



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 8464/2
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Greenmount Resources Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: Miscellaneous Licence 52/189
Miscellaneous Licence 52/192
Miscellaneous Licence 52/197
Local Government Area: Shire of Meekatharra
Colloquial name: Karlawinda Gold Project

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
425		Mechanical Removal	Gas Pipeline and Associated Infrastructure

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 16 January 2020

2. Site Information

2.1. Existing environment and information

2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation associations:
29: Sparse low woodland; mulga, discontinuous in scattered groups; and
178: Hummock grasslands, grass steppe; hard spinifex, *Triodia basedowii* (GIS Database).

A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application and broader area during March 2018. The following vegetation associations were recorded within the application area (Morgan, 2018):

Vegetation of the plains – sparse vegetation on hardpan plain

1. *Eremophila rigida*, (*Senna artemisioides* subsp. *helmsii*, *Senna glaucifolia*, *Solanum lasiophyllum*, *Ptilotus obovatus* var. *obovatus*, *Eremophila incisa*) scattered shrubs to low open shrubland over *Aristida contorta* scattered grasses;
2. Sparsely scattered shrubs that typically include some combination of *Acacia aptaneura*, *Acacia pteraneura*, *Acacia subcontorta*, *Acacia rhodophloia* and *Eremophila galeata* over scattered low shrubs that included some combination of *Eremophila incisa*, *Eremophila exilifolia*, *Eremophila flaccida*, *Eremophila jucunda* subsp. *pulcherrima*, *Senna glaucifolia*, *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *helmsii* and *Ptilotus obovatus* subsp. *obovatus* over *Aristida contorta* scattered grasses to very open grassland;

Vegetation of the plains – areas of 'groves' and 'sand sheet' vegetation

3. *Acacia ?aptaneura*, *Acacia catenulata* subsp. *occidentalis*, (*Corymbia hamersleyana*) low woodland over *Psychdrax latifolia* scattered tall shrubs over *Eremophila forrestii* subsp. *forrestii*, *Sida ?ectogama* scattered shrubs to open shrubland;
4. *Acacia catenulata* subsp. *occidentalis*, *Acacia aneura*, *Acacia aptaneura*, *Grevillea berryana* low woodland to low open forest over *Psychdrax latifolia* scattered tall shrubs over *Eremophila forrestii* subsp. *forrestii*, *Sida ?ectogama* open shrubland over *Thyridolepis xerophila* scattered grasses to very open tussock grassland;
5. *Acacia pruinocarpa*, (*Acacia pteraneura*, *Acacia paraneura*, *Acacia aneura*) low open forest over *Eremophila galeata* scattered tall shrubs to tall open shrubland over *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *helmsii* scattered shrubs;
6. *Acacia aptaneura*, *Acacia paraneura*, *Acacia pteraneura* low open woodland to low woodland over *Eremophila forrestii* subsp. *forrestii* open shrubland over *Triodia schinzii* hummock grassland;
7. *Acacia aneura*, *Acacia aptaneura*, *Acacia ayersiana* low woodland over *Eremophila forrestii* subsp. *forrestii* shrubland over *Eragrostis eriopoda* scattered grasses;

8. *Acacia incurvaneura*, (*Grevillea berryana*) low open woodland over *Acacia subcontorta* scattered tall shrubs over *Eremophila forrestii* subsp. *forrestii* shrubland over *Eragrostis eriopoda* scattered grasses and *Triodia vanleeuwenii* scattered hummock grasses (small patches);

Vegetation of drainage areas

9. *Acacia aptaneura*, *Acacia citrinoviridis*, (*Acacia pteraneura*, *Acacia pruinocarpa*) low woodland over *Acacia tetragonophylla*, *Psydrax latifolia* scattered tall shrubs over *Eriachne flaccida*, *Themeda triandra* scattered tall grasses;
10. *Acacia aptaneura*, *Acacia paraneura*, (and or *Acacia citrinoviridis*, *Acacia catenulata* subsp. *occidentalis*, *Acacia pteraneura* in less prominent flow areas) low woodland over *Acacia tetragonophylla*, *Eremophila galeata* scattered tall shrubs to tall open shrubland over *Eriachne flaccida*, (*Eragrostis cumingii*) grassland;
11. *Acacia aptaneura*, (*Corymbia candida* subsp. *dipsodes*) low woodland over scattered shrubs over *Eriachne flaccida*, *Aristida ?inaequiglumis* (sterile) grassland; and
12. *Eriachne flaccida* closed grasslands.

Clearing Description	Karlawinda Gold Project. Greenmount Resources Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 425 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 1,118 hectares, for the purpose of a gas pipeline and associated infrastructure. The project is located approximately 55 kilometres south of Newman, within the Shire of Meekatharra.
Vegetation Condition	Excellent: Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery, 1994). To Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery, 1994).
Comment	The vegetation condition was initially described in the vegetation survey conducted in 2018 (Morgan, 2018). The vegetation condition scale was rated using the Trudgen scale (Morgan, 2018; Trudgen, 1988), and has been converted to the Keighery scale (Keighery, 1994). The proposed linear area of clearing is for the construction of a gas pipeline approximately 52 kilometres long, and associated infrastructure including borrow pits and an access road. The new pipeline will run from the existing Goldfields Gas Pipeline to the Karlawinda Gold Project site (Tetris, 2019). Clearing permit CPS 8464/1 was granted by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety on 30 May 2019 and was valid from 22 June 2019 to 21 June 2024. The permit authorised the clearing of up to 200 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 1,118 hectares, for the purpose of a gas pipeline and associated infrastructure. Greenmount Resources Pty Ltd has applied to amend CPS 8464/1 to increase the amount of clearing to 425 hectares. The permit boundary will remain unchanged.

3. Assessment of application against Clearing Principles

Comments

Greenmount Resources Pty Ltd has applied to amend CPS 8464/1 to increase the amount of clearing authorised by 225 hectares. The clearing permit boundary will remain unchanged.

There were twelve vegetation units mapped within the permit area, none of which have been identified as a Threatened or Priority Ecological Community (Morgan, 2018; GIS Database).

The number of flora species recorded during the flora survey of the permit area was considered to be relatively modest with a fairly low species richness for the vegetation types present (Morgan, 2018). There are no records of Threatened flora in the permit area, and none were recorded during the flora survey (Morgan, 2018; GIS Database). The flora survey of the permit area recorded four species of Priority flora: *Aristida jerichoensis* var. *subspinulifera* (Priority 3); *Eremophila rigida* (Priority 3), *Rhagodia* sp. Hamersley (M. Trudgen 17794) (Priority 3) and *Goodenia nuda* (Priority 4) (Morgan, 2018). Only one plant of *Goodenia nuda* was recorded during the survey. *Aristida jerichoensis* var. *subspinulifera* was recorded at five locations within the survey area (Morgan, 2018). *Eremophila rigida* and the *Rhagodia* sp. Hamersley (M. Trudgen 17794) were found to be quite abundant in the survey area (Morgan, 2018). These species are well represented at a regional scale with numerous populations recorded, outside the narrow band of the application area, within the Gascoyne and Pilbara Bioregions (Morgan, 2018; Western Australian Herbarium, 2020). The additional clearing will further impact the Priority flora species at a local scale; however, it is unlikely to impact these species at a regional scale.

There were eight fauna habitats identified during a fauna survey of the permit area (BCE, 2018). The habitats present within the permit area are well represented in the surrounding area (BCE, 2018). The proposed additional clearing will increase impacts associated with habitat fragmentation, degradation from weed invasion and alteration of local hydrology. Given the habitat is well represented in the surrounding area, the proposed

amendment is not likely to significantly increase the impacts on fauna habitat in the local area.

There are several minor ephemeral drainage lines which intersect the permit area (GIS Database). The proposed clearing will have an increased impact on riparian vegetation however, these impacts may be minimised by the existing watercourse management condition.

The amendment application has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with s.51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, and the proposed clearing is at variance to Principle (f), is not likely to be at variance to Principles (a), (b), (c), (d), (g), (h), (i) and (j) and is not at variance to Principle (e).

Methodology BCE (2018)
Morgan (2018)
Western Australian Herbarium (2020)

GIS Database:

- DPaW Tenure
- Hydrography, Lakes
- Hydrography, Linear
- Imagery
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities boundaries
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities buffers
- Threatened and Priority Flora
- Threatened Fauna

Planning Instrument, Native Title, previous EPA decision or other matter.

Comments

There are three native title claims (WC2005/006, WC2005/003, and WC2013/003) over the area under application (DPLH, 2020). These claims have been determined by the Federal Court on behalf of the claimant groups. 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, 2020). 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 amendment application was advertised on 2 December 2019 by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

Methodology DPLH (2020)

4. References

- BCE (2018) Fauna Assessment Karlawinda project; Pipeline and Access Corridor Capricorn Metals Ltd. Report prepared for Tetris Environmental, by M.J. Bamford and A.R. Bamford Consulting Ecologists, April 2018.
- DPLH (2020) Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. <http://maps.daa.wa.gov.au/AHIS/> (Accessed 7 January 2020).
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Morgan, B. (2018) A Reconnaissance Survey of Flora and Vegetation of the Proposed Karlawinda Gas Pipeline Corridor. Report prepared for Tetris Environmental by B. Morgan, June 2018.
- Tetris (2019) Karlawinda Gold Project Clearing Permit Application Purpose Permit, Report prepared for Greenmount Resources Pty Ltd of Capricorn Metals Ltd, by Tetris Environmental, April 2019.
- Trudgen (1988) A report on the flora and vegetation of the Port Kennedy area. Report prepared for Bowman Bishaw and Associates, by M.E. Trudgen, 1988.
- Western Australian Herbarium (2020) FloraBase - the Western Australian Flora. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. <https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/> (Accessed 7 January 2020).

5. Glossary

Acronyms:

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

Definitions:

{DBCA (2019) Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora and Fauna. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia}:-

T **Threatened species:**

Listed by order of the Minister as Threatened in the category of critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable under section 19(1), or is a rediscovered species to be regarded as threatened species under section 26(2) of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act).

Threatened fauna is that subset of 'Specially Protected Fauna' listed under schedules 1 to 3 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for Threatened Fauna.

Threatened flora is that subset of 'Rare Flora' listed under schedules 1 to 3 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for Threatened Flora.

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 in the immediate future, as determined in accordance with criteria set out in the ministerial guidelines”.

Listed as critically endangered under section 19(1)(a) of the BC Act in accordance with the criteria set out in section 20 and the ministerial guidelines. Published under schedule 1 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for critically endangered fauna or the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for critically endangered flora.

EN **Endangered species**

Threatened species considered to be “facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future, as determined in accordance with criteria set out in the ministerial guidelines”.

Listed as endangered under section 19(1)(b) of the BC Act in accordance with the criteria set out in section 21 and the ministerial guidelines. Published under schedule 2 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for endangered fauna or the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for endangered flora.

VU Vulnerable species
Threatened species considered to be “*facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium-term future, as determined in accordance with criteria set out in the ministerial guidelines*”.

Listed as vulnerable under section 19(1)(c) of the BC Act in accordance with the criteria set out in section 22 and the ministerial guidelines. Published under schedule 3 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for vulnerable fauna or the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for vulnerable flora.

Extinct Species:

EX Extinct species
Species where “*there is no reasonable doubt that the last member of the species has died*”, and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 24 of the BC Act).

Published as presumed extinct under schedule 4 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for extinct fauna or the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for extinct flora.

EW Extinct in the wild species
Species that “*is known only to survive in cultivation, in captivity or as a naturalised population well outside its past range; and it has not been recorded in its known habitat or expected habitat, at appropriate seasons, anywhere in its past range, despite surveys over a time frame appropriate to its life cycle and form*”, and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 25 of the BC Act).

Currently there are no threatened fauna or threatened flora species listed as extinct in the wild. If listing of a species as extinct in the wild occurs, then a schedule will be added to the applicable notice.

Specially protected species:

Listed by order of the Minister as specially protected under section 13(1) of the BC Act. Meeting one or more of the following categories: species of special conservation interest; migratory species; cetaceans; species subject to international agreement; or species otherwise in need of special protection.

Species that are listed as threatened species (critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable) or extinct species under the BC Act cannot also be listed as Specially Protected species.

MI Migratory species
Fauna that periodically or occasionally visit Australia or an external Territory or the exclusive economic zone; or the species is subject of an international agreement that relates to the protection of migratory species and that binds the Commonwealth; and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 15 of the BC Act).

Includes 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 fauna subject to the *Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals* (Bonn Convention), an environmental treaty under the United Nations Environment Program. Migratory species listed under the BC Act are a subset of the migratory animals, that are known to visit Western Australia, protected under the international agreements or treaties, excluding species that are listed as Threatened species.

Published as migratory birds protected under an international agreement under schedule 5 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018*.

CD Species of special conservation interest (conservation dependent fauna)
Fauna of special conservation need being species dependent on ongoing conservation intervention to prevent it becoming eligible for listing as threatened, and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 14 of the BC Act).

Published as conservation dependent fauna under schedule 6 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018*.

OS Other specially protected species
Fauna otherwise in need of special protection to ensure their conservation, and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 18 of the BC Act).

Published as other specially protected fauna under schedule 7 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018*.

P Priority species:

Possibly threatened species that do not meet survey criteria, or are otherwise data deficient, are added to the Priority Fauna or Priority Flora Lists under Priorities 1, 2 or 3. These three categories are ranked in order of priority for survey and evaluation of conservation status so that consideration can be given to their declaration as threatened fauna or flora.

Species that are adequately known, are rare but not threatened, or meet criteria for near threatened, or that have been recently removed from the threatened species or other specially protected fauna lists for other than taxonomic reasons, are placed in Priority 4. These species 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.