



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcome

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	9365/2
Permit type:	Purpose Permit
Applicant name:	Chalice Mining Limited
Application received:	26 July 2021
Application area:	4.4 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Mineral exploration
Method of clearing:	Pruning, walking over vegetation, and driving an off-road vehicle or equipment over vegetation
Tenure:	Miscellaneous Licence 70/5119
Location (LGA area/s):	Shire of Toodyay
Colloquial name:	Hartog and Baudin Project

1.2. Description of clearing activities

Chalice Mining Limited proposes to clear up to 4.4 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 117.8 hectares, for the purpose of mineral exploration. The project is located approximately 15 kilometres south-east of Bindoon, within the Shire of Toodyay.

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	21 June 2022
Decision area:	4.4 hectares of native vegetation

1.4. Reasons for decision

On 6 January 2022, clearing permit CPS 9365/1 was granted to clear up to 4.4 hectares of native vegetation for the purpose of mineral exploration. Five appeals were lodged against the grant of the permit.

This clearing permit amendment gives effect to the determination of the Minister for Environment (Minister) that the decision to grant the permit was justified, but to allow the appeal to the extent that some of the conditions of the permit are strengthened to provide greater assurance that the environmental risks posed by the clearing activities are minimised. The amended conditions pertain to:

- Weed and hygiene controls;
- Dieback assessment and monitoring;
- Baseline monitoring; and
- Fauna management.

Given the above, the Delegated Officer decided to grant a clearing permit to reflect the Minister's determination. The assessment has not changed from the determination of Clearing Permit CPS 9365/1.

2. Assessment of application

2.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

No blade down clearing is proposed. To minimise impacts to vegetation, small track mounted drill rigs with closed-loop drilling fluid systems will be used, negating the need to construct cleared drill pads, sumps, and access tracks. The use of small track-mounted drill rigs and support vehicles, rather than conventional larger wheeled rigs and vehicles, minimises the impact on vegetation, allowing root stock and soil profile (including seed bank) to remain intact, and vegetation to recover once the drill rig and support vehicles have passed over the area.

Drill rigs and support vehicles will utilise existing tracks and/or firebreaks where possible (approximately 30% of drill sites) and drill rigs and all support vehicles will be configured in tandem to further reduce the overall footprint associated with set up and operation of drilling activities.

Drill sites and access routes have been designed in areas of sparse vegetation where practicable and multiple holes will be drilled from a single drill site, rather than grid configuration, to minimise footprint.

The Delegated Officer was satisfied that the applicant has made a reasonable effort to avoid and minimise potential impacts of the proposed clearing on environmental values.

2.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

The amendment is a result of an appeal determination made by the Minister for Environment (the Minister) regarding the grant of clearing permit CPS 9365/1.

The assessment against the clearing principles outlined in Schedule 5 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* had not changed and can be found in the Clearing Permit Decision Report CPS 9365/1.

2.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The assessment against planning instruments and other matters has not changed since the assessment under CPS 9365/1.

To give effect to a decision of the Minister under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (the EP Act), the Chief Executive Officer of DWER or their delegates may amend a clearing permit under section 51K(h) of the EP Act. Section 105(aa) of the EP Act states that amendments made under this section of the EP Act are not appealable. On this basis, the abovementioned amendments made by the Delegated Officer to reflect the Minister's determination on the appeal against Clearing Permit CPS 9365/1 are not available for third party appeal.

End