



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	6835/2
Duration of Permit:	From 27 February 2016 to 28 February 2021
Permit Holder:	Neil Francis Smith and Robert Neil Hebiton

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 70/613

2. Purpose for which clearing may be done

Clearing for the purpose of gypsum mining.

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 9.52 hectares of native vegetation. All clearing must be within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 6835/2.

4. Type of Clearing Authorised

The Permit Holder shall not clear native vegetation unless gypsum mining is 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 etc 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 and dieback control

- (a) 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) shall only move soils in *dry conditions*;
 - (iii) ensure that no *dieback* or *weed*-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill* or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and
 - (iv) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.

8. Retain vegetative material and topsoil, revegetation and rehabilitation

The Permit Holder shall:

- (a) retain the vegetative material and topsoil removed by clearing authorised under this Permit and stockpile the vegetative material and topsoil in an area that has already been cleared;
- (b) within 12 months following completion of clearing authorised under this permit, *revegetate* and *rehabilitate* the areas that are no longer required for the purpose for which they were cleared under this Permit by:
- (i) ripping the ground on the contour to remove soil compaction; and
 - (ii) laying the vegetative material and topsoil retained under Condition 8(a) on the cleared area.

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) In relation to the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* of areas pursuant to Condition 8 of this Permit:
- (i) the location of any areas *revegetated* and *rehabilitated*, 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) a description of the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* activities undertaken;
 - (iii) the size of the area *revegetated* and *rehabilitated* (in hectares); and.

10. Reporting

- (a) The Permit Holder shall provide a report to the General Manager Environmental Compliance, Resource and Environmental Compliance Division, Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety by 1 October each year for the life of this permit, demonstrating adherence to all conditions of this permit, and setting out the records required under Condition 8 of this permit in relation to clearing carried out between 1 July and 30 June of the previous financial year.
- (b) Prior to 28 February 2021, the Permit Holder must provide to the General Manager Environmental Compliance, Resource and Environmental Compliance Division, Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety a written report of records required under Condition 9 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under Condition 10(a) of this Permit.

Definitions

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

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

direct seeding means a method of re-establishing vegetation through the establishment of a seed bed and the introduction of seeds of the desired plant species;

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

fill means material used to increase the ground level, or fill a hollow;

local provenance means native vegetation seeds and propagating material from natural sources within 50 kilometres and the same Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) subregion of the area cleared;

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;

planting means the re-establishment of vegetation by creating favourable soil conditions and planting seedlings of the desired species;

rehabilitate/ed/ion means actively managing an area containing native vegetation in order to improve the ecological function of that area;

regeneration means *revegetation* that can be established from in situ seed banks contained either within the topsoil or seed-bearing *mulch*;

revegetate/ed/ion means the re-establishment of a cover of *local provenance* native vegetation in an area using methods such as natural *regeneration*, *direct seeding* and/or *planting*, so that the species composition, structure and density is similar to pre-clearing vegetation types in that area;

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.



Daniel Endacott
General Manager Environmental Compliance
Resource and Environmental Compliance Division
15 November 2018

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