



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 8734/1
Permit Holder:	Newmont Goldcorp Boddington Pty Ltd
Duration of Permit:	16 August 2020 – 16 August 2025

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

Hazard reduction or fire control.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Lot 574 on Deposited Plan 228535, Boddington
Lot 1947 on Deposited plan 192143, Boddington
Lot 1817 on Deposited plan 32767, Boddington
Siding Road road reserve (PIN 11617920)

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 0.25 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 8734/1.

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.

PART II – ASSESSMENT SEQUENCE AND MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

5. 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.

6. 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*:

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

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

7. Records must be kept

The Permit Holder must maintain the following records for activities done pursuant to this Permit, in relation to the clearing of native vegetation authorised under this Permit:

- (a) 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;
- (b) the date that the area was cleared;
- (c) the size of the area cleared (in hectares);
- (d) actions taken to avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing in accordance with condition 5 of this Permit; and
- (e) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread *weeds* and *dieback* in accordance with condition 6 of this Permit.

8. Reporting

The Permit Holder must provide to the *CEO* the records required under condition 7 of this Permit, when requested by the *CEO*.

DEFINITIONS

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

CEO: means the Chief Executive Officer of the Department responsible for the administration of the clearing provisions under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*;

dieback means the effect of *Phytophthora* species on native vegetation;

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;

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 the Department of Environment and Conservation Regional Weed Assessments, regardless of ranking; or
- (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.



Ryan Mincham

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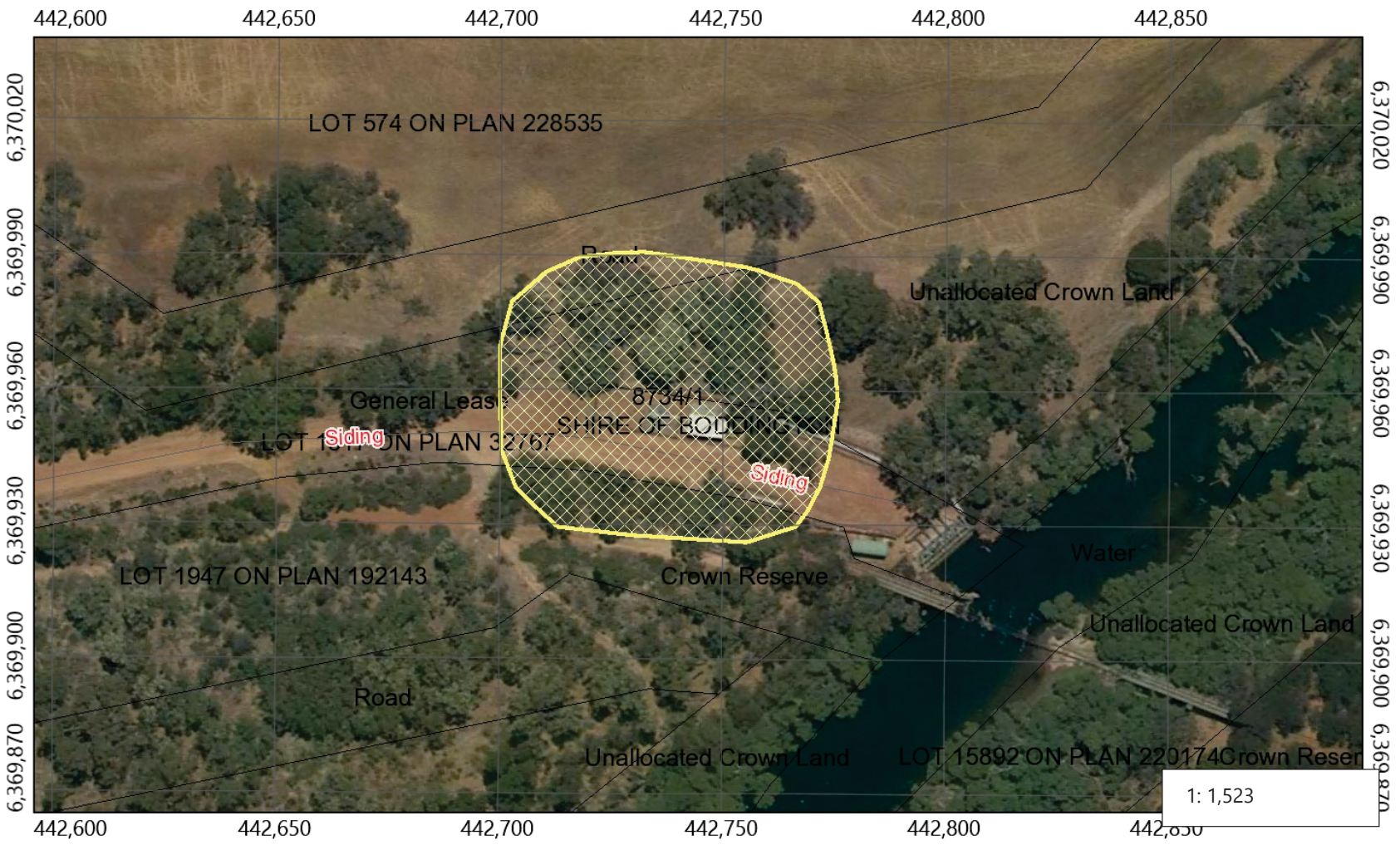
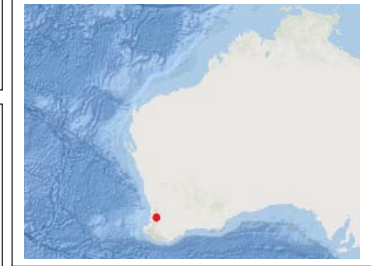
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Ryan Mincham
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

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

24 July 2020

Plan 8734/1



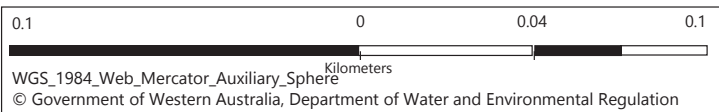
Legend

- CPS areas approved to clear
- Local Government Authorities
- Roads - Minor Roads
- Cadastre

Ryan Mincham
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R. Mincham

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



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Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

Permit application details

Permit application No.: CPS 8734/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

Applicant details

Applicant's name: Newmont Goldcorp Boddington Pty Ltd
Application received date: 18 November 2019

Property details

Property: Lot 574 on Deposited Plan 228535, Boddington
Lot 1947 on Deposited Plan 192143, Boddington
Lot 1817 on Deposited Plan 32767, Boddington
Siding Road Reserve (PIN 11617920)
Local Government Authority: Shire of Boddington
Localities: Boddington

Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
0.25		Mechanical Removal	Hazard reduction or fire control

Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant

Decision Date: 24 July 2020

Reasons for Decision:

The clearing permit application was received on 18 November 2019 and has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with section 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). It is not likely to be at variance with any of the clearing principles.

In determining to grant a clearing permit, the Delegated Officer gave consideration to the degraded to completely degraded condition of the vegetation (Keighery 1994), which was attributed to historical disturbance from agriculture and previous clearing for the construction of the existing pump station. These land uses have reduced the environmental values within the application area. Given the application area is within a confirmed Carnaby's Cockatoo breeding area, the Delegated Officer requested an inspection of the application area for the presence of black cockatoo habitat trees. No nesting hollows suitable for use by black cockatoos were identified within the application area.

In determining to grant the permit subject to conditions, the Delegated Officer considered that the proposed clearing is unlikely to lead to any unacceptable risk to the environment.

2. Site Information

Clearing Description

The application area is approximately 0.42 hectares, within which 0.25 hectares of vegetation is proposed to be cleared for the purpose of hazard reduction and fire control around a pumping station.

Vegetation Description

The vegetation within the application area is mapped as vegetation association Williams south-west forest vegetation complex, described as: mixture of woodland of *Eucalyptus rudis*, *Melaleuca raphiophylla*, low forest of *Casuarina obesa* and tall shrubland of *Melaleuca spp.* on major valley systems in arid and pre-arid zones (Mattiske & Havel 1998).

Vegetation Condition

Vegetation condition was determined by reviewing aerial photography and site photographs of the vegetation provided by the applicant (Figures 1 to 4). Vegetation condition within the application area is described as ranging from:

Degraded: Basic vegetation structure severely impacted by disturbance. Scope for regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires; the presence of very aggressive weeds; partial clearing; dieback; & grazing (Keighery, 1994).

to

Completely Degraded: The structure of the vegetation is no longer intact and the area is completely or almost completely without native species. These areas are often described as 'parkland cleared' with the flora comprising weed or crop species with isolated native trees or shrubs (Keighery, 1994).

Soil and Landform Type:

The application area is mapped as the following soil type:

Williams Subsystem (Quindanning) subsystem is described as: valley floor subtended by the steep slopes of the Michibin unit; yellow duplex soils and a lower sandy terrace.

Comments:

The local area referred to in the assessment of this application is defined as a 10 kilometre radius measured from the centre of the application area. Approximately 58% remnant native vegetation remains within the local area, with the balance predominantly cleared for farming, roads, mining operations and the Boddington town site.

Photos of the application area

Figure 1: Tree with potential suitability for use by black cockatoos within application area. Cleared access road can be seen in the background.



Figure 2: Tree with potential suitability for use by black cockatoos within application area. Part of the pump station infrastructure can be seen in the background.



Figure 3: Showing vegetation with no understorey, felled dead tree and part of the pump station infrastructure in the background.



Figure 4: Vegetation with no understorey showing cleared paddock in the background.



3. Assessment of application against clearing principles and planning matters and other matters

The application area is to clear 0.25 hectares of native vegetation within a defined application area of 0.42 hectares for the purpose of hazard reduction and fire control around a pumping station. A significant hazard to the pumping station is posed by

overhanging dead branches from large trees and the proximity of fuel sources which pose a fire hazard. Historical disturbance from agriculture and previous clearing for the construction of the existing pump station, has significantly compromised the potential for the habitat within the application area to comprise a high level of biodiversity.

Although no black cockatoo records occur within the application area, available databases show that the local area is within the confirmed Carnaby's cockatoo Jarrah forest breeding area and numerous black cockatoo roosts are recorded within the local area. No confirmed Carnaby's cockatoo breeding sites are recorded within the local area, with the nearest being approximately 20 kilometres east of the application area. There are 184 roosting records at 82 locations of all three black cockatoo species within the local area and the nearest recorded roost is approximately 2 kilometres south of the application area. The vegetation within the application is not considered to be significant foraging habitat for black cockatoos given the small scale of vegetation to be cleared and abundant availability of foraging resources within the local area, including extensive reserves with Dwellingup State Forest located approximately 4.7 kilometres north-west of the application area.

Given the application area is within a confirmed Carnaby's Cockatoo breeding area and due to the presence of preferred trees with the potential to provide breeding hollows (native eucalypt trees with diameter at breast height (DBH) ≥ 50 cm), the Delegated Officer requested an inspection of the application area for the presence of black cockatoo habitat trees, which was provided by the proponent during assessment (Newmont Goldcorp Boddington, 2020). A site inspection of all potential trees with breeding hollows was conducted using camera mounted 15 metre poles. A drone was used for one of the trees as it was too tall to inspect using the pole mounted camera. No hollows of suitable size for nesting by black cockatoos were found in any of the trees within the application area.

According to available databases, 17 fauna species listed as being of conservation significance under the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018 have been recorded within the local area including three species of black cockatoo, Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*), Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii naso*) and Baudin's Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudinii*).

The remaining conservation significant species recorded within the local area are shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Conservation significant species recorded within the application area - excluding black cockatoos

EN
Myrmecobius fasciatus
numbat, walpurti
P1
Aspidites ramsayi (southwest subpop.)
woma (southwest subpop.)
P4
Ctenotus delli
Dell's skink, Darling Range Southwest Ctenotus
Hydromys chrysogaster
water-rat, rakali
Isoodon fusciventer
quenda, southern brown bandicoot
quenda, southwestern brown bandicoot
Notamacropus irma
western brush wallaby
VU
Dasyurus geoffroii
chuditch, western quoll
Macrotis lagotis
bilby, dalgyte, ninu

All the species listed in Table 2 prefer habitats with a well-developed understorey for protection and concealment. In the case of the larger mammals, areas significantly larger than the application area are preferred. As the application area is relatively small and does not appear to have any developed understorey vegetation, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on significant habitat for any of the species, and it is unlikely that any of these species would occur within the application area.

According to available databases, no threatened or priority flora species have been recorded within the application area, however, a total of eight Priority flora species have been recorded within the local area, as listed in Table 3 below:

Table 3: Priority flora in local area

<u>Species Name</u>	<u>Priority Level</u>
<i>Banksia subpinnatifida</i> var. <i>imberbis</i>	3
<i>Gastrolobium</i> sp. Prostrate Boddington	1
<i>Goodenia katabudjar</i>	3
<i>Hibbertia ambita</i>	1
<i>Lasiopetalum cardiophyllum</i>	4
<i>Meionectes tenuifolia</i>	3
<i>Parsonsia diaphanophleba</i>	4
<i>Senecio leucoglossus</i>	4

Given the vegetation condition within the application area is degraded to completely degraded with negligible understorey, and considering that all of the priority flora species recorded in the local area are either ground covering flowering plants, or low shrubs, it is considered unlikely that any of these species occur in the application area.

The local area contains no mapped TEC's, PEC's, wetlands or Environmentally Sensitive Areas. The application area is relatively small and does not separate any contiguous vegetated areas, it is therefore unlikely the proposed clearing will disrupt ecological linkage functions within the local area.

The national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia has a target to prevent clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30 per cent of that present pre-1750, below which species loss appears to accelerate exponentially at an ecosystem level (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001). The local area comprises approximately 58% remnant native vegetation. Based on the small scale and condition of the vegetation proposed to be cleared, the vegetation is not considered to be significant as a remnant with much larger vegetated areas remaining within the local area.

The application area is located approximately 50 metres to the nearest watercourse, that being the Hotham River. As the scale of the proposed clearing is relatively small and the application area is devoid of any substantial understorey or riparian vegetation, it is not likely that clearing will result any significant impacts upon the watercourse.

The Williams Subsystem (Quindanning) soil type mapped within the project area has a relatively low to moderate water and wind erosion risk and a moderate 10-30% risk of salinity, flooding, waterlogging and phosphorus export risk. Although the subsurface acidification risk is quite high at >70%, given that no excavation is proposed and the area of vegetation proposed to be cleared is relatively small (0.25 hectares) the clearing is not likely to have any impacts with regard to subsurface land degradation.

The nearest conservation area is timber reserve located 1.1 kilometres south east of the application area, which is separated from the application area by Hotham River and Morts Road. There is also the Dwellingup State Forest, which is approximately 4.7 kilometres west of the application area. Given the distance between the application area and the two conservation areas and the fact that the Hotham River separates the application area from the timber reserve and the extent of cleared farmland between the application area and the state forest, it is unlikely that the proposed clearing will have any impact on these conservation areas.

As discussed in the soil and landform section above, the application area is already highly disturbed and the soil type is not susceptible to erosion, subsurface degradation or flooding. Given the small area of vegetation coverage, it is not considered that the existing vegetation significantly contributes to the protection of ground or surface water and therefore impacts from clearing are unlikely to be significant.

Given the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance with any of the clearing principles.

Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

No Aboriginal sites of significance have been mapped within the application area.

The clearing permit application was advertised on the DWER website on 18 November 2019 with a 21 day submission period. No public submissions were received in relation to this application.

4. References

Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.

Commonwealth of Australia (2012). EPBC Act referral guidelines for three threatened black cockatoo species. Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Populations and Communities, Canberra.

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) (2007-) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Parks and Wildlife. URL: <http://naturemap.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>. Accessed March 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.

Mattiske, E.M. and Havel, J.J. (1998) Vegetation Complexes of the South-west Forest Region of Western Australia. Maps and report prepared as part of the Regional Forest Agreement, Western Australia for the Department of Conservation and Land Management and Environment Australia.

Newmont Goldcorp Boddington (2020) Clearing Permit Application CPS 8734/1. Supplementary information, on-site photos and site inspection information. (A1911171 & 1906777)

Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) FloraBase - the Western Australian Flora. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. <https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/> Accessed March 2019.

5. GIS Datasets

- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
- Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas
- Carnaby's cockatoo: breeding, roosting, feeding
- Hydrology, linear
- IBRA Australia
- PDWSA, CAWSA, RIWI Act Areas
- Remnant vegetation
- Soils, state wide
- Town Planning Scheme Zones