



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 7160/1
Permit Holder:	Robe River Mining Company Pty Ltd
Duration of Permit:	15 October 2016 – 15 October 2021

The Permit Holder is authorised to clear native vegetation subject to the following conditions of this Permit.

PART I – CLEARING AUTHORISED

1. Purpose for which clearing may be done

Clearing for the purpose of access tracks and associated activities.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Lot 506 on Deposited Plan 61847 (Reserve 30071), Millstream

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than one hectare of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 7160/1.

4. 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

5. 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:

- avoid the clearing of native vegetation;
- minimise the amount of native vegetation to be cleared; and
- reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.

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 *weeds*:

- clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
- ensure that no *weed*-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill* or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and
- restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.

DEFINITIONS

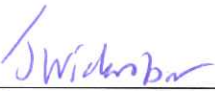
The following meanings are given to terms used in this Permit:

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;

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 Parks and Wildlife Regional Weed Rankings Summary, regardless of ranking; or
- (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.

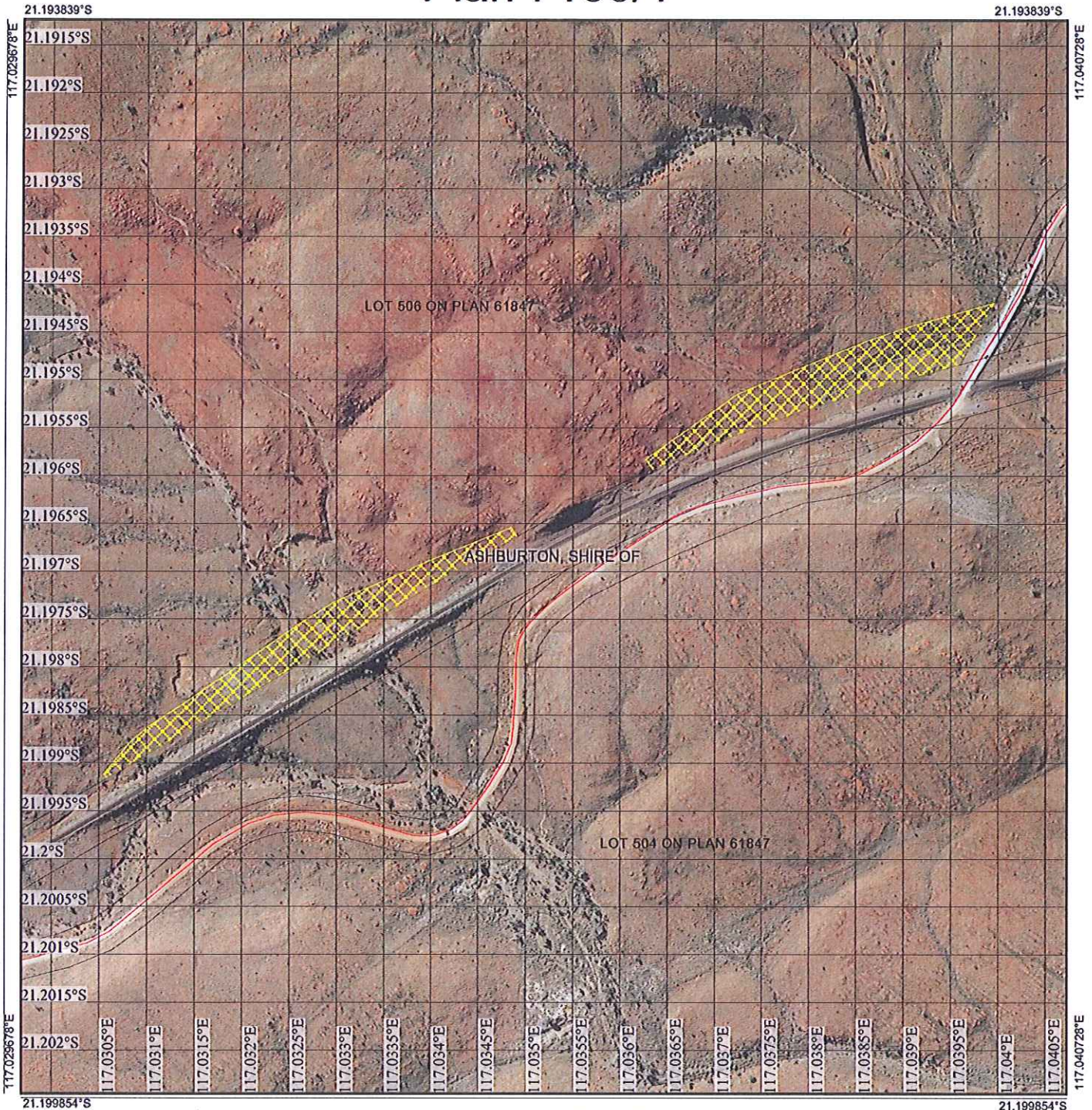


JAMES WIDEMBAR
MANAGER
CLEARING REGULATION

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

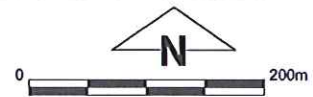
22 September 2016

Plan 7160/1



Legend

-  Roads
-  Imagery
-  Clearing Instruments Activities
-  Local Government Authority



1:6,077
 (Approximate when reproduced at A4)
 GDA 94 (Lat/Long)
 Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

[Signature] Date 22/9/16

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



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 WESTERN AUSTRALIA
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1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 7160/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Robe River Mining Company Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 506 ON PLAN 61847, MILLSTREAM
Colloquial name:
Local Government Authority: ASHBURTON, SHIRE OF
DER Region: North West
DPaW District: no district
LCDC: MILLSTREAM
Localities: MILLSTREAM

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
1		Mechanical Removal	Railway construction or maintenance

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted

Decision Date: 22 September 2016

Reasons for Decision: The clearing application has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with s51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, and the Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing is at variance to clearing principle (f), may be at variance to clearing principle (h) and is not likely to be at variance to any of the remaining clearing principles.

A minor watercourse is mapped within the application area. Given the completely degraded to degraded (Keighery 1994) condition of the vegetation within the application area that has previously been cleared, it is considered that the proposed clearing is unlikely to have any significant environmental impacts on the values of this watercourse.

Through assessment it has been determined that the proposed clearing may impact the environmental values of the Millstream Chichester National Park through the introduction or spread of weeds. Weed management measures will minimise impacts to this conservation area.

The Delegated Officer determined that the clearing is unlikely to have any significant environmental impacts. State policies and other relevant policies have been taken into consideration in the decision to grant a clearing permit.

2. Site Information

2.1. Existing environment and information

2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description	Clearing Description	Vegetation Condition	Comment
Mapped Beard vegetation association 152 is described as hummock grasslands, grass steppe; soft & hard spinifex soft spinifex (Shepherd et al., 2001).	The application proposes to clear one hectare of native vegetation within Lot 506 on Deposited Plan 61847, Reserve 30071, Millstream, for the purpose of access tracks and associated activities.	Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994) To	The condition and description of the vegetation within the application area was determined by photographs provided by the applicant.

Degraded; Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery, 1994).

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments The application is for the clearing of one hectare of native vegetation within a larger footprint of 3.3 hectares within Lot 506 on Deposited Plan 61847, Reserve 30071, Millstream, for the purpose of access tracks and associated activities.

The application area is considered to be in a completely degraded to degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition. The Department of Parks and Wildlife (Parks and Wildlife) advised that the area proposed to be cleared is:

- an area previously cleared for access (used during the construction of the rail) which has overgrown with native vegetation;
- the only route transversable to access this section of the rail for maintenance (all other access points have terrain which is too rough to run a track); and
- the track is in close proximity to the existing infrastructure corridor within the park (Parks and Wildlife, 2016).

The application area is located within Millstream Chichester National Park, the proposed clearing is likely to directly impact this conservation area through the direct removal of native vegetation. However, given the completely degraded to degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition the application area that has previously been cleared and is located adjacent to current rail infrastructure the proposed clearing is not likely to have a significant impact on the environmental values of this conservation area. The proposed clearing may indirectly impact the conservation area through the spread of weeds. Weed management practices will help mitigate this risk.

A minor watercourse is mapped within the application area and therefore the application area is considered to be growing in association with a watercourse. Given the completely degraded to degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the application area that has been previously cleared the proposed clearing is not likely to have a significant impact on the environmental values of this watercourse.

No threatened or priority ecological communities have been recorded close proximity of the application area. Given the completely degraded to degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the application area that has previously been cleared the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on rare or priority flora or significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.

The local area (10 kilometre radius) is highly vegetated (approximately 90 per cent vegetation cover) and given the relatively small application area (one hectare) in a completely degraded to degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition the proposed clearing is not likely to contribute to or cause land degradation, deteriorate the quality of ground water, cause or exacerbate flooding or be considered a significant remnant within an extensively cleared area.

Given the above the clearing as proposed, is at variance to Principle (f), may be at variance to Principle (h) and is not likely to be at variance to the remaining Clearing Principles.

Methodology References:
Keighery (1994)
Parks and Wildlife (2016)

GIS datasets:
Hydrography linear
NLWRA, Current Extent of Native Vegetation
Parks and Wildlife tenure
SAC Bio datasets accessed September 2016

Planning Instruments and other relevant matters.

Comments The Shire of Ashburton advised that they have reviewed the proposal and as a result has no objection to a clearing permit being issued (Shire of Ashburton, 2016).

No Aboriginal Sites of Significance have been mapped within the application area.

The clearing permit application was advertised on 25 July 2016 with a 21 day submission period. No public submissions were received in relation to this application during this time.

Methodology References:
Shire of Ashburton (2016)

4. References

- Department of Parks and Wildlife (Parks and Wildlife 2016) Advice for Clearing Permit Application CPS 7160/1. Department of Parks and Wildlife. Pilbara Region. Western Australia. DER Ref: A1163344
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Shepherd, D.P., Beeston, G.R. and Hopkins, A.J.M. (2001) Native Vegetation in Western Australia, Extent, Type and Status. Resource Management Technical Report 249. Department of Agriculture, Western Australia.
- Shire of Ashburton (2016) Advice for Clearing Permit Application CPS 7160/1. Western Australia. DER Ref: A1142515