



## CLEARING PERMIT

*Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 (WA) (CI)*

### PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 5159/1

File Number: 2012/005152-1

Duration of Permit: From 23 October 2012 to 23 October 2014

### PERMIT HOLDER

Australian Customs and Border Protection Services

### LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Part of Lot 457 on Plan 192425

### AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 0.08 hectares of native vegetation within the area identified on attached Plan 1.

### PERIOD IN WHICH CLEARING IS AUTHORISED

The Permit Holder shall not clear any native vegetation after 23 August 2014.

### CONDITIONS

#### [1] Clearing not authorised

Clearing authorised under this permit shall not be conducted during the annual migration of the Red Crab *Gecaracoidea natalis* that occurs generally between the months of October – January.

#### [2] 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.
- (c) Prior to leaving the area nominated within attached Plan 1, the Permit Holder must clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation.
- (d) The permit holder to provide a Weed Management Plan for the approval of the Indian Ocean Territories Environmental Officer within 6 months of clearing of the area nominated within Plan #1.

### [3] 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.

### [4] 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 to be designated by the Department of Regional Arts Local Government and Sports and considered free from invasive weeds for the period the permit is active.
- (b) If the permit holder decommissions the infrastructure associated with the cleared site, or has not substantial commenced construction by the expiration of the permit, the permit holder shall *rehabilitate* and *revegetate* the cleared area within 12 months by:
  - (i) re-shaping the surface of the land so that it is consistent with the surrounding 5 metres of uncleared land;
  - (ii) ripping the ground on the contour to remove soil compaction;
  - (iii) laying the vegetative material and topsoil retained under condition 4(a) within the cleared area on Plan 1;
  - (iv) deliberately planting 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
  - (v) ensuring only local provenance seeds and propagating material are used to *revegetate* and *rehabilitate* the area.
- (c) Within 18 months of undertaking the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* in accordance with condition #4(b) of this permit the permit holder shall:
  - (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 #4(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, the permit holder must undertake additional planting of native vegetation in accordance with the requirements of condition #4(b)(iv) and (v) of this permit.

### [5] 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).

## [6] Reporting

- (a) The Permit Holder must provide to the Assistant Secretary having responsibility for Indian Ocean Territories, Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport, Australian Government on or before 30 June of each year, a written report:
- (i) of records required under condition #5 (records to be kept) 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 23 August 2014, the Permit Holder must provide to the Assistant Secretary having responsibility for Indian Ocean Territories, Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport, Australian Government a written report of records required under condition #5 (records to be kept) of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under condition #6(a) of this Permit.

## DEFINITIONS

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

**botanist** means a person with specific training and/or experience in the ecology and taxonomy of Christmas Island flora;

**condition** means the rating given to native vegetation using the *Keighery scale* and refers to the degree of change in the structure, density, and species present in the particular vegetation in comparison to undisturbed vegetation of the same type;

**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;

**IOTEO** means the person who occupies the position "Indian Ocean Territories Environmental Officer" at the Department of Environmental and Conservation at the time this permit is valid;

**invasive weed** means species such as but not limited to *Chromolaena odorata* (Siam weed) and *Mikania micrantha* (Mia-a-minute);

**Keighery scale** means the vegetation condition scale described in *Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community (1994)* as developed by B.J. Keighery and published by the Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia;

**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;

**quadrat** means a 10m x 10m plot established for the purpose of monitoring native vegetation species composition, structure, density and *condition*;

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

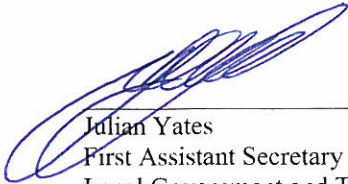
**revegetate, revegetated and revegetation** means the re-establishment of a cover of native vegetation in an area such that the species composition, structure, density and *condition* is similar to pre-clearing vegetation types in that area, and can involve regeneration, direct seeding and/or planting;

*revegetation area* means the area cross hatched red on Plan1 attached to this permit;

*term* means the duration of this Permit, including as amended or renewed;

*weed/s* means those species considered exotic to Christmas Island; and

*transect* means a linear sampling area for the purpose of monitor changes in native vegetation species composition, structure, density and condition.



Julian Yates  
First Assistant Secretary  
Local Government and Territories Division  
Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Delegate Under Section 51 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 (WA)(CI)

23 October 2012



**Plan 1: CPS 5159/1 Australian Customs and Border Protection Services**

