



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	6666/2
Duration of Permit:	From 3 October 2015 to 31 October 2025
Permit Holder:	Norton Gold Fields Pty Ltd

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

Miscellaneous Licence 24/220
Miscellaneous Licence 27/89

2. Purpose for which clearing may be done

Clearing for the purposes of haul road and associated activities.

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 90 hectares of native vegetation. All clearing must be within the areas shaded yellow on attached Plan 6666/2.

4. Type of Clearing Authorised – staged clearing

The Permit Holder shall not clear native vegetation unless the purpose for which the clearing is authorised is enacted within six months of the authorised clearing being undertaken.

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. 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*:

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

8. Watercourse management

- (a) Where practicable the Permit Holder shall avoid clearing *riparian vegetation*; and
- (b) Where a *watercourse* or *wetland* is to be impacted by clearing, the Permit Holder shall maintain the existing surface water flow.

9. 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 submitted 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;
 - (ii) the location of each *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;
 - (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) located on a map; and
 - (v) a description of the *critical habitat* found.
- (d) Where *Leipoa ocellata* (Malleefowl) mounds are identified under Condition 9(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

10. 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 6 of this Permit; and
- (c) Actions taken to minimise the introduction and spread of *weeds* in accordance with Condition 7 of this Permit.

11. 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 10 of this Permit in relation to clearing carried out between 1 July and 30 June of the previous financial year.
- (b) Prior to 31 October 2025, the Permit Holder must provide to the *CEO* a written report of records required under Condition 10 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under Condition 11(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 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*;

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;

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*;

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 area 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;

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;

riparian vegetation has the meaning given to it in Regulation 3 of the Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004;

watercourse has the meaning given to it in section 3 of the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*;

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.

wetland/s means an area of seasonally, intermittently or permanently waterlogged or inundated land, whether natural or otherwise, and includes a lake, swamp, marsh, spring, dampland, tidal flat or estuary.



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