



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	4523/3
Duration of Permit:	From 29 October 2011 to 29 October 2026
Permit Holder:	Metals X Limited

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

PART I - CLEARING AUTHORISED

1. Land on which clearing is to be done

Miscellaneous Licence 69/12

2. Purpose for which clearing may be done

Clearing for the purpose of groundwater exploration and associated works.

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 20 hectares of native vegetation. All clearing must be within the areas cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 4523/3.

4. 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.

PART II - MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

5. Avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and extent of 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:

- avoid the clearing of native vegetation;
- minimise the amount of native vegetation to be cleared; and
- reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.

6. Weed control

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*:

- clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
- ensure that no *weed*-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill* or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and
- restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.

7. Flora Management

- (a) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder shall engage a *botanist*, to conduct a *targeted flora survey* of the area(s) proposed to be cleared, for the presence of threatened flora listed in the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice* and *priority flora*, in accordance with *EPA Technical Guidance*.
- (b) Where threatened flora or *priority flora* are identified in relation to Condition 7(a) of this Permit, the Permit Holder shall ensure that:
 - (i) no clearing within 50 metres of the identified threatened flora occurs, unless first approved by the *CEO*;
 - (ii) no clearing of the identified *priority flora* occurs, unless first approved by the *CEO*; and
 - (iii) no clearing within 10 metres of the identified *priority flora* occurs, unless first approved by the *CEO*.

8. 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:
 - (i) *Macrotis lagotis* (Bilby) burrows;
 - (ii) *Dasyercus blythi* (Brush-tailed Mulgara) burrows;
 - (iii) *Dasyercus cristicauda* (Crest-tailed Mulgara) burrows; and
 - (iv) *Liopholis kintorei* (formerly *Egernia kintorei*) (Great Desert Skink) burrows.
- (b) Where *Macrotis lagotis* (Bilby), *Dasyercus blythi* (Brush-tailed Mulgara), *Dasyercus cristicauda* (Crest-tailed Mulgara) or *Liopholis kintorei* (Great Desert Skink) burrows are identified in relation to Condition 8(a) of this Permit, the Permit Holder shall ensure that no clearing occurs within 50 metres of the identified *Macrotis lagotis* (Bilby), *Dasyercus blythi* (Brush-tailed Mulgara), *Dasyercus cristicauda* (Crest-tailed Mulgara) or *Liopholis kintorei* (Great Desert Skink) burrows, unless first approved by the *CEO*.

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

9. Records to 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 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;
 - (ii) the date that the area was cleared;
 - (iii) the size of the area cleared (in hectares); and
 - (iv) purpose for which clearing was undertaken.
- (b) actions taken to avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and the extent of clearing in accordance with Condition 5 of this Permit; and
- (c) actions taken to minimise the introduction and spread of *weeds* in accordance with Condition 6 of this Permit.
- (d) In relation to flora management pursuant to Condition 7 of this Permit:
 - (i) the location of each threatened or *priority flora*, either as the location of individual plants, or where this is not practical, the aerial extent of the population and an estimate of the number of plants, 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;
 - (ii) the species name of each threatened or *priority flora* identified; and
 - (iii) a copy of the *botanist's* survey report.

- (e) In relation to fauna management pursuant to Condition 8 of this Permit:
 - (i) the location of each burrow identified, 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;
 - (ii) the species name of fauna reasonably likely to utilise, or that have been observed utilising the burrow; and
 - (iii) a copy of the *fauna specialist's* report.

10. Reporting

- (a) The Permit Holder shall provide a report to the *CEO* by 31 July each year for the life of this Permit, demonstrating adherence to all conditions of this Permit, and setting out the records required under Condition 9 of this Permit in relation to clearing carried out between 1 July and 30 June of the previous financial year.
- (b) If no clearing authorised under this Permit was undertaken between 1 July and 30 June of the previous financial year, a written report confirming that no clearing under this permit has been carried out, must be provided to the *CEO* by 31 July of each year.
- (c) Prior to 29 October 2026, the Permit Holder must provide to the *CEO* a written report of records required under Condition 9 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under Condition 10(a) or 10(b) of this Permit.

DEFINITIONS

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

botanist means a person who holds a tertiary qualification in environmental science or equivalent, and has a minimum of 2 years work experience in identification and surveys of flora native to the bioregion being inspected or surveyed, or who is approved by the *CEO* as a suitable *botanist* for the bioregion;

CEO means the Chief Executive Officer of the Department responsible for administering the clearing provisions contained within the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* or an Officer with delegated authority under Section 20 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*;

EPA Technical Guidance means Environmental Protection Authority (2016), *Technical Guidance - Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment*, EPA, Western Australia;

fauna specialist means a person who holds a tertiary qualification specialising in environmental science or equivalent, and has a minimum of 2 years work experience in fauna identification and surveys of fauna native to the region being inspected or surveyed, or who is approved by the *CEO* as a suitable fauna specialist for the bioregion, and who holds a valid fauna licence issued under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*;

fill means material used to increase the ground level, or fill a hollow;

mulch means the use of organic matter, wood chips or rocks to slow the movement of water across the soil surface and to reduce evaporation;

priority flora means those plant taxa described as priority flora classes 1, 2, 3, or 4 in the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' *Threatened and Priority Flora List for Western Australia* (as amended);

targeted flora survey means a field-based investigation, including a review of established literature, of the biodiversity of flora and vegetation of the Permit Area, focusing on habitat suitable for flora species that are being targeted and carried out during the optimal time to identify those species. Where target flora are identified in the Permit Area, the survey should also include sufficient surrounding areas to place the Permit Area into local context;

weed/s means any plant -

- (a) that is a declared pest under section 22 of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*; or
- (b) published in a Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions Regional Weed Rankings Summary, regardless of ranking; or
- (c) not indigenous to the area concerned;

Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice means those plant taxa gazetted as a threatened flora pursuant to section 19(1) of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (as amended).



Dan Endacott
General Manager Environmental Compliance
Resource and Environmental Compliance Division
02 September 2021

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