



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	9541/1
Duration of Permit:	From 19 July 2022 to 18 July 2027
Permit Holder:	Pilbara Energy (Generation) Pty Ltd

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 45/515
Miscellaneous Licence 45/589

2. Clearing authorised (purpose)

The Permit Holder is authorised to clear native vegetation for the purpose of a solar farm and associated infrastructure.

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 353.2 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross-hatched yellow in Figure 1 of Schedule 1.

PART II - MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. Wind erosion management

The Permit Holder must ensure that approved activities commence within three months of the authorised clearing being undertaken to reduce the risk of soil erosion by minimising the exposure time of soils.

7. Vegetation Management

- (a) where practicable the Permit Holder shall avoid clearing *riparian vegetation*; and
- (b) where a *watercourse* or *drainage line* 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*.

8. Fauna management

- (a) Within two weeks prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder shall engage a *fauna specialist* to undertake *clearance surveys* for the greater bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*) and brush-tailed mulgara (*Dasycercus blythi*) within the area cross-hatched yellow in Figure 1 of Schedule 1, using transects spaced at a maximum 100 metres apart, to identify and inspect (if present) greater bilby and brush-tailed mulgara burrows for signs of use.
- (b) Where evidence of recent burrow use by greater bilbies or brush-tailed mulgara is identified under Condition 8(a) of this Permit, the Permit Holder shall;
 - (i) engage a fauna specialist to flag the location of the burrow/s showing signs of recent use;
 - (ii) not clear within ten metres of the flagged burrow/s;
 - (iii) engage a fauna specialist to monitor with cameras, the flagged burrow/s for a maximum of five days, or until such time that greater bilbies and brush-tailed mulgara have been observed to independently move on from the burrow/s; and
 - (iv) immediately prior to clearing, engage a fauna specialist to re-inspect any flagged burrow/s for the presence of greater bilbies and brush-tailed mulgara.
- (c) In the event that greater bilbies or brush-tailed mulgara are identified utilising any flagged burrow/s under Condition 8(b)(iv) of this permit, the Permit Holder shall engage a *fauna specialist* to remove and relocate the identified greater bilbies and brush-tailed mulgara to an area of suitable habitat, in accordance with a fauna licence pursuant to Section 28 of the *Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2018*.
- (d) Where active greater bilby or brush-tailed mulgara burrows are identified under Condition 8(a) of this Permit, and/or greater bilbies and brush-tailed mulgara are relocated under Condition 8(c) of this permit, the permit holder shall include the following in a report submitted to the *CEO*:
 - (i) The location of any active greater bilby or brush-tailed mulgara burrows identified, using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994, expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;
 - (ii) a description of the camera monitoring measures undertaken under Condition 8(b)(iii) of this Permit;
 - (iii) the date and time that greater bilbies were recorded as independently moving from a flagged burrow;
 - (iv) the gender of each greater bilby captured under Condition 8(c) of this permit;
 - (v) the location of any greater bilbies and brush-tailed mulgara captured, using a GPS unit set to GDA94, expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;
 - (vi) the date, time, vegetation type and weather conditions at each location where greater bilbies and brush-tailed mulgara were captured under Condition 8(d)(v) of this Permit;
 - (vii) the location of any greater bilbies and brush-tailed mulgara relocated, using a GPS unit set to GDA94, expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;
 - (viii) the date, time, vegetation type and weather conditions at each location where greater bilbies and brush-tailed mulgara are relocated under Condition 8(d)(viii) of this Permit;
 - (ix) the name of the *fauna specialist* that relocated fauna under Condition 8(c) of this Permit; and
 - (x) a copy of the fauna licence authorising the relocation of fauna under Condition 8(c) of this Permit.

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

9. 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 Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings;

No.	Relevant matter	Specifications
		(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 4; and (e) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds in accordance with Condition 5 (f) actions taken in accordance with Condition 6; (g) actions taken in accordance with Condition 7; (h) a report detailing the date and methods of the clearance survey undertaken in accordance with Condition 8.

10. Reporting

- (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.
- (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.
- (c) Prior to 18 July 2027, 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) or 10(b) of this Permit.

DEFINITIONS

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

Table 2: Definitions

Term	Definition
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> ;
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 (WA)</i> 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 (WA)</i>
fill	means material used to increase the ground level, or to fill a depression.
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> .

Term	Definition
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.
riparian vegetation	has the meaning given to it in Regulation 3 of the Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulation 2004.
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 – <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



Karen Caple
Executive Director Resource and Environmental Compliance
Resource and Environmental Compliance Division
24 June 2022

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).

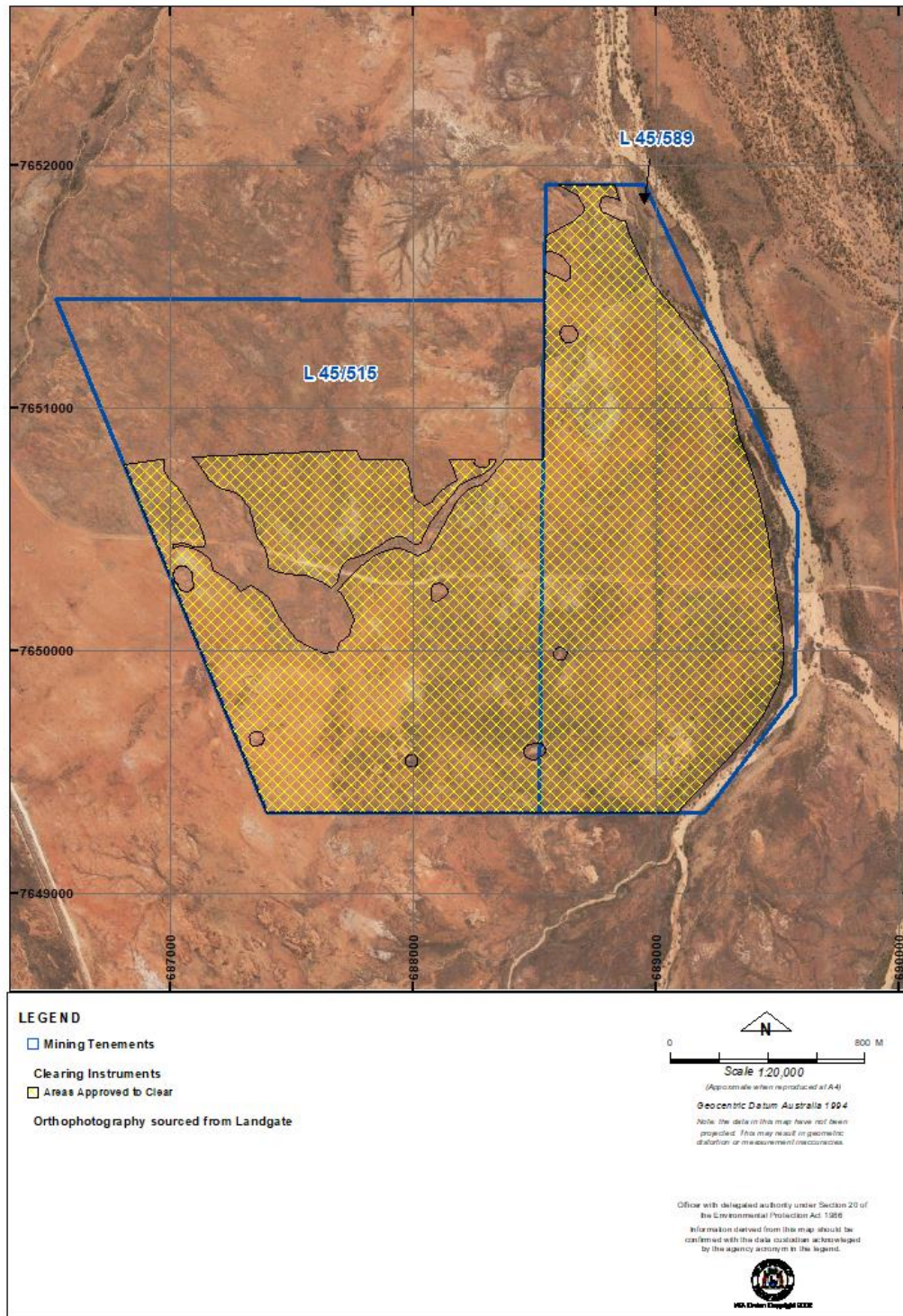


Figure 1: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur