



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 5176/3
Permit Holder:	Atlas Iron Limited
Duration of Permit:	28 September 2012 – 28 September 2023

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 road widening.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Lot 300 on Deposited Plan 58181 (Marble Bar Road, Marble Bar 6760)

Lot 304 on Deposited Plan 58185 (Marble Bar Road, Marble Bar 6760)

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 13.42 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 5176/3.

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 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.

6. 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.

DEFINITIONS

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

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; and

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 Parks and Wildlife Regional Weed Summary, regardless of ranking; or
- (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.



Mathew Gannaway
MANAGER
CLEARING REGULATION

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

30 August 2017

Plan 5176/3



Legend

- Roads
-  Areas approved to clear
-  LGA
-  Cadastre
- World_Imagery



1:10,000

MGA 94
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

 Date: 30/08/2017

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



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 5176/3
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Atlas Iron Limited

1.3. Property details

Property: Lot 304 on Deposited Plan 58185, Marble Bar
Lot 300 on Deposited Plan 58181, Marble Bar
Local Government Authority: Shire of East Pilbara
DER Region: North West
DPaW District: No District
LCDC: De Grey
Localities: Marble Bar

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
13.42		Mechanical Removal	Road widening

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 30 August 2017
Reasons for Decision: The application to amend clearing permit CPS 5176/2 is to increase the amount of clearing by 2.15 hectares and extend the permit duration to 28 September 2023. The application was received on 9 June 2017.

The clearing permit application has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with section 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, and it has been concluded that the proposed clearing is at variance to Principle (f), may be at variance to Principle (i), and is not likely to be at variance to any of the remaining clearing principles.

The management conditions from clearing permit CPS 5176/2 are unchanged on the amended clearing permit CPS 5176/3, and require that the Permit Holder has regard to principles of avoiding and minimising clearing, and implement weed management practices.

In determining to grant an amended clearing permit, subject to conditions, the Delegated Officer considered the bed and banks permit granted under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*, and determined that the proposed clearing is unlikely to have any significant environmental impacts.

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
Two Beard vegetation associations are mapped within the application area (Shepherd et al., 2001): Beard vegetation association 589 is described as mosaic: short bunch grassland - savanna / grass plain (Pilbara) / Hummock grasslands, grass steppe; soft spinifex soft spinifex; and	The applicant proposes to clear up to 13.42 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 300 on Deposited Plan 58181 and Lot 304 on Deposited Plan 58185, Marble Bar, for the purpose of road widening.	Excellent: Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery, 1994) To	Vegetation condition was determined through aerial imagery and supporting information provided by the applicant (Atlas Iron Limited, 2012; Woodman, 2017).

Beard vegetation association 619 is described as medium woodland; river gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*).

Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery, 1994).

Vegetation Description (cont.)

The eastern portion of the application area was subject to a flora survey in April 2017 by Woodman Environmental Consulting Pty Ltd (Woodman, 2017). Four vegetation types were recorded, as follows (Woodman, 2017):

VT1: Tall isolated clumps of shrubs of mixed species dominated by *Acacia trachycarpa* over low isolated clumps of shrubs of *Acacia stellaticeps* over low hummock grassland of *Triodia epactia* and *Triodia lanigera* on red-brown sandy clay/sandy loam on low plain;

VT2: Low open shrubland of mixed species dominated by *Acacia stellaticeps*, *Pluchea tetranthera* and *Sesbania cannabina* over low open grassland of *Cenchrus ciliaris* and *Eragrostis tenellula* on red clay on low depressions;

VT3: Mid isolated trees of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* subsp. *refulgens* and *Eucalyptus victrix* over tall isolated clumps of shrubs of *Acacia trachycarpa* over low open shrubland of mixed species dominated by *Aerva javanica*, *Cleome viscosa* and *Corchorus ?incanus* over low isolated clumps of hummock grasses of *Triodia angusta* on brown sandy loam on floodplain; and

VT4: Low isolated clumps of shrubs of mixed species on red-brown sand in river beds.

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments The application has been amended to increase the area under application by 2.15 hectares (amended total 13.42 hectares) and extend the permit expiry to 28 September 2023.

A flora survey conducted within the eastern portion of the application area did not record any rare flora, priority flora, threatened ecological communities or priority ecological communities (Woodman, 2017).

The amended application area intersects Shaw River. While the proposed clearing may increase sedimentation within Shaw River, given the presence of an existing road it is not likely to have a significant impact to the quality of surface water.

Environmental impacts will be further minimised by ensuring areas temporarily cleared for the proposed road upgrades are revegetated when they are no longer required.

Given the above, the proposed clearing is at variance to Principle (f), may be at variance to Principle (i), and is not likely to be at variance to Principles (a), (c) and (d).

The assessment of Principles (b), (e), (g), (h) and (j) are unchanged and can be found in clearing permit decision report CPS 5176/1 and CPS 5176/2.

Methodology References:
Woodman (2017)

Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

Comments The application area is within the Marble Bar Road reserve, which is managed by Main Roads Western Australia (MRWA). MRWA advised it has no objection to the proponent seeking a clearing permit application for the purpose of the Marble Bar Road/Abydos intersection improvement works (MRWA, 2012).

The applicant obtained a permit to obstruct or interfere with the bed or banks of a watercourse under section 11 of the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* on 26 July 2017. This permit expires on 27 July 2019, and is subject to conditions requiring the applicant to adhere with work specifications provided with the application, and to ensure that the proposed activities do not act as an artificial barrier or levee, causing water to pond upstream.

There are no Aboriginal Sites of Significance mapped within the application area.

Methodology References:
MRWA (2012)

GIS Database:
Aboriginal Sites of Significance

4. References

- Atlas Iron Limited (2012) Application for Clearing Permit CPS 5176/1 and supporting information (DEC Ref: A527138).
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- MRWA (2012) Letter of Support for Clearing Permit Application CPS 5176/1 - Marble Bar Road Abydos Mine Junction. Main Roads Western Australia 22/06/2012 (DEC Ref: A527138).
- 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.
- Woodman Environmental Consulting Pty Ltd (Woodman) (2017) Corunna Downs Intersection Works Flora and Vegetation Assessment. Unpublished report prepared for Atlas Iron Limited, May 2017 (DWER REF: A1438136).