



GOVERNMENT OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## CLEARING PERMIT

*Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986*

### PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 4208 / 1  
File Number: DEC13465  
Duration of Permit: From 2 May 2011 to 2 May 2013

### PERMIT HOLDER

Saracen Gold Mines Pty Ltd on behalf of the Shire of Menzies

### LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

LOT 500 ON DEPOSITED PLAN 65988  
LOT 501 ON DEPOSITED PLAN 65988  
LOT 502 ON DEPOSITED PLAN 65989  
LOT 503 ON DEPOSITED PLAN 65988  
LOT 504 ON DEPOSITED PLAN 65989

### AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

Clearing of up to 18 hectares of native vegetation within the area highlighted in yellow on attached Plan 4208/1.

### CONDITIONS

Nil.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kelly Faulkner', written over a horizontal line.

Kelly Faulkner  
MANAGER  
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

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

7 April 2011

# Plan 4208/1



## LEGEND

- Cadastre
- Local Government Authorities

- Clearing Instruments**
- Areas Approved to Clear



0 ————— 1.25 km

Scale 1:50000

(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.

Kelly Faulkner

Date 2/2/11

Officer with delegated authority under Section 20 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

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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\* Project Data. This data has not been quality assured. Please contact map author for details.



## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 4208/1  
Permit type: Area Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Saracen Gold Mines Pty Ltd

### 1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 500 ON DEPOSITED PLAN 65988  
LOT 501 ON DEPOSITED PLAN 65988  
LOT 502 ON DEPOSITED PLAN 65989  
LOT 503 ON DEPOSITED PLAN 65988  
LOT 504 ON DEPOSITED PLAN 65989

Local Government Area: Shire of Menzies

Colloquial name:

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
18		Mechanical Removal	Road construction or maintenance

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: GRANT  
Decision Date: 7 April 2011

## 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 association 400: Succulent steppe with open low woodland; mulga over bluebush.  (Shepherd 2007)	The application is to clear 18ha of native vegetation for road upgrades.  The vegetation condition ranges from very good to good (Keighery 1994) condition, with a history of extensive grazing (Alexander Holm & Associates 2009).	Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994)	The vegetation description and condition was determined from vegetation surveys provided by the applicant (Alexander Holm & Associates 2009).
As above	As above	Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994)	As above

## 3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

The application is to clear 18ha of native vegetation for the purposes of road re-alignment.

The vegetation condition ranges from very good to good (Keighery 1994) condition, with a history of extensive grazing (Alexander Holm & Associates 2009). The application area is mapped as Beard vegetation association 400: Succulent steppe with open low woodland; mulga over bluebush, of which close to 100% of the pre-European extent remains within the Murchison bioregion (Shepherd 2009). Four main vegetation communities were identified during the vegetation survey, Calcyphytic pearl bluebush shrublands, Stony bluebush mixed shrublands, sandy granitic acacia shrublands and mulga drainage line shrublands/woodlands with chenopod understoreys (Alexander Holm & Associates 2009).

No rare flora, fauna or threatened ecological communities have been recorded within the local area (20km

radius) of the application area. Two priority flora species have been recorded within the local area, *Acacia eremophila* numerous-nerved variant (P3) 9.5 km north and *Thryptomene eremaea* (P2) 2.4 km south west of the proposed clearing. Neither these species, nor other priority or rare flora species, were recorded during the flora survey (Alexander Holm & Associates 2009).

One priority fauna species, *Aspidites ramsayi* (Woma - P1), has been recorded within a 20km radius of the proposed clearing. The woma occurs in the arid zones of Western Australia, favouring open myrtaceous heath on sandplains, and dunefields dominated by spinifex (*Triodia* spp.) (DEC 2011). The vegetation under application is dominated by *Acacia* shrublands, and as the proposal is for the clearing of 18ha in a linear strip, within a vegetation association which retains close to 100% of its pre-European extent (Shepherd 2009), is not likely to comprise significant habitat for the aforementioned priority species.

The area under application intersects 5 minor non-perennial watercourses, and therefore may contain riparian vegetation and may be at variance to principle (f).

The mapped chief soil type is shallow earthy loams, and the topography ranges from 360m - 400m, and is of low relief. The risk of salinity is minimal given that the application area is a thin linear section of a very large remnant. Rainfall is mapped as 300mm per annum, and as such flooding is unlikely to occur as a result of clearing. No conservation areas are mapped within 20km radius of the area under application.

It is considered that the clearing as proposed may be at variance with principle (f) and otherwise not likely to be at variance with all other clearing principles. As the clearing is for a linear strip, it is unlikely the road re-alignment will have any significant impact on the environment.

**Methodology** Alexander Holm & Associates (2009)  
DEC (2011)  
Keighery (1994)  
Shepherd (2009)  
GIS database:  
- SAC Biodatasets - accessed 24 March 11  
- Pre European Vegetation - DA 01/01  
- Hydrography linear (hierarchy) - DoW 13/7/06  
- Soils, Statewide DA 11/99  
- Topographic contours statewide - DOLA and ARMY 12/09/02

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

**Comments** Road re-alignment is being carried out on behalf of the Shire of Menzies.

**Methodology**

#### **4. References**

- Alexander Holm & Associates (2009). Environmental Assessment: Proposed Yarri Road Diversion Porphyry-Enterprise. TRIM ref DOC101507.
- DEC (2011) NatureBase - Fauna Species Profile: Woma. Accessed at [http://www.dec.wa.gov.au/component/option,com\\_docman/task,doc\\_download/gid,142/Itemid,/](http://www.dec.wa.gov.au/component/option,com_docman/task,doc_download/gid,142/Itemid,/). Accessed 24/03/2011. Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia.
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Shepherd, D.P. (2007). 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. Includes subsequent updates for 2006 from Vegetation Extent dataset ANZWA1050000124.

#### **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)