



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 598/2
Permit Holder:	Xstrata Nickel Australasia Operations Pty Ltd (formerly Sir Samuel Mines NL)
Duration of Permit:	17 July 2005 – 17 July 2013

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 mining.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

M36/371

M36/24

M36/127

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 134 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 598/2.

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. 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:

- (a) avoid the clearing of native vegetation;
- (b) minimise the amount of native vegetation to be cleared; and
- (c) reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

7. 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:

- (a) the species composition, structure and density of the cleared area;
- (b) 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;
- (c) the date that the area was cleared; and
- (d) the size of the area cleared (in hectares).

8. Reporting

- (a) The Permit Holder must provide to the CEO, on or before 30 June of each year, a written report of records required under condition 7 of this Permit and activities done by the Permit Holder under this Permit between 1 January and 31 December of the preceding year.
- (b) Prior to 17 April 2013, the Permit Holder must provide to the CEO a written report of records required under condition 7 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under condition 8(a) of this Permit.

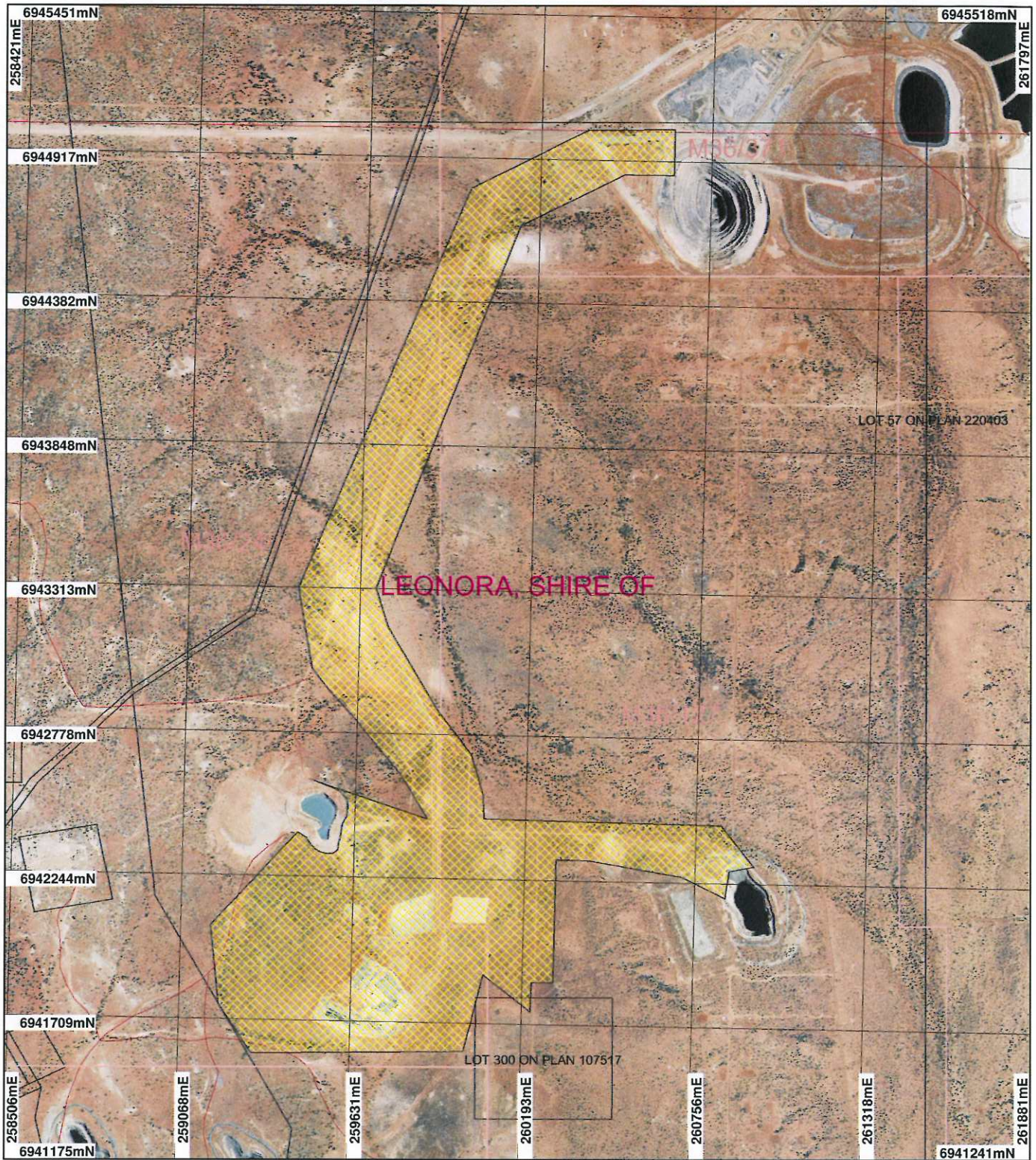


Matthew Warnock
ACTING MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

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

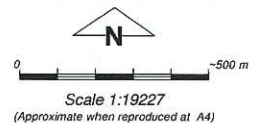
15 July 2010

Plan 598/2



LEGEND

- ☐ Cadastre
- ☐ Local Government Authorities
- ☒ Road Centrelines
- Sir Samuel 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2005
- ☐ Mining Tenements
- ☐ Clearing Instruments
- ☐ Areas Approved to Clear



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 15/7/10

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.



Department of Environment and Conservation

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1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 598/2
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Xstrata Nickel Australasia Operations Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: UNALLOCATED CROWN LAND (SIR SAMUEL 6437)
LOT 300 ON PLAN 107517 (SIR SAMUEL 6437)

Local Government Area:

Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
134		Mechanical Removal	Mineral Production

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
Beard Vegetation Association 39: Shrublands; mulga scrub (Shepherd, 2007)	The area under application lies approximately 36km north-west of Leinster in the north-eastern Goldfields of Western Australia. Significant clearing and development of mining infrastructure has been conducted previously within the area under application. According to URS (2005) the area under application falls within the Eremaean Botanical Province, which is typified by plants from the following families: Mimosaceae (Acacia spp.), Myrtaceae (Eucalyptus spp.), Myoporaceae (Eremophila spp.), Chenopodiaceae (Samphires, Bluebushes, Saltbushes), Asteraceae (Daisies) and Poaceae (grasses). The mulga woodlands of the area been historically logged (URS, 2005) and two weed species have been identified within the applied area (URS, 2005). Most plant communities have been reported to be in good condition, with no observed weed invasion and little to no degradation as a result of stock grazing (URS, 2005).	Excellent: Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery 1994) Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994)	Vegetation condition was determined from aerial photography and supporting documentation supplied by the applicant (URS, 2005).

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

The proponent has applied to extend the duration of the permit CPS 598/1 by 3 years, increase the clearing area by 6 hectares, to a total of 134 hectares, and update the permit holder from Sir Samuel Mines NL to Xstrata Nickel Australasia Operations Pty Ltd.

A review of current environmental information reveals no new additional information. Therefore, the assessment against the clearing principles has not changed and can be found in the Clearing Permit Decision Report CPS 598/1.

- Methodology** GIS databases:
- Clearing Regulations, Environmentally Sensitive Areas - 28/8/09
 - Hydrography linear - DoW 13/7/06
 - Pre-European vegetation - DA 01/01
 - SAC Biodatasets (accessed 2 July 2010)
 - Soils, Statewide - 30/11/99

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

Comments

There are no native title claims or determinations over the applied area. However, 17 Aboriginal Sites of Significance are mapped within the area under application, of which 6 are mapped as being lodged, 7 are permanent and 4 have insufficient information.

No submissions from the public have been received.

The area under application lies within the Goldfields Groundwater area proclaimed under the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914. The applicant holds a current groundwater licence.

- Methodology** GIS Databases:
- Aboriginal Sites of Significance - DIA 02/10
 - Cadastre - Landgate 12/09
 - Country Area Water Supply Act (Part IIA) Clearing Control Catchments - DoW 29/06/06
 - Environmental Impact Assessments - EPA 08/03/05
 - Native Title Claims - LA 2/5/07
 - Public Drinking Water Source Areas (PDWSAs) - DoW 07/02/06
 - Town Planning Scheme Zones - MFP 31/08/98

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.
- Shepherd, D.P. (2007) Adapted from: 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.
- URS (2005) Supporting documentation for the amendment of CPS 598/1 - Xstrata Nickel Australasia Operations Pty Ltd. DEC Ref: A310035.

5. Glossary

Term	Meaning
CALM	Department of Conservation and Land Management (now DEC)
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection (now DEC)
DoE	Department of Environment (now DEC)
DoW	Department of Water
DMP	Department of Mines and Petroleum (ex DoIR)
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)