



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 6968/2
Permit type: Purpose

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Siberia Mining Corporation Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: Mining Lease 24/39
Mining Lease 24/290
Mining Lease 24/352
Miscellaneous Licence 24/224
Prospecting Licence 24/4182
Local Government Area: City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
Colloquial name: Siberia Project

1.4. Application

| Clearing Area (ha) | No. Trees | Method of Clearing | For the purpose of: |
|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 66 | | Mechanical Removal | Mineral production. |

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted
Decision Date: 29 September 2016

2. Site Information

2.1. Existing environment and information

2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description The application area has been mapped as the following Beard vegetation association:
468: Medium woodland; salmon gum and goldfields blackbutt.

A Level 1 Flora and Vegetation Survey of the application area was undertaken by Plantecology Consulting (Plantecology) (2015) during the period 5 – 6 November 2015. The vegetation survey identified the following ten vegetation types in the application area:

1. *Acacia hemiteles* open shrubland – Open Shrubland of *Acacia hemiteles* with emergent *Casuarina obesa* and scattered groves of *Eucalyptus* spp. over low open shrubland of *Acacia erinacea*, *Eremophila scoparia* and *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* on red brown silty loams on broad flats,
2. *Acacia burkittii* tall shrubland - High shrubland of *Acacia burkittii*, *Acacia incurvaneura* and *Acacia ramulosa* subsp. *ramulosa* on red-brown silty loams on flats,
3. *Acacia incurvaneura* tall open shrubland - Open scrub of *Acacia incurvaneura*, *Acacia mulganeura* and *Acacia ramulosa* subsp. *ramulosa* on red sandy loams on flats,
4. *Acacia quadrimarginea* tall open shrubland – Open scrub of *Acacia quadrimarginea* over low open shrubland of *Dodonaea lobulata*, *Scaevola spinescens* and *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* on red loams on low stony rises,
5. *Acacia* spp. closed scrub - Closed scrub of mainly *Acacia* species such as *Acacia acuminata*, *Acacia mulganeura* and *Acacia ramulosa* subsp. *ramulosa* with *Grevillea nematophylla* subsp. *supraplana*, *Eremophila ionantha* and *Prostanthera grylloana* on red sandy loams on flats,
6. *Allocasuarina eriochlamys* subsp. *eriochlamys* open shrubland - Open scrub of *Allocasuarina eriochlamys* subsp. *eriochlamys*, *Alyxia buxifolia* and *Acacia ramulosa* subsp. *ramulosa* over *Dodonaea microzyga*, *Phebalium lepidotum* and *Philothea brucei* subsp. *brucei* on shallow red earths on ironstone outcropping of low rises,
7. *Chenopod* low open shrubland – Low open shrubland of *Atriplex bunburyana*, *Atriplex nummularia* subsp. *nummularia* and *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* over herbland of *Sclerolaena diacantha* and *Eriochiton sclerolaenoides* with occasional emergent *Casuarina obesa* and *Eucalyptus griffithsii* on brown silty loams on flats,
8. *Chenopod* low open shrubland – Shrubland of *Dodonaea lobulata*, *Scaevola spinescens* and *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* over *Ptilotus obovatus* with emergent *Casuarina obesa* and *Eucalyptus salubris* on red-brown loams on low stony rises,
9. *Eucalyptus griffithsii* low open woodland with *Triodia scariosa* – Low open woodland of *Eucalyptus griffithsii* over tall open shrubland of *Acacia burkittii* and *Acacia ramulosa* subsp. *ramulosa* over low open hummock grassland of *Triodia scariosa* on red sandy loams on flats,
10. *Eucalyptus lesouefii* low open woodland – Low open woodland of *Eucalyptus lesouefii* over open shrubland of *Eremophila scoparia*, *Eremophila ionantha* and *Dodonaea lobulata* over *Olearia muelleri* on red-brown loams on flats and simple slopes.

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| Clearing Description | Siberia Project Siberia Mining Corporation Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 66 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 149.15 hectares for the purposes of mineral production, expansion of mining operations, construction of a haul road and abandonment bund. The project is located 20 kilometres north-northwest of Ora Banda in the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder. |
| Vegetation Condition | Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery, 1994); to Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery, 1994). |
| Comment | Clearing Permit CPS 6968/1 was granted by the Department of Mines and Petroleum on 5 May 2016 and allowed for the clearing of 52.6 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of 149.15 hectares. An application to amend CPS 6968/1 was submitted to the Department of Mines and Petroleum on 30 August 2016. The application requested an increase in the amount of clearing authorised, an increase in the clearing permit boundary and clearing on Miscellaneous Licence 24/224. The total amount of clearing required is 66 hectares. The clearing on Miscellaneous Licence 24/224 is for the purpose of constructing a haul road and abandonment bund. |

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments Siberia Mining Corporation Pty Ltd has applied to amend CPS 6968/1 for the purpose of increasing the clearing amount (from 52.6 hectares to 66 hectares), increasing the clearing permit boundary and clearing on Miscellaneous Licence 24/224.

The proposed amendment to the previously approved clearing footprint will impact on vegetation types 1, 2, 7, 9 and 10. The majority of the proposed amended clearing area (7.19 hectares) is located within vegetation type 1 (*Acacia hemiteles* open shrubland). Plantecology (2015) reported *Acacia hemiteles* open shrubland to be the most widespread vegetation type on broad flats. The vegetation within the amendment clearing areas is described as very good to good (Keighery, 1994). The flora survey undertaken by Plantecology (2015) did not locate threatened or priority flora or threatened or priority ecological communities within the amended clearing area.

MBCContracting (2015) completed a desktop fauna survey of the clearing permit and amendment clearing area. The amendment clearing areas contain very little vegetation and the remaining vegetation has been previously disturbed by mining activity. The clearing amendment area does not contain habitat critical for fauna species and the proposed clearing will not impact significant fauna habitat.

The proposed amendment is unlikely to result in any significant change to the environmental impacts of the proposed clearing. The assessment against the clearing principles remains consistent with the assessment contained in decision report CPS 6968/1.

Methodology MBCContracting (2015)
Plantecology (2015)

Planning instrument, Native Title, Previous EPA decision or other matter.

Comments There are no Native Title claims over the area under application (DAA, 2016). However, the mining tenure has been granted in accordance with the future act regime of the *Native Title Act 1993* and the nature of the Act (i.e. the proposed clearing activity) has been provided for in that process. Therefore, the granting of a clearing permit is not a future act under the *Native Title Act 1993*.

There are no registered Aboriginal sites of significance within the application area (DAA, 2016). It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Aboriginal sites of significance are damaged through the clearing process.

It is the proponent's responsibility to liaise with the Department of Environment Regulation, Department of Parks and Wildlife and the Department of Water to determine whether a Works Approval, Water Licence, Bed and Banks Permit, or any other licences or approvals are required for the proposed works.

The clearing permit application was advertised on 29 August 2016 by the Department of Mines and Petroleum inviting submissions from the public. There were no submissions received.

Methodology DAA (2016)

4. References

DAA (2016) Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Aboriginal Affairs. <http://maps.dia.wa.gov.au/AHIS2> (Accessed 24 August 2016).

- Keighery B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of Western Australia (Inc.). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- MBContracting (2015) Desktop Fauna Assessment, Proposed Clearing Envelope, Siberia Mine. Report prepared for Piacentini and Son Ltd by MBContracting Environmental and Media Consulting Services, Perth, Western Australia, December 2015.
- Plantecology Consulting (2015) Siberia Mine, Davyhurst Flora and Vegetation Survey. Report prepared for Piacentini and Son Ltd, by Plantecology Consulting, Perth, Western Australia, December 2015.

5. Glossary

Acronyms:

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|-----------------|---|
| BoM | Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government |
| DAA | Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia |
| DAFWA | Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia |
| DEC | Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (now DPaW and DER) |
| DER | Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia |
| DMP | Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia |
| DRF | Declared Rare Flora |
| DotEE | Department of the Environment and Energy, Australian Government |
| DoW | Department of Water, Western Australia |
| DPaW | Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia |
| DSEWPaC | Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (now DotE) |
| EPA | Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia |
| EP Act | <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia |
| EPBC Act | <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Federal Act) |
| GIS | Geographical Information System |
| ha | Hectare (10,000 square metres) |
| IBRA | Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia |
| IUCN | International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – commonly known as the World Conservation Union |
| PEC | Priority Ecological Community, Western Australia |
| RIWI Act | <i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> , Western Australia |
| TEC | Threatened Ecological Community |

Definitions:

{DPaW (2015) Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora and Fauna. Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia}:-

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| T | <p>Threatened species: Published as Specially Protected under the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i>, listed under Schedules 1 to 4 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora (which may also be referred to as Declared Rare Flora).</p> <p>Threatened fauna is that subset of ‘Specially Protected Fauna’ declared to be ‘likely to become extinct’ pursuant to section 14(4) of the Wildlife Conservation Act.</p> <p>Threatened flora is flora that has been declared to be ‘likely to become extinct or is rare, or otherwise in need of special protection’, pursuant to section 23F(2) of the Wildlife Conservation Act.</p> <p>The assessment of the conservation status of these species is based on their national extent and ranked according to their level of threat using IUCN Red List categories and criteria as detailed below.</p> |
| CR | <p>Critically endangered species Threatened species considered to be facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild. Published as Specially Protected under the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i>, in Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora.</p> |
| EN | <p>Endangered species Threatened species considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild. Published as Specially Protected under the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i>, in Schedule 2 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora.</p> |
| VU | <p>Vulnerable species Threatened species considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild. Published as Specially Protected under the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i>, in Schedule 3 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora.</p> |

- EX Presumed extinct species**
Species which have been adequately searched for and there is no reasonable doubt that the last individual has died. Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, in Schedule 4 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Presumed Extinct Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Presumed Extinct Flora.
- IA Migratory birds protected under an international agreement**
Birds that are subject to an agreement between the government of Australia and the governments of Japan (JAMBA), China (CAMBA) and The Republic of Korea (ROKAMBA), and the Bonn Convention, relating to the protection of migratory birds. Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, in Schedule 5 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice.
- CD Conservation dependent fauna**
Fauna of special conservation need being species dependent on ongoing conservation intervention to prevent it becoming eligible for listing as threatened. Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, in Schedule 6 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice.
- OS Other specially protected fauna**
Fauna otherwise in need of special protection to ensure their conservation. Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, in Schedule 7 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice.
- P Priority species**
Species which are poorly known; or
Species that are adequately known, are rare but not threatened, and require regular monitoring. Assessment of Priority codes is based on the Western Australian distribution of the species, unless the distribution in WA is part of a contiguous population extending into adjacent States, as defined by the known spread of locations.
- P1 Priority One - Poorly-known species:**
Species that are known from one or a few locations (generally five or less) which are potentially at risk. All occurrences are either: very small; or on lands not managed for conservation, e.g. agricultural or pastoral lands, urban areas, road and rail reserves, gravel reserves and active mineral leases; or otherwise under threat of habitat destruction or degradation. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and appear to be under immediate threat from known threatening processes. Such species are in urgent need of further survey.
- P2 Priority Two - Poorly-known species:**
Species that are known from one or a few locations (generally five or less), some of which are on lands managed primarily for nature conservation, e.g. national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves and other lands with secure tenure being managed for conservation. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and appear to be under threat from known threatening processes. Such species are in urgent need of further survey.
- P3 Priority Three - Poorly-known species:**
Species that are known from several locations, and the species does not appear to be under imminent threat, or from few but widespread locations with either large population size or significant remaining areas of apparently suitable habitat, much of it not under imminent threat. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from several locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and known threatening processes exist that could affect them. Such species are in need of further survey.
- P4 Priority Four - Rare, Near Threatened and other species in need of monitoring:**
(a) Rare. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed, or for which sufficient knowledge is available, and that are considered not currently threatened or in need of special protection, but could be if present circumstances change. These species are usually represented on conservation lands.
(b) Near Threatened. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed and that are close to qualifying for Vulnerable, but are not listed as Conservation Dependent.
(c) Species that have been removed from the list of threatened species during the past five years for reasons other than taxonomy.