



## **CLEARING PERMIT**

*Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986*

<b>Purpose Permit number:</b>	6571/2
<b>Duration of Permit:</b>	From 4 July 2015 to 31 July 2026
<b>Permit Holder:</b>	Western Areas Limited

The Permit Holder is authorised to clear native vegetation subject to the following conditions of this Permit.

### **PART I - CLEARING AUTHORISED**

**1. Land on which clearing is to be done**

Mining Lease 77/582  
Mining Lease 77/911

**2. Purpose for which clearing may be done**

Clearing for the purpose of mineral exploration.

**3. Area of Clearing**

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 9.3 hectares of native vegetation. All clearing must be within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 6571/2.

**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.

### **PART II - MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS**

**5. 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.

## 6. 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; and
- (iv) only move soils in *dry conditions*.

## 7. Fauna management

- (a) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the area cross hatched yellow on attached Plan 6571/2 shall be inspected by a *fauna specialist* who shall identify *black cockatoo habitat tree/s*.
- (b) Prior to undertaking any clearing, *black cockatoo habitat tree/s* identified under Condition 7(a) shall be inspected by a *fauna specialist* for the presence of hollows suitable for the use of black cockatoos.
- (c) Where *black cockatoo habitat tree/s* containing hollows suitable for the use of black cockatoos have been identified under Condition 7(b), the Permit Holder shall not clear:
  - (i) the identified *black cockatoo habitat tree/s* containing hollows, unless first approved by the *CEO*; and
  - (ii) within 10 metres of the identified *black cockatoo habitat tree/s* containing hollows, unless first approved by the *CEO*.

## 8. Fauna management - Malleefowl

Where clearing authorised under this Permit is to occur between 1 September and 31 January, the Permit Holder shall:

- (a) Within two weeks prior to undertaking any clearing, engage an *environmental specialist* to conduct an inspection of the area to be cleared to identify *active (in use) Malleefowl (Leipoa ocellata) mounds*.
- (b) Where an *active (in use) Malleefowl mound* is identified under Condition 8(a) of this Permit, the Permit Holder shall ensure that no clearing occurs within 50 metres of the mound, during the months of September through to January, 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) actions taken to avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and the extent of clearing in accordance with Condition 5 of this Permit; and
- (c) actions taken to minimise the introduction and spread of *weeds* and *dieback* in accordance with Condition 6 of this Permit.
- (d) actions taken in accordance with Conditions 7 and 8 of this Permit.

## 10. Reporting

- (a) The Permit Holder shall provide a report to the *CEO* 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) If no clearing authorised under this Permit was undertaken between 1 July and 30 June of the previous financial year, a written report confirming that no clearing under this permit has been carried out, must be provided to the *CEO* by 31 July of each year.
- (c) Prior to 31 July 2026, 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) or 10(b) of this Permit.

## DEFINITIONS

The following meanings are given to terms used in this Permit:

*active (in use) Malleefowl mound* means a mound with evidence of current Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) activity, such as: working of the mound; scratching; litter trails leading to the mound; or loose uncompacted surfaces. The form and structure of the mound will show that it is currently being prepared for egg laying or it already contains eggs;

*black cockatoo habitat tree/s* means trees that have a diameter, measured at 1.5 metres from the base of the tree, of 50 centimetres or greater;

*CEO* means the Chief Executive Officer of the Department responsible for administering the clearing provisions contained within the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* or an Officer with delegated authority under Section 20 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*;

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

*dry conditions* means when soils (not dust) do not freely adhere to rubber tyres, tracks, vehicle chassis or wheel arches;

*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;

*fauna specialist* means a person who holds a tertiary qualification specialising 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 *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*;

*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;

*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 Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions Regional Weed Rankings Summary, regardless of ranking; or
- (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.



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Dan Endacott  
General Manager Environmental Compliance  
Resource and Environmental Compliance Division  
17 May 2021

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