GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 (WA)(CI)

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 7585/1
Permit Holder:	Acker Pty Ltd
Duration of Permit:	23 July 2017 – 23 July 2022

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 limestone extraction.

2. **Land on which clearing is to be done**
   Mining Lease MCI 70/2

3. **Area of Clearing**
   The Permit Holder must not clear more than 1.5 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross hatched yellow on attached Plan 7585/1.

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. **Weed control**
   When undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder must take the following steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *weeds*:
   (a) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
   (b) ensure that no *weed*-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill* or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and
   (c) 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.

S. Weighell

Simon Weighell
A/MANAGER
CLEARING REGULATION

Officer delegated under Section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

23 June 2017

Plan 7585/1

Legend

- Cadastre
- Areas approved to clear
  Cl_2011_orth
- LGA

N

1:2,812

MGA 94
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

S. Weightell ..... Date 23/6/17
SIMON WEIGHTELL
Officer with delegated authoriy under Section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Government of Western Australia
Department of Environment Regulation

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 7585/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Acker Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: UNALLOCATED CROWN LAND, CHRISTMAS ISLAND
Local Government Authority: SHIRE OF CHRISTMAS ISLAND

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
1.5		Mechanical Removal	Extractive industry

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted
Decision Date: 23 June 2017
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 (WA) (CI)*, and it has been concluded that the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to any of the clearing principles.

Through assessment it has been determined that the clearing is unlikely to have any significant environmental impacts.

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
The application area consists of Regrowth and Semi-deciduous Forest/Scrub (Geoscience Australia, 2014; Range to Reef, 2017).	The applicant proposes to clear 1.5 hectares of native vegetation within Mining Lease MCI 70/2, Christmas Island, for the purpose of limestone extraction.	Completely Degraded; No longer intact, completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994). To Degraded; Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery, 1994).	Five vegetation types were identified within the mining lease (Range to Reef, 2017). • Semi deciduous forest 10-15 metres • Semi deciduous thicket/ low closed forest 8-12 metres • Exotic thicket 1-4 metres • Exotic thicket/ shrubland 2-4 metres • Exotic grasses and herbs Of these five vegetation types listed above only the last three are proposed to be cleared.

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments The applicant proposes to clear 1.5 hectares of native vegetation within Mining Lease MCI 70/2, Christmas Island, for the purpose of limestone extraction. The application area is located adjacent to an existing quarry and is highly degraded and impacted by previous clearing, weed encroachment and compaction (Range to Reef, 2017).

A flora and vegetation field investigation was undertaken on 18 February 2016 and identified 56 flora taxa from 32 families within the survey area. The survey area included the application area and other areas of the mining lease. Of the 56 taxa 25 were native, including four endemic species and 31 (55 per cent) were introduced (Range to Reef, 2017). Twelve native species were identified within the application area (Range to Reef, 2017).

Four conservation significant fauna species were observed near the application area. These were the Christmas Island thrush (*Turdus poliocephalus erythropleurus*), Christmas Island white eye (*Zosterops natalis*), red crab (*Gecarcoidea natalis*) and robber crab (*Birgus latro*) (Range to Reef, 2017). Given the relatively small application area and it's completely degraded to degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition, it is not likely to contain significant habitat for indigenous fauna.

Christmas Island is home to three flora species listed as threatened under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The closest record of threatened flora is mapped approximately 110 metres from the application area (Parks Australia, 2017). This buffer should be sufficient to ensure that this species is not disturbed by the proposed clearing.

No priority or threatened ecological communities have been recorded on Christmas Island.

Christmas Island retains approximately 75 per cent native vegetation, of which 84 per cent (63 per cent of total island area) is protected as National Park. Therefore, the application area is not a significant remnant in an area which has been extensively cleared.

The application area does not include any watercourses or wetlands. Perennial surface water features on Christmas Island are limited to spring fed streams on coastal or sloping areas of the island. Given this, the proposed clearing will not impact upon the quality of surface water.

The soil and underlying limestone rock on Christmas Island is very porous and therefore the proposed clearing is not likely to cause appreciable land degradation in the form of water erosion.

The application area is located adjacent to Christmas Island National Park. The disturbance caused by the proposed clearing will increase the risk of weeds being spread into the National Park. Weed management practices will assist in minimising this risk.

The proposed clearing will not increase the incidence or intensity of flooding due to the porous nature of the soils and the underlying rock structures.

Given the above the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to any of the clearing principles.

Methodology

References:
Keighery (1994)
Parks Australia (2017)
Range to Reef (2017)

Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

Comments

Mining Lease MCI 70/2 was granted in September 2015.

The application was advertised on the Department of Environment Regulation's website on 24 May 2017, in *The West Australian* on 29 May 2017 and in *The Islander* on 26 May 2017. No public submissions were received.

4. References

Geoscience Australia (2014) Christmas Island Vegetation and Clearing Map. (May 2014). (P. b. Environment, Compiler) Canberra, Canberra: Geoscience Australia.

Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

Parks Australia (2017) Advice for Clearing Permit Application CPS 7585/1. Received on 16 June 2017 (DER Ref: A1454867).

Range to Reef (2017) Flora and Vegetation Assessment Acker Quarry Mining Lease MCI 70/2. Prepared for Acker Pty Ltd. May 2017 (DER Ref: A1424690).