



# Clearing Permit Decision Report

## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 6968/3

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 24/208  
Mining Lease 24/960  
Miscellaneous Licence 24/224

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:
96		Mechanical Removal	Mineral production.

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant

Decision Date: 13 July 2017

## 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. An additional Level 1 Flora and Vegetation Survey of the amendment application area was undertaken by Borger, J and Radovic, D (2017) during the period 14 - 17 February 2017. The vegetation survey identified the following six vegetation types in the amendment application area:

1. *Casuarina pauper* and *Alectryon oleifolius* subsp. *canescens* low open woodland to isolated trees over *Acacia ramulosa* var. *ramulosa*, *Pittosporum angustifolium* tall open shrubland over *Eremophila* and *Acacia* species open shrubland,
2. *Santalum spicatum*, *Eremophila glabra* subsp. *glabra*, *Acacia burkittii*, *Dodonaea lobulata* shrubland to tall shrubland over *Solanum nummularium*, *Enchylaena tomentosa*, *Atriplex vesicaria*, *Ptilotus obovatus* low sparse shrubland,
3. *Eucalyptus leptopoda* subsp. *subluta*, *E. concinna*, *Casuarina pauper* isolated low mallee or trees over *Dodonaea lobulata*, *Eremophila alternifolia*, *Acacia prainii*, *A. tetragonophylla* open to sparse shrubland over *Ptilotus obovatus*, *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia*, *Dodonaea lobulata*, *Atriplex vesicaria* open shrubland,
4. *Grevillea juncifolia* subsp. *temulenta*, *Alectryon oleifolius* or *Casuarina pauper* low isolated trees over *Eremophila species*, *Dodonaea lobulata*, *Acacia burkittii*, *A. ramulosa*, *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* shrubland over *Ptilotus obovatus* isolated low shrubs,
5. *Casuarina pauper* isolated low trees over *Dodonaea lobulata*, *Scaevola spinescens*, *Acacia burkittii* shrubland to open shrubland over *Ptilotus obovatus* low open shrubland,
6. *Eucalyptus salmonophloia*, *E. transcontinentalis*, *E. clelandii* woodland over *Eremophila decipiens* subsp. *decipiens* isolated tall shrubs over *Scaevola spinescens*, *Maireana sedifolia*, *Eremophila scoparia*, *E. glabra* subsp. *glabra* open shrubland over *Ptilotus obovatus*, *Scaevola spinescens*, *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* low open shrubland over *Sclerolaena diacantha* low isolated forbs.

**Clearing Description** Siberia Project  
Siberia Mining Corporation Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 96 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 203.66 hectares for the purposes of mineral production, expansion of mining operations, construction of a haul road and abandonment bund, expansion of the Missouri Waste Landform, an additional accommodation camp, potable water pipeline and site infrastructure. 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 (DMP) (now Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS)) on 5 May 2016 and authorised the clearing of 52.6 hectares of native vegetation.

An application to amend CPS 6968/1 was submitted to the DMP 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. Clearing Permit CPS 6968/2 was granted by DMP on 29 September 2016 and authorised the clearing of 66 hectares of native vegetation.

An application to amend CPS 6968/2 was submitted by Siberia Mining Corporation Pty Ltd on 22 May 2017. The application requested an increase in the amount of clearing authorised, an increase in the clearing permit boundary and clearing on Mining Lease 24/208. The total amount of clearing proposed is 96 hectares of native vegetation.

### 3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

**Comments**

Siberia Mining Corporation Pty Ltd has applied to amend CPS 6968/2 for the purpose of increasing the clearing amount (from 66 hectares to 96 hectares), increasing the clearing permit boundary by 30 hectares and clearing on Mining Lease 24/208.

The proposed amendment will impact on vegetation types 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. The majority of the proposed amended clearing area is located within vegetation types 3 (*Eucalyptus leptopoda* subsp. *subluta*, *E. concinna*, *Casuarina pauper*, *Acacia hemiteles* low mallee trees) and 6 (*Eucalyptus salmonophloia*, *E. transcontinentalis*, *E. clelandii* woodland over *Eremophila decipiens* subsp. *decipiens* isolated tall shrubs) (Borger, J and Radovic, D, 2017). The vegetation within the amendment areas is described as degraded to excellent (Keighery, 1994). The flora survey undertaken by Borger, J and Radovic, D, (2017) did not locate any threatened or priority flora or threatened or priority ecological communities within the amended clearing area.

MBCContracting (2015) completed a desktop fauna survey of the original clearing permit and amendment areas. Parts of the amendment areas contain very little vegetation and areas previously disturbed by mining activity. Borger, J and Radovic, D, (2017) also surveyed for signs of Malleefowl individuals or mounds during the vegetation survey. No evidence of Malleefowl individuals, footprints or active mounds were recorded. The vegetation types of the amendment area have moderate to high levels of disturbance and the vegetation types are well represented outside the proposed amendment area (Borger, J and Radovic, D, 2017). The clearing for the amendment area is relatively small, 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 reports CPS 6968/1 and CPS 6968/2.

**Methodology**

Borger, J and Radovic, D (2017)  
MBCContracting (2015)

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

**Comments**

There is one Native Title claim that has been lodged over the area under application (DPLAH, 2017). 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 (DPLAH, 2017). 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 Water and Environmental Regulation and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions 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 5 June 2017 by the Department of Mines and Petroleum inviting submissions from the public. There were no submissions received.

**Methodology**

DPLAH (2017)

### 4. References

DPLAH (2017) Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage.



<https://maps.daa.wa.gov.au/ahis/> (Accessed 3 July 2017).

Borger, J and Radovic, D (2017) Vegetation and Flora Survey of the Proposed Siberia Camp for Eastern Goldfields Limited. Jennifer Borger and Daniel Radovic, Perth, Western Australia, February 2017.

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.

MBCContracting (2015) Desktop Fauna Assessment, Proposed Clearing Envelope, Siberia Mine. Report prepared for Piacentini and Son Ltd by MBCContracting 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:

BoM	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government
DAA	Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia (now DPLH)
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (now DPIRD)
DBCA	Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (now DBCA and DWER)
DEE	Department of the Environment and Energy, Australian Government
DER	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia (now DWER)
DMIRS	Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Western Australia
DMP	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia (now DMIRS)
DPIRD	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia
DPLH	Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Western Australia
DRF	Declared Rare Flora
DoE	Department of the Environment, Australian Government (now DEE)
DoW	Department of Water, Western Australia (now DWER)
DPaW	Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia (now DBCA)
DSEWPaC	Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (now DEE)
DWER	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Western Australia
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia (now DWER)
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 (2017) Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora and Fauna. Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia}:-

**T** **Threatened species:**  
Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, 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).

**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.

**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.

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.

**CR** **Critically endangered species**  
Threatened species considered to be facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild. Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, in Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora.

**EN** **Endangered species**  
Threatened species considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild. Published as

Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, in Schedule 2 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora.

- VU Vulnerable species**  
Threatened species considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild. Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, in Schedule 3 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora.
- 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.



**Principles for clearing native vegetation:**

- (a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.
- (b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.
- (c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora.
- (d) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a threatened ecological community.
- (e) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.
- (f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.
- (g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.
- (h) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.
- (i) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.
- (j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.

