



## CLEARING PERMIT

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

<b>Purpose Permit number:</b>	8087/2
<b>Duration of Permit:</b>	From 8 September 2018 to 7 September 2023
<b>Permit Holder:</b>	Big Bell Gold Operations Pty Ltd

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

### **PART I - CLEARING AUTHORISED**

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

Mining Lease 20/17  
Mining Lease 20/21  
Mining Lease 20/22  
Mining Lease 20/78  
Mining Lease 20/99  
Mining Lease 20/102  
Mining Lease 20/103  
Mining Lease 20/104  
Mining Lease 20/171  
Mining Lease 20/192  
Mining Lease 20/202  
Mining Lease 20/218  
Mining Lease 20/252  
Mining Lease 20/256  
Mining Lease 20/297  
Mining Lease 20/299  
Mining Lease 20/301  
Mining Lease 20/332  
Mining Lease 20/354  
Mining Lease 20/456  
Mining Lease 21/7  
Mining Lease 21/14  
Mining Lease 21/44  
Mining Lease 21/49  
Mining Lease 21/65  
Mining Lease 21/75  
Mining Lease 21/89  
Mining Lease 21/96  
Miscellaneous Licence 20/21  
Miscellaneous Licence 20/40

#### **2. Purpose for which clearing may be done**

Clearing for the purposes of mineral production and associated activities.

### 3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 319 hectares of native vegetation. All clearing must be within the areas cross-hatched yellow or shaded yellow on attached Plans 8087/2A, 8087/2B and 8087/2C.

### 4. Clearing not Authorised

The Permit Holder shall not clear any native vegetation within the areas shaded red on attached Plans 8087/2B and 8087/2C.

### 5. Staged Clearing

The Permit Holder shall not clear native vegetation unless the purpose for which the clearing is authorised is enacted within 3 months of the clearing being undertaken.

### 6. 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

### 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:

- (a) avoid the clearing of native vegetation;
- (b) minimise the amount of native vegetation to be cleared; and
- (c) 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*:

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

### 9. Fauna Management - Malleefowl

Where clearing authorised under this Permit is to occur between 1 September and 31 January, the Permit Holder shall:

- (a) Within two weeks prior to undertaking any clearing, engage a *fauna specialist* to conduct an inspection of the area to be cleared to identify *active (in use) Malleefowl (Leipoa ocellata) mounds*.
- (b) Where an *active (in use) Malleefowl mound* is identified under Condition 9(a) of this Permit, the Permit Holder shall ensure that no clearing occurs within 50 metres of the mound, during the months of September through to January, unless first approved by the *CEO*.

### 10. Fauna Management

- (a) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the areas shall be inspected by a *fauna specialist* who shall identify habitat suitable to be utilised by *Egernia stokesii badia* (Western Spiny-tailed Skink).
- (b) Prior to clearing, any habitat identified pursuant to Condition 10(a) shall be inspected by a *fauna specialist* for the presence of fauna listed in Condition 10(a).
- (c) Where fauna are identified pursuant to Condition 10(b) of this Permit, the Permit Holder shall ensure that:
  - (i) no clearing of the identified habitat occurs, unless first approved by the *CEO*; and
  - (ii) no clearing occurs within 50 metres of the identified habitat unless first approved by the *CEO*.

## 11. Vegetation management – watercourse and drainage line surface flow

- (a) where practicable the Permit Holder shall avoid clearing *riparian vegetation*; and
- (b) where a *watercourse* or *wetland* is to be impacted by clearing, the Permit Holder shall maintain the existing surface flow.

## **PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING**

### 12. 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); and
  - (iv) purpose for which clearing was undertaken.
- (b) Actions taken to avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and the extent of clearing in accordance with Condition 7 of this Permit.
- (c) Actions taken to minimise the introduction and spread of *weeds* in accordance with Condition 8 of this Permit.
- (d) In relation to fauna management pursuant to Condition 9 of this Permit, the location of each *Leipoa ocellata* (Malleefowl) mound 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.
- (e) In relation to fauna management pursuant to Condition 10 of this Permit, the location of habitat suitable for *Egernia stokesii badia* (Western Spiny-tailed Skink) 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.

### 13. Reporting

- (a) The Permit Holder shall provide a report to the *CEO* by 1 October each year for the life of this Permit, demonstrating adherence to all conditions of this Permit, and setting out the records required under Condition 12 of this Permit in relation to clearing carried out between 1 July and 30 June of the previous financial year.
- (b) Prior to 7 September 2023, the Permit Holder must provide to the *CEO* a written report of records required under Condition 12 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under Condition 13(a) of this Permit.

## **DEFINITIONS**

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

*active (in use) Malleefowl mound* means a mound with evidence of current Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) activity, such as: working of the mound; scratching; litter trails leading to the mound; or loose uncompacted surfaces. The form and structure of the mound will show that it is currently being prepared for egg laying or it already contains eggs;

*CEO* means the Chief Executive Officer of the Department responsible for administering the clearing provisions contained within the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* or an Officer with delegated authority under Section 20 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*;

*fauna specialist* means a person who holds a tertiary qualification specialising in environmental science or equivalent, and has a minimum of 2 years work experience in fauna identification and surveys of fauna native to the region being inspected or surveyed, or who is approved by the *CEO* as a suitable fauna specialist for the bioregion, and who holds a valid fauna licence issued under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*;

*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;

*riparian vegetation* has the meaning given to it in Regulation 3 of the Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004;

*watercourse* has the meaning given to it in section 3 of the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*;

*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 Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions Regional Weed Rankings Summary, regardless of ranking; or
- (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.

*wetland* means an area of seasonally, intermittently or permanently waterlogged or inundated land, whether natural or otherwise, and includes a lake, swamp, marsh, spring, dampland, tidal flat or estuary.



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Dan Endacott  
General Manager Environmental Compliance  
Resource and Environmental Compliance Division  
30 July 2020

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