



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 5534/1
Permit Holder:	Australia Western Railroad Pty Ltd
Duration of Permit:	31 May 2013 – 31 May 2018

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 constructing wash down facilities, truck turn-arounds, re-fuelling area, access roads, buildings, drains, parking bays, laydown areas and associated civil works.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Lot 501 on Deposited Plan 60064, Leonora
Lot 502 on Deposited Plan 60064, Leonora

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 7.59 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 5534/1.

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.

5. 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

6. 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*:

- clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
- ensure that no *weed*-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill* or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and
- restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.

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;

weed/s means any plant -

- (a) that is declared 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.



M Warnock
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

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

9 May 2013

Plan 5534/1



LEGEND

Clearing Instruments

- Areas Approved to Clear
- Leonora 1.4m Orthomosaic - Landgate 2003

Cadastre for labelling

- `tec_pec_boundaries_all_150-42013*`



Scale 1:9345
(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

Geocentric Datum Australia 1994

Note: the data in this map have not been projected. This may result in geometric distortion or measurement inaccuracies.

M Warnock Date 9/5/13

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

Information derived from this map should be confirmed with the data custodian acknowledged by the agency acronym in the legend.



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1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 5534/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Australia Western Railroad Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 501 ON PLAN 60064 (Lot No. 501 GOLDFIELDS LEONORA 6438)
LOT 502 ON PLAN 60064 (Lot No. 502 GOLDFIELDS LEONORA 6438)

Local Government Area: Shire of Leonora

Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
7.59		Mechanical Removal	Building or Structure

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 9 May 2013

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
The vegetation under application is mapped as Beard Vegetation Association No. 28: open low woodland, mulga (Shepherd et al, 2001). Western Botanical (2013) undertook a level 1 flora and vegetation survey of the application area on 11 January 2013 and identified one Muir's vegetation association: scattered low mulga trees over a mosaic understorey consisting of a dwarf shrubland dominated by chenopods and mid dense hummock grass dominated by Cenchrus ciliaris (Buffel grass) (Western Botanical, 2013).	The application to clear 7.59 hectares of native vegetation is for the purpose of constructing a vehicle and container wash down area, vehicle turn around area, parking areas, buildings and associated infrastructure. The application area has been significantly impacted by introduced weeds combined with disturbance from existing tracks and turn-around areas and other rail infrastructure activities (Western Botanical, 2013).	Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994) To Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)	The vegetation condition was determined during a flora and vegetation survey conducted by Western Botanical on 13 January 2013 (Western Botanical, 2013).

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

The application is to clear up to 7.59 hectares of native vegetation for the purpose of expanding an existing rail yard involving the construction of vehicle turn-around areas, wash down areas, parking bays, access roads buildings and other associated infrastructure. The proposed clearing is unlikely to have any significant environmental impacts. The vegetation is in a good to degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition and is comprised of scattered low mulga trees over a mosaic understorey of dwarf shrubland dominated by chenopods and mid dense hummock grass dominated by Cenchrus ciliaris (Buffel grass). The application area has been significantly altered and impacted by seven species of introduced weeds including Buffel Grass (Cenchrus ciliaris), African Lovegrass (Eragrostis curvula) and Wild Sage (Salvia verbenaca) and partial historical clearing for vehicle tracks access, turn-around areas and other infrastructure (Western Botanical, 2013).

Western Botanical (2013) conducted a level 1 flora and vegetation survey of the application area and did not

identify any rare or priority flora species or threatened ecological communities. The vegetation to be cleared is well represented in the local area (greater than 80 per cent), and therefore would not have a detrimental impact on fauna habitat or consist of an area of high biodiversity. There are no conservation areas nearby.

No watercourses occur within the application area and the soils are of a stony loam composition. Therefore it is unlikely the proposed clearing would cause or exacerbate land degradation or flooding or impact on water quality.

The assessment of the clearing application identified that the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to any of the clearing Principles. Given the application area is comprised of several weed species, weed management practices are required to limit their offsite dispersal.

Methodology

References

- Keighery (1994)
- Western Botanical (2013)

GIS database

- Pre-European vegetation
- Soils, Statewide
- Hydrography, linear
- DEC tenure
- SAC Biodata set (accessed April 2013)

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

Comments

Lots 501 and 502 on Deposited Plan 60064 are zoned 'railway' under the Town Planning Scheme.

No submissions from the public have been received.

Lot 501 and 502 are classified as 'Remediated for restricted use' under s15 of the Contaminated Sites Act 2003. In particular, the residual soils of Lot 501 contain heavy metals which have now been covered with fill material and are no longer accessible. Provided that the landuse remains commercial/industrial, the site no longer poses any unacceptable risk to the environment or human health (DEC, 2013).

The application area falls within the Goldfields Groundwater Rights Area proclaimed under the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914. No groundwater is required to be abstracted for the end landuse.

The application area covers three Aboriginal Sites of Significance - Leonora (storage cache), Papa Kulunypa (ceremonial) and Harbour Lights 1 (artefacts). It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

Methodology

Reference

- DEC (2013)

GIS database

- Town Planning Scheme

4. References

- DEC (2013) supporting documentation for Clearing Permit CPS 5534/1, Lots 501 and 502 on Plan 60064, Leonora (DEC Ref: A622673).
- Government of Western Australia. (2013). 2012 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of October 2012. 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.
- Northcote, K. H. with Beckmann G G, Bettenay E., Churchward H. M., van Dijk D. C., Dimmock G. M., Hubble G. D., Isbell R. F., McArthur W. M., Murtha G. G., Nicolls K. D., Paton T. R., Thompson C. H., Webb A. A. and Wright M. J. (1960-68): 'Atlas of Australian Soils, Sheets 1 to 10, with explanatory data'. CSIRO and Melbourne University Press: Melbourne.
- 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.
- Western Botanical (2013), Leonora Rail Yard Expansion Project, Level 1 Flora and Vegetation Survey. Prepared for Australian Western Railroad ? Aurizon Holdings Limited (Aurizon). January 2013 (DEC Ref: A608210).

5. Glossary

Term	Meaning
BCS	Biodiversity Coordination Section of DEC
CALM	Department of Conservation and Land Management (now BCS)
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection (now DEC)
DoE	Department of Environment
DoIR	Department of Industry and Resources
DRF	Declared Rare Flora
EPP	Environmental Protection Policy
GIS	Geographical Information System
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community
WRC	Water and Rivers Commission (now DEC)