



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 4047/2
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Focus Minerals (Laverton) Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: Mining Lease 38/376
Mining Lease 38/377
Local Government Area: Shire of Laverton
Colloquial name: Pieces of Eight Deposit

1.4. Application

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

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 15 May 2015

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
<p>The application area has been broadly mapped as Beard Vegetation Association 18: Low woodland; mulga (<i>Acacia aneura</i>) (GIS Database).</p> <p>Part of the application area was flora surveyed by Goldfields Landcare Services, on behalf of MBS Environmental, in 2009 and the vegetation of the whole application area was mapped by Crescent Gold in December 2010. The vegetation types were consistent with those identified and described by Western Botanical (2007). The following vegetation types were identified:</p> <p>Calciphytic Bluebush Shrublands: <i>Acacia aneura</i>, <i>Hakea preissii</i>, <i>Eremophila oldfieldii</i> subsp. <i>angustifolia</i> scattered tall shrubs over <i>Maireana sedifolia</i>, <i>Maireana pydamidata</i> low chenopod shrubland over scattered grasses.</p> <p>Drainage Tract Mulga Shrublands: <i>Acacia aneura</i> low forest over a highly variable understorey of shrubs, grasses and herbs. The species composition comprises largely of species common to surrounding vegetation units.</p> <p>Stony Ironstone Mulga Shrublands: <i>Acacia aneura</i>, <i>Acacia ramulosa</i> var. <i>ramulosa</i>, <i>Acacia</i> aff. <i>quadrimarginea</i> scrub over <i>Eremophila forrestii</i> subsp. <i>forrestii</i>, <i>Scaevola spinescens</i>, <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>helmsii</i>, <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>filifolia</i> low scrub.</p>	<p>Pieces of Eight Deposit project. Focus Minerals (Laverton) Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 15 hectares of native vegetation, within a total boundary of approximately 88 hectares, for the purpose of an open pit gold mine and mining related infrastructure. The project is located approximately 10 kilometres north-east of Laverton, in the Shire of Laverton.</p>	<p>Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994).</p> <p>To</p> <p>Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery, 1994).</p>	<p>The vegetation condition has been derived from a vegetation survey by Goldfields Landcare Services (MBS Environmental, 2009).</p> <p>Mining related infrastructure will include a waste rock landform, access roads and an ore stockpile area. Vegetation will be cleared using bulldozers or other heavy plant equipment. Vegetation and topsoil will be stockpiled for use in subsequent site rehabilitation.</p> <p>Clearing permit CPS 4047/1 was granted to Crescent Gold Limited by the Department of Mines and Petroleum on 3 February 2011, and was valid from 26 February 2011 to 2 February 2015. The permit approved the clearing of 15 hectares of native vegetation for the purposes of mineral production.</p> <p>On 15 April 2014, Focus Minerals (Laverton) Pty Ltd applied to amend CPS 4047/1 to change the name of the permit holder from Crescent Gold Limited to Focus Minerals (Laverton) Pty Ltd, due to a change of company name.</p>

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

The amendment to change the name of the permit holder will not change the environmental impacts of the proposed clearing. The size of the area approved to clear (15 hectares) and the permit boundaries remain unchanged.

The assessment against the clearing principles remains consistent with the assessment in decision report CPS 4047/1.

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 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 two Aboriginal Sites of Significance recorded as occurring partly within the clearing permit 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.

The Pieces of Eight proposal was referred to the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority (OEPA) by the proponent on 3 November 2010. On 12 January 2011 the OEPA made a determination of 'Not Assessed - No Advice Given'.

It is the proponent's responsibility to liaise with the Department of Environment Regulation, the Department of Water, and the Department of Parks and Wildlife, 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 Database:
- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
 - Native Title Claims - Determined by the Federal Court
 - Native Title Claims - Filed at the Federal Court
 - Native Title Claims - Registered with the NNTT

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 (2009) Flora and Vegetation Survey for Laverton Gold Project. Report Prepared for Crescent Gold Limited, April 2009.
- Western Botanical (2007) Flora and Vegetation of the Craiggie more Project Area and Associated Haul Road Alignment. Unpublished report for Crescent Gold Limited, July 2007.

5. Glossary

Acronyms:

BoM	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government
DAA	Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (now DPaW and DER)
DER	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia
DMP	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia
DRF	Declared Rare Flora
DotE	Department of the Environment, Australian Government
DoW	Department of Water, Western Australia
DPaW	Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia
DSEWPaC	Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (now DotE)
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
EP Act	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Federal Act)
GIS	Geographical Information System

ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – commonly known as the World Conservation Union
PEC	Priority Ecological Community, Western Australia
RIWI Act	<i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> , Western Australia
s.17	Section 17 of the <i>Environment Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia
TEC	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.

