



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 3851/2
Permit Holder:	HBJ Minerals Pty Ltd
Duration of Permit:	2 October 2010 – 2 October 2025

The Permit Holder is authorised to clear native vegetation subject to the following conditions of this Permit.

PART I – CLEARING AUTHORISED

- 1. Purpose for which clearing may be done**
Clearing for the purpose of mineral production and resource drilling.
- 2. Land on which clearing is to be done**
Lot 15 on Deposited Plan 58833, Feysville
Lot 50 on Plan 226299, Feysville
- 3. Area of Clearing**
The Permit Holder must not clear more than 450 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross hatched yellow on attached Plan 3851/2.
- 4. Period in which clearing is authorised**
The Permit Holder shall not clear any native vegetation after 2 October 2020.
- 5. Application**
This Permit allows the Permit Holder to authorise persons, including employees, contractors and agents of the Permit Holder, to clear native vegetation for the purposes of this Permit subject to compliance with the conditions of this Permit and approval from the Permit Holder.
- 6. Compliance with Assessment Sequence and Management Procedures**
Prior to clearing any native vegetation under conditions 1, 2 and 3 of this Permit, the Permit Holder must comply with the Assessment Sequence and the Management Procedures set out in Part II of this Permit.

PART II – ASSESSMENT SEQUENCE AND MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

- 7. Avoid, minimise etc clearing**
In determining the amount of native vegetation to be cleared authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder must have regard to the following principles, set out in order of preference:
 - (a) avoid the clearing of native vegetation;
 - (b) minimise the amount of native vegetation to be cleared; and
 - (c) reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.

8. Weed control

- (a) When undertaking any clearing or other activity authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder must take the following steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *weeds*:
 - (i) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
 - (ii) ensure that no *weed*-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill* or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and
 - (iii) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.
- (b) At least once in each 12 month period for the term of this Permit, the Permit Holder must remove or kill any *weeds* growing within areas cleared under this Permit.

9. Fauna management

- (a) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the area(s) shall be inspected by a *fauna specialist* for the presence of *Leipoa ocellata* (Malleefowl) mounds.
- (b) Where *Leipoa ocellata* (Malleefowl) mounds are identified in relation to condition 9(a) of this Permit, the Permit Holder shall ensure no clearing occurs within 50m of the identified *Leipoa ocellata* (Malleefowl) mounds, unless approved by the CEO.

10. Retain vegetative material and topsoil, revegetation and rehabilitation

The Permit Holder shall:

- (a) Retain the vegetative material and topsoil removed by clearing authorised under this Permit and stockpile the vegetative material and topsoil in an area that has already been cleared.
- (b) Within 12 months following clearing authorised under this permit, *revegetate* and *rehabilitate* the areas that are no longer being required for the purpose of mineral production, excluding the open pit, the Permit Holder must by:
 - (i) ripping the ground on the contour to remove soil compaction; and
 - (ii) laying the vegetative material and topsoil retained under condition 10(a) on the cleared area(s), excluding the open pit.
- (c) Within 18 months of laying vegetative material and topsoil on the cleared area in accordance with condition 10(b) of this Permit:
 - (i) engage an *environmental specialist* to determine the species composition, structure and density of the area *revegetated* and *rehabilitated*; and
 - (ii) where, in the opinion of an *environmental specialist*, the composition structure and density determined under condition 10(c)(i) of this Permit will not result in a similar species composition, structure and density to that of pre-clearing vegetation types in that area, *revegetate* the area by deliberately *planting* and/or *direct seeding* native vegetation that will result in a similar species composition, structure and density to that of pre-clearing vegetation types in that area and ensuring only *local provenance* seeds and propagating material are used.
- (d) Where additional *planting* or *direct seeding* of native vegetation is undertaken in accordance with condition 10(c)(ii) of this permit, the Permit Holder shall repeat condition 10(c)(i) and 10(c)(ii) within 24 months of undertaking the additional *planting* or *direct seeding* of native vegetation.
- (d) Where a determination by an *environmental specialist* that the composition, structure and density within areas *revegetated* and *rehabilitated* will result in a similar species composition, structure and density representative of native vegetation types occurring on similar *topography* within the local area, as determined in condition 10(c)(i) and (ii) of this permit, that determination shall be submitted for the CEO's consideration. If the CEO does not agree with the determination made under condition 10(c)(ii), the CEO may require the Permit Holder to undertake additional *planting* and *direct seeding* in accordance with the requirements under condition 10(c)(ii).

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

11. Records must be kept

The Permit Holder must maintain the following records for activities done pursuant to this Permit:

- (a) In relation to the clearing of native vegetation authorised under this Permit:
 - (i) the species composition, structure and density of the cleared area;
 - (ii) the location where the clearing occurred, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;
 - (iii) the date that the area was cleared; and
 - (iv) the size of the area cleared (in hectares).

- (b) In relation to fauna management pursuant to condition 9 of this Permit, the location of each *Leipoa ocellata* (Malleefowl) mound recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings.

- (c) In relation to the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* of areas pursuant to condition 10 of this Permit:
 - (i) the location of any areas *revegetated* and *rehabilitated*, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings;
 - (ii) a description of the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* activities undertaken;
 - (iii) the size of the area *revegetated* and *rehabilitated* (in hectares); and
 - (iv) the species composition, structure and density of *revegetation* and *rehabilitation*.

12. Reporting

- (a) The Permit Holder must provide to the CEO, on or before 30 June of each year, a written report:
 - (i) of records required under condition 11 of this Permit; and
 - (ii) concerning activities done by the Permit Holder under this Permit between 1 January and 31 December of the preceding year.

- (b) Prior to 2 July 2025, the Permit Holder must provide to the CEO a written report of records required under condition 11 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under condition 12(a) of this Permit.

DEFINITIONS

The following meanings are given to terms used in this Permit:

direct seeding means a method of re-establishing vegetation through the establishment of a seed bed and the introduction of seeds of the desired plant species;

environmental specialist means a person who is engaged by the Permit Holder for the purpose of providing environmental advice, who holds a tertiary qualification in environmental science or equivalent, and has experience relevant to the type of environmental advice that an environmental specialist is required to provide under this Permit;

fauna specialist means a person with training and specific work experience in fauna identification or faunal assemblage surveys of Western Australian fauna.

Guidance Statement No. 51 means the Environmental Protection Authority Guidance Statement No 51, Guidance for the Assessment of Environmental Factors - Terrestrial Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Australia (2004);

local provenance means native vegetation seeds and propagating material from natural sources within 50 kilometres of the area cleared.

planting means the re-establishment of vegetation by creating favourable soil conditions and planting seedlings of the desired species;

regenerate/ed/ion means re-establishment of vegetation from in situ seed banks and propagating material (such as lignotubers, bulbs, rhizomes) contained either within the topsoil or seed-bearing mulch;

rehabilitate/ed/ion means actively managing an area containing native vegetation in order to improve the ecological function of that area;

revegetate/ed/ion means the re-establishment of a cover of *local provenance* native vegetation in an area using methods such as *regeneration*, *direct seeding* and/or *planting*, so that the species composition, structure and density is similar to pre-clearing vegetation types in that area; and

weed/s means any plant -

- (a) that is declared under section 37 of the *Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act 1976*; or
- (b) published in the Department of Environment and Conservation Regional Weed Assessments, regardless of ranking; or
- (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.

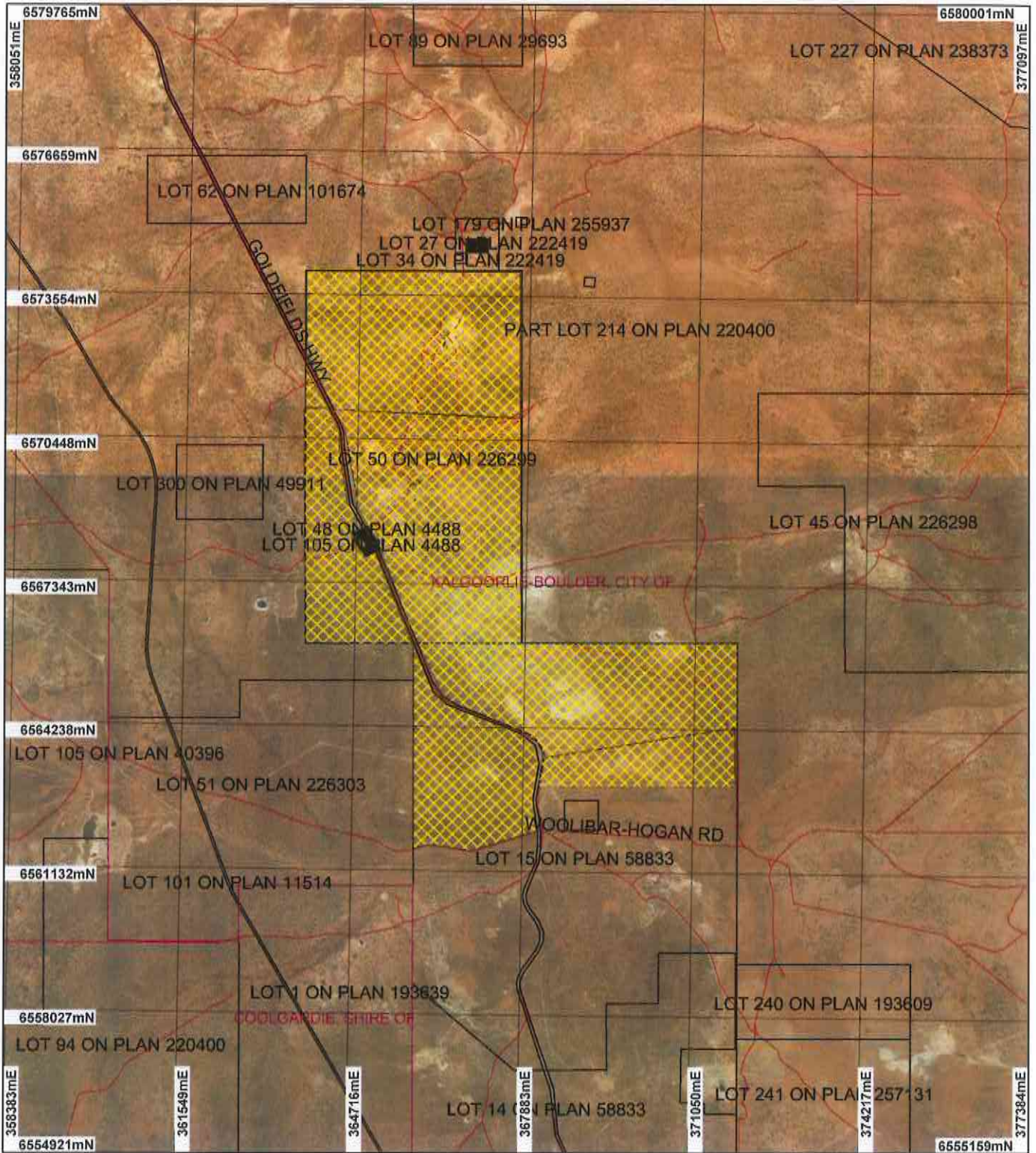


M Warnock
A/MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

*Officer delegated under Section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986*

14 February 2013

Plan 3851/2



LEGEND

- Road Centrelines
- Cadastre_1
- Clearing Instruments
- Areas Approved to Clear
- Local Government Authorities
- Kanowna 1.4m Orthomosaic - Landgate 2003
- Lake Lefroy 3235 Mar 2011 Mosaic



0 3 km

Scale 1:110592
(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

Geocentric Datum Australia 1994

Note: the data in this map have not been projected. This may result in geometric distortion or measurement inaccuracies.

M Wamock Date 14/2/13
M Wamock

Officer with delegated authority under Section 20 of the Environmental Protection Act 1985

Information derived from this map should be confirmed with the data custodian acknowledged by the agency acronym in the legend.



Department of Environment and Conservation

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1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 3851/2
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: HBJ Minerals Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 50 ON PLAN 226299 (FEYSVILLE 6431)
Local Government Area: Shire of Kalgoorlie Boulder
Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

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

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 14 February 2013

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 types: 9: Medium woodland; coral gum (E. torquata) & Goldfields blackbutt (E. lesouefi). 221: Succulent steppe; saltbush. 468: Medium woodland; salmon gum & Goldfields blackbutt. (Hopkins et al 2001; Shepherd 2009)	The amended area under application is for the increased clearing from 180 hectares to 450 hectares over the same ~2,500 ha project area for mineral production and resource drilling. The project area is within Lot 50 and Lot 15 located approximately 30 kilometres south-east of the Kalgoorlie-Boulder town site. The vegetation within the areas in which clearing is to occur consists of 19 vegetation groups (Native vegetation Solutions 2012) in degraded to very good (Keighery 1994) condition.	Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994) To Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994)	The clearing description and vegetation condition were ascertained from a vegetation survey conducted by Native vegetation Solutions (2012).

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

The proponent has applied to amend the existing permit to increase the clearing from 180 hectares to 450 hectares and increased the clearing footprint area by 2734 hectares to now include the whole of Lot 50 and the western section of Lot 15, a total footprint area of 5, 234 hectares.

The proposed additional clearing is for the purpose of expanding South Kalgoorlie Operations gold mines including infrastructure, tailings dams and waste dumps.

The majority of the vegetation under application has been mapped as Beard Vegetation Association 9 of which 99.7 per cent (239, 834 hectares) remains. The proposed clearing of 450 hectares will reduce this by 0.18 per cent.

A review of the additional footprint area reveals additional hydrological features, an Aboriginal Site of Significance and one new conservation significant fauna record within a 25 kilometre radius. *Morelia spilota subsp. imbricata* (Carpet python) utilises semi-arid *Banksia* woodland, eucalypt woodlands, and grasslands none of which are present within the application area.

Although a flora survey undertaken in September and October 2012 (Native Vegetation Solutions, 2012) recorded a priority 3 and a rare flora species in close proximity to the project area. No rare or priority flora were recorded within the amended application area and therefore, the application is not likely to contain or be necessary for the existence of rare flora.

The new footprint area also encompasses two perennial lakes and an additional 50 minor watercourses. Given the size of the proposed clearing and soil type within the application area, the proposed clearing may also cause appreciable land degradation through erosion.

The amended application is at variance to Principle (f), may be at variance to Principle (g) and is not likely to be at variance to the remaining clearing principles. The assessment against the remaining clearing principles has not changed and can be found in the clearing Permit Decision Report CPS 3851/1.

Methodology

References:

- DEC(2007-)
- Native Vegetation Solutions (2012)

GIS Databases:

- Kanowna 1.4m Orthomosaic - Landgate 2003
- Lake Lefroy 1.4m Orthomosaic
- Hydrography linear
- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
- SAC Bio Datasets accessed 20/12/2012

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

Comments

The proponent has applied to increase the permitted clearing from 180 hectares to 450 hectares and increased the clearing footprint area by 2734 hectares to include the whole of Lot 50 and the western section of Lot 15, Feysville.

A draft amended clearing permit was sent to the applicant on the 17 January 2013 containing a condition to inspect vegetation for priority flora prior to clearing; a reply was received on the 5 February 2013. Concerns were raised as to the cost of obtaining a botanist to inspect all areas to be cleared. On review of the flora survey supplied by the applicant, identified priority flora fall outside the clearing footprint and therefore the application is not likely to be at variance to principle (a). The flora management condition is therefore, no longer required. Concerns raised regarding the revegetation condition have been addressed through a phone conversation with the applicant.

It has been noted that Lot 50 is currently under investigation for a saline spill at the Jubilee mine site (ICMS 23607). This was reported to DEC on 24/1/12.

One Aboriginal Site of Significance occurs in the southern end of the amended clearing application area. The applicant has been made aware of their notification responsibilities under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972.

HBJ Minerals Pty Ltd has a licence to take water from the Department of Water, covering the areas under application (DOW, 2012).

No submissions from the public have been received.

Methodology

References:

- DoW (2012)

GIS Databases:

- Cadastre
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas
- Town Planning Scheme Zones
- Aboriginal Sites of Significance

4. References

DoW (2012) Application for a licence to take water GWL106836(6); Department of Water, 1 June 2012 (DEC REF A591070).

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

Native Vegetation Solutions (2012) Assessment of the Flora and Vegetation at the Location 48 Project Area, Avoca, HBJ Minerals Pty Ltd South Kalgoorlie Operations In Avoca Resources - HBJ Minerals Pty Ltd: Purpose Permit Application CPS 3851/2, September 2012. DEC Ref A589768.

Niche Environmental Services (2010) Assessment of the Flora and Vegetation at the Location 48 Project Area, Avoca, HBJ Minerals Pty Ltd South Kalgoorlie Operations In Avoca Resources - HBJ Minerals Pty Ltd: Purpose Permit Application CPS

Shepherd, D.P. (2009) Adapted from: Shepherd, D.P., Beeston, G.R., and Hopkins, A.J.M. (2001), Native Vegetation in Western Australia. Technical Report 249. Department of Agriculture Western Australia, South Perth.

5. Glossary

Term	Meaning
BCS	Biodiversity Coordination Section of DEC
CALM	Department of Conservation and Land Management (now BCS)
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection (now DEC)
DoE	Department of Environment
DoIR	Department of Industry and Resources
DRF	Declared Rare Flora
EPP	Environmental Protection Policy
GIS	Geographical Information System
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community
WRC	Water and Rivers Commission (now DEC)