

## **CLEARING PERMIT**

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

**Purpose Permit number:** 8207/1

**Duration of Permit:** From 29 December 2018 to 30 September 2033

**Permit Holder:** AWE Perth 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

Production Licence L 4

Production Licence L 5

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

Clearing for the purpose of maintenance of petroleum production infrastructure and associated activities.

#### 3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 15 hectares of native vegetation. All clearing must be within the areas cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 8207/1.

### 4. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder shall not clear any native vegetation within the areas shaded red on attached Plan 8207/1.

### 5. Period in which clearing is authorised

The Permit Holder shall not clear any native vegetation after 30 September 2028.

### 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. Dieback and 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* and *dieback*:

- (i) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
- (ii) ensure that no *dieback* or *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.

### 8. Flora Management

- (a) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder shall engage a botanist to conduct a targeted flora survey of the Permit Area for the presence of the following rare flora listed in the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice*:
  - (i) Eremophila glabra subsp. chlorella (Gand.) Chinnock;
- (b) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder shall provide the results of the targeted flora survey in a report to the *CEO*.
- (c) Where rare flora are identified under Condition 8(a) of this Permit, the Permit Holder shall ensure that: (i) no clearing of critical habitat of the identified rare flora occurs, unless first approved by the *CEO*.

# 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) prior to 30 September 2029, *revegetate* and *rehabilitate* the areas that are no longer required for the purpose for which they were cleared under this Permit by:
  - (i) ripping the ground on the contour to remove soil compaction; and
  - (ii) laying the vegetative material and topsoil retained under Condition 9(a) on the cleared area.
- (c) within 4 years of undertaking *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* in accordance with Condition 9(b) of this Permit:
  - (i) engage an *environmental specialist* to determine the species composition, structure and density of the area *revegetated* and *rehabilitated*; and
  - (ii) where, in the opinion of an environmental specialist, the composition structure and density determined under Condition 9(c)(i) of this Permit will not result in a similar species composition, structure and density to that of pre-clearing vegetation types in that area, revegetate the area by deliberately planting and/or direct seeding native vegetation that will result in a similar species composition, structure and density of native vegetation to pre-clearing vegetation types in that area and ensuring only local provenance seeds and propagating material are used.
- (d) where additional *planting* or *direct seeding* of native vegetation is undertaken in accordance with Condition 9(c)(ii) of this permit, the Permit Holder shall repeat Condition 9(c)(i) and 9(c)(ii) within 24 months of undertaking the additional *planting* or *direct seeding* of native vegetation.
- (e) where a determination by an *environmental specialist* that the composition, structure and density within areas *revegetated* and *rehabilitated* will result in a similar species composition, structure and density to that of pre-clearing vegetation types in that area, as determined in Condition 9(c)(i) and (ii) of this permit, that determination shall be submitted for the *CEO*'s consideration. If the *CEO* does not agree with the determination made under Condition 9(c)(ii), the *CEO* may require the Permit Holder to undertake additional *planting* and *direct seeding* in accordance with the requirements under Condition 9(c)(ii).

# PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

### 10. 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) In relation to the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* of areas pursuant to Condition 9 of this Permit:
  - 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).

#### 11. Reporting

- (a) The Permit Holder shall provide a report to the General Manager Environmental Compliance, Resource and Environmental Compliance Division, Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety 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 10 of this permit in relation to clearing carried out between 1 July and 30 June of the previous financial year.
- (b) Prior to 30 September 2033, the Permit Holder must provide to the General Manager Environmental Compliance, Resource and Environmental Compliance Division, Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety a written report of records required under Condition 10 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under Condition 11(a) of this Permit.

#### **DEFINITIONS**

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

*CEO* means the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation or an officer with delegated authority under Section 20 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*;

dieback means the effect of Phytophthora species on native vegetation;

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;

*environmental specialist* means a person who holds a tertiary qualification in environmental science or equivalent, and has experience relevant to the type of environmental advice that an environmental specialist is required to provide under this Permit, or who is approved by the *CEO* as a suitable environmental specialist;

fill means material used to increase the ground level, or fill a hollow;

*local provenance* means native vegetation seeds and propagating material from natural sources within 200 kilometres and the same Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) subregion of the area cleared;

*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;

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

regeneration means revegetation that can be established from in situ seed banks 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;

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.

**Daniel Endacott** 

General Manager Environmental Compliance Resource and Environmental Compliance Division 06 December 2018

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