



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

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| Purpose Permit number: | CPS 6194/2 |
| Permit Holder: | Northern Star (Hampton Gold Mining Areas) Limited |
| Duration of Permit: | 1 November 2014 – 1 November 2029 |

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 purposes of mineral exploration, mineral production and mining infrastructure.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Lot 41 on Deposited Plan 226320, Bulong.

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 200 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 6194/2.

4. Period in which clearing is authorised

The Permit Holder shall not clear any native vegetation after 1 November 2024.

5. 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

6. Avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and extent of 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:

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

7. Dieback and 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* and *dieback*:

- clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
- ensure that no *dieback* or *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.

8. Retain vegetative material and topsoil, revegetation and rehabilitation

The Permit Holder shall:

- (a) retain the vegetative material and topsoil removed by clearing authorised under this Permit and stockpile the vegetative material and topsoil in an area that has already been cleared.
- (b) at an optimal time within 12 months following the completion of works authorised under this Permit, *revegetate* and *rehabilitate* the area(s) that are no longer required for the purpose for which they were cleared under this Permit by:
 - (i) re-shaping the surface of the land so that it is consistent with the surrounding 5 metres of uncleared land; and
 - (ii) ripping the ground on the contour to remove soil compaction; and
 - (iii) laying the vegetative material and topsoil retained under condition 8(a) on the cleared area(s).
- (c) within 24 months of laying the vegetative material and topsoil on the cleared area in accordance with condition 8(b) of this Permit:
 - (i) engage an *environmental specialist* to determine the species composition, structure and density of the area *revegetated* and *rehabilitated*; and
 - (ii) where, in the opinion of an *environmental specialist*, the composition structure and density determined under condition 8(c)(i) of this Permit will not result in a similar species composition, structure and density to that of pre-clearing vegetation types in that area, *revegetate* the area by deliberately *planting* and/or *direct seeding* native vegetation that will result in a similar species composition, structure and density of native vegetation to pre-clearing vegetation types in that area and ensuring only *local provenance* seeds and propagating material are used.
- (d) Where additional *planting* or *direct seeding* of native vegetation is undertaken in accordance with condition 8(c)(ii) of this permit, the Permit Holder shall repeat condition 8(c)(i) and 8(c)(ii) within 24 months of undertaking the additional *planting* or *direct seeding* of native vegetation.
- (e) Where a determination by an *environmental specialist* that the composition, structure and density within areas *revegetated* and *rehabilitated* will result in a similar species composition, structure and density to that of pre-clearing vegetation types in that area, as determined in condition 8(c)(i) and (ii) of this permit, that determination shall be submitted for the CEO's consideration. If the CEO does not agree with the determination made under condition 8(c)(ii), the CEO may require the Permit Holder to undertake additional *planting* and *direct seeding* in accordance with the requirements under condition 8(c)(ii).

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

9. Records to be kept

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

- (a) In relation to the clearing of native vegetation authorised under this Permit:
 - (i) the species composition, structure and density of the cleared area;
 - (ii) 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;
 - (iii) the date that the area was cleared; and
 - (iv) the size of the area cleared (in hectares).
- (b) In relation to the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* of areas pursuant to condition 8 of this Permit:
 - (i) the location of any areas *revegetated* and *rehabilitated*, 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) a description of the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* activities undertaken;
 - (iii) the size of the area *revegetated* and *rehabilitated* (in hectares);
 - (iv) the species composition, structure and density of *revegetation* and *rehabilitation*, and
 - (v) a copy of the environmental specialist's report.

10. Reporting

- (a) The Permit Holder must provide to the CEO on or before 30 June of each year, a written report:
 - (i) of records required under condition 9 of this Permit; and
 - (ii) concerning activities done by the Permit Holder under this Permit between 1 January to 31 December of the preceding calendar year.
- (b) If no clearing authorised under this Permit was undertaken between 1 January to 31 December of the preceding calendar year, a written report confirming that no clearing under this permit has been carried out, must be provided to the CEO on or before 30 June of each year.
- (c) Prior to 1 August 2029, the Permit Holder must provide to the CEO a written report of records required under condition 9 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under condition 10(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 responsible for the administration of the clearing provisions under the Environmental Protection Act 1986;

dieback means the effect of *Phytophthora* species on native vegetation;

direct seeding means a method of re-establishing vegetation through the establishment of a seed bed and the introduction of seeds of the desired plant species;

environmental specialist means a person 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, or who is approved by the CEO as a suitable environmental specialist.

fill means material used to increase the ground level, or fill a hollow;

local provenance means native vegetation seeds and propagating material from natural sources within 50 kilometres and the same Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) subregion of the area cleared.

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;

planting means the re-establishment of vegetation by creating favourable soil conditions and planting seedlings of the desired species;

rehabilitate/ed/ion means actively managing an area containing native vegetation in order to improve the ecological function of that area;

revegetate/ed/ion means the re-establishment of a cover of *local provenance* native vegetation in an area using methods such as natural *regeneration*, *direct seeding* and/or *planting*, so that the species composition, structure and density is similar to pre-clearing vegetation types in that area.

weed/s means any plant -

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



Ray Carvalho
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

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

5 July 2019

Plan 6194/2




Legend

-  CPS areas approved to clear
-  Local Government Authorities
-  Cadastre
-  Roads
- Image



MGA 94
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994


Ray Carvalho
2019.07.05
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Officer with delegated authority under Section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986



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WESTERN AUSTRALIA
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Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 6194/2
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Northern Star (Hampton Gold Mining Areas) Limited
Application received date: 10 April 2019

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 41 ON DEPOSITED PLAN 226320, BULONG
Local Government Authority: KALGOORLIE-BOULDER, CITY OF
Localities: BULONG

1.4. Application

| Clearing Area (ha) | No. Trees | Method of Clearing | Purpose category: |
|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 200 | | Mechanical Removal | Mineral production |

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 5 July 2019

Reasons for Decision: The clearing permit application has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with section 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). It has been concluded that the clearing principle variance levels are consistent with those identified in the Decision Report for Clearing Permit Application CPS 6194/1, and the proposed clearing is not at variance to principles (d) and (e), and is not likely to be at variance to the remaining clearing principles.

In determining to grant this amended clearing permit subject to conditions, the Delegated Officer found that the proposed clearing is not likely to lead to an unacceptable risk to the environment.

2. Site Information

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|-------------------------------|--|
| Clearing Description | The application to amend proposes to clear 200 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 41 on Deposited Plan 226320, Bulong for the purpose of mineral exploration and production (figure 1). The amendment has been requested to change the Permit Holder details and to extend the expiry date of the Permit. |
| Vegetation Description | The application area is mapped in the 'Coolgardie' region of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA), and is mapped as the following Beard vegetation association (Shepherd, 2001): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 506, which is described as succulent steppe with woodland; salmon gum and bluebush. |
| Vegetation Condition | The condition of the vegetation within the application area is considered to be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994); to Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994). <p>The condition of the vegetation was determined based on a Flora and vegetation survey undertaken by Native Vegetation Solutions (2013).</p> |
| Soil type | The application area is mapped as the following land subsystems (Northcote et al. 1960 - 1968): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mx43, which is described as gently undulating valley plains and pediments; some outcrop of basic rock. |
| Comments | The local area referred to in this assessment is considered to be a 20 kilometre radius surrounding the application area. |

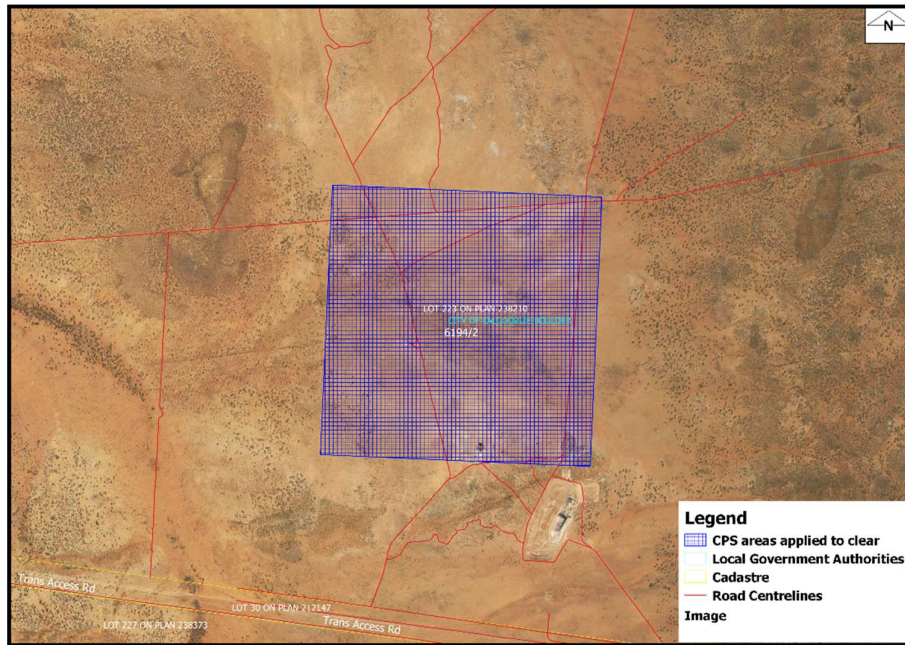


Figure 1. Application area cross-hatched blue



Figure 2 *Maireana sedifolia* open shrubland within the survey area (Native Vegetation Solutions, 2013).



Figure 3 *Casuarina pauper* and *Eucalyptus griffithsii* woodland within the application area (Native Vegetation Solutions, 2013)

3. Minimisation and mitigation measures

The applicant has advised that alternatives to avoid or minimise the need for clearing have been considered and applied through implementing low impact exploration and production techniques whenever possible (Northern Star (Hampton Gold Mining Areas) Limited, 2019).

4. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Northern Star (Hampton Gold Mining Areas) Limited has applied to amend clearing Permit CPS 6194/1 to extend the expiry date of the permit from 1 November 2019 to 1 November 2024. The applicant has also requested for the Permit Holder name to be amended in line with a change in the applicants business name.

An environmental impact assessment has been undertaken and 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 6194/1.

Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

No Aboriginal sites of significance have been mapped within the application area.

The amendment application was re-advertised on the DWER website on 30 April 2019 with a 14 day submission period. No public submissions have been received in relation to this application.

5. 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.

Native Vegetation Solutions (2013). Flora and vegetation survey provided in relation to clearing permit application CPS 6194/1. DWER Ref: DWER A1796008.

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.

Northern Star (Hampton Gold Mining Areas) Limited. (2019). Application for an amendment to a clearing permit. Application form in relation to clearing permit application CPS 6194/2. DWER Ref: A1780563.

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.

GIS databases:

- CPS Areas applied to clear
- NatureMap (conservation significant fauna)
- DAFWA Subsystems V5
- Soils of WA
- Vegetation Complexes – Swan Coastal Plain
- Managed Tenure
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas
- TPFL Data March 2019
- WAHerb Data March 2019
- Aboriginal Sites Register
- IBRA Vegetation WA
- WA TECPEC
- Land Degradation Hazards