

Surrender Decision Report

1 Application details and outcome

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	CPS 6875/2
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	MEPAU Perth Basin Pty Ltd
Application received:	15 July 2025
Application area:	2.50 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Purpose as shown on Permit
Method of clearing:	Mechanical Removal
Tenure:	Petroleum Production Licence L1
Location (LGA area/s):	Shire of Irwin
Colloquial name:	Waitsia Gas project

1.2. Description of application

The permit holder has applied to surrender Clearing Permit CPS 6875/2, originally granted on 15 July 2025. This permit authorised the clearing of up to 2.5 hectares of native vegetation within a 6.6 hectare boundary for petroleum production and associated activities. These activities included vegetation clearing for the construction of the PL 124 Pipeline and the WGP2 Northern Flowline.

This application has been made as the application area is now within Ministerial Statement 1164, issued under Part IV of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EPA, 2021).

1.3. Decision on application

Decision:	Surrender application accepted
Decision date:	16 September 2025
Decision area:	2.50 hectares of native vegetation, as depicted in Section 1.5, below.

1.4. Reasons for decision

In making the decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for:

- a review of the permit holder's compliance with conditions of clearing permit CPS 6875/2 (section 2.1 of this report)
- other matters considered relevant to the decision (section 2.2 of this report).

The application to surrender was submitted, accepted and determined in accordance with sections 51M and 51MA of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.

After consideration of the above information, the Delegated Officer decided to accept the surrender of clearing permit CPS 6875/2.

1.5. Site map



Figure 1 Aerial map showing vegetation clearing within the CPS 6875/2 permit areas in Western Australia. The red areas indicate cleared vegetation associated with the WGP2 Northern Flowline and PL 124 Pipeline. Yellow outlines mark the boundaries of the CPS 6875/2 Northern and Southern permit areas that are being surrendered.

2 Assessment of surrender

2.1. Review of compliance with clearing permit conditions

On 29 July 2025, the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration (the department) reviewed the annual clearing reports for clearing permit CPS 6875/2. The department identified that the permit holder has cleared roadside vegetation associated with the construction and operation of PL124 Pipeline and the WGP2 Northern Flowline as part of the Waitsia Gas Pipeline Project.

The department's review of the permit holder's requirements under clearing permit CPS 6875/2 (Department of Mines, Petroleum and Energy, 2016) did not identify any non-compliance with the clearing permit conditions and has satisfied CPS 6875/2.

CPS 6875/2 Clearing authorised under the following conditions	Compliance comments
3. Area of Clearing The Permit Holder must not clear more than 2.5 hectares of native vegetation. All clearing must be within the areas cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 6875/2.	The department has verified, using both reports and aerial imagery, that a total of 1.55 hectares was cleared over the lifetime of the permit (Esri, 2024; Copernicus Data Space Ecosystem, 2024, Mitsui E&P Australia & Beach Energy, 2025). Aerial imagery also confirms that no vegetation was cleared outside the approved area (Esri, 2024,).
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: (a) avoid the clearing of native vegetation;	Spatial imagery, annual clearing reports, and supporting documentation for each clearing year confirm that only minimal vegetation was cleared under CPS 6875/2. Where possible, clearing was avoided and minimised to reduce environmental impacts and limit the overall extent of disturbance (Esri, 2024; Mitsui E&P Australia & Beach Energy, 2025). In response to a request for additional information, the proponent provided records including shapefiles, pre- and post-construction

(b) minimise the amount of native vegetation to be cleared; and (c) reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.	surveys, clearing figures, and photographic evidence. These detailed records provide sufficient evidence that actions were taken to avoid, minimise, and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing in accordance with Condition 5 of the permit.
6. 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 <i>weeds</i>: (a) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared; (b) ensure that no <i>weed</i>-affected soil, <i>mulch</i>, <i>fill</i> or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and (c) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.	(a) The annual clearing reports state that, when vegetation clearing was undertaken, all vehicles and earthmoving machinery were required to provide evidence of weed and seed inspection and cleaning prior to commencing activities. Please provide evidence that this requirement was met (Mitsui E&P Australia & Beach Energy, 2025). The department requested more information from the proponent about weed control measures. In response, the proponent confirmed that equipment and hygiene inspections were carried out before work began on both the PL 124 Pipeline and WGP2 Northern Flowline projects. They also completed post-weed spraying reports as evidence of weed management (Mitsui E&P Australia, 2020). (b) The Department has confirmed through reports that no imported fill or other materials were brought to the sites cleared under CPS 6875 (Mitsui E&P Australia & Beach Energy, 2016; 2020; 2022). (c) The annual clearing reports for CPS 6875 confirmed that, during clearing activities, vehicles and machinery did not access areas outside the approved clearing footprint (Mitsui E&P Australia & Beach Energy, 2016; 2020; 2022).
7. 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 <i>weeds</i> in accordance with Condition 6 of this Permit.	The clearing has been summarised within the 2025 Annual Clearing Report, showing clearing conducted between 2016 and 2025 (Mitsui E&P Australia & Beach Energy, 2025). The recorded clearing years and associated activities include: • FY16 – Clearing for construction of FL-111 (0.8332 ha) • FY20 – Clearing for PL 124 Pipeline Construction (0.1686 ha) • FY22 – Clearing for WGP2 Flowline Construction (0.548 ha) Additional information was requested from the proponent to support compliance with Condition 7(a), specifically to confirm the location, extent, and supporting records of clearing. The following was provided (Mitsui E&P Australia, 2020): • PL 124 Pipeline Construction: Pre- and post-construction surveys; CROW widths; post-clearing photographs; clearing figure. • WGP2 Northern Flowline Construction: Shapefiles of proposed clearing; “as-built” clearing figures; Clearing Vegetation Record Form detailing both proposed and completed clearing. (b) The shapefiles, pre- and post-construction surveys, clearing figures, and photographic records provided demonstrate sufficient evidence of actions taken to avoid, minimise, and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing in accordance with Condition 5 of the permit (Mitsui E&P Australia, 2020). (c) Evidence of weed control measures has been requested (see above), including weed certification reports confirming inspections and post-spraying activities for both the PL 124 Pipeline and WGP2 Northern Flowline construction projects.

8. 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 7 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 28 February 2026, the Permit Holder must provide to the CEO a written report of records required under Condition 7 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under Condition 8(a) or 8(b) of this Permit.

Annual clearing permit reports have been consistently submitted to the Department by AWE Perth Pty Ltd in compliance with Condition 9(a) of CPS 6875/2. Reports have been provided for the following reporting periods:

- 2015–2016 financial year
- 2016–2017 financial year
- 2017–2018 financial year
- 2018–2019 financial year
- 2019–2020 financial year
- 2020–2021 financial year
- 2021–2022 financial year
- 2022–2023 financial year
- 2023–2024 financial year
- 2024–2025 financial year

The Department received reports for each of these periods. These reports confirm adherence to all conditions of the permit and include the records required under Condition 9 (Mitsui E&P Australia & Beach Energy, 2016; 2017; 2018; 2019; 2020; 2021; 2022; 2023; 2024; 2025).

2.2. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

On 8 August 2025, the permit holder verbally advised they had no comments on the department's proposed decision.

End

Appendix A. References

Copernicus Data Space Ecosystem (2024) *Copernicus Browser* [Online]. Available at: <https://browser.dataspace.copernicus.eu/> (Accessed: 1 August 2025).

Department of Mines, Petroleum and Energy (DMPE) (2016) *Clearing Permit CPS 6875/2 – AWE Perth Pty Ltd*. Granted under section 51E of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, Government of Western Australia.

Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) Western Australia. (2021). Statement that a proposal may be implemented: Waitsia Gas Project Stage 2 (Ministerial Statement No. 1164). Perth, WA: EPA WA. Available at: https://www.epa.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Ministerial_Statement/Statement%201164_0.pdf.

Esri (2024) *ArcGIS Pro (Version 3.1)* [Computer software]. Redlands, CA: Environmental Systems Research Institute. Available at: <https://www.esri.com/en-us/arcgis/products/arcgis-pro/overview>

Mitsui E&P Australia (2020) *Weed management and equipment hygiene inspections for FL 111, PL 124 and WGP2 Northern Flowline construction*. Internal report. Unpublished.

Mitsui E&P Australia & Beach Energy (2016) *Waitsia Gas Project – Clearing Permit CPS 6875/2 Annual Report FY16*. Prepared for the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety.

Mitsui E&P Australia & Beach Energy (2017) *Waitsia Gas Project – Clearing Permit CPS 6875/2 Annual Report FY17*. Prepared for the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety.

Mitsui E&P Australia & Beach Energy (2018) *Waitsia Gas Project – Clearing Permit CPS 6875/2 Annual Report FY18*. Prepared for the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety.

Mitsui E&P Australia & Beach Energy (2019) *Waitsia Gas Project – Clearing Permit CPS 6875/2 Annual Report FY19*. Prepared for the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety.

Mitsui E&P Australia & Beach Energy (2020) *Waitsia Gas Project – Clearing Permit CPS 6875/2 Annual Report FY20*. Prepared for the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety.

Mitsui E&P Australia & Beach Energy (2021) *Waitsia Gas Project – Clearing Permit CPS 6875/2 Annual Report FY21*. Prepared for the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety.

Mitsui E&P Australia & Beach Energy (2022) *Waitsia Gas Project – Clearing Permit CPS 6875/2 Annual Report FY22*. Prepared for the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety.

Mitsui E&P Australia & Beach Energy (2023) *Waitsia Gas Project – Clearing Permit CPS 6875/2 Annual Report FY23*. Prepared for the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety.

Mitsui E&P Australia & Beach Energy (2024) *Waitsia Gas Project – Clearing Permit CPS 6875/2 Annual Report FY24*. Prepared for the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety.

Mitsui E&P Australia & Beach Energy (2025) *Waitsia Gas Project – Clearing Permit CPS 6875/2 Annual Report FY25*. Prepared for the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety.