



# Clearing Permit Decision Report

## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 5295/3  
Permit type: Purpose Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Silver Lake (Integra) Pty Limited

### 1.3. Property details

Property: Mining Lease 25/350  
Miscellaneous Licences 25/23 and 25/37  
Local Government Area: City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder  
Colloquial name: Majestic Project

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
200		Mechanical Removal	Mineral production and associated infrastructure

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant  
Decision Date: 21 September 2017

## 2. Site Information

### 2.1. Existing environment and information

#### 2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

**Vegetation Description** The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation association (GIS Database):

468: Medium woodland; salmon gum and goldfields blackbutt.

A flora and vegetation survey has not been undertaken over the proposed amended permit area. A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the permit area for clearing permits CPS 5295/1 and CPS 5295/2 in October 2010 and May 2011 by Outback Ecology (2011). The following vegetation associations were recorded by 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. *spathulata* 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*;

**EIA:** 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*;

**EsIEs:** 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*;

**EsIEy:** Woodland of *Eucalyptus salubris* with occasional *Eucalyptus yilgamensis* 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 transcidentalis* 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*.

<b>Clearing Description</b>	Majestic Gold Project. Silver Lake (Integra) Pty Limited proposes to clear up to 200 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 1,015.5 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities. The project is located approximately 35 kilometres south-east of Kambalda, within the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder.
<b>Vegetation Condition</b>	Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery, 1994).
<b>Comment</b>	Clearing permit CPS 5295/1 was granted on 13 December 2012 and authorised the clearing of 133.75 hectares of native vegetation. CPS 5295/1 was amended on 30 October 2014 for the purpose of increasing the clearing permit boundary from 133.78 hectares to 467.4 hectares.  An application to amend CPS 5295/2 was received by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) on 9 August 2017 for the purposes of increasing the area authorised to be cleared from 133.75 hectares to 200 hectares, increasing the permit boundary from approximately 467.4 hectares to approximately 1,015.5 hectares, change the company name from Integra Mining Limited to Silver Lake (Integra) Pty Limited, update the tenements and extend the permit duration by five years.

### 3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

#### Comments

The proposed amendment is to facilitate an expansion to the Majestic Gold project by increasing the area of clearing authorised, permit boundary and permit duration.

A flora and vegetation survey has not been undertaken over the proposed amendment area; however one was undertaken over the permit area for clearing permit CPS 5295/1, which is directly adjacent to the proposed amended permit boundary (Outback Ecology, 2011). Aerial imagery indicates that the vegetation within the amendment area is most likely to resemble the vegetation communities described by Outback Ecology (2011).

The flora and vegetation survey for CPS 5295/1 did not identify any vegetation communities within the permit boundary that are analogous with Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities (Outback Ecology, 2011). The survey also did not record any Threatened or Priority flora species within the CPS 5295/1 permit boundary (Outback Ecology, 2011). The survey concluded that the vegetation associations in the survey area are relatively widespread in the region and local area (Outback Ecology, 2011).

A search of NatureMap (DPaW, 2017) and the GIS Database has not identified any records of Threatened or Priority flora occurring in the amendment area. The nearest record of Threatened or Priority flora is 65 kilometres and 15 kilometres from the amendment area respectively (GIS Database). There are also no records of Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities occurring within the amendment area (GIS Database). It is considered that the proposed amendment is not likely to significantly impact on conservation significant flora or vegetation.

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

A fauna survey and habitat assessment has not been undertaken over the amendment area. A habitat assessment for CPS 5295/1 found that habitat types in the local area are typical for the region (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2010). There were no habitats considered core habitat for conservation significant fauna species recorded (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2010). According to NatureMap (DPaW, 2017), the only conservation significant fauna species in the region is Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata* - Vulnerable under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* and *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*), which has been recorded within 20 kilometres of the amendment area. According to Terrestrial Ecosystems (2010), the Majestic Gold project area is unsuitable for Malleefowl as the vegetation density is too low to provide suitable habitat. It is considered unlikely that the proposed amendment will significantly impact on Malleefowl given the lack of suitable habitat in the local area.

Therefore the proposed amendment is not likely to be at variance to Principle (b).

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

#### Methodology

DPaW (2017)  
Government of Western Australia (2016)  
Outback Ecology (2011)  
Terrestrial Ecosystems (2010)

GIS Database:

- DPaW Tenure
- Groundwater Salinity, Statewide
- Hydrography, Lakes
- Hydrography, Linear
- IBRA Australia
- Imagery
- Landsystem Rangelands
- Pre-European Vegetation
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas
- Soils, Statewide
- Threatened and Priority Flora
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities boundaries
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities buffered
- Threatened Fauna

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

### Comments

There are no native title claims over the area under application (DPLH, 2017).

There are no known registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the application area (DPLH, 2017). 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 Water and Environmental Regulation and the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions, 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 amendment application was advertised on 21 August 2017 by DMIRS inviting submissions from the public. One submission was received in relation to this application raising no objections to the grant of the permit.

**Methodology** DPLH (2017)

## 4. References

- DPaW (2017) NatureMap. Department of Parks and Wildlife (now Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions). <http://naturemap.dpaw.wa.gov.au> Accessed September 2017.
- DPLH (2017) Aboriginal Heritage Enquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. <http://maps.daa.wa.gov.au/AHIS/> Accessed September 2017.
- Government of Western Australia (2016) 2016 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of October 2016. 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.
- Outback Ecology (2011) Integra Mining Limited Majestic Gold Project - Majestic Level 2 and Haul Road Level 1 Vegetation and Flora Surveys. Report prepared for Integra Mining Ltd by Outback Ecology, November 2011.
- Terrestrial Ecosystems (2010) Fauna Assessment for the Majestic Gold Project. Report prepared for Integra Mining Ltd by Terrestrial Ecosystems, December 2010.

## 5. Glossary

### Acronyms:

<b>BoM</b>	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government
<b>DAA</b>	Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia (now DPLH)
<b>DAFWA</b>	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (now DPIRD)
<b>DBCA</b>	Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia
<b>DEC</b>	Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (now DBCA and DWER)
<b>DEE</b>	Department of the Environment and Energy, Australian Government
<b>DER</b>	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia (now DWER)
<b>DMIRS</b>	Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Western Australia
<b>DMP</b>	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia (now DMIRS)
<b>DPIRD</b>	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia
<b>DPLH</b>	Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Western Australia
<b>DRF</b>	Declared Rare Flora
<b>DoE</b>	Department of the Environment, Australian Government (now DEE)
<b>DoW</b>	Department of Water, Western Australia (now DWER)
<b>DPaW</b>	Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia (now DBCA)
<b>DSEWPaC</b>	Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (now DEE)
<b>DWER</b>	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Western Australia
<b>EPA</b>	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
<b>EP Act</b>	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia
<b>EPBC Act</b>	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Federal Act)
<b>GIS</b>	Geographical Information System
<b>ha</b>	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
<b>IBRA</b>	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
<b>IUCN</b>	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – commonly known as the World Conservation Union
<b>PEC</b>	Priority Ecological Community, Western Australia
<b>RIWI Act</b>	<i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> , Western Australia
<b>TEC</b>	Threatened Ecological Community

## **Definitions:**

{DPaW (2017) Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora and Fauna. Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia}:-

- T**                    **Threatened species:**  
Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, listed under Schedules 1 to 4 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora (which may also be referred to as Declared Rare Flora).  
*Threatened fauna* is that subset of 'Specially Protected Fauna' declared to be 'likely to become extinct' pursuant to section 14(4) of the Wildlife Conservation Act.  
*Threatened flora* is flora that has been declared to be 'likely to become extinct or is rare, or otherwise in need of special protection', pursuant to section 23F(2) of the Wildlife Conservation Act.  
The assessment of the conservation status of these species is based on their national extent and ranked according to their level of threat using IUCN Red List categories and criteria as detailed below.
- CR**                    **Critically endangered species**  
Threatened species considered to be facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild. Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, in Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora.
- EN**                    **Endangered species**  
Threatened species considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild. Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, in Schedule 2 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora.
- VU**                    **Vulnerable species**  
Threatened species considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild. Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, in Schedule 3 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora.
- EX**                    **Presumed extinct species**  
Species which have been adequately searched for and there is no reasonable doubt that the last individual has died. Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, in Schedule 4 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Presumed Extinct Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Presumed Extinct Flora.
- IA**                    **Migratory birds protected under an international agreement**  
Birds that are subject to an agreement between the government of Australia and the governments of Japan (JAMBA), China (CAMBA) and The Republic of Korea (ROKAMBA), and the Bonn Convention, relating to the protection of migratory birds. Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, in Schedule 5 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice.
- CD**                    **Conservation dependent fauna**  
Fauna of special conservation need being species dependent on ongoing conservation intervention to prevent it becoming eligible for listing as threatened. Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, in Schedule 6 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice.
- OS**                    **Other specially protected fauna**  
Fauna otherwise in need of special protection to ensure their conservation. Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, in Schedule 7 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice.
- P**                        **Priority species**  
Species which are poorly known; or  
Species that are adequately known, are rare but not threatened, and require regular monitoring. Assessment of Priority codes is based on the Western Australian distribution of the species, unless the distribution in WA is part of a contiguous population extending into adjacent States, as defined by the known spread of locations.
- P1**                    **Priority One - Poorly-known species:**  
Species that are known from one or a few locations (generally five or less) which are potentially at risk. All occurrences are either: very small; or on lands not managed for conservation, e.g. agricultural or pastoral lands, urban areas, road and rail reserves, gravel reserves and active mineral leases; or otherwise under threat of habitat destruction or degradation. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more locations but do not meet adequacy of survey

requirements and appear to be under immediate threat from known threatening processes. Such species are in urgent need of further survey.

**P2 Priority Two - Poorly-known species:**

Species that are known from one or a few locations (generally five or less), some of which are on lands managed primarily for nature conservation, e.g. national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves and other lands with secure tenure being managed for conservation. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and appear to be under threat from known threatening processes. Such species are in urgent need of further survey.

**P3 Priority Three - Poorly-known species:**

Species that are known from several locations, and the species does not appear to be under imminent threat, or from few but widespread locations 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 locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and known threatening processes exist that could affect them. Such species are in need of further survey.

**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 are close to qualifying for Vulnerable, but are not listed as Conservation Dependent.

(c) Species that have been removed from the list of threatened species during the past five years for reasons other than taxonomy.

**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.