



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1 Application details and outcome

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	9022/1
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	Wesfarmers Chemicals, Energy & Fertilisers Limited
Application received:	8 January 2026
Application area:	1.62 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Mineral Exploration
Method of clearing:	Mechanical Removal
Property:	Exploration Licence 77/1535
Location (LGA area):	Shire of Kondinin

1.2. Description of application

The permit holder applied to surrender Clearing Permit CPS 9022/1 as clearing authorised under this permit has been conducted, and the permit is no longer required (WesCEF, 2026b).

1.3. Decision on application

Decision:	Surrendered
Decision date:	23 April 2026
Decision area:	1.62 hectares of native vegetation, as depicted in Section 1.5, below.

1.4. Reasons for decision

The application to surrender clearing permit CPS 9022/1 was made in accordance with section 51MA of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) and was received by the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration (the Department) on 8 January 2026.

In undertaking the assessment, the Delegated Officer had regard for compliance with the permit conditions. The assessment identified that the proposed surrender of clearing permit CPS 9022/1 is acceptable, noting the Permit Holder has complied with all conditions.

After consideration of the above information, the Delegated Officer decided to accept the surrender of Clearing Permit CPS 9022/1.

1.5. Site map



Figure 1. Map of the application area. The areas cross-hatched yellow indicate the areas which have been surrendered.

2 Assessment

2.1. Review of compliance with clearing permit conditions

On 31 March 2026, the Department reviewed the annual clearing permit reports for Clearing Permit CPS 9022/1 (WesCEF, 2021; 2022; 2023a; 2023b; 2024; 2025). The Department identified that the permit holder had cleared approximately 0.464 hectares of native vegetation under CPS 9022/1 (Vantor, 2026; WesCEF, 2023a; 2024; 2025).

The Department's review of the permit holder's requirements under Clearing Permit CPS 9022/1 did not identify any non-compliance with the clearing permit conditions.

Table 1: Compliance verification with the clearing permit conditions listed under CPS 9022/1 (DMIRS, 2020).

Clearing authorised under the following conditions	Compliance comments
1. Land on which clearing is to be done Exploration License 77/1535	All clearing under CPS 9022/1 was conducted on Exploration Licence 77/1535 (WesCEF, 2021; 2022; 2023a; 2023b). This was confirmed using aerial imagery (Vantor, 2026). Therefore, the Permit Holder is compliant with this condition.
2. Purpose for which clearing may be done Clearing for the purpose of mineral exploration.	Clearing in the 2020-2021 and 2022-2023 reporting periods was for the purpose of exploration drilling (WesCEF, 2021; 2023a; 2023b). No clearing was conducted outside of these periods (Vantor, 2026; WesCEF, 2022; 2024; 2025).

	Therefore, the Permit Holder is compliant with this condition.
<p>3. Area of Clearing</p> <p>The Permit Holder must not clear more than 1.62 hectares of native vegetation. All clearing must be within the areas cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 9022/1.</p>	<p>The cumulative area cleared under CPS 9022/1 was 0.464 hectares, to 30 June 2023 (WesCEF, 2023a). No clearing was conducted after this date (Vantor, 2026; WesCEF, 2024; 2025).</p> <p>All clearing under CPS 9022/1 was conducted within the area cross-hatched yellow on Plan 9022/1 (WesCEF, 2021; 2022; 2023a; 2023b). This was confirmed using aerial imagery (Vantor, 2026).</p> <p>Therefore, the Permit Holder is compliant with this condition.</p>
<p>4. Period in which clearing is authorised</p> <p>The Permit Holder shall not clear native vegetation unless the purpose for which the clearing is authorised is enacted within 6 months of the authorised clearing being undertaken.</p>	<p>Clearing in the 2020-2021 reporting period was conducted on 27 February 2021 (WesCEF, 2021). Exploration drilling occurred between 8 March and 14 March 2021, within six months of the authorised clearing being undertaken (WesCEF, 2021).</p> <p>Clearing in the 2022-2023 reporting period was conducted on 3 July 2022 (WesCEF, 2023a; 2023b). Exploration drilling occurred between 29 July and 31 July 2022, within six months of the authorised clearing being undertaken (WesCEF, 2023a; 2023b).</p> <p>No clearing was conducted outside of these periods (Vantor, 2026; WesCEF, 2022; 2024; 2025).</p> <p>Therefore, the Permit Holder is compliant with this condition.</p>
<p>6. Avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing</p> <p>In determining the amount of native vegetation to be cleared under this Permit, the Permit Holder must apply the following principles, set out in descending order of preference:</p> <p>(a) avoid the clearing of native vegetation;</p> <p>(b) minimise the amount of native vegetation to be cleared; and</p> <p>(c) reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.</p>	<p>The Permit Holder reported the following measures used to avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • existing cleared areas were used in favour of new clearing wherever possible; • vegetation was traversed over wherever possible; • raised blade clearing used; • drilling in phases i.e. small amount of holes drilled initialled to test target; and • vegetative material stockpiled for rehabilitation (WesCEF, 2021; 2022; 2023a; 2023b). <p>The Permit Holder is considered compliant with this condition.</p>
<p>7. Weed control</p> <p>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 <i>weeds</i>:</p> <p>(a) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;</p>	<p>The Permit Holder reported the following measures used to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • earth-moving machinery and vehicles were cleaned and inspected prior to entering and leaving the area; • no weed-affected soil, mulch or other material was brought into the area; and

<p>(b) ensure that no known <i>dieback</i> or <i>weed</i>-affected soil, <i>mulch</i>, <i>fill</i> or other material is brought into the area to be cleared;</p> <p>(c) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> vehicle and machinery movements were limited to the areas to be cleared or rehabilitated (WesCEF, 2021; 2022; 2023a; 2023b). <p>Additionally, the Wesfarmers Chemicals, Energy & Fertilisers Limited (WesCEF) Vehicle Hygiene and Weed Management Procedure and examples of completed Vehicle and Mobile Equipment Weed Hygiene Environmental Inspection forms were provided to demonstrate compliance with this condition (WesCEF, 2026a).</p> <p>The Delegated Officer considers the Permit Holder is compliant with Condition 7.</p>
<p>8. Retain vegetative material and topsoil, revegetation and rehabilitation</p> <p>The Permit Holder shall:</p> <p>(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;</p> <p>(b) within 12 months following completion of clearing authorised under this permit, revegetate and rehabilitate the areas that are no longer required for the purpose for which they were cleared under this Permit by:</p> <p>(i) re-shaping the surface of the land so that it is consistent with the surrounding 5 metres of uncleared land;</p> <p>(ii) ripping the ground on the contour to remove soil compaction; and</p> <p>(iii) laying the vegetative material and topsoil retained under Condition 8(a) on the cleared area.</p> <p>(c) within 4 years of undertaking revegetation and rehabilitation in accordance with Condition 8(b) of this Permit:</p> <p>(i) engage an environmental specialist to determine the species composition, structure and density of the area revegetated and rehabilitated; and</p> <p>(ii) where, in the opinion of an environmental specialist, the composition structure and density determined under Condition 8(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.</p> <p>(d) where additional planting or direct seeding of native vegetation is undertaken in accordance with Condition 8(c)(ii) of this permit, the Permit Holder shall repeat Condition 8(c)(i) and 8(c)(ii)</p>	<p>The Permit Holder reported stockpiling vegetative material for rehabilitation (WesCEF, 2021; 2022; 2023a; 2023b). As raised blade clearing was conducted, topsoil was left in place (WesCEF, 2021). Therefore, the Permit Holder is compliant with Condition 8(a).</p> <p>Clearing under CPS 9022/1 was conducted on 27 February 2021 and 3 July 2022 (WesCEF, 2021; 2023a; 2023b). Rehabilitation of the 2021 clearing areas was completed on 17 August 2021, within 12 months of clearing (WesCEF, 2022). Rehabilitation of the 2022 clearing areas was completed on 17 December 2022, within 12 months of clearing (WesCEF, 2023a; 2023b). Rehabilitation involved re-shaping of the land so that it is consistent with the surrounding 5 metres of uncleared land, ripping the ground on contour to remove soil compaction using a loader bucket and scarifier, and laying the vegetative material and topsoil on the cleared area (WesCEF, 2022; 2023a; 2023b).</p> <p>The flora survey conducted as part of the rehabilitation assessment found that the rehabilitated areas had been scarified and vegetative material had been spread over the areas appropriately (SLR, 2025). Therefore, the Permit Holder is compliant with Condition 8(b).</p> <p>The Permit Holder engaged SLR Advisory Services Pty Ltd (SLR) to complete a rehabilitation assessment of mineral exploration disturbance associated with Clearing Permit 9022/1, in accordance with Condition 9(c) (SLR, 2025).</p> <p>A vegetation survey was conducted in June 2025, and this, in combination with a NDVI distribution assessment, was used to assess the quality of rehabilitation (SLR, 2025). The assessment compared the rehabilitation area to an undisturbed benchmark area, located in close proximity to the rehabilitation area (SLR, 2025).</p> <p>The flora survey conducted in June 2025 found that the majority of the rehabilitation area was appropriately rehabilitated (SLR, 2025). The assessment noted an excellent establishment of a wide range of native flora species from soil-stored seeds, with species richness in the rehabilitation area exceeding that of the benchmark area (SLR, 2025). The establishment of tall trees (<i>Eucalyptus melanoxylon</i> and <i>E. salmonophloia</i>) was low, and establishment of tall shrubs (<i>Melaleuca</i></p>

<p>within 24 months of undertaking the additional planting or direct seeding of native vegetation.</p> <p>(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 8(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 8(c)(ii), the CEO may require the Permit Holder to undertake additional planting and direct seeding in accordance with the requirements under Condition 8(c)(ii).</p>	<p><i>quadrifaria</i>) was low to moderate (SLR, 2025). The density of these species are expected to improve over time via natural recruitment processes (SLR, 2025).</p> <p>The NDVI distribution assessment found that the vegetation density within the rehabilitation area is similar to that of the benchmark area, but a small area of lower density vegetation falls outside of the target density range (SLR, 2025). As vegetation density is increasing over time, it is expected that vegetation density targets will be met with additional time (SLR, 2025).</p> <p>In summary, SLR considers rehabilitation associated with WesCEF's exploration program to be approaching the composition, structure and density of the pre-clearing vegetation (SLR, 2025). Despite the limitations identified with the current vegetation density and low establishment of tall trees and shrubs, no remedial work is considered necessary, as these limitations should resolve in time (SLR, 2025).</p> <p>The Delegated Officer considers the Permit Holder is compliant with Condition 8(c). No additional action is required under Condition 8(d) and 8(e).</p>
<p>10. Reporting</p> <p>(a) The Permit Holder shall provide a report to the CEO by 31 July each year for the life of this Permit, demonstrating adherence to all conditions of this Permit, and setting out the records required under Condition 9 of this Permit in relation to clearing carried out between 1 July and 30 June of the previous financial year.</p> <p>(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 by 31 July of each year.</p> <p>(c) Prior to 31 March 2023, the Permit Holder must provide to the CEO a written report of records required under Condition 9 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under Condition 10(a) of this Permit.</p>	<p>Clearing reports were required for the following reporting periods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2020-2021 financial year; • 2021-2022 financial year; • 2022-2023 financial year; • 2023-2024 financial year; and • 2024-2025 financial year. <p>Clearing reports were received by the Department for all of the above reporting periods (WesCEF, 2021; 2022; 2023a; 2024; 2025).</p> <p>Additionally, a report was required prior to 31 March 2023 (DMIRS, 2020). This report was received by the Department on 31 March 2023 (WesCEF, 2023b).</p> <p>No clearing has been conducted after the submission of the 2024-2025 annual clearing report (Vantor, 2026).</p>

2.2. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The surrender application was advertised on 2 April 2026 by the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration.

End

Appendix A. Sources of information

A.1 GIS Datasets

Publicly available GIS datasets used (sourced from www.data.wa.gov.au):

- Exploration Licences
- Local Government Area (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233)
- WA Now Aerial Imagery

A.2 References

Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) (2020) Clearing Permit CPS 9022/1, Montague Resources Australia Pty Ltd, granted 29 October 2020.

SLR Advisory Services Pty Ltd (SLR) (2025) Rehabilitation Assessment, Mt Holland Exploration. Prepared for Wesfarmers Chemicals, Energy & Fertilisers Pty Ltd, by SLR Advisory Services Pty Ltd, October 2025.

Vantor Hub (Vantor) (2026) Vantor Hub [Online]. Available from [Vantor Login](#) (Accessed 31 March 2026).

Wesfarmers Chemicals, Energy & Fertilisers Limited (WesCEF) (2021) Annual report, CPS 9022/1, July 2021.

Wesfarmers Chemicals, Energy & Fertilisers Limited (WesCEF) (2022) Annual report, CPS 9022/1, July 2022.

Wesfarmers Chemicals, Energy & Fertilisers Limited (WesCEF) (2023a) Annual report, CPS 9022/1, July 2023.

Wesfarmers Chemicals, Energy & Fertilisers Limited (WesCEF) (2023b) Interim report, CPS 9022/1, March 2023.

Wesfarmers Chemicals, Energy & Fertilisers Limited (WesCEF) (2024) Annual report, CPS 9022/1, July 2024.

Wesfarmers Chemicals, Energy & Fertilisers Limited (WesCEF) (2025) Annual report, CPS 9022/1, July 2025.

Wesfarmers Chemicals, Energy & Fertilisers Limited (WesCEF) (2026a) Additional information received via email, 20 April 2026.

Wesfarmers Chemicals, Energy & Fertilisers Limited (WesCEF) (2026b) Application to surrender a clearing permit. Prepared for the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration, 8 January 2026