



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 8632/3
Permit Holder:	Process Minerals International Pty Ltd
Duration of Permit:	From 12 January 2020 to 12 January 2030

ADVICE NOTE

Since the commencement of the permit in 2019, 136.79 hectares of *clearing* has already been undertaken. This amended permit considers there is a balance of 463.21 hectares of approved *clearing* that can be undertaken.

The permit holder is authorised to clear *native vegetation* subject to the following conditions of this permit.

PART I – CLEARING AUTHORISED

1. Clearing authorised (purpose)

The permit holder is authorised to clear *native vegetation* for the purpose of mineral production and associated infrastructure.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Mining Lease 15/717
 Mining Lease 15/1000
 Miscellaneous Licence 15/220
 Miscellaneous Lease 15/360
 Miscellaneous Lease 15/376
 Miscellaneous Lease 15/392
 Lot 105 on Deposited Plan 40396, Karramindie
 Coolgardie-Esperance Highway road reserve (PIN: 11331602), Karramindie

3. Clearing authorised

The permit holder must not clear more than 600 hectares of *native vegetation* within the area cross-hatched yellow in Figure 1 of Schedule 1.

4. Period during which clearing is authorised

The permit holder must not clear any *native vegetation* after 12 January 2025.

5. Staged Clearing

The permit holder shall not clear native vegetation unless the purpose for which the clearing is authorised is enacted within three 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 impacts and extent of clearing**

In determining the *native vegetation* authorised to be cleared under this permit, the permit holder must apply the following principles, set out in descending 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 management

When undertaking any clearing authorised under this permit, the permit holder must take the following measures to minimise the risk of 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 known *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. Directional clearing

The permit holder must conduct clearing activities in a slow, progressive manner towards adjacent *native vegetation* to allow fauna to move into adjacent *native vegetation* ahead of the clearing activity.

10. Malleefowl management

- (a) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this permit, the permit holder shall engage a *fauna specialist* to conduct a *fauna survey* within the area cross-hatched red in Figure 1 of Schedule 1 to identify *Leipoa ocellata* (malleefowl) mounds and *Leipoa ocellata* (malleefowl) *critical habitat*.
- (b) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this permit, the permit holder shall provide the results of the *fauna survey* in a report to the *CEO*.
- (c) The *fauna survey* report must include;

- (i) the location of each *Leipoa ocellata* (malleefowl) mound, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 2020 (GDA20), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees, to the CEO.
 - (ii) the location of the *Leipoa ocellata* (malleefowl) *critical habitat*, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 2020 (GDA20), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees, to the CEO.
 - (iii) the methodology used to survey the Permit Area and to establish the *Leipoa ocellata* (malleefowl) *critical habitat* and identify the mound/s;
 - (iv) the extent of the *critical habitat* of the *Leipoa ocellata* (malleefowl) shown on a map; and
 - (v) a description of the *critical habitat* found.
- (d) Where *Leipoa ocellata* (malleefowl) mounds are identified under Condition 10(a) of this permit, the permit holder shall ensure that no clearing of *critical habitat* of the identified *Leipoa ocellata* (malleefowl) mounds occurs, unless first approved by the CEO.

11. Revegetation and rehabilitation

Within Lot 105 on Deposited Plan 40396, Karramindie, 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) within six months following clearing authorised under this permit within Lot 105 on Deposited Plan 40396, Karramindie, *revegetate* and *rehabilitate* the areas that are no longer required for the purpose for which they were cleared under this permit by:
 - (i) re-shaping the surface of the land so that it is consistent with the surrounding 5 metres of uncleared land;
 - (ii) laying the vegetative material and topsoil retained under Condition 11(a) on the cleared area; and
 - (iii) ripping the ground on the contour to remove soil compaction.
- (c) within 4 years of undertaking *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* in accordance with Condition 11(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 11(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.

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

12. Records that must be kept

The permit holder must maintain records relating to the listed relevant matters in accordance with the specifications detailed in Table 1.

Table 1: Records that must be kept

No.	Relevant matter	Specifications
1.	In relation to the authorised clearing activities generally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the species composition, structure, and density of the cleared area; (b) the location where the clearing occurred, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 2020 (GDA2020), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings; (c) the date that the area was cleared; (d) the size of the area cleared (in hectares); (e) the direction of clearing; (f) the date that mineral production and associated infrastructure activities commenced following clearing; (g) actions taken to avoid, minimise, and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing in accordance with condition 7; and (h) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of <i>weeds</i> in accordance with condition 8.
2.	In relation to malleefowl management pursuant to condition 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the <i>fauna survey</i> report; (b) dates <i>fauna survey</i> report finding provided to the CEO; and (c) dates of CEO approval in accordance with condition 10(d).
3.	In relation to the <i>revegetation</i> and <i>rehabilitation</i> of areas pursuant to Condition 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the location of any areas <i>revegetated</i> and <i>rehabilitated</i>, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 2020 (GDA20), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees; (b) a description of the <i>revegetation</i> and <i>rehabilitation</i> activities undertaken; (c) the size of the area <i>revegetated</i> and <i>rehabilitated</i> (in hectares); and (d) any remedial actions undertaken in accordance with condition 11(c)(ii).

13. Reporting

- (a) The permit holder must provide to the *CEO* on or before 31 July of each year, a written report 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) If no clearing authorised under this permit was undertaken between 1 July and 30 June of the previous financial year, a written report confirming that no clearing under this permit has been carried out must be provided to the *CEO* on or before 31 July each year.
- (c) Prior to 12 October 2029, 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

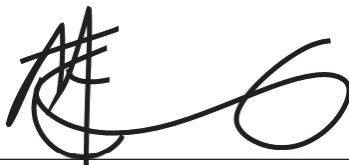
In this permit, the terms in Table have the meanings defined.

Table 2: Definitions

Term	Definition
CEO	Chief Executive Officer of the department responsible for the administration of the clearing provisions under the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> .
clearing	has the meaning given under section 3(1) of the EP Act.
condition	a condition to which this clearing permit is subject under section 51H of the EP Act.
critical habitat	means any part of the Permit Area comprising of the habitat of flora or fauna species and its population, that is critical for the health and long term survival of the flora or fauna species and its population.
department	means the department established under section 35 of the <i>Public Sector Management Act 1994</i> (WA) and designated as responsible for the administration of the EP Act, which includes Part V Division 3.
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.
EP Act	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> (WA).
fauna specialist	means a person who holds a tertiary qualification specializing 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 <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2018.

Term	Definition
fauna survey	means a field-based investigation, including a review of established literature, of the biodiversity of fauna and/or fauna habitat of the Permit Area. Where conservation significant fauna are identified in the Permit Area, the survey should also include sufficient surrounding areas to place the Permit Area into local context.
fill	means material used to increase the ground level, or to fill a depression.
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.
native vegetation	has the meaning given under section 3(1) and section 51A of the EP Act.
planting	means the re-establishment of vegetation by creating favourable soil conditions and planting seedlings of the desired species.
<i>rehabilitate/ed/ion</i>	means actively managing an area containing native vegetation in order to improve the ecological function of that area.
<i>revegetate/ed/ion</i>	means the re-establishment of a cover of <i>local provenance</i> native vegetation in an area using methods such as natural <i>regeneration</i> , <i>direct seeding</i> and/or <i>planting</i> , so that the species composition, structure and density is similar to pre-clearing vegetation types in that area.
weeds	means any plant – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) that is a declared pest under section 22 of the <i>Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007</i>; or (b) published in a Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions species-led ecological impact and invasiveness ranking summary, regardless of ranking; or (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.

END OF CONDITIONS



Mathew Gannaway
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

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

13 December 2023



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1 Application details and outcome

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	CPS 8632/3
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	Process Minerals International Pty Ltd
Application received:	22 November 2023
Application area:	600 hectares of native vegetation
Purpose of clearing:	Mineral production
Method of clearing:	Mechanical
Property:	Coolgardie-Esperance Highway road reserve (PIN: 13331602), Karramindie Lot 105 on Deposited Plan 40396, Karramindie Mining Lease 15/717 Mining Lease 15/1000 Miscellaneous Lease 15/220 Miscellaneous Lease 15/360 Miscellaneous Lease 15/376 Miscellaneous Lease 15/392
Location (LGA area/s):	Shire of Coolgardie
Localities (suburb/s):	Karramindie

1.2. Description of clearing activities

The amended application is to clear 600 hectares of native vegetation within a 1907 hectare clearing footprint for the purpose of mineral production, within various properties in Karramindie, of which 150 hectares has previously been approved under CPS 6770/2. The amendment was for the purpose of increasing the clearing footprint to allow for road widening along the main access road to provide a safer and improved access and to support anticipated increased traffic as a result of expansions to the camp site and production capacity.

1.3. Decision on application

Decision:	Granted
Decision date:	13 December 2023
Decision area:	600 hectares of native vegetation, as depicted in Section 1.5, below.

1.4. Reasons for decision

On 4 May 2023, the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) determined to grant the amendment of Clearing Permit CPS 8632/1 to authorise Process Minerals International Pty Ltd to clear 600 hectares of native vegetation within a 1907 hectare clearing footprint for the purpose of mineral production (DWER, 2023).

One appeal was lodged against the conditions of the amended clearing permit CPS 8632/2, covering two grounds of appeal.

This clearing permit amendment gives effect to the Minister for Environment (Minister) determination to allow the appeal in part (Appeal number: 015 of 2023; Office of the Appeals Convenor, 2023). The Minister required that the following advice notice be added to the clearing permit:

- An advice note on the permit that includes the area of authorised clearing that has already occurred.

The Delegated Officer has taken the above into consideration and decided to grant an amended clearing permit in accordance with the Minister's determination. The Delegated Officer added the advice note to the permit to reflect the Minister's recommendations.

The Delegated Officer reviewed the information available at the time of the amendment, noting that the site characteristics and assessment against the clearing principles, as well as planning and other matters have not changed from the Clearing Permit Decision Report CPS 8632/2.

2 Assessment of application

2.1. Assessment

This amendment is the result of an appeal determination made by the Minister for Environment regarding the conditions of Clearing Permit CPS 8632/2. The assessment against the clearing principles has not changed from the Clearing Permit Decision Report CPS 8632/2.

The Minister determined that the Department's assessment and decision to grant the permit subject to conditions was justified. Notwithstanding the above, the Minister allowed the appeal to the extent that an advice note was added to reflect the authorised clearing that has occurred under the previous clearing permit and that the remaining balance of clearing authorised by the permit has been reduced.

End

Appendix A. References

A.1. References

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (2023) Purpose permit and decision report: CPS 8632/2 <https://ftp.dwer.wa.gov.au/permit/8632/Permit/>

Office of the Appeals Convenor (2023) Report to the Minister for Environment – Appeal against the amendment of clearing permit – Clearing Permit CPS 8632/2.

