



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose permit number:	9203/2
Duration of permit:	16 November 2021 to 31 July 2031
Permit holder:	Northern Star Resources Limited

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

Miscellaneous Licence 53/221

2. Clearing authorised (purpose)

The permit holder is authorised to clear native vegetation for the purpose of a haul road.

3. Area of clearing

The permit holder must not clear more than 150 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross-hatched yellow in Figure 1 of Schedule 1.

4. Type of clearing authorised

The permit holder shall not clear native vegetation unless the purpose for which the clearing is authorised is enacted within 3 months of the authorised clearing being undertaken.

5. Fauna management – slow clearing

The permit holder shall allow a reasonable time for fauna present within the area being cleared to move into adjacent native vegetation ahead of the clearing activity.

PART II – MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

6. Avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing

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:

- (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.

7. 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*:

- (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.

8. Vegetation management

- (a) where practicable the permit holder shall avoid clearing *riparian vegetation*; and
- (b) where a *watercourse* or *drainage line* or *wetland* is to be impacted by clearing, the permit holder shall ensure that the existing surface flow is maintained or reinstated downstream into existing natural *drainage lines*.

9. Flora management – Priority flora

- (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 *priority flora* in accordance with *EPA Technical Guidance*:
 - (i) *Tecticornia* sp. Lake Way (P. Armstrong 05/961)
 - (ii) *Tecticornia enodis*
 - (iii) *Tecticornia cymbiformis*
 - (iv) *Triodia infesta*
- (b) where *priority flora* is identified in relation to Condition 9(a) of this permit, the permit holder shall ensure that:
 - (i) 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*;
 - (ii) no clearing of identified *priority flora* occurs and no clearing occurs within 10 metres of identified *priority flora*.

10. Fauna management – greater bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*)

- (a) Within fourteen (14) days prior to undertaking any clearing authorised within the areas shaded yellow in Figure 1 of Schedule 1, the Permit Holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to:
 - (i) undertake surveys using transects spaced at 100 metres on average to identify evidence of use by the greater bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*); and
 - (ii) where evidence of greater bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*) use is identified under condition 10(a)(i), undertake surveys using transects spaced at 20 metres on average, to identify evidence of burrows that may be suitable for greater bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*) use.
- (b) where potential greater bilby burrow(s) are identified under Condition 10 (a), the Permit Holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to:
 - (i) flag the location of the burrow(s); and
 - (ii) inspect the burrow(s) and determine whether the burrow(s) are *potentially occupied*.
- (c) where a *potentially occupied* burrow is identified under Condition 10(b), the Permit Holder must not clear within 50 metres of the *potentially occupied* burrow and ensure there is an undisturbed vegetative linkage between the *potentially occupied* burrow and vegetation outside of the area to be cleared, where practicable.
- (d) where a *potentially occupied* burrow is identified under Condition 10(b), and cannot be avoided with a minimum 50 metre vegetative buffer in accordance with Condition 10(c), the Permit Holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to:
 - (i) monitor the burrow with remote cameras for greater bilby use for a minimum of three (3) consecutive nights;

- (ii) where no evidence of greater bilby activity is identified under Condition 10(d)(i), the burrow shall be deemed as *unoccupied* and the Permit Holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to:
 - A. carefully excavate the burrow by hand, and remove and relocate any native vertebrate fauna found within the burrow; and
 - B. collapse and fill the burrow immediately after the *fauna specialist* has confirmed no native vertebrate fauna are present within the burrow.
- (iii) where evidence of greater bilby use is identified under Condition 10(d)(i), the Permit Holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to:
 - A. continue to monitor the burrow for greater bilby activity;
 - B. implement displacement techniques such as deliberate disturbance of the burrow entrance, while ensuring the disturbance does not prevent the greater bilby from exiting the burrow; and
 - C. once greater bilby displacement from the burrow is confirmed, stop monitoring, and undertake the actions required under Condition 10(d)(ii)A and Condition 10(d)(ii)B.
- (e) if the greater bilby has not moved on from an *occupied* burrow under Condition 10(d)(iii), the Permit Holder must, within 24 hours prior to clearing, engage a *fauna specialist* to remove and relocate the identified greater bilby to an area of *greater bilby suitable habitat* no closer than 100 metres from the area to be cleared, in accordance with a section 40 authorisation under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.
- (f) immediately after the greater bilby has been relocated under Condition 10(e), the Permit Holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to undertake the actions required under Condition 10(d)(ii)A and Condition 10(d)(ii)B.
- (g) within 24 hours prior to *clearing* the Permit Holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to re-inspect any flagged burrow(s) identified under Condition 10(b)(i) for evidence of re-excavation by greater bilby, unless these burrows are being avoided with a minimum 50 metre vegetative buffer in accordance with Condition 10(c).
- (h) where re-excavated greater bilby burrow(s) are identified under Condition 10(g), the Permit Holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to:
 - (i) flag the location of the burrow(s); and
 - (ii) inspect the burrow(s) and determine whether the burrow(s) are *occupied*.
- (i) where an *occupied* burrow is identified under Condition 10(h)(ii), the Permit Holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to:
 - (i) remove and relocate any identified greater bilby from the burrow to an area of *greater bilby suitable habitat*, in accordance with a section 40 authorisation under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*; and
 - (ii) immediately after the greater bilby has been relocated under Condition 10(i)(i), undertake the actions required under Condition 10(d)(ii)A and Condition 10(d)(ii)B.
- (j) where an *unoccupied* burrow is identified under Condition 10(h)(ii), the Permit Holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to undertake the actions required under Condition 10(d)(ii)A and Condition 10(d)(ii)B.
- (k) where any greater bilby burrows are identified under Condition 10(a) or 10(g), and any greater bilby is relocated under Condition 10(e) or 10(i), the Permit Holder must include the following in a report to be submitted to the *CEO* within two (2) months of undertaking any *clearing* authorised under this permit:
 - (i) the location of any burrow identified including a description of whether the burrow was *unoccupied*, *potentially occupied*, or *occupied*, using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 2020 (GDA2020), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;
 - (ii) a description of the remote camera monitoring actions undertaken under Condition 10(d);
 - (iii) the date and time that burrows have been excavated and collapsed under Conditions 10(d), 10(f), 10(i) and 10(j);
 - (iv) the date and time greater bilby are recorded as independently moving on from an *occupied* burrow under Condition 10(d);
 - (v) the sex of each greater bilby captured and relocated under Condition 10(e) or 10(i);
 - (vi) the location of any greater bilby captured under Condition 10(e) or 10(i), using a GPS unit set to GDA2020, expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;

- (vii) the date, time and vegetation type at each location where greater bilby are captured under Condition 10(e) or 10(i);
- (viii) the location of any greater bilby relocated under Condition 10(e) or 10(i), using a GPS unit set to GDA2020, expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;
- (ix) the date, time and vegetation type at each location where greater bilby are relocated under Condition 10(e) or 10(i);
- (x) the name of the *fauna specialist* that relocated greater bilby under Condition 10(e) or 10(i); and
- (xi) a copy of the fauna licence authorising the relocation of greater bilby under Condition 10(e) or 10(i).

11. Fauna management – mulgara (*Dasycercus blythi*)

- (a) Within two (2) weeks prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this permit, the permit holder shall engage a *fauna specialist* to undertake *clearance surveys* for mulgara (*Dasycercus blythi*).
- (b) Where mulgara burrows are identified under Condition 11(a), the permit holder shall engage a *fauna specialist* to determine if the burrow is occupied.
- (c) Within two (2) weeks prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this permit, the permit holder shall engage a *fauna specialist* to relocate any mulgara found under Condition 11(a) and 11(b) of this permit.
- (d) The permit holder shall engage a fauna spotter to traverse the permit area ahead of clearing machinery, at the time of clearing and alert machinery operators to avoid mulgara injury or mortality.
- (e) Where any mulgara are identified and relocated under Conditions 11(a), 11(b), 11(c) and 11(d) of this permit, the permit holder shall include the following in a report submitted to the CEO:
 - (i) the location of any evidence of mulgara recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum of Australia 2020 (GDA2020), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;
 - (ii) the type of evidence recorded under Condition 11(e)(i) e.g. fauna individuals, burrows, scats, tracks;
 - (iii) the location and date where any mulgara were relocated using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum of Australia 2020 (GDA2020), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;
 - (iv) the name of the *fauna specialist* that relocated the mulgara under Condition 11(c); and
 - (v) a copy of the fauna licence authorising the relocation of the mulgara under Condition 11(c).

12. Fauna management – southern whiteface

Where clearing authorised under this Permit is to occur between 1 July and 31 October, the Permit Holder shall:

- (a) Within fourteen (14) days prior to undertaking any clearing, engage a *fauna specialist* to conduct an inspection of the area to be cleared to identify *active (in use) southern whiteface (Aphelocephala leucopsis) nests*.
- (b) Where an *active (in use) southern whiteface (Aphelocephala leucopsis) nest* is identified under Condition 12(a) of this Permit, the Permit Holder shall ensure that no clearing occurs within 10 metres of the nest, during the months of July through to October.

13. Fauna management – night parrot

- (a) Prior to undertaking any clearing within the areas shaded yellow in Figure 1 of Schedule 1, the permit holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to inspect the area to be cleared for the presence of *Pezoporus occidentalis* (night parrot) in accordance with the *Pezoporus occidentalis (night parrot) Guidelines*, within two months prior to clearing.
- (b) Prior to undertaking clearing activities within the areas shaded yellow in Figure 1 of Schedule 1, the

permit holder must provide to the *CEO* a report that includes the results of the survey required under condition 13(a).

- (c) Where *Pezoporus occidentalis* (night parrot) individuals are identified during the survey required under condition 13(a), the permit holder may not undertake clearing activities within the area cross-hatched yellow in Figure 1 of Schedule 1.

PART III – RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

14. Records to 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	(a) the location where the clearing occurred, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum of Australia 2020 (GDA2020), 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 in accordance with condition 4; (e) actions taken in accordance with condition 5; (f) actions taken to avoid, minimise, and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing in accordance with condition 6; and (g) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of <i>weeds</i> in accordance with condition 7.
2.	In relation to vegetation management pursuant to condition 8	(a) actions taken to manage and mitigate impacts to <i>riparian vegetation</i> in accordance with condition 8; and (b) the size and location of <i>riparian vegetation</i> cleared using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum of Australia 2020 (GDA2020), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees.
3.	In relation to flora management (<i>priority flora</i>) pursuant to condition 9	(a) the location of each <i>priority flora</i> individual, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 2020 (GDA2020), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees; (b) actions taken to demarcate each <i>priority flora</i> individual recorded and their relevant buffers; and (c) actions taken to avoid the clearing of <i>priority flora</i>
4.	In relation to fauna management (greater bilby) pursuant to condition 10	(a) results of the pre-clearance surveys undertaken in accordance with Condition 10, including photographic records demonstrating the method and number of remote camera monitoring nights; and (b) a copy of the <i>fauna specialist</i> report in accordance with Condition 10.
5.	In relation to fauna management (mulgara) pursuant to condition 11	(a) the location of each <i>Dasymercus blythi</i> (mulgara) and burrows recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 2020 (GDA2020), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees; (b) the location of any <i>Dasymercus blythi</i> (mulgara) and using

No.	Relevant matter	Specifications
		a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 2020 (GDA2020), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees; (c) the location and date where any <i>Dasymercus blythi</i> (mulgara) were relocated using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 2020 (GDA2020), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees; (d) the status (occupied or unoccupied) of each burrow; (e) the type of evidence recorded at any location <i>Dasymercus blythi</i> (mulgara) are recorded e.g. fauna individuals, burrows, scats, tracks; and (f) A copy of the <i>fauna specialist</i> report as required in accordance with Condition 11.
6.	In relation to fauna management (southern whiteface) pursuant to condition 12	(a) the location of each active (in use) southern whiteface (<i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i>) nest, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum of Australia 2020 (GDA2020), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees; (b) actions taken to demarcate each active (in use) southern whiteface (<i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i>) nest recorded and their relevant buffers; and (c) actions taken to avoid the clearing of active (in use) southern whiteface (<i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i>) nests and their relevant buffers.
7.	In relation to fauna management (night parrot) pursuant to condition 13	(a) the records required under condition 13(b); and (b) actions taken in accordance with condition 13(c)

15. Reporting

- The permit holder must provide a written 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 14 of this permit in relation to clearing carried out between 1 July and 30 June of the previous financial year.
- 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.
- Prior to 31 July 2031, the permit holder must provide to the *CEO* a written report of records required under condition 14 of this permit where these records have not already been provided under condition 15(a) or 15(b) of this permit.

DEFINITIONS

In this permit, the terms in Table 2 have the meanings defined.

Table 2: Definitions

Term	Definition
active (in use) southern whiteface nest	means a nest with evidence of current southern whiteface (<i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i>) activity, such as fresh nesting material (grass, bark and roots), a breeding pair, eggs, or hatchlings.
botanist	means a person who holds a tertiary qualification in environmental science or equivalent and has a minimum of 2 years work experience in identification and surveys of flora native to the bioregion being inspected or surveyed, or who is

Term	Definition
	approved by the <i>CEO</i> as a suitable <i>botanist</i> for the bioregion.
CEO	the Chief Executive Officer of the Department responsible for administering the clearing provisions contained within the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> or an Officer with delegated authority under Section 20 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> .
clearance survey(s)	means a search of immediate impact areas prior to clearing to locate fauna. The clearance survey should focus on locating burrows, recent foraging signs, fresh tracks and scats.
clearing	has the meaning given under section 3(1) of the EP Act.
condition(s)	a condition to which this clearing permit is subject under section 51H of the EP Act.
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.
drainage line(s)	means a natural depression that carries surface water runoff.
EP Act	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> (WA)
EPA Technical Guidance	means Environmental Protection Authority (2016), <i>Technical Guidance - Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment</i> , EPA, Western Australia.
fauna specialist	means a person who holds a tertiary qualification specialising 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 <i>CEO</i> as a suitable fauna specialist for the bioregion, and who holds a valid fauna licence issued under the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> .
fill	means material used to increase the ground level, or to fill a depression.
greater bilby suitable habitat	means habitat known to support the greater bilby (<i>Macrotis lagotis</i>) within the known current distribution of the species.
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.
occupied	means currently occupied, or where uncertainty exists, potentially occupied, by the greater bilby (<i>Macrotis lagotis</i>).
potentially occupied	means any greater bilby burrow that is open (i.e. round entrance and depth characteristics adequate to house a greater bilby), with or without a sand apron, and/or there are fresh greater bilby sign(s) present at the site.
priority flora	means those plant taxa described as priority flora classes 1, 2, 3, or 4 in the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' <i>Threatened and Priority Flora List for Western Australia</i> (as amended).
riparian vegetation	has the meaning given to it in Regulation 3 of the Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004.
unoccupied	means any greater bilby burrow that – (a) has begun to collapse and no longer has a round entrance or cavity and would not enable a greater bilby to enter without additional digging, and there is no evidence that other vertebrates are making use of the burrow; or (b) has vegetation in the entrance and cob webs across the entrance and there is no evidence that any vertebrates are making use of the burrow.
targeted flora survey	means a field-based investigation, including a review of established literature, of the biodiversity of flora and vegetation of the permit area, focusing on habitat suitable for flora species that are being targeted and carried out during the optimal time to identify those species. Where target flora are identified in the permit area, the survey should also include sufficient surrounding areas to place the permit area into local context.

Term	Definition
watercourse	has the meaning given to it in section 3 of the <i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> .
weed(s)	means any plant – (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.
wetland(s)	means an area of seasonally, intermittently or permanently waterlogged or inundated land, whether natural or otherwise, and includes a lake, swamp, marsh, spring, dampland, tidal flat or estuary.

END OF CONDITIONS

Danielle Risbey

Danielle Risbey | General Manager Mine Closure and Environmental Services
 Resource and Environmental Compliance Division
 30 July 2026

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

SCHEDULE 1

The boundary of the area authorised to be cleared is shown in the map below (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur.