



## CLEARING PERMIT

*Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986*

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Purpose Permit number:</b> | CPS 7946/2                             |
| <b>Permit Holder:</b>         | Subsea 7 Australia Contracting Pty Ltd |
| <b>Duration of Permit:</b>    | 2 May 2018 to 2 May 2028               |

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 subterranean fauna sampling, geotechnical investigations and access tracks.

#### **2. Land on which clearing is to be done**

Lot 234 on Plan 193858, Learmonth  
Lot 233 on Plan 219618, Learmonth  
Lot 253 on Plan 219249, Exmouth Gulf  
Lot 1586 on Plan 72986, Exmouth Gulf

#### **3. Area of Clearing**

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 8 hectares of native vegetation within the area shaded yellow on attached Plan 7946/2.

#### **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.

#### **5. Period in which clearing is authorised**

The Permit Holder shall not clear any native vegetation after 2 May 2023.

#### **6. Type of clearing authorised**

This Permit authorises the Permit Holder to clear native vegetation for activities to the extent that the Permit Holder has the right to access land under the *Land Administration Act 1997* or any other written law.

### **PART II – MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS**

#### **7. Avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and extent of 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.

## 8. 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*:

- (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.

## 9. Retain vegetative material and topsoil, revegetation and rehabilitation

The Permit Holder shall:

- (a) retain the vegetative material and topsoil removed by clearing authorised under this Permit and stockpile the vegetative material and topsoil in an area that has already been cleared.
- (b) at an *optimal time* following clearing authorised under this Permit, *revegetate* and *rehabilitate* the area(s) that are not required to remain cleared by:
  - (i) re-shaping the surface of the land so that it is consistent with the surrounding 5 metres of uncleared land; and
  - (ii) ripping the ground on the contour to remove soil compaction; and
  - (iii) laying the vegetative material and topsoil retained under condition 9(a) on the cleared area(s).

## 10. Flora management

- (a) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder shall engage a *botanist* to inspect the Permit Area for the presence of *priority flora*; and
- (b) Where *priority flora* is identified under Condition 10(a) of this Permit, the Permit Holder shall ensure that no clearing of priority flora occurs.

## PART III – MONITORING, RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

### 11. Records to be kept

The Permit Holder must maintain the following records for activities done pursuant to this Permit:

- (a) In relation to the clearing of native vegetation authorised under this Permit:
  - (i) the location where the clearing occurred, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;
  - (ii) the date that the area was cleared;
  - (iii) the size of the area cleared (in hectares);
  - (iv) actions taken to avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing in accordance with condition 7 of this Permit; and
  - (v) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *weeds* in accordance with condition 8 of this Permit.
- (b) In relation to the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* of areas pursuant to condition 9 of this Permit:
  - (i) the location of any areas *revegetated* and *rehabilitated*, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;
  - (ii) a description of the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* activities undertaken; and
  - (iii) the size of the area *revegetated* and *rehabilitated* (in hectares).
- (c) In relation to flora management pursuant to condition 10 of this Permit:
  - (i) the location of each *priority flora* species recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees; and
  - (ii) the name of each *priority flora* species identified.

## 12. Reporting

- (a) The Permit Holder must provide to the CEO on or before 30 June of each year, a written report:
  - (i) of records required under condition 11 of this Permit; and
  - (ii) concerning activities done by the Permit Holder under this Permit between 1 January to 31 December of the preceding calendar year.
- (b) If no clearing authorised under this Permit was undertaken between 1 January to 31 December of the preceding calendar year, a written report confirming that no clearing under this permit has been carried out, must be provided to the CEO on or before 30 June of each year.
- (c) Prior to 2 February 2028, the Permit Holder must provide to the CEO a written report of records required under condition 11 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under condition 12(a) of this Permit.

## DEFINITIONS

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

**botanist:** means a person who holds a tertiary qualification in environmental science or equivalent, and has a minimum of 2 years work experience in identification and surveys of flora native to the bioregion being inspected or surveyed, or who is approved by the CEO as a suitable botanist for the bioregion;

**direct seeding** means a method of re-establishing vegetation through the establishment of a seed bed and the introduction of seeds of the desired plant species;

**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;

**local provenance** means native vegetation seeds and propagating material from natural sources within 100 kilometres and the same Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) subregion of the area cleared.

**optimal time** means the period November to December for undertaking *planting*;

**planting** means the re-establishment of vegetation by creating favourable soil conditions and planting seedlings of the desired species;

**priority flora** means those plant taxa described as priority flora classes 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 in the *Department of Parks and Wildlife's Threatened and Priority Flora List for Western Australia* (as amended);

**regenerate/ed/ion** means re-establishment of vegetation from in situ seed banks and propagating material (such as lignotubers, bulbs, rhizomes) contained either within the topsoil or seed-bearing *mulch*;

**rehabilitate/ed/ion** means actively managing an area containing native vegetation in order to improve the ecological function of that area;

**revegetate/ed/ion** means the re-establishment of a cover of *local provenance* native vegetation in an area using methods such as natural *regeneration*, *direct seeding* and/or *planting*, so that the species composition, structure and density is similar to pre-clearing vegetation types in that area;

**weeds/s** mean 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.



Digitally signed by  
Adrian Wiley  
Date: 2018.08.16  
17:09:14 +08'00'

Adrian Wiley  
SENIOR MANAGER  
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

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

16 August 2018