



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	6196/1
Duration of Permit:	4 October 2014 to 4 October 2019
Permit Holder:	Western Areas Ltd

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.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Mining Lease 77/99

Mining Lease 77/582

Mining Lease 77/911

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 12 hectares of native vegetation. All clearing must be within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 6196/1.

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.

PART II – MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

5. 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*:

- (i) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
- (ii) ensure that no *dieback* or *weed*-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill* or other material is brought into the area to be cleared;
- (iii) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared;
- (iv) only move soils in dry conditions

6. Flora Management

- (a) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder shall engage a *botanist* to conduct a *targeted flora survey* of the areas to be cleared for the presence of rare flora listed in the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice* and *priority flora* in accordance with *Guidance Statement No. 51*.
- (b) Where rare or priority flora are identified under Condition 6(a) of this Permit, the Permit Holder shall ensure that:
- (i) no clearing occurs within 50 metres of identified rare flora, unless first approved by the *CEO*, and no clearing of identified rare flora occurs unless first approved under section 23F(4) of the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*; and;
 - (ii) no clearing of identified *priority flora* occurs and no clearing occurs within 10 metres of identified *priority flora*, unless first approved by the *CEO*.

7. Fauna management

- (a) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder shall engage a *fauna specialist* to conduct a *fauna survey* of the areas to be cleared, to identify *critical habitat* being utilised by fauna listed in the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice* and *priority fauna*.
- (b) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder shall provide the results of the *fauna survey* in a report to the *CEO*.
- (c) The *fauna survey* report must include the following;
- (i) the location of the *critical 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, 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 name of each fauna species identified;
 - (iv) the methodology, used to survey the Permit Area and to establish the *critical habitat*;
 - (v) the extent of the *critical habitat* of the identified rare or *priority fauna* shown on a map; and
 - (vi) a description of the critical habitat of rare or *priority fauna* found.
- (d) Where fauna are identified under Condition 7(a) of this Permit, the Permit Holder shall ensure that:
- (i) no clearing of *critical habitat* of the identified rare or *priority fauna* occurs, unless first approved by the *CEO*; and
 - (ii) no taking of identified fauna occurs, unless first approved by the *CEO*.

8. Fauna management

- (a) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder shall engage a *fauna specialist* to conduct a *fauna survey* within the areas to be cleared to identify *Leipoa ocellata* (Malleefowl) mounds and *Leipoa ocellata* (Malleefowl) *critical habitat*.
- (b) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder shall provide the results of the *fauna survey* in a report to the *CEO*.
- (c) The *fauna survey* report must include;
- (i) the location of each *Leipoa ocellata* (Malleefowl) mound, 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, to the *CEO*.
 - (ii) the location of the *Leipoa ocellata* (Malleefowl) *critical 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, to the *CEO*.
 - (iii) the methodology used to survey the Permit Area and to establish the *Leipoa ocellata* (Malleefowl) *critical habitat* and identify the mound/s;
 - (iv) the extent of the *critical habitat* of the *Leipoa ocellata* (Malleefowl) shown on a map; and
 - (v) a description of the *critical habitat* found.

- (d) Where *Leipoa ocellata* (Malleefowl) mounds are identified under Condition 8(a) of this Permit, the Permit Holder shall ensure that no clearing of *critical habitat* of the identified *Leipoa ocellata* (Malleefowl) mounds occurs, unless first approved by the CEO.

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 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.
- (b) In relation to flora management pursuant to Condition 6 of this Permit:
- (i) the location of each rare and/or priority flora species 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 species name of each rare and priority flora identified; and
 - (iii) a copy of the botanists flora survey report.

10. Reporting

- (a) The Permit Holder shall provide a report to the Director Operations, Environment, Department of Mines and Petroleum by 31 July each year for the life of this permit, demonstrating adherence to all conditions of this permit, and setting out the records required under Condition 9 of this permit in relation to clearing carried out between 1 July and 30 June of the previous financial year.
- (b) Prior to 1 October 2019, the Permit Holder must provide to the Director Operations, Environment, Department of Mines and Petroleum 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:

botanist means a person who holds a tertiary qualification in environmental science or equivalent, and has a minimum of 2 years work experience in identification and surveys of flora native to the bioregion being inspected or surveyed, or who is approved by the CEO as a suitable botanist for the bioregion;

CEO means the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Environment and Conservation 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;

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

fauna specialist means a person who holds a tertiary qualification specializing in environmental science or equivalent, and has a minimum of 2 years work experience in fauna identification and surveys of fauna native to the region being inspected or surveyed, or who is approved by the CEO as a suitable fauna specialist for the bioregion, and who holds a valid fauna licence issued under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*;

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. Where conservation significant fauna are identified in the Permit Area, the survey should also include sufficient surrounding areas to place the Permit Area into local context.

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

Guidance Statement No. 51 means the Environmental Protection Authority Guidance Statement No 51, Guidance for the Assessment of Environmental Factors - Terrestrial Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Australia (2004);

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;

priority fauna means those fauna taxa describes as priority fauna, classes 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 in the *Department of Parks and Wildlife's Threatened and Priority Fauna Rankings List for Western Australia* (as amended).

priority flora means those plant taxa described as priority flora classes 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 in the *Department of Parks and Wildlife's Threatened and Priority Flora List for Western Australia* (as amended);

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 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 Summary, regardless of ranking; or
- (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.

Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice means those plant taxa gazetted as rare flora pursuant to section 23F(2) of the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* (as amended).

Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice means those fauna taxa gazetted as rare fauna pursuant to section 14(4)(a) of the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* (as amended).



Steve Tantala
DIRECTOR OPERATIONS
ENVIRONMENT
DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND PETROLEUM

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

11 September 2014