



# Clearing Permit Decision Report

## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 7402/3  
Permit type: Purpose Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Mincor Resources NL

### 1.3. Property details

Property: Mining Lease 15/48  
Mining Lease 15/94  
Mining Lease 15/103  
Mining Lease 15/105  
Mining Lease 15/478  
Mining Lease 15/1830  
Local Government Area: Shire of Coolgardie  
Colloquial name: Widgiemooltha Project

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
543.23		Mechanical Removal	Mineral Production

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant  
Decision Date: 19 April 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. One Beard vegetation association has been mapped within the application area (GIS Database).

9: Medium woodland; Coral gum (*E. torquata*) & goldfields blackbutt (*E. lesouefii*).

A Level 2 flora and vegetation survey of the application area was conducted by Botanica Consulting (2016) in October 2016. This survey identified the following seven vegetation associations:

#### Clay-Loam Plain

##### Eucalypt Woodlands

CLP-EW1: Open low woodland of *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* over low scrub of *Eremophila scoparia*/ *Exocarpos aphyllus* and dwarf scrub of *Atriplex vesicaria* on clay-loam plain.

CLP-EW2: Low woodland of *Eucalyptus lesouefii* over low scrub of *Eremophila interstans*/ *Eremophila scoparia* and dwarf scrub of *Atriplex vesicaria*/ *Tecticornia disarticulata* on clay-loam plain.

CLP-EW3: Low forest of *Eucalyptus ravida* over low scrub of *Eremophila dempsteri*/ *Eremophila interstans* and low heath of *Atriplex vesicaria*/ *Tecticornia disarticulata* on clay-loam plain.

#### Rocky Hillslope

##### Acacia Forests and Woodlands

RH-AFW1: Thicket of *Acacia burkittii*/ *Acacia collegialis* over heath of *Prostanthera grylloana*/ *Thryptomene australis* and mixed dwarf scrub on greenstone hill.

##### Eucalypt Woodlands

RH-EW1: Low woodland of *Eucalyptus lesouefii* over heath of *Dodonaea lobulata*/ *Santalum acuminatum* and low scrub of *Eremophila caerulea*/ *Westringia rigida* on greenstone hill.

RH-EW2: Low woodland of *Eucalyptus lesouefii* over shrub mallee of *Eucalyptus griffithsii* and mixed low heath on greenstone hill.

RH-EW3: Low woodland of *Eucalyptus torquata* over heath of *Acacia hemiteles*/ *Allocasuarina helmsii* and low scrub of *Dodonaea stenozyga*/ *Westringia rigida* on greenstone hill.

Clearing Description: Widgiemooltha Project

Mincor Resources NL is proposing to clear up to 543.23 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 543.23 hectares for the purposes of mineral production. The project is located approximately 25 kilometres south of Kambalda within the Shire of Widgiemooltha.

**Vegetation Condition** Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994);

To:

Very Good: Vegetation structure altered, obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery, 1994).

**Comment** Clearing permit CPS 7402/1 was granted by the Department of Mines and Petroleum (Now Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety) on 23 February 2017. The clearing permit authorised the clearing of 481.4 hectares of native vegetation within a total boundary of 481.4 hectares for the purpose of mineral production.

CPS 7402/1 was amended on 25 May 2017, for the purpose of increasing the permit boundary and the amount of authorised clearing by 4.56 hectares, and to include Mining Lease 15/1830.

Mincor Resources NL has applied to amend CPS 7402/2, for the purpose of increasing the permit boundary and the amount of approved clearing.

### 3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

#### Comments

This amendment is to increase the permit boundary and amount of authorised clearing by 57.27 hectares to a total of 543.23 hectares.

The amended application boundary does not intersect any additional vegetation communities to those present within the previous permit area (Botanica Consulting, 2016; GIS Database).

No Threatened flora, Threatened Ecological Communities, Priority flora, Priority Ecological Communities or significant fauna have been identified within the amended boundary area (Botanica Consulting, 2016; GIS Database). The landforms and habitat found within the amended application area are considered as being well represented in the local region (Botanica Consulting, 2016).

The climate of the region is arid to semi-arid, with approximately 200 to 300 millimetres of rainfall, sometimes in summer but usually in winter, per year (BoM, 2018). Drainage lines in the area are dry for most of the year, only flowing briefly immediately following significant rainfall (Botanica Consulting, 2016). Temporary localised flooding may occur during heavy rainfall events. However, the proposed clearing is unlikely to increase the incidence or intensity of natural flooding events. Any surface water within the application area is likely to only remain for short periods following significant rainfall events. The proposed clearing is not likely to cause deterioration in the quality of any surface water within or outside of the application area.

The proposed amendment is not likely to have any significant environmental impacts above those already assessed under Clearing Permit CPS 7402/1 and 7402/2.

#### Methodology

BoM (2018)  
Botanica Consulting (2016)

GIS Database:

- Threatened and Priority Fauna
- Threatened and Priority Flora
- Threatened Ecological Sites Buffered

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

#### Comments

There are no Native Title claims over the area under application (DPLH, 2018). 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 (DPLH, 2018). 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 amended application was advertised on 26 February 2018 by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety inviting submissions from the public. There were no submissions received.

#### 4. References

- BoM (2018) Bureau of Meteorology Website - Climate statistics for Australian locations, Newman Aero. <[http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/averages/tables/cw\\_012018.shtml](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/averages/tables/cw_012018.shtml)> (Accessed 26 March 2018).
- Botanica Consulting (2016) Flora and Fauna Assessment Widgiemootha Project for Mincor Resources NL - Supporting Information for the Native Vegetation Clearing Permit Application - Purpose Permit. Unpublished report prepared by Botanica Consulting, December 2016.
- DPLH (2018) Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. <https://maps.daa.wa.gov.au/ahis/> (Accessed 26 March 2018).
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

#### 5. Glossary

##### Acronyms:

<b>BoM</b>	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government
<b>DAA</b>	Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia (now DPLAH)
<b>DAFWA</b>	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (now DPIRD)
<b>DBCA</b>	Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia
<b>DEC</b>	Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (now DBCA and DWER)
<b>DotEE</b>	Department of the Environment and Energy, Australian Government
<b>DER</b>	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia (now DWER)
<b>DMIRS</b>	Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Western Australia
<b>DMP</b>	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia (now DMIRS)
<b>DPIRD</b>	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia
<b>DPLAH</b>	Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Western Australia
<b>DRF</b>	Declared Rare Flora
<b>DoE</b>	Department of the Environment, Australian Government (now DotEE)
<b>DoW</b>	Department of Water, Western Australia (now DWER)
<b>DPaW</b>	Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia (now DBCA)
<b>DWER</b>	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Western Australia
<b>EPA</b>	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
<b>EP Act</b>	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia
<b>EPBC Act</b>	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Federal Act)
<b>GIS</b>	Geographical Information System
<b>ha</b>	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
<b>IBRA</b>	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
<b>IUCN</b>	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – commonly known as the World Conservation Union
<b>PEC</b>	Priority Ecological Community, Western Australia
<b>RIWI Act</b>	<i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> , Western Australia
<b>TEC</b>	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.