



## CLEARING PERMIT

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

<b>Purpose Permit number:</b>	CPS 4745/1
<b>Permit Holder:</b>	Newcrest Mining Limited
<b>Duration of Permit:</b>	31 August 2012 to 31 August 2022

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 establishing borrow pits.

**2. Land on which clearing is to be done**

Unallocated Crown land, Telfer (PIN: 1011653)  
Mining Tenements L45/101, L45/110, M45/364 and M45/210

**3. Area of Clearing**

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 36.8 hectares of native vegetation within the combined areas cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 4745/1a, Plan 4745/1b, Plan 4745/1c, Plan 4745/1d, Plan 4745/1e, Plan 4745/1f, Plan 4745/1g, Plan 4745/1h and Plan 4745/1i.

**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.

**5. Period in which clearing is authorised**

The Permit Holder shall not clear any native vegetation after 31 August 2017.

**6. Type of Clearing Authorised**

This Permit authorises the Permit Holder to clear native vegetation for activities to the extent that the Permit Holder has the right to access land under the *Land Administration Act 1997* or any other written law.

**7. 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

**8. 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:

- 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.

## 9. 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*:

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

## 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 completion of the extractive activities, *revegetate* and *rehabilitate* the area(s) that are no longer required for the purpose for which they were cleared under this Permit by:
  - (i) re-shaping the surface of the land so that it is consistent with the surrounding 5 metres of uncleared land; and
  - (ii) ripping the ground on the contour to remove soil compaction; and
  - (iii) laying the vegetative material and topsoil retained under condition 10(a) on the cleared area(s).
- (c) within 24 months of laying the 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 of native vegetation to 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.
- (e) 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 to that of pre-clearing vegetation types in that 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;
  - (iii) the date that the area was cleared; and
  - (iv) the size of the area cleared (in hectares).
- (b) 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 or decimal degrees;
  - (ii) a description of the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* activities undertaken;
  - (iii) the size of the area *revegetated* and *rehabilitated* (in hectares);
  - (iv) the species composition, structure and density of *revegetation* and *rehabilitation*, and
  - (v) a copy of the environmental specialist's report.

## 12. Reporting

- (a) The Permit Holder must provide to the CEO on or before 31 July 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 July and 30 June of the preceding year.
- (b) Prior to 31 May 2022, 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;

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

*local provenance* means native vegetation seeds and propagating material from natural sources within 100 kilometres of the area cleared;

*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;

*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 natural *regeneration*, *direct seeding* and/or *planting*, so that the species composition, structure and density is similar to pre-clearing vegetation types in that area.

*weed/s* means a species listed in Appendix 3 of the "Environmental Weed Strategy" published by the Department of Conservation and Land Management (1999), and plants declared under section 37 of the *Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act 1976*.

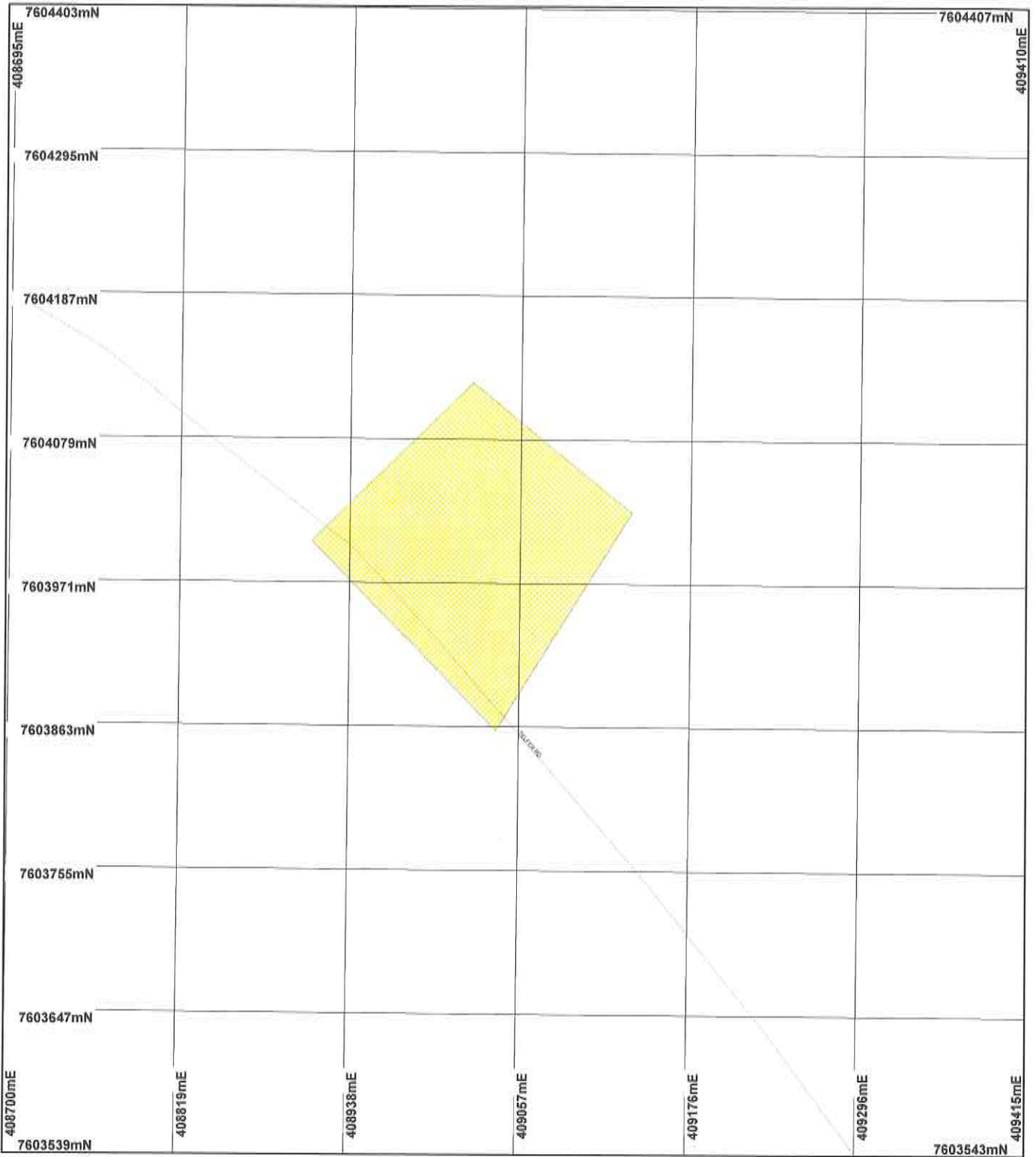


M Warnock  
A/MANAGER  
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

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

9 August 2012

# Plan 4745/1 a



## LEGEND

- Cleaning Instruments**
- Areas Approved to Clear
  - Road Centrelines
  - Cadastre
- > image index**
- Recently added
  - Coverage



Scale 1:3971  
(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. Warnock* Date 9/8/12  
M. Warnock

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.

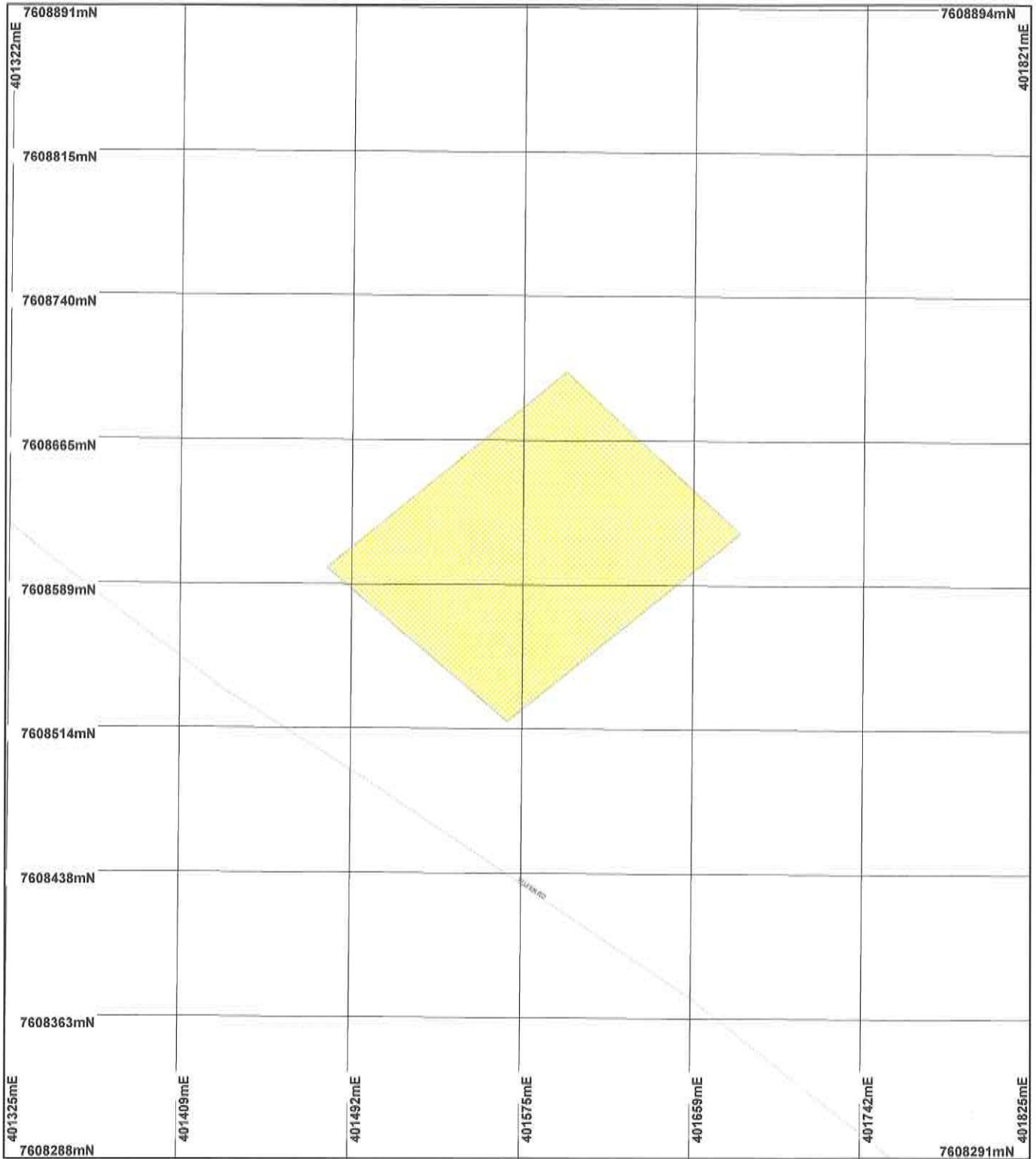


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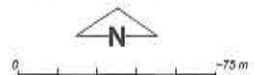
\* Project Data. This data has not been quality assured. Please contact map author for details.

# Plan 4745/1b



## LEGEND

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|--|---|---------------|
| Clearing instruments                                 |   | → image index |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Areas Approved to Clear     | <input type="checkbox"/> Recently added |               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Road Centrelines | <input type="checkbox"/> Coverage       |               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cadastre                    |   |               |



Scale 1:2773  
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*M. Warnock* Date 9/8/12  
M. Warnock

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

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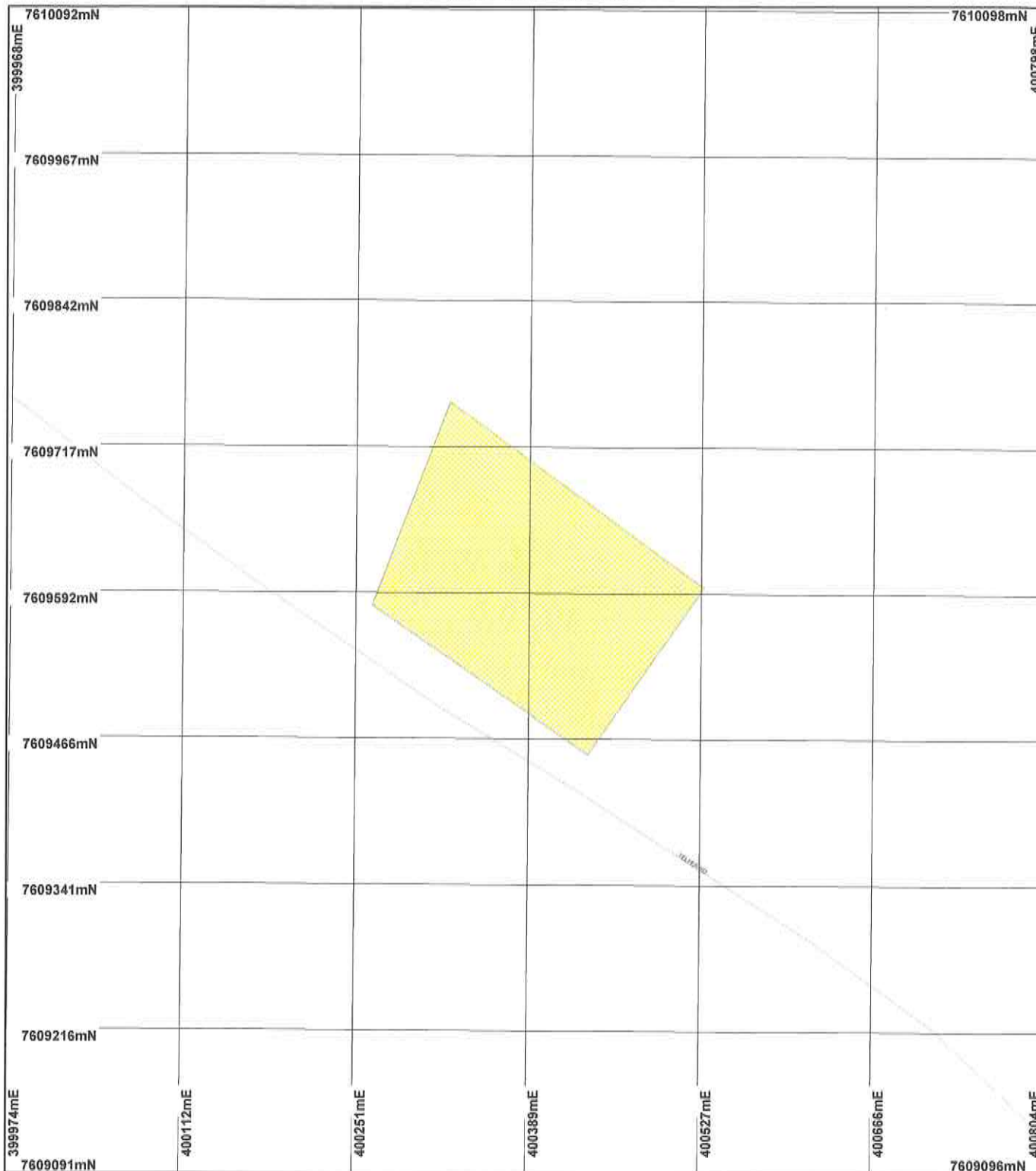


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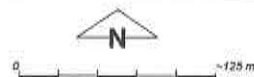


# Plan 4745/1c



## LEGEND

- Clearing Instruments**
- Areas Approved to Clear
  - Road Centrelines
  - Cadastre
- Image Index**
- Recently added
  - Coverage



Scale 1:4606

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*M. Warnock* Date 9/8/12  
M. Warnock

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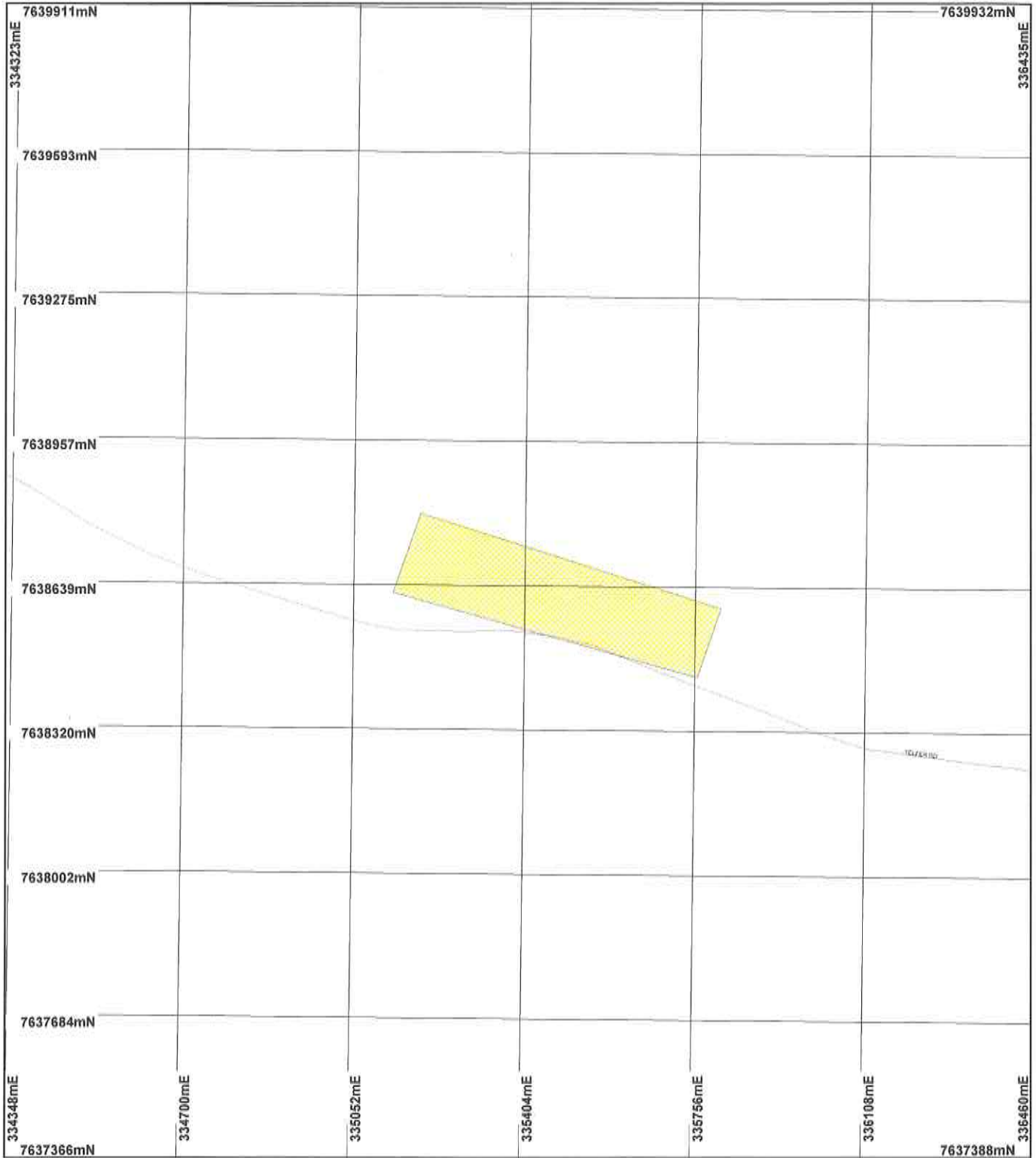
Information derived from this map should be confirmed with the data custodian acknowledged by the agency acronym in the legend.



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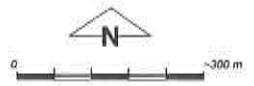
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# Plan 4745/1d



## LEGEND

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|-------------------------|----------------|-----------------|--|
| Clearing Instruments    |                | --> image index |  |
| Areas Approved to Clear | Recently added | Coverage        |  |
| Road Centrelines        |                |                 |  |
| Cadastral               |                |                 |  |



Scale 1:11707  
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*M. Warnock* Date 9/8/12

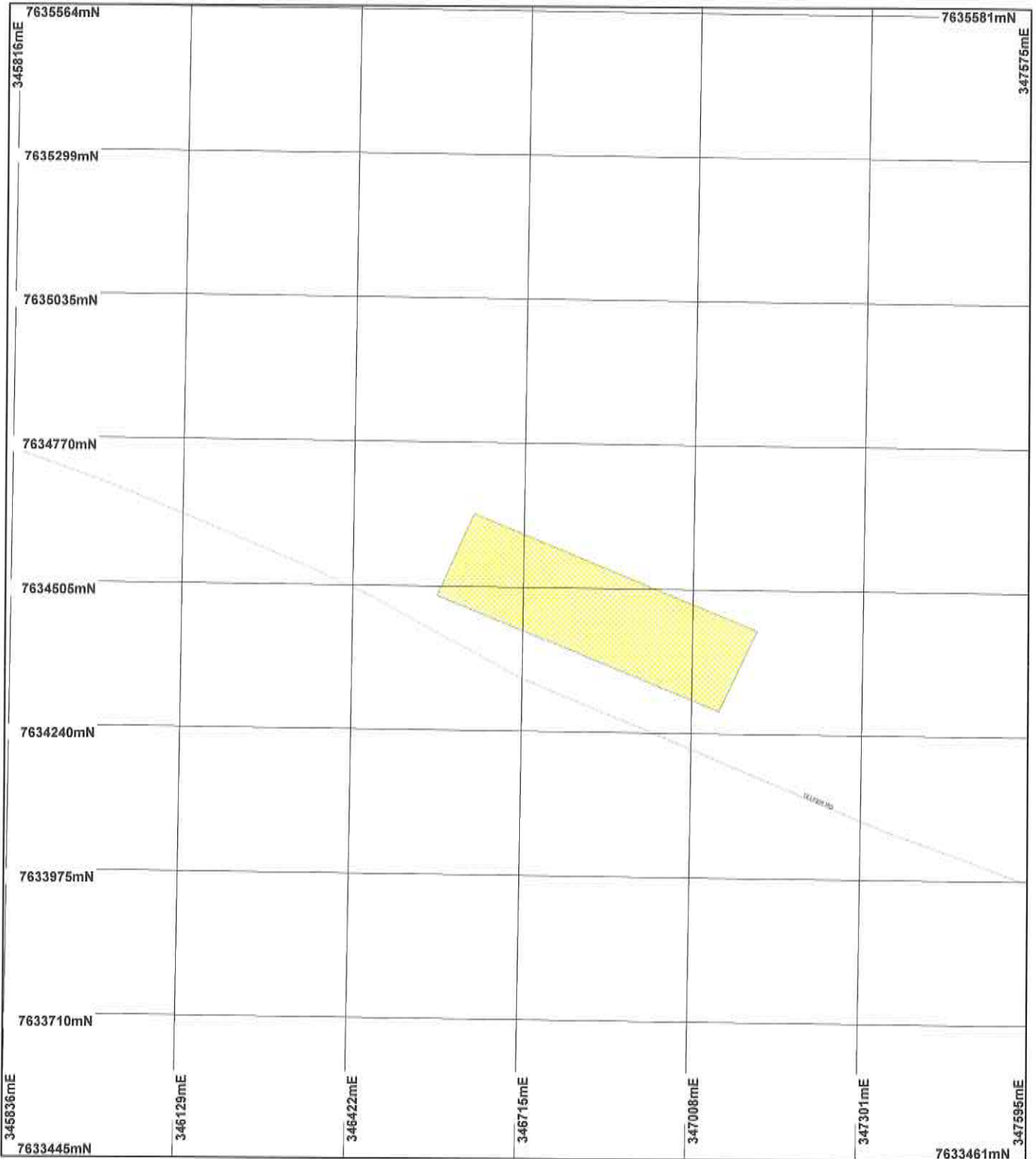
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\* Project Data. This data has not been quality assured. Please contact map author for details.

# Plan 4745/1e




**LEGEND**

Clearing Instruments

- Areas Approved to Clear
- Road Centrelines
- Cadastre

→ Image index

- Recently added
- Coverage



0 ————— 250 m

Scale 1:9752  
(Approximate when reproduced at A4)


Geocentric Datum Australia 1994

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*M. Warnock* Date 9/8/12

M. Warnock  
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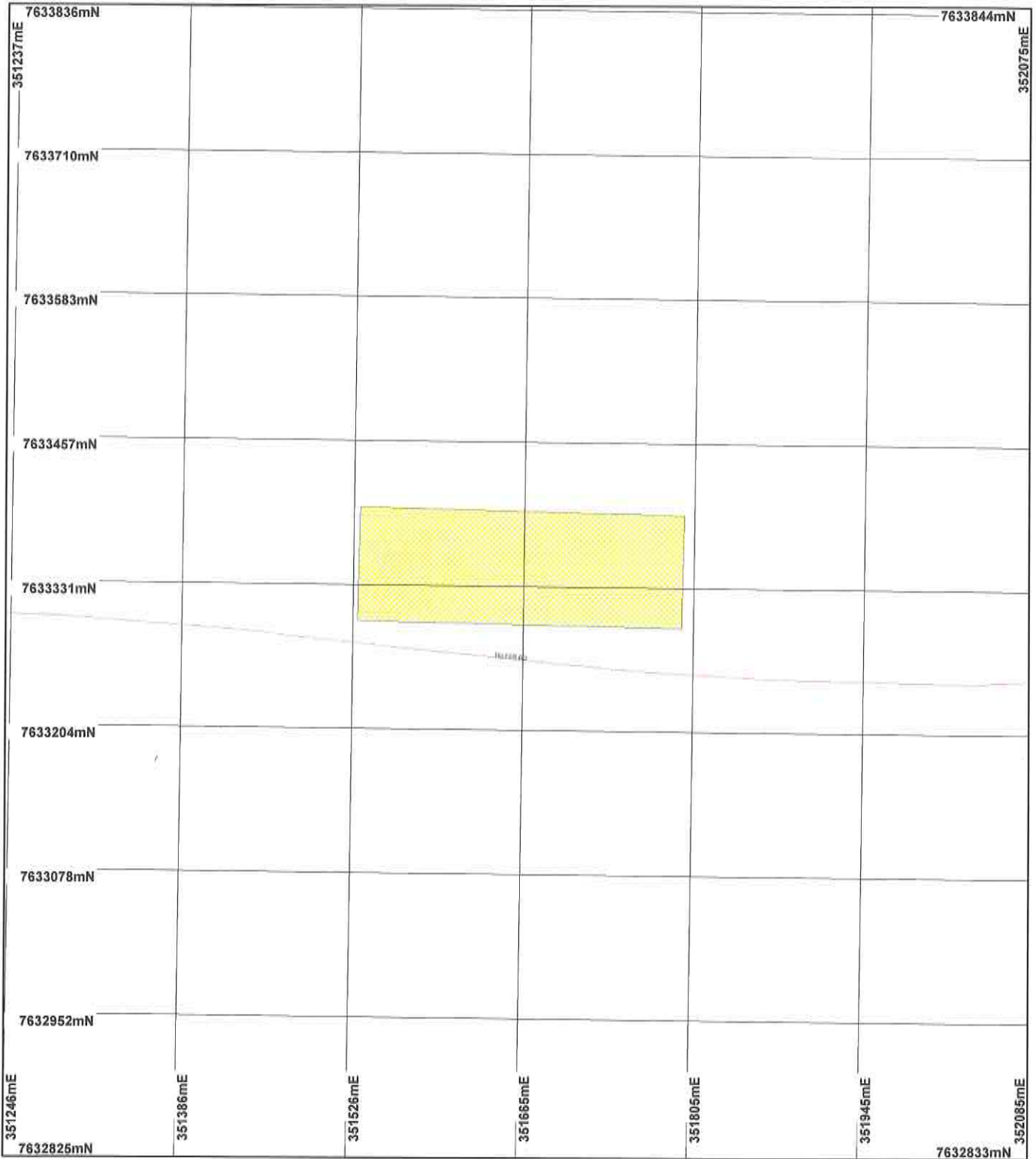
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# Plan 4745/1f



## LEGEND

- Clearing Instruments**
-  Areas Approved to Clear
  -  Road Centrelines
  -  Cadastre
- image index**
-  Recently added
  -  Coverage



Scale 1:4650  
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Geocentric Datum Australia 1994

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*M. Warnock* Date 9/8/12  
M. Warnock

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

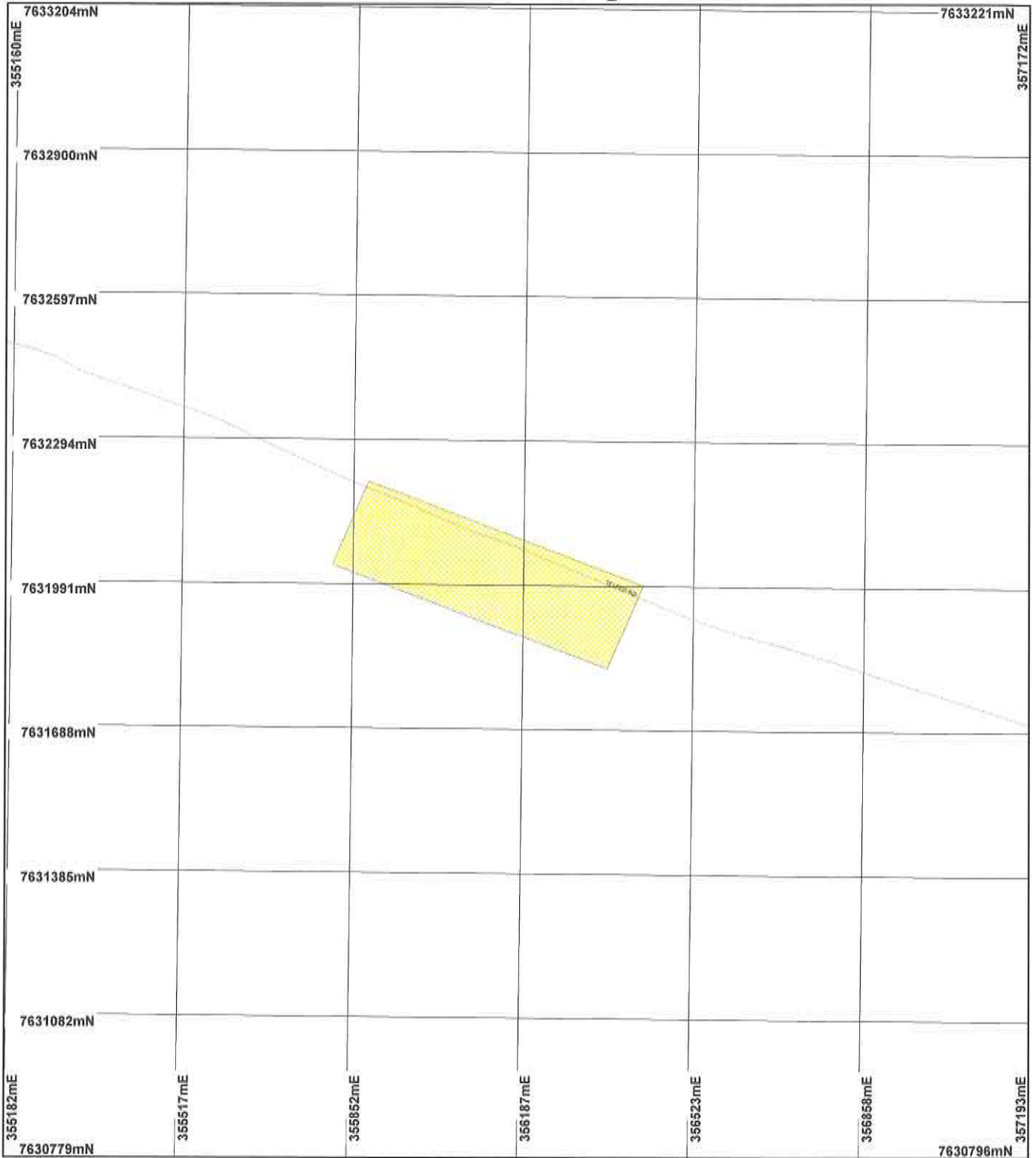
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# Plan 4745/1g



## LEGEND

- Clearing instruments**
- Areas Approved to Clear
  - Road Centrelines
  - Cadastre
- > image index**
- Recently added
  - Coverage



Geocentric Datum Australia 1994

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*M. Warnock* Date *9/8/12*  
M. Warnock

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

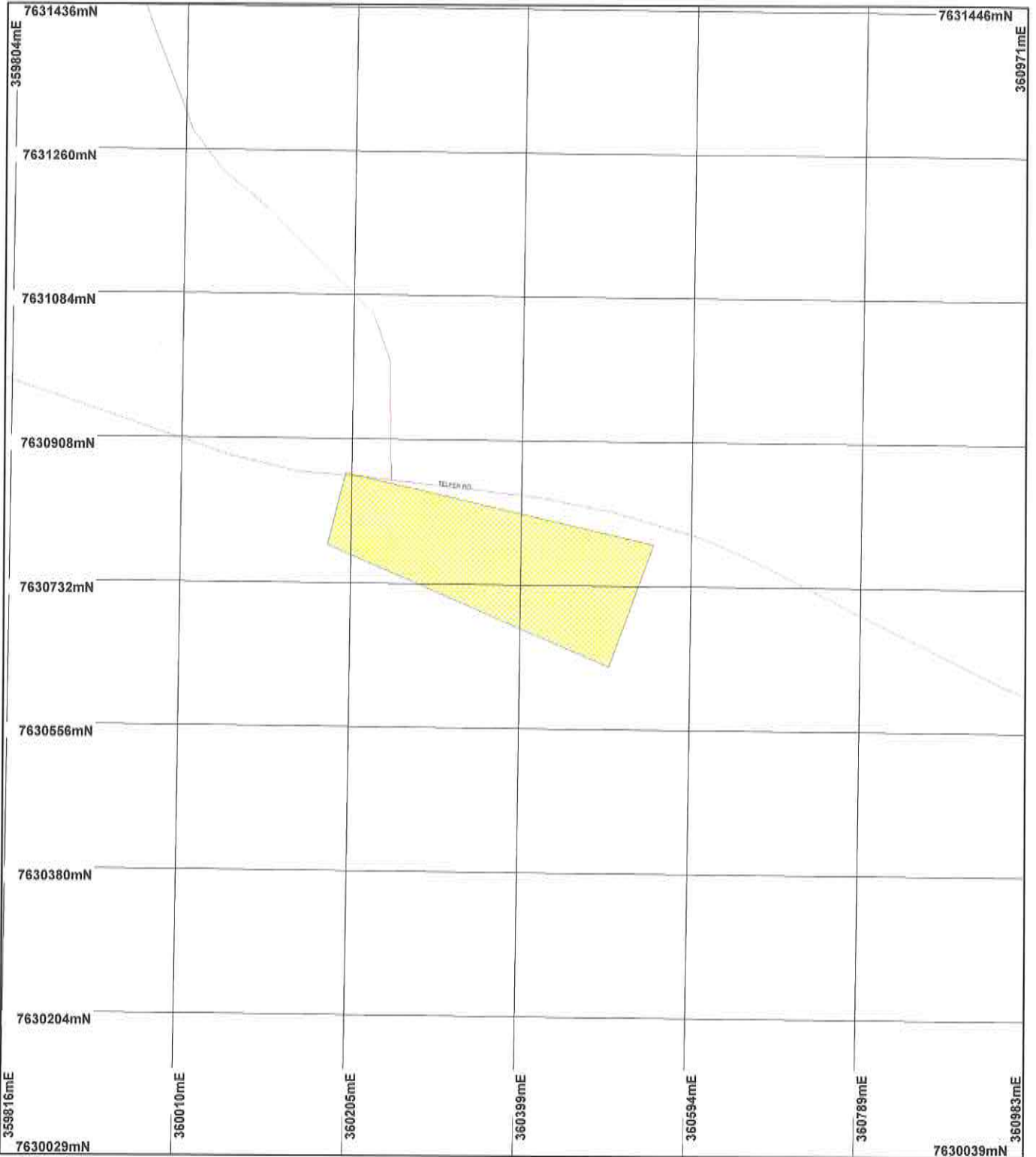
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# Plan 4745/1h



## LEGEND

### Clearing instruments

- Areas Approved to Clear
- Road Centrelines
- Cadastre

### --> image index

- Recently added
- Coverage



0 ————— 150 m

Scale 1:6474

(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

Geocentric Datum Australia 1994

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*M. Warnock* Date 9/8/12

M. Warnock

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

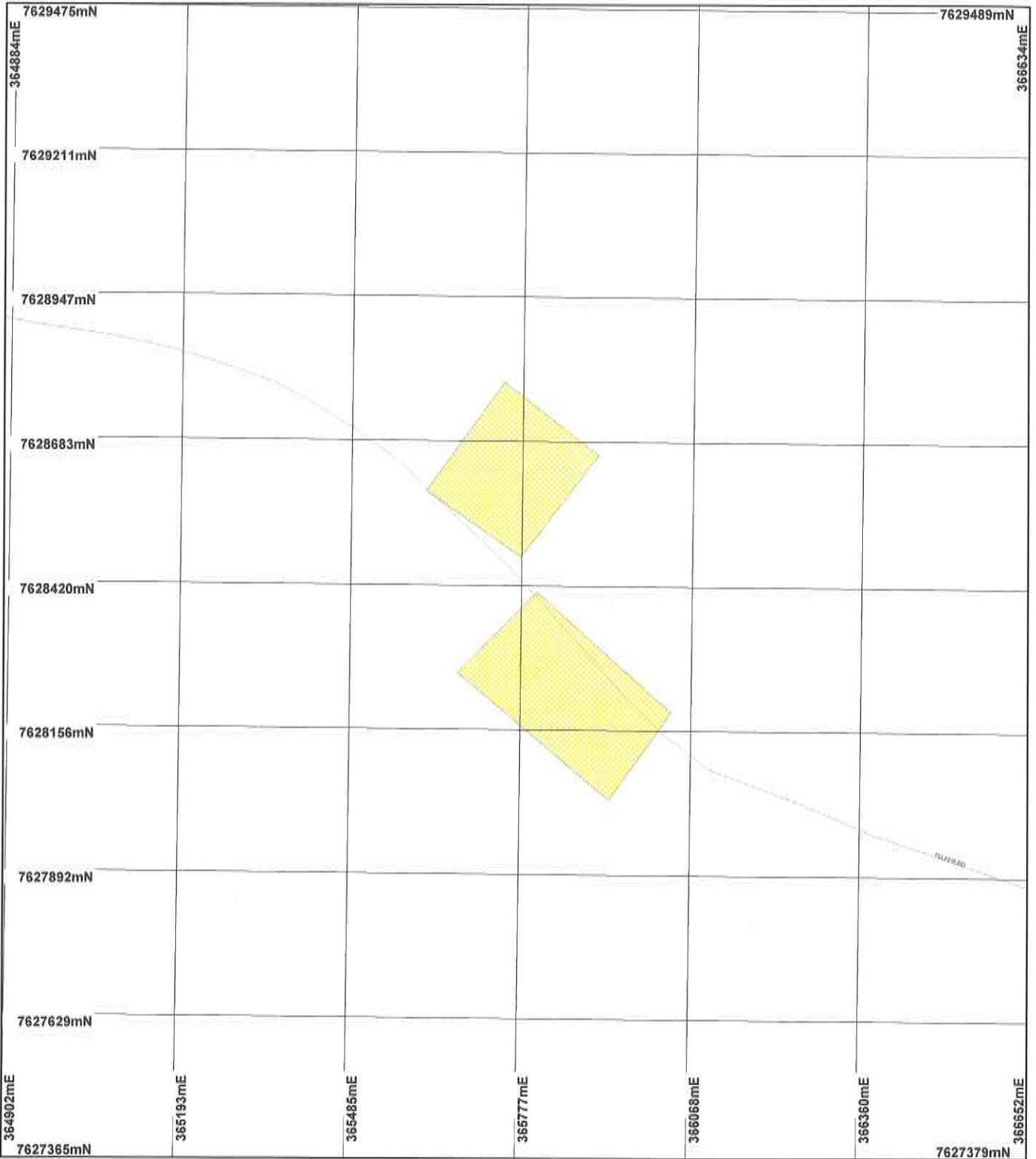
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# Plan 4745/1i



## LEGEND

- Cleaning Instruments**
- Areas Approved to Clear
  - Road Centrelines
  - Cadastre
- > Image Index**
- Recently added
  - Coverage



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## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 4745/1  
Permit type: Purpose Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Newcrest Mining Limited

### 1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 307 ON PLAN 63519 (Lot No. 307 NORTH WEST COASTAL FORTESCUE 6716)  
UNALLOCATED CROWN LAND (TELFER 6762)

Local Government Area: Shire of East Pilbara

Colloquial name:

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
36.8		Mechanical Removal	Extractive Industry

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant  
Decision Date: 9 August 2012

## 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
Mapped Beard vegetation association 134: Mosaic Hummock grasslands, open low tree steppe; desert bloodwood and feathertop spinifex on sandhills / Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; mixed shrubs over spinifex between sandhills (Shepherd, et al, 2001).	The application is to clear 36.8 hectares of native vegetation over 10 different sites for the construction of burrow pits.  The application areas are located along the Telfer Mine access road and appear to have a historical disturbance from previous burrows pits constructed in the area.	Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)  To	The condition of the vegetation was obtained using aerial imagery within clearing permit application 4745/1 (Newcrest Mining Limited, 2012).
Mapped Beard vegetation association 157: Hummock grasslands, grass steppe; hard spinifex, <i>Triodia wiseana</i> (Shepherd, et al, 2001).		Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994)	

## 3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

### Comments

The application is to clear 36.8 hectares within 10 areas over an approximate 83km stretch of Telfer Road for the purpose of constructing burrow pits.

Two priority flora species *Comesperma pallidum* (P3) and *Goodenia hartiana* (P2) have been mapped approximately 6km from the application areas. The mapped priority species occur within the same soil type and vegetation complex to that in the application area. However given the high level of suitable habitat for priority flora species surrounding the application areas, it is unlikely the proposed clearing will impact on the known priority species in the area.

No known records of rare flora or threatened ecological communities have been recorded within a 40 km radius of the application areas.

Several fauna species of conservation significance have been recorded within close proximity to the areas under application (DEC, 2007-). Given that the local area retains approximately 100 per cent vegetation cover, the vegetation under application is unlikely to be significant fauna habitat.

The vegetation under application comprises of Beard vegetation association 134 and 157 (Government of Western Australia, 2011) which are both well represented in the bioregion and East Pilbara Shire. The areas surrounding the application sites (40km radius) are extensively vegetated with approximately 100 per cent of their pre-European vegetation remaining. Therefore, the vegetation under application is not significant as a remnant.



The application does not comprise of a high level of biodiversity, nor is it likely to impact upon ground water quality, surface water quality or cause appreciable land degradation in the local area.

Given the above, the application is not at variance to principle (e) and not likely to be at variance to the remaining clearing principles.

**Methodology**    References:  
DEC (2007 - )  
Government of Western Australia (2011)

GIS Databases:  
- Hydrology, Linear  
- SAC Biodatasets - accessed January 2012

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

##### **Comments**

The Shire of East Pilbara has no objections to New Crest Mining Limited and/or its authorised contractors to clear and excavate new gravel pits along Telfer Road (Shire of East Pilbara, 2012).

The Department of Regional Development and Lands (DRDL, 2012) is aware of the nature and extent of vegetation clearing anticipated by Newcrest Mining Limited for the purpose of constructing borrow pits. The DRDL has no objection to Newcrest's native vegetation clearing permit application within unallocated Crown Land adjacent to the Telfer Access Road (DRDL, 2012).

**Methodology**    Reference:  
Shire of East Pilbara (2012)  
DRDL (2012)

#### **4. References**

- DEC (2007 - ) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Environment and Conservation. URL: <http://naturemap.dec.wa.gov.au/>. Accessed January 2012.
- DRDL (2012) Authority to access unallocated Crown land adjacent to the Telfer Road for the purpose of clearing native vegetation. Department of Regional Lands and Development, Western Australia (DEC Ref:A530805)
- Government of Western Australia (2011); 2011 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). WA Department of Environment and Conservation, Perth.
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Newcrest Mining Limited (2012) Construction of Burrow Pits. Additional information within Clearing Permit Application CPS 4745/1. Newcrest Mining Limited (DEC Ref:A454557).
- 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.
- Shire of East Pilbara (2012) Authority to access and clear along Telfer Road (DEC Ref: A521624).

#### **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)