

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 7244/4
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Silver Lake (Integra) Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: Mining Lease 28/43
Miscellaneous Licence 25/46
Local Government Area: City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
Colloquial name: Randall's Gold Project

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
250		Mechanical Removal	Mineral Production and Associated Activities

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 21 June 2018

2. Site Information

2.1. Existing environment and information

2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description Beard vegetation associations have been mapped for the whole of Western Australia. Seven Beard vegetation associations are located within the application area (GIS Database):

24: Low woodland; *Allocasuarina cristata*

481: Mosaic: Medium woodland; salmon gum and red mallee / Hummock grasslands, mallee steppe; red mallee over spinifex *Triodia scariosa*

501: Medium woodland; goldfields blackbutt

505: Low woodland; *Allocasuarina cristata* and eucalypts

506: Succulent steppe with woodland; salmon gum and bluebush

529: Succulent steppe with open low woodland; mulga and sheoak over bluebush

1241: Succulent steppe; bluebush

A flora and vegetation survey was undertaken on Miscellaneous Licence 25/46 (part of the application area) by Botanica Consulting on 27 November 2014 (Botanica Consulting, 2014). Eighteen vegetation units were recorded:

EsOW: *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* Open Woodland over *Eremophila oldfieldii* subsp. *angustifolia* Tall Open Shrubland over *Maireana pyramidata* Low Shrubland in ephemeral drainage line/floodplain.

EsWEgTM: *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* Woodland/*E. griffithsii* Tree Mallee over *Acacia quadrimarginea* Tall Open Shrubland over *Maireana pyramidata* and *Maireana sedifolia* Low Open Shrubland on quartz/ironstone rocky hillslope.

EsEmW: *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* ± *E. moderata* Woodland over *Maireana sedifolia*, *M. triptera*, *Atriplex nummularia* Low Open Shrubland over *Sclerolaena* spp., *Austrostipa* spp. and *Sida spodochroma* Scattered Grasses/Herbs on clay-loam plain.

Eg(Ec)TM: *Eucalyptus griffithsii* (± *E. celastroides*) Tree Mallee or Woodland over *Eremophila oldfieldii* subsp. *angustifolia* Tall Open Shrubland over *Maireana sedifolia* Low Open Shrubland on clay-loam plain.

EsW: *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* Woodland over *Dodonaea lobulata*, *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* and *Ptilotus obovatus* Low Shrubland in ephemeral drainage line.

CpW: *Casuarina pauper* Low Woodland over *Eremophila oldfieldii* subsp. *angustifolia* Tall Open Shrubland over *Maireana sedifolia* Low Shrubland.

CpOLWEgTM: *Casuarina pauper* Open Low Woodland and *E. griffithsii* Tree Mallee over *Acacia tetragonophylla*, *A. quadrimarginea* and *Eremophila alternifolia* Tall Open Shrubland over *Maireana sedifolia* Low Shrubland over *Austrostipa/Enneapogon* spp. Scattered Grasses on calccrete rocky hillslope.

AbEaTSL: *Acacia burkittii* ± *Eremophila alternifolia* Low Woodland to Tall Shrubland over *Dodonaea lobulata/Maireana triptera* and *M. sedifolia* Low Open Shrubland on low broad ridge.

EIEoW1: *Eucalyptus lesouefii* ± *E. oleosa* Woodland over *Eremophila interstans* subsp. *virgata* and *Maireana sedifolia* Low Open Shrubland on clay-loam plain.

EIEoW2: *Eucalyptus lesouefii* ± *E. oleosa* Woodland over *Eremophila scoparia*, *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* and *Maireana sedifolia* Low Open Shrubland on rocky hillslope.

CpLW: *Casuarina pauper* Low Woodland over *Eremophila alternifolia* and *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* Low Open Shrubland over *Maireana sedifolia* Low Shrubland on clay-loam plain.

AcEaLOW: *Acacia caesaneura* ± *Eremophila alternifolia* Low Open Woodland over *Maireana sedifolia*, *Maireana triptera* and *Ptilotus obovatus* Low Open Shrubland over *Enneapogon* spp. and *Austrostipa* spp. Scattered Grasses on clay-loam plain.

AcLOW: *Acacia caesaneura* Low Open Woodland over *A. tetragonophylla* ± *Eremophila alternifolia* Tall Open Shrubland over *Maireana pyramidata* Low Shrubland in ephemeral drainage line/floodplain.

AqLOW: *Acacia quadrimarginea* Low Open Woodland over *A. tetragonophylla* ± *Dodonaea lobulata* Tall Shrubland over *Maireana sedifolia* and *Ptilotus obovatus* Low Shrubland on broad ridge.

EeEgTM: *Eucalyptus ewartiana* ± *E. griffithsii* Tree Mallee over *A. tetragonophylla* ± *Dodonaea lobulata* Tall Shrubland over *Maireana sedifolia* and *Ptilotus obovatus* Low Shrubland on ironstone/quartz rocky hillslope.

AtEoTOS: *Acacia tetragonophylla* ± *Eremophila oldfieldii* subsp. *angustifolia* Tall Open Shrubland over *Maireana sedifolia* Low Shrubland over *Enneapogon caeruleascens* Scattered Grass in ephemeral drainage line/floodplain.

CpLWEgTM: *Casuarina pauper* Low Woodland/*Eucalyptus griffithsii* Tree Mallee over *Atriplex nummularia*, *Dodonaea lobulata* and *Ptilotus obovatus* Low Shrubland on quartz rocky hillslope.

MpTOS: *Myoporum platycarpum* Tall Open Shrubland over *Eremophila scoparia*, *Maireana sedifolia* and *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* Low Shrubland over *Austrostipa nitida* and *Enneapogon caeruleascens* Scattered Grasses on clay-loam plain.

A separate flora and vegetation survey was undertaken over Mining Lease 28/43 inclusive of the remaining part of the application area in May, June and October of 2012 (Outback Ecology Services, 2013). This survey was of a much larger area than the application area and as such, isolated vegetation mapping of the application area has not been provided.

Clearing Description	Randall's Gold Project Silver Lake (Integra) Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 250 hectares of native vegetation within a total boundary of approximately 947.14 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production. The project is located approximately 110 kilometres east of Kalgoorlie, in the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder.
Vegetation Condition	Excellent: Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Kieghery, 1994). To Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Kieghery, 1994).
Comment	The vegetation condition within the application area was determined during flora and vegetation surveys undertaken by Botanica Consulting (2014) and Outback Ecology Services (2013). Sections of the application area are considered to be degraded as a result of previous mining and exploration activity (Botanica Consulting, 2014; Outback Ecology Services, 2013). Clearing permit CPS 7244/1 was granted by the Department of Mines and Petroleum (now Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety) on 20 October 2016, authorising the clearing of up to 120 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 947.14 hectares for the purpose of mineral production. CPS 7244/1 was amended on 12 January 2017 to remove the requirement to use culverts to maintain existing surface flow when interfering with a watercourse or wetland, as the proponent is using other means to maintain surface flow. CPS 7244/2 was amended on 31 August 2017, increasing the amount of approved clearing by 80 hectares, to 200 hectares total. Silver Lake (Integra) Pty Ltd has applied to amend CPS 7244/3, for the purpose increasing the amount of approved clearing by 50 hectares, to 250 hectares total.

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments On 20 April 2018, Silver Lake (Integra) Pty Ltd applied to increase the area permitted to clear on Clearing Permit CPS 7244/2 from 200 hectares to 250 hectares. The permit boundary area will remain the same.

The amended application area is situated within the Eastern Goldfields subregion of the Coolgardie Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) bioregion (GIS Database). The vegetation is broadly described as Mallee's, Acacia thickets and shrubheaths on sandplains (CALM, 2002). Diverse Eucalyptus woodlands occur around salt lakes, on ranges, and in valleys and have been identified as having high species and ecosystem diversity (CALM, 2002).

As the proposed amendment is only for increasing the approved clearing amount and not the permit boundary, no additional vegetation communities will be impacted to those previously assessed in clearing permit applications CPS 7244/1, 7244/2 and 7244/3 (Outback Ecology Services, 2013; GIS Database). The vegetation associations identified within the application area are considered to be well represented in the surrounding area and are unlikely to act as significant habitat for fauna in the region (GIS Database, Government of Western Australia, 2015). The area has been disturbed to varying degrees by historical mining activity and drilling programs and a portion of the application is degraded vegetation (Botanica Consulting, 2014; Outback Ecology Services, 2013).

No Threatened flora, Threatened Ecological Communities, Priority flora, Priority Ecological Communities or significant fauna have been identified within the proposed amendment (Outback Ecology Services, 2013; GIS Database).

The proposed amendment is not likely to have any significant environmental impacts above those already assessed under Clearing Permit CPS 7244/1. Therefore, the assessment against the clearing principles has not changed and can be found in clearing permit decision reports CPS 7244/1, 7244/2 and 7244/3.

Methodology Botanica Consulting (2014)
CALM (2002)
Government of Western Australia (2016)
Outback Ecology Services (2013)

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

Comments: There are no Native Title Claims over the area under application (Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, 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 that intersect with the application area (Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, 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 Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions and the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, 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 amendment application was advertised on 7 May 2018 by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received.

Methodology: DPLH (2018)

4. References

- Botanica Consulting (2014) Level 1 Flora and Vegetation Survey for the Proposed Harrys Hill to Santa Haul Road. Report prepared for Silver Lake Resources (Integra) Pty Ltd, by Botanica Consulting, January 2013.
- DPLH (2018) Aboriginal Heritage Enquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage.
<http://maps.daa.wa.gov.au/AHIS/> (Accessed 11 June 2018).
- Government of Western Australia (2016) 2016 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). WA Department of Environment and Conservation, Perth.
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Outback Ecology Services (2013) Silver Lake Resources Randall's Gold Project. Level 2 Flora and Vegetation Survey. Report prepared for Silver Lake Resources (Integra) Pty Ltd, by Outback Ecology Services, January 2013.

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
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 <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). 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 <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.
EN	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.
VU	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.

- 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.