment. Therefore, the assessment against the clearing principles has not changed and can be found in the Clearing Permit Decision Report CPS 3833/1.

Methodology

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

Comments

There are no native title claims over the area under application (GIS Database). The tenement has been granted in accordance with the future act regime of the *Native Title Act 1993* and the nature of that 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 in the vicinity of 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 (formerly 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.