



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit Number:	5880/1
Duration of Permit:	From 18 July 2015 to 31 July 2020
Permit Holder:	Pluton Resources Limited

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 mineral production and associated activities.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Mining Lease 04/235
Mining Lease 04/448
General Purpose Lease 04/33
General Purpose Lease 04/34
General Purpose Lease 04/35
General Purpose Lease 04/36
General Purpose Lease 04/37
Miscellaneous Licence 04/49

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 15 hectares of native vegetation. All clearing must be within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 5880/1.

4. Type of Clearing Authorised

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

5. Clearing Not Authorised

The Permit Holder shall not clear any marine vegetation, unless approved by the *CEO*.

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.

PART II - MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

7. 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.

8. Flora management

- (a) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder shall engage an *environmental specialist* to conduct a *targeted flora survey* of the Permit Area for the presence of the following *significant flora* species:
 - (i) *Triodia* sp. nov. (MLD719).
- (b) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder shall provide the results of the *targeted flora survey* in a report to the *CEO*.
- (c) If *Triodia* sp. nov. (MLD719) is identified within the Permit Area, the *targeted flora survey* report must include the following:
 - (i) the location/s of *Triodia* sp. nov. (MLD719), recorded as either individual plants, or where this is not practical, the areal extent of the population and an estimate of the number of plants, 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) the methodology used to survey the permit area.
- (d) Where *Triodia* sp. nov. (MLD719) is identified under Condition 8(a) of this Permit, the Permit Holder shall ensure that:
 - (i) no clearing occurs within 10 metres of *Triodia* sp. nov. (MLD719), unless first approved by the *CEO*; and
 - (ii) no clearing of *Triodia* sp. nov. (MLD719) occurs, unless first approved by the *CEO*.

9. Fauna management

- (a) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder shall engage an *environmental specialist* to conduct a *targeted fauna survey* of the proposed clearing areas to identify *critical habitat* being utilised by the fauna species listed below:
 - (i) Masked Owl, Kimberley form, northern subspecies (*Tyto novaehollandiae kimberli*).
- (b) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder shall provide the results of the *targeted fauna survey* in a report to the *CEO*.
- (c) The *targeted fauna survey* report must include the following:
 - (i) the location of the habitat 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 location of any fauna species, as listed in Condition 9(a) identified, 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;
 - (iii) the methodology used to survey the permit area and to establish the *critical habitat*;
 - (iv) the extent of the *critical habitat* of the identified fauna shown on a map; and
 - (v) a description of the *critical habitat* of fauna found.
- (d) Where fauna are identified under Condition 9(a) of this Permit, the Permit Holder shall ensure that:
 - (i) no clearing of *critical habitat* of the identified fauna occurs, unless first approved by the *CEO*; and
 - (ii) no taking of identified fauna occurs, unless first approved by the *CEO*.

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

10. Records must be kept

The Permit Holder must maintain the following records for activities done pursuant to this Permit:

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.

11. Reporting

- (a) The Permit Holder shall provide a report to the Director Operations, 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 10 of this permit in relation to clearing carried out between 1 July and 30 June of the previous financial year.
- (b) Prior to 31 July 2020, the Permit Holder must provide to the Director Operations, Environment, Department of Mines and Petroleum a written report of records required under Condition 10 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under Condition 11(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 Regulation or an officer with delegated authority under Section 20 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*;

critical habitat means any part of the Permit Area comprising of the habitat of flora or fauna species and its population, that is critical for the health and long term survival of the flora or fauna species and its population;

environmental specialist means a person who is engaged by the Permit Holder for the purpose of providing environmental advice, who holds a tertiary qualification in environmental science or equivalent, and has experience relevant to the type of environmental advice that an environmental specialist is required to provide under 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;

significant flora means flora that are at the extremes of their range or that occur in isolated outlying populations or, undescribed flora (either at the genus, species or intraspecific level) that have been discovered, but not yet formally described in accordance with the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature or, uncommon hybrid flora;

targeted fauna survey means a field-based investigation, including a review of established literature, of the biodiversity of fauna and/or fauna habitat of the Permit Area, focusing on habitat suitable for fauna species that are being targeted and carried out during the optimal time to identify those species. Where target fauna are identified in the Permit Area, the survey should also include sufficient surrounding areas to place the Permit Area into local context;

targeted flora survey means a field-based investigation, including a review of established literature, of the biodiversity of flora and vegetation of the Permit Area, focusing on habitat suitable for flora species that are being targeted and carried out during the optimal time to identify those species. Where target flora are identified in the Permit Area, the survey should also include sufficient surrounding areas to place the Permit Area into local context;

weed/s means any plant –

- (a) that is declared under the section 22 of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*; or
- (b) published in the Department of Parks and Wildlife Regional Weed Assessments, regardless of ranking; or
- (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.



Virginia Simms
A/DIRECTOR OPERATIONS
ENVIRONMENT
DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND PETROLEUM

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

25 June 2015