



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	6802/2
Duration of Permit:	From 26 December 2015 to 31 December 2025
Permit Holder:	Avoca Mining 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**
Mining Lease 15/1792
- 2. Purpose for which clearing may be done**
Clearing for the purpose of mineral exploration and mineral production.
- 3. Area of Clearing**
The Permit Holder must not clear more than 545 hectares of native vegetation. All clearing must be within the areas cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 6802/2.
- 4. Type of clearing authorised**
The Permit Holder shall not clear native vegetation unless the purpose for which the clearing is authorised enacted within three 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:
 - (a) avoid the clearing of native vegetation;
 - (b) minimise the amount of native vegetation to be cleared; and
 - (c) 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. Vegetation Management

- (a) Where practicable the Permit Holder shall avoid clearing *riparian vegetation*; and
- (b) Where a *watercourse* or *drainage line* is to be impacted by clearing, the Permit Holder shall ensure that surface flow is maintained, or is reinstated downstream into existing natural drainage lines.

9. Flora Management

Where *priority flora* species *Eutaxia rubricarina* have been identified and their written location(s), provided to the *CEO*, within the report 'Native Vegetation Solutions (2015) Level 1 Flora and Vegetation Survey of the Proposed Wills Project Tenement M15/1792. Prepared for Metals X Limited, Avoca Resources Pty Ltd, Higginsville Gold Operation. September, 2015', the Permit Holder shall ensure that:

- (i) no clearing of identified *priority flora* occurs and no clearing occurs within 10 metres of identified *priority flora*, unless 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 December 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*;

drainage line means a natural depression that carries surface water runoff;

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;

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.



Dan Endacott
General Manager Environmental Compliance
Resource and Environmental Compliance Division
15 October 2020

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