



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	5202/2
Duration of Permit:	From 5 January 2013 to 5 January 2018
Permit Holder:	Big Bell Gold Operations Pty Ltd

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

Mining Lease 20/17
Mining Lease 20/99
Mining Lease 20/192
Mining Lease 21/7
Mining Lease 21/14
Mining Lease 21/44
Mining Lease 21/65
Mining Lease 21/89
Miscellaneous Licence 20/21
Miscellaneous Licence 20/40

2. Purpose for which clearing may be done

Clearing for the purposes of mineral production.

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 50 hectares of native vegetation. All clearing must be within the areas cross-hatched and shaded yellow on attached Plans 5202/2A and 5202/2B.

4. Clearing not authorised

The Permit Holder shall not clear any native vegetation within the area shaded red on attached Plan 5202/2B unless first approved by the *CEO*.

5. Staged Clearing

The Permit Holder shall not clear native vegetation unless the purpose for which the clearing is authorised is enacted within 3 months of the clearing being undertaken.

6. 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.

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:

- (i) avoid the clearing of native vegetation;
- (ii) minimise the amount of native vegetation to be cleared; and
- (iii) 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*:

- (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.

10. Fauna Management

- (a) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the areas shall be inspected by a *fauna specialist* for the presence of *Leipoa ocellata* (Malleefowl) mounds.
- (b) Where *Leipoa ocellata* (Malleefowl) mounds are identified in relation to Condition 10(a) of this Permit, the Permit Holder shall ensure that no clearing occurs within 50 metres of the identified *Leipoa ocellata* (Malleefowl) mounds, unless first approved by the *CEO*.

11. Fauna Management

- (a) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the areas shall be inspected by a *fauna specialist* who shall identify habitat/*habitat tree(s)* suitable to be utilised by *Egernia stokesii badia* (Western Spiny-tailed Skink).
- (b) Prior to clearing, any habitat/*habitat tree(s)* identified by Condition 11(a) shall be inspected by a *fauna specialist* for the presence of fauna listed in Condition 11(a).
- (c) Where fauna are identified in relation to Condition 11(b) of this Permit, the Permit Holder shall ensure that:
 - (i) no clearing of the identified habitat/*habitat tree(s)* occurs, unless first approved by the *CEO*; and
 - (ii) no clearing occurs within 50 metres of the identified habitat/*habitat tree(s)* unless first approved by the *CEO*.

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

12. 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) In relation to fauna management pursuant to Condition 10 of this Permit:
 - (i) the location of each *Leipoa ocellata* (Malleefowl) mound 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; and
 - (ii) a copy of the *fauna specialists* report
- (c) In relation to fauna management pursuant to Condition 11 of this Permit:
 - (i) the location of each *habitat/habitat tree* 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; and
 - (ii) a copy of the *fauna specialists* report

13. Reporting

- (a) The Permit Holder shall provide a report to the Executive Director, Environment, Department of Mines and Petroleum by 1 October each year for the life of this permit, demonstrating adherence to all conditions of this permit, and setting out the records required under Condition 12 of this permit in relation to clearing carried out between 1 July and 30 June of the previous financial year.
- (b) Prior to 5 January 2018, the Permit Holder must provide to the Executive Director, Environment, Department of Mines and Petroleum a written report of records required under Condition 12 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under Condition 13(a) of this Permit.

DEFINITIONS

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

CEO means the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Environment and Conservation or an Officer with delegated authority under Section 20 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*;

fauna specialist means a person with training and specific work experience in fauna identification or faunal assemblage surveys of Western Australian fauna;

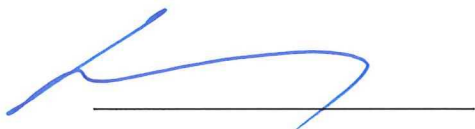
fill means material used to increase the ground level, or fill a hollow;

habitat tree(s) means trees that have a diameter, measured at 1.5 metres from the base of the tree, of 50 centimetres or greater, that contains or has the potential to develop hollows or roosts suitable for native fauna;

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;

weeds means any plant -

- (a) that is a declared pest under section 37 of the *Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act 1976*;
or
- (b) published in the Department of Environment and Conservation Regional Weed Assessments, regardless of ranking; or
- (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.



Phil Gorey
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ENVIRONMENT
DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND PETROLEUM

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

26 April 2013