



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 6329/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Silver Lake (Integra) Pty Limited

1.3. Property details

Property: Mining Lease 25/125
Mining Lease 25/133
Local Government Area: City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
Colloquial name: Randalls Gold Project

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
25		Mechanical Removal	Mineral Production and associated activities

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 11 December 2014

2. Site Information

2.1. Existing environment and information

2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description	<p>Beard vegetation associations have been mapped for the whole of Western Australia. One Beard vegetation association is located within the application area (GIS Database):</p> <p>Beard vegetation association 501: Medium woodland; goldfields blackbutt.</p> <p>A level 1 flora and vegetation survey of the application area and surrounding area conducted by Outback Ecology (2009) during 16 to 21 October 2008 identified two vegetation types within the application area:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Eucalypt open forest/woodland over Chenopod heath ESIMs - <i>Eucalyptus salmonophloia</i>, <i>Eucalyptus lesouefii</i> Open Forest over <i>Maireana sedifolia</i>, <i>Tecticornia</i> sp. Low Shrubland; and 2. Acacia tall shrubs/low trees over low shrubland Ab - <i>Acacia burkittii</i> Tall Open Scrub over mixed Open Shrubland over scattered herbs.
Clearing Description	Randalls Gold Project. Silver Lake (Integra) Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 25 hectares of native vegetation within a total boundary of approximately 68 hectares for the purposes of mineral production and associated activities. The project is located approximately 51 kilometres east of Kambalda, in the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder.
Vegetation Condition	<p>Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery, 1994);</p> <p>To:</p> <p>Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994).</p>
Comment	The vegetation condition was derived from a vegetation survey conducted Outback Ecology (2009).

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

The application area occurs within the Eastern Goldfields (COO3) subregion of the Coolgardie Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) bioregion (GIS Database). This subregion is characterised by Mallees, Acacia thickets and shrubheaths on sandplains. Diverse *Eucalyptus* woodlands occur around salt lakes, on ranges, and in valleys. Salt lakes support dwarf shrublands of samphire and Woodlands and *Dodonaea* shrubland occur on basic granitoides of the Fraser Range. The area is rich in endemic Acacias (CALM, 2002).

A flora and vegetation survey by Outback Ecology (2009) identified two vegetation types within the application area. Vegetation surveyed within the application area appeared typical of Goldfields vegetation and well represented within the local and regional area (Outback Ecology, 2009; GIS Database). The condition of the vegetation was classified as 'degraded' to 'very good' (Outback Ecology, 2009, Keighery, 1994). The basic vegetation structure around existing pits and exploration areas has been severely impacted by mining and drilling activity, and consistent heavy grazing from goats and sheep has altered mid- and understorey vegetation composition and structure (Outback Ecology, 2009). No Threatened Ecological Communities or Priority Ecological Communities were recorded within the application area (Outback Ecology, 2009; GIS Database).

A total of 65 flora taxa from 34 genera and 17 families were recorded within the larger survey area (Outback Ecology, 2009). No species of Threatened flora or Priority Flora species have been recorded within the application area (Outback Ecology, 2009; GIS Database).

There was no fauna survey conducted over the application area. Based on the flora and vegetation survey conducted by Outback Ecology (2009), the application area does not contain significant fauna habitat and the survey did not identify critical feeding or breeding habitat for any conservation significant fauna species (DPaW, 2014a; GIS Database).

There are no permanent watercourses or water bodies mapped within the area under application (GIS Database). There was no riparian vegetation mapped within the application area (Outback Ecology, 2009).

The land system associated with the application area is not susceptible to erosion (Tille, 2006) and the proposed clearing is not likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water or increase the incidence or intensity of flooding (Outback Ecology, 2009; GIS Database).

The application area is partly located within the Randalls Timber Reserve (GIS Database). The condition of the vegetation in Randalls Timber Reserve has been previously degraded by stock and feral animals (Outback Ecology, 2009), and historical mineral production has occurred within the application area (GIS Database). DPaW (2014b) advise that the proposed clearing will not significantly impact on the flora or vegetation values of the reserve. Given the application area within the Randell Timber Reserve has been previously degraded by mining and grazing, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of Randalls Timber Reserve.

There were two weed species identified within the application area; Wild Clary (*Salvia verbenaca*) and Calomba Daisy (*Oncosiphon suffruticosum*) (Outback Ecology, 2009). Weeds have the potential to significantly change the dynamics of a natural ecosystem and lower the biodiversity of an area. Potential impacts to the biodiversity as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a weed management condition.

The application has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with s.51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, and the proposed clearing is at variance to Principle (h), is not likely to be at variance to Principles (a), (b), (c), (d), (f), (g), (i), and (j), and is not at variance to Principle (e).

Methodology

- CALM (2002)
- DPaW (2014a)
- DPaW (2014b)
- Keighery (1994)
- Outback Ecology (2009)
- Tille (2006)
- GIS Database:
 - DEC Tenure
 - Evaporation Isopleths
 - Groundwater Salinity
 - Hydrography, linear
 - IBRA WA (Regions - Sub Regions)
 - Pre-European Vegetation
 - Public Drinking Water Source Areas
 - Rangeland Land System Mapping
 - Rainfall, Mean Annual
 - Threatened and Priority Flora
 - Threatened Ecological Sites Buffered

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

Comments

There are no Native Title claims over the area under application (GIS Database). However, the mining tenure has been granted in accordance with the future act regime of the *Native Title Act 1993* and the nature of the act (i.e. the proposed clearing activity) has been provided for in that process, therefore the granting of a clearing

permit is not a future act under the *Native Title Act 1993*.

There are no registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the application area (GIS Database). It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

It is the proponent's responsibility to liaise with the Department of Environment Regulation, Department of Parks and Wildlife and the Department of Water, to determine whether a Works Approval, Water Licence, Bed and Banks Permit, or any other licences or approvals are required for the proposed works.

The clearing permit application was advertised on 27 October 2014 by the Department of Mines and Petroleum inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received.

- Methodology** GIS Database:
- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
 - Native Title Claims - Registered with the NNTT
 - Native Title Claims - Filed at the Federal Court
 - Native Title Claims - Determined by the Federal Court

4. References

- CALM (2002) A Biodiversity Audit of Western Australia's 53 Biogeographical Subregions. Coolgardie3 (COO3 - Eastern Goldfields subregion) Department of Conservation and Land Management, Western Australia.
- DPaW (2014a) NatureMap Department of Parks and Wildlife, viewed 13 November 2014 <<http://naturemap.dec.wa.gov.au>>.
- DPaW (2014b) Advice regarding Randells Timber Reserve for CPS 6329/1. Department of Parks and Wildlife, Environmental Management Branch, December 2014.
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Outback Ecology (2009) Salt Creek Level 2 and Maxwells/Cock-Eyed Bob Level 1 Vegetation and Flora Surveys. Prepared for Integra Mining Limited, April 2009.
- Tille, P (2006) Soil-landscapes of Western Australia's Rangelands and Arid Interior. Technical Report 313. Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia. ISSN 1039-7205.

5. Glossary

Acronyms:

BoM	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government
DAA	Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (now DPaW and DER)
DER	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia
DMP	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia
DRF	Declared Rare Flora
DotE	Department of the Environment, Australian Government
DoW	Department of Water, Western Australia
DPaW	Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia
DSEWPaC	Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (now DotE)
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
EP Act	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Federal Act)
GIS	Geographical Information System
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – commonly known as the World Conservation Union
PEC	Priority Ecological Community, Western Australia
RIWI Act	<i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> , Western Australia
s.17	Section 17 of the <i>Environment Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community

Definitions:

{DPaW (2013) Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora and Fauna. Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia}:-

- T** **Threatened species:**
Specially protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, listed under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna or the Wildlife Conservation

Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora (which may also be referred to as Declared Rare Flora).

Threatened Fauna and Flora are further recognised by DPaW according to their level of threat using IUCN Red List criteria. For example Carnaby's Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus latirostris* is specially protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* as a threatened species with a ranking of Endangered.

Rankings:

CR: Critically Endangered - considered to be facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.

EN: Endangered - considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild.

VU: Vulnerable - considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.

- X Presumed Extinct species:**
Specially protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, listed under Schedule 2 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Presumed Extinct Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Presumed Extinct Flora (which may also be referred to as Declared Rare Flora).
- IA Migratory birds protected under an international agreement:**
Specially protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, listed under Schedule 3 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice.
Birds that are subject to an agreement between governments of Australia and Japan, China and The Republic of Korea relating to the protection of migratory birds and birds in danger of extinction.
- S Other specially protected fauna:**
Specially protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, listed under Schedule 4 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice.
- P1 Priority One - Poorly-known species:**
Species that are known from one or a few collections or sight records (generally less than five), all on lands not managed for conservation, e.g. agricultural or pastoral lands, urban areas, Shire, rail reserves and Main Roads WA road, gravel and soil reserves, and active mineral leases and under threat of habitat destruction or degradation. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more localities but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and appear to be under immediate threat from known threatening processes.
- P2 Priority Two - Poorly-known species:**
Species that are known from one or a few collections or sight records, some of which are on lands not under imminent threat of habitat destruction or degradation, e.g. national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves, State forest, unallocated Crown land, water reserves, etc. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more localities but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and appear to be under threat from known threatening processes.
- P3 Priority Three - Poorly-known species:**
Species that are known from collections or sight records from several localities not under imminent threat, or from few but widespread localities with either large population size or significant remaining areas of apparently suitable habitat, much of it not under imminent threat. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from several localities but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and known threatening processes exist that could affect them.
- P4 Priority Four - Rare, Near Threatened and other species in need of monitoring:**
(a) Rare. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed, or for which sufficient knowledge is available, and that are considered not currently threatened or in need of special protection, but could be if present circumstances change. These species are usually represented on conservation lands.
(b) Near Threatened. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed and that do not qualify for Conservation Dependent, but that are close to qualifying for Vulnerable.
(c) Species that have been removed from the list of threatened species during the past five years for reasons other than taxonomy.
- P5 Priority Five - Conservation Dependent species:**
Species that are not threatened but are subject to a specific conservation program, the cessation of which would result in the species becoming threatened within five years.

Principles for clearing native vegetation:

- (a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.
- (b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.
- (c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora.
- (d) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a threatened ecological community.
- (e) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.
- (f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.

- (g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.
- (h) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.
- (i) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.
- (j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.

