



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	6672/2
Duration of Permit:	From 26 September 2015 to 31 October 2025
Permit Holder:	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 77/544

2. Purpose for which clearing may be done

Clearing for the purposes of mineral exploration.

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 9 hectares of native vegetation. All clearing must be within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 6672/2.

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. Restricted Clearing

The Permit Holder shall not clear any native vegetation within the areas shaded red on attached Plan 6672/2, unless first approved by the *CEO*.

6. 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

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. Vegetation Management

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

10. 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 *priority flora* in accordance with *EPA Technical Guidance*.
- (b) The Permit Holder shall ensure that no clearing occurs within 10 metres of identified *priority flora*, unless approved by the *CEO*.

11. Fauna management

- (a) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the areas to be cleared shall be inspected by a *fauna specialist* who shall identify *black cockatoo habitat tree/s*.
- (b) Where *black cockatoo habitat tree/s* have been identified under Condition 11(a), the Permit Holder shall provide to the *CEO*, the location of each *black cockatoo habitat tree/s* 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, prior to undertaking any clearing.
- (c) Where *black cockatoo habitat tree/s* have been identified under Condition 11(a), the Permit Holder shall not clear;
 - (i) *black cockatoo habitat tree/s*; and
 - (ii) within 10 metres of *black cockatoo habitat tree/s*.

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

12. 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 7 of this Permit; and
- (c) actions taken to minimise the introduction and spread of *weeds* in accordance with Condition 8 of this Permit.
- (d) flora and fauna management actions taken in accordance with Conditions 10 and 11 of this Permit.

13. 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 12 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 October 2025, the Permit Holder must provide to the *CEO* a written report of records required under Condition 12 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under Condition 13(a) of this Permit.

DEFINITIONS

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

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;

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 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*;

EPA Technical Guidance means Environmental Protection Authority (2016), *Technical Guidance - Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment*, EPA, Western Australia;

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;

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

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

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;

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.

Danielle Risbey

Danielle Risbey
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Resource and Environmental Compliance Division
29 October 2020

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