



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 5295/2
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Integra Mining Limited

1.3. Property details

Property: Mining Lease 25/350
Miscellaneous Licence 25/23
Miscellaneous Licence 25/34
Local Government Area: City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
Colloquial name: Majestic Gold Project

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
133.75		Mechanical Removal	Mineral Production and associated activities

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 30 October 2014

2. Site Information

2.1. Existing environment and information

2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description Beard vegetation associations have been mapped for the whole of Western Australia. One Beard vegetation association has been mapped within the application area (GIS Database):

468: Medium woodland; salmon gum & goldfields blackbutt.

A flora and vegetation survey of the application area was conducted in October 2010 and May 2011 by Outback Ecology (2011). This survey identified the following 25 vegetation communities within the application area (Outback Ecology, 2011):

AnpEo: Tall Shrubland of *Acacia* sp. narrow phyllode (B.R. Maslin 7831) (*Acacia tetragonophylla* and *Eremophila oldfieldii* subsp. *angustifolia*) over Scattered Low Shrubs of *Maireana* spp;

AnpMsp: Tall Open Shrubland of *Acacia* sp. narrow phyllode (B. R. Maslin 7831) over a Low Shrubland of *Maireana* spp. and *Ptilotus obovatus*;

AtPa: Tall Shrubland of *Acacia tetragonophylla*, *Pittosporum angustifolium* and *Santalum spicatum* over a mixed Shrubland;

ChS: Open Low Shrubland of *Atriplex vesicaria*, *Maireana triptera* and other Chenopod species;

CoEi: Low Open Woodland of *Casuarina obesa* over a Tall Scattered Shrubland of *Eremophila interstans* subsp. *interstans* over a Low Open Shrubland of *Maireana sedifolia*;

CoTd: Low Open Woodland of *Casuarina obesa* over a Low Open Shrubland of *Tecticornia disarticulata*;

CpAt: Low Scattered Woodland of *Casuarina pauper* over an Open Shrubland of *Acacia tetragonophylla* and *Dodonaea lobulata* over Very Open Grassland of *Triodia irritans*;

EccEo: Woodland of *Eucalyptus celastroides* subsp. *celastroides* with occasional *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* and *Eucalyptus salubris* over a Tall Open Shrubland of *Eremophila oldfieldii* subsp. *angustifolia* and *Exocarpos aphyllus* over a Low Shrubland of *Eucalyptus decipiens* subsp. *decipiens* and *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia*;

EeAb: Very Open Mallees of *Eucalyptus ewartiana* over a Tall Shrubland of *Acacia burkittii* over an Open Shrubland of *Eremophila granitica* and *Dodonaea lobulata*;

EgAnp: Low Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus griffithsii* over Tall Shrubland of *Acacia* sp. narrow phyllode (B.R. Maslin 7831) over an Open Shrubland of *Eremophila* spp., *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia*, *Dodonaea lobulata*, *Atriplex nummularia* subsp. *spatulata* and *Maireana sedifolia*;

EgAnpEg: Low Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus griffithsii* over Tall Shrubland of *Acacia* sp. Narrow phyllode (B. R. Maslin 7831) over an Open Shrubland of *Eremophila granitica*, *Scaevola spinescens* and *Dodonaea lobulata*;

EgEd: Low Woodland of *Eucalyptus griffithsii* over Tall Open Shrubland of *Eremophila dempsteri* and *Eremophila interstans* subsp. *interstans* over an Open Shrubland of *Dodonaea lobulata*, *Maireana sedifolia*, *Scaevola spinescens* and *Prostanthera campbellii*;

EIAAn: Low Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus lesouefii* over an Open Shrubland of *Acacia nyssophylla* and *Maireana sedifolia*;

EIMs: Woodland of *Eucalyptus lesouefii* over a Low Open Shrubland of *Maireana sedifolia* and *Tecticornia disarticulata*;

EsaEi: Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* with occasional *Eucalyptus salubris* over a Tall Scattered Shrubland of *Eremophila interstans* subsp. *interstans* over an Open Shrubland of *Lycium australe*, *Maireana sedifolia*, *Maireana pyramidata*, *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia*, *Tecticornia disarticulata* and *Atriplex* spp.;

EsaMs: Scattered Woodland of *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* over an Open Shrubland of *Lycium australe*, *Maireana sedifolia*, *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia*, *Tecticornia disarticulata* and *Atriplex* spp.;

EsaMsp: Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* over an Open Shrubland of *Maireana* and *Atriplex* spp.;

EsaEIEc: Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* and *Eucalyptus lesouefii* with occasional *Eucalyptus celastroides* subsp. *celastroides* and *Casuarina obesa* over a Tall Open Shrubland of *Eremophila dempsteri*, *Eremophila oldfieldii* subsp. *angustifolia* over an Open Shrubland of *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia*, *Eremophila glabra* subsp. *glabra* and *Atriplex nummularia* subsp. *spathulata* and *Maireana* spp.;

EsaEIEd: Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* and *Eucalyptus lesouefii* over a Tall Open Shrubland of *Eremophila dempsteri* over a Low Open Shrubland of *Atriplex nummularia* subsp. *spathulata* and *Tecticornia disarticulata*;

EsaEstEI: Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus salmonophloia*, *Eucalyptus stricklandii* and *Eucalyptus lesouefii* over a Tall Open Shrubland of *Eremophila dempsteri* and *Eremophila oldfieldii* subsp. *angustifolia*, over Open Shrubland of *Eucalyptus decipiens* subsp. *decipiens*, *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* and *Olearia muelleri*;

EslEs: Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus salubris* with occasional *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* over a Tall Scattered Shrubland of *Eremophila scoparia* over a Low Open Shrubland of *Maireana sedifolia* and *Tecticornia disarticulata*;

EslEy: Woodland of *Eucalyptus salubris* with occasional *Eucalyptus yilgarnensis* over a Tall Open Shrubland of *Eremophila interstans* subsp. *interstans* over a Low Scattered Shrubland of *Olearia muelleri*, *Enchylaena tomentosa* and other mixed shrubs;

EtEI: Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus transcontinentalis* and *Eucalyptus lesouefii* with occasional *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* over a Tall Open Shrubland of *Eremophila dempsteri*, *Eremophila oldfieldii* subsp. *angustifolia* over an Open Shrubland of *Maireana sedifolia*, *Scaevola spinescens* and *Atriplex* spp.;

SafMs: Open Shrubland of *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* over a Low Open Shrubland of *Maireana sedifolia* and *Lycium australe*; and

IMs: Tall Open Shrubland of *Casuarina pauper* and *Acacia tetragonophylla* over a Low Open Shrubland of *Dodonaea lobulata* over a Very Open Grassland of *Triodia irritans*.

Clearing Description	Majestic Gold Project. Integra Mining Limited proposes to clear up to 133.75 hectares of native vegetation within a total boundary of approximately 467.4 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities. The project is located approximately 35 kilometres northeast of Kambalda, in the Shire of Kalgoorlie-Boulder.
Vegetation Condition	Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery, 1994).
Comment	Clearing permit CPS 5295/1 was granted on 13 December 2012, and is valid from 5 January 2013 to 5 January 2018. The clearing permit authorised the clearing of 133.75 hectares of native vegetation. An application to amend CPS 5295/1 was received by the Department of Mines and Petroleum on 28 August 2014 for the purpose of increasing the clearing permit boundary from 133.78 hectares to 467.4 hectares.

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

Integra Mining Limited has applied to increase the permit boundary from 133.75 hectares to 467.4 hectares. The amount of clearing permitted within the permit boundary will remain at 133.75 hectares.

A flora and vegetation survey of the amendment area conducted by Outback Ecology (2011) did not identify any new vegetation communities occurring within the extended permit boundary. The existing vegetation communities are not considered to be of higher diversity than those assessed within clearing permit decision report CPS 5295/1, and the vegetation types are not considered to be a remnant locally or regionally. No vegetation communities recorded are considered to be Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities (Outback Ecology, 2011; GIS Database). No Threatened or Priority Flora species were identified during the flora and vegetation survey (Outback Ecology, 2011).

Therefore, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to Principles (a), (c) and (d), and is not at variance to Principle (e).

The faunal habitats present within the amended permit boundary are consistent with those assessed in clearing permit decision report CPS 5295/1. No core habitat for conservation significant species was observed during the fauna survey by Terrestrial Ecosystems (2010). Therefore the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to Principle (b).

Current environmental information has been reviewed and the assessment of clearing principles (f), (g), (h), (i) and (j) is consistent with the assessment in clearing permit decision report CPS 5295/1.

Methodology Outback Ecology (2011)
Terrestrial Ecosystems (2010)
GIS Database:
- DEC Tenure
- Evaporation Isoleths
- Groundwater Salinity
- Hydrography, linear
- IBRA WA (Regions - Sub Regions)
- Pre-European Vegetation
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas
- Rangeland Land System Mapping
- Rainfall, Mean Annual
- Threatened and Priority Flora
- Threatened Ecological Sites Buffered

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

Comments

There is one Native Title claim over the area under application (GIS Database). The claim WC99/30 has been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on behalf of the claimant group. However, the mining tenure has been granted in accordance with the future act regime of the *Native Title Act 1993* and the nature of the act (i.e. the proposed clearing activity) has been provided for in that process, therefore the granting of a clearing permit is not a future act under the *Native Title Act 1993*.

There are no known registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the application area (GIS Database). It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

It is the proponent's responsibility to liaise with the Department of Environment Regulation, Department of Parks and Wildlife and the Department of Water, to determine whether a Works Approval, Water Licence, Bed and Banks Permit, or any other licences or approvals are required for the proposed works.

The clearing permit application was advertised on 22 September 2014 by the Department of Mines and Petroleum inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received.

Methodology GIS Database:
- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
- Native Title Claims - Registered with the NNTT
- Native Title Claims - Filed at the Federal Court
- Native Title Claims - Determined by the Federal Court

4. References

- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Outback Ecology (2011) Integra Mining Limited Majestic Gold Project - Majestic Level 2 and Haul Road Level 1 Vegetation and Flora Surveys. Unpublished Report dated November 2011.
- Terrestrial Ecosystems (2010) Fauna Assessment for the Majestic Gold Project. Unpublished report dated December 2010.

5. Glossary

Acronyms:

BoM Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government
DAA Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia
DAFWA Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia
DEC Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (now DPaW and DER)
DER Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia

DMP	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia
DRF	Declared Rare Flora
DotE	Department of the Environment, Australian Government
DoW	Department of Water, Western Australia
DPaW	Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia
DSEWPaC	Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (now DotE)
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
EP Act	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Federal Act)
GIS	Geographical Information System
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – commonly known as the World Conservation Union
PEC	Priority Ecological Community, Western Australia
RIWI Act	<i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> , Western Australia
s.17	Section 17 of the <i>Environment Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community

Definitions:

{DPaW (2013) Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora and Fauna. Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia}:-

- T** **Threatened species:**
 Specially protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, listed under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna or the Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora (which may also be referred to as Declared Rare Flora).

 Threatened Fauna and Flora are further recognised by DPaW according to their level of threat using IUCN Red List criteria. For example Carnaby's Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus latirostris* is specially protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* as a threatened species with a ranking of Endangered.

Rankings:
 CR: Critically Endangered - considered to be facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.
 EN: Endangered - considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild.
 VU: Vulnerable - considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.
- X** **Presumed Extinct species:**
 Specially protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, listed under Schedule 2 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Presumed Extinct Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Presumed Extinct Flora (which may also be referred to as Declared Rare Flora).
- IA** **Migratory birds protected under an international agreement:**
 Specially protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, listed under Schedule 3 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice.
 Birds that are subject to an agreement between governments of Australia and Japan, China and The Republic of Korea relating to the protection of migratory birds and birds in danger of extinction.
- S** **Other specially protected fauna:**
 Specially protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, listed under Schedule 4 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice.
- P1** **Priority One - Poorly-known species:**
 Species that are known from one or a few collections or sight records (generally less than five), all on lands not managed for conservation, e.g. agricultural or pastoral lands, urban areas, Shire, rail reserves and Main Roads WA road, gravel and soil reserves, and active mineral leases and under threat of habitat destruction or degradation. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more localities but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and appear to be under immediate threat from known threatening processes.
- P2** **Priority Two - Poorly-known species:**
 Species that are known from one or a few collections or sight records, some of which are on lands not under imminent threat of habitat destruction or degradation, e.g. national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves, State forest, unallocated Crown land, water reserves, etc. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more localities but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and appear to be under threat from known threatening processes.
- P3** **Priority Three - Poorly-known species:**
 Species that are known from collections or sight records from several localities not under imminent threat, or from few but widespread localities with either large population size or significant remaining areas of apparently suitable habitat, much of it not under imminent threat. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from several localities but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and known threatening processes exist that could affect them.
- P4** **Priority Four - Rare, Near Threatened and other species in need of monitoring:**

- (a) Rare. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed, or for which sufficient knowledge is available, and that are considered not currently threatened or in need of special protection, but could be if present circumstances change. These species are usually represented on conservation lands.
- (b) Near Threatened. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed and that do not qualify for Conservation Dependent, but that are close to qualifying for Vulnerable.
- (c) Species that have been removed from the list of threatened species during the past five years for reasons other than taxonomy.

P5

Priority Five - Conservation Dependent species:

Species that are not threatened but are subject to a specific conservation program, the cessation of which would result in the species becoming threatened within five years.

Principles for clearing native vegetation:

- (a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.
- (b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.
- (c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora.
- (d) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a threatened ecological community.
- (e) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.
- (f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.
- (g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.
- (h) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.
- (i) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.
- (j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.