



## CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

<b>Purpose Permit number:</b>	9763/1
<b>Duration of Permit:</b>	From 8 December 2022 to 7 December 2032
<b>Permit Holder:</b>	Mineral Search 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**

Mining Lease 70/1405  
Miscellaneous Licence 70/228

**2. Clearing authorised (purpose)**

The Permit Holder is authorised to clear native vegetation for the purpose of gypsum extraction and associated activities.

**3. Area of Clearing**

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 13.825 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 one month of the authorised clearing being undertaken.

### **PART II - MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS**

**5. 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:

- avoid the clearing of native vegetation;
- minimise the amount of native vegetation to be cleared; and
- reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.

**6. 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*:

- clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
- ensure that no known *weed*-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill* or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and
- restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.

## 7. Flora management

- (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 threatened flora listed in the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice* and *priority flora* in accordance with *EPA Technical Guidance*.
- (b) 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*.
- (c) If threatened or *priority flora* are identified within the Permit Area, the *targeted flora survey* report must include the following:
- (i) the location of each threatened or *priority flora*, either as the location of individual plants, or where this is not practical, the areal extent of the population and an estimate of the number of plants, 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;
  - (ii) the species name of each threatened, or *priority flora* identified;
  - (iii) the methodology used to survey the Permit Area;
  - (iv) the extent of the identified threatened or *priority flora* shown on a map; and
  - (v) a site description of where the threatened or *priority flora* was found.
- (d) Where threatened flora or *priority flora* are identified in relation to Condition 7(a) of this Permit, the Permit Holder shall ensure that:
- (i) no clearing occurs within 50 metres of identified threatened flora, unless approved by the *CEO*; and
  - (ii) no clearing of identified *priority flora* occurs; and
  - (iii) no clearing occurs within 10 metres of identified *priority flora*, unless first approved by the *CEO*.
- (e) For the purpose of this Permit, a *targeted flora survey* conducted within the previous five years will satisfy Condition 7(a).

## 8. Vegetation Management

- (a) where practicable the Permit Holder shall avoid clearing *riparian vegetation*; and
- (b) where a *watercourse* or *wetland* is to be impacted by clearing, the Permit Holder shall ensure that the existing surface flow is maintained.

## **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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(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;</li><li>(b) the date that the area was cleared;</li><li>(c) the size of the area cleared (in hectares);</li><li>(d) actions taken to avoid, minimise, and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing in accordance with Condition 5; and</li><li>(e) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of <i>weeds</i> in accordance with Condition 6; and</li><li>(f) actions taken in accordance with Condition 8.</li></ul>

No.	Relevant matter	Specifications
2.	In relation to flora management pursuant to Condition 7	<p>(a) the name and location of each <i>threatened flora</i> and/or <i>priority flora</i> species, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings;</p> <p>(b) actions taken to demarcate each <i>threatened flora</i> and/or <i>priority flora</i> species recorded and their relevant buffers; and</p> <p>(c) actions taken to avoid the clearing of <i>threatened flora</i> and/or <i>priority flora</i> species.</p>

## 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 7 December 2032, 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
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 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> .
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.
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.
fill	means material used to increase the ground level, or to fill a depression.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
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.
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) Regulation 2004.
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 must also include a minimum of a 10 metre radius of the surrounding areas to place the permit area into local context.
threatened flora	means those plant taxa listed as threatened flora under the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> .
watercourse	has the meaning given to it in section 3 of the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914.
weed/s	means any plant – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) that is a declared pest under section 22 of the <i>Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007</i>; or</li> <li>(b) published in a Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions species-led ecological impact and invasiveness ranking summary, regardless of ranking; or</li> <li>(c) not indigenous to the area concerned.</li> </ul>
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.
Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice	means those plant taxa gazetted as a threatened flora pursuant to section 19(1) of the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> (as amended).

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## END OF CONDITIONS




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Travis Inman  
General Manager Mine Closure and Environmental Services  
Resource and Environmental Compliance Division  
15 November 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).

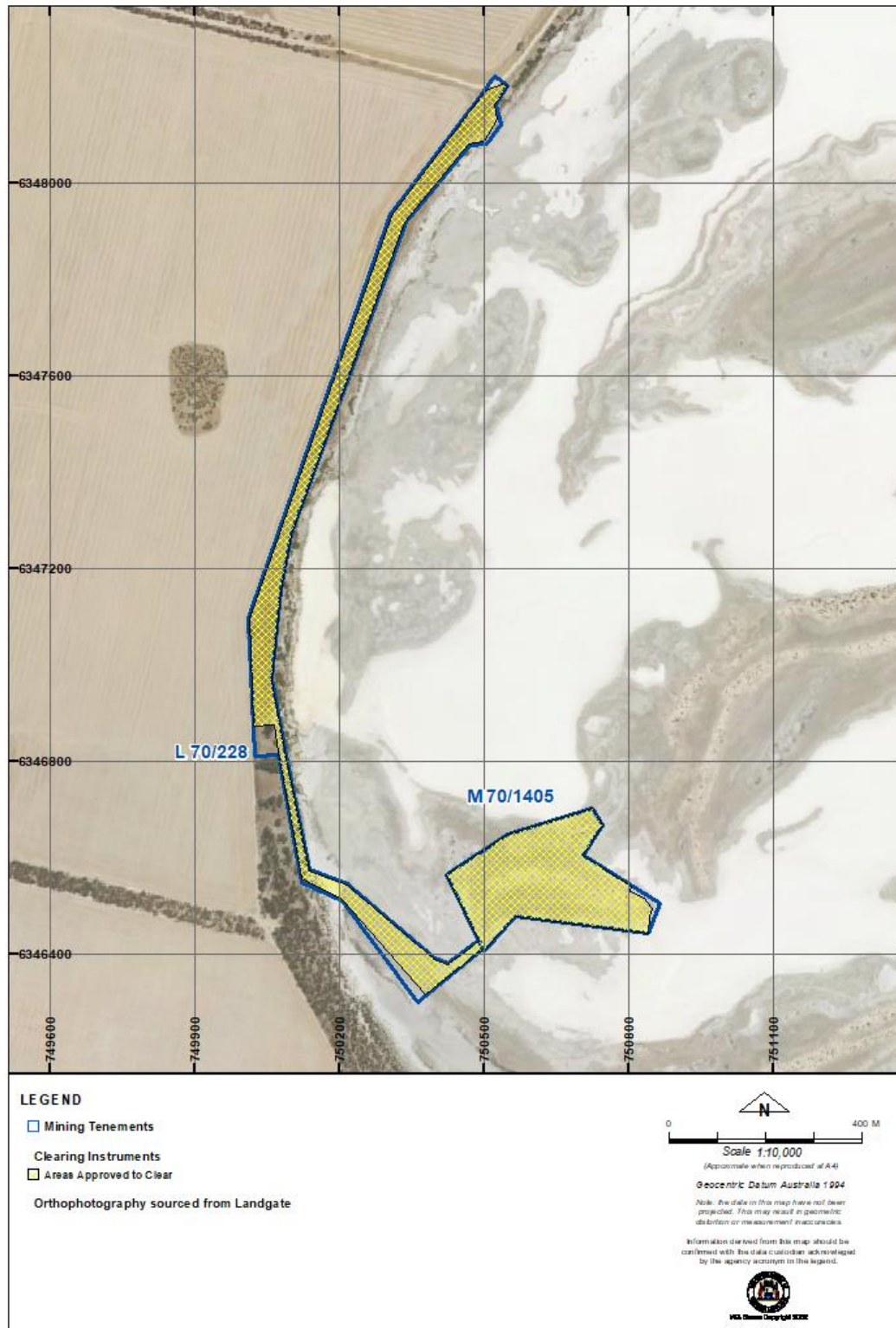


Figure 1: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur