



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 374/8
Permit Holder:	Paddington Gold Pty Ltd
Duration of Permit:	From 20 June 2005 to 20 June 2019

The Permit Holder is authorised to clear native vegetation subject to the following conditions of this Permit.

PART I – CLEARING AUTHORISED

1. Purpose for which clearing may be done

Clearing for the purpose of mineral production.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Mining Lease 24/403	Mining Lease 24/321	Mining Lease 24/79
Mining Lease 24/255	Mining Lease 24/302	Mining Lease 24/236
Mining Lease 24/231	Mining Lease 24/234	Mining Lease 24/166
Mining Lease 24/291	Mining Lease 24/81	Mining Lease 24/256
Mining Lease 24/205	Mining Lease 24/82	Mining Lease 24/102
Mining Lease 24/270	Mining Lease 24/710	Mining Lease 24/211
Mining Lease 24/138	Mining Lease 24/182	Mining Lease 24/810
Mining Lease 24/187	Mining Lease 24/223	Mining Lease 24/796
Mining Lease 24/271	Mining Lease 24/16	Mining Lease 24/708
Mining Lease 24/220	Mining Lease 24/227	Mining Lease 24/172
Mining Lease 24/272	Mining Lease 24/705	Mining Lease 24/304
Mining Lease 24/393	Mining Lease 24/709	Mining Lease 24/618
Mining Lease 24/229	Mining Lease 24/266	General Purpose Lease 24/11
Mining Lease 24/432	Mining Lease 24/265	General Purpose Lease 24/12
Mining Lease 24/60	Mining Lease 24/155	

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 230 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 374/8.

4. Type of clearing authorised

The Permit Holder shall not clear native vegetation unless the purpose for which clearing is authorised is enacted within six months of the authorised clearing being undertaken.

5. Application

This Permit allows the Permit Holder to authorise persons, including employees, contractors and agents of the Permit Holder, to clear native vegetation for the purposes of this Permit subject to compliance with the conditions of this Permit and approval from the Permit Holder.

PART II – MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

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*:

- (a) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
- (b) ensure that no *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.

7. Avoid, minimise etc.

In determining the amount of native vegetation to be cleared authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder must have regard to the following principles, set out in 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.

8. 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 rare flora listed in the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice* and *priority flora* in accordance with *Technical Guidance: Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment* (Environmental Protection Authority, December 2016).
- (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 rare or *priority flora* are identified within the Permit Area, the *targeted flora survey* report must include the following:
 - (i) the location of each rare and/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; and
 - (ii) the species name of each rare and/or *priority flora* identified.
- (d) Where rare or *priority flora* are identified under condition 8(a) of this Permit, the Permit Holder shall ensure that:
 - (i) no clearing within 50 metres of the identified rare flora occurs, unless first approved by the CEO; and
 - (ii) no clearing of *priority flora* occurs, unless first approved by the CEO.

9. Fauna management

- (a) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder shall engage a *fauna specialist* to conduct a *fauna survey* of the Permit Area, to identify *critical habitat* being utilised by fauna listed in the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice* and *priority fauna* in accordance with *Technical Guidance: Terrestrial Fauna Surveys* (Environmental Protection Authority, December 2016).
- (b) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder shall provide the results of the *fauna survey* in a report to the CEO.
- (c) The fauna survey report must include the following:
 - (i) the location of the *critical habitat* 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 location of any fauna species 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;
 - (iii) the name of each fauna species identified;
 - (iv) the methodology used to survey the Permit Area and to establish the *critical habitat*;
 - (v) the extent of the *critical habitat* of the identified rare or *priority fauna* shown on a map; and

- (vi) a description of the *critical habitat* of rare or *priority fauna* found.
- (d) Where fauna are identified under condition 9(a) of this Permit, the Permit Holder shall ensure that:
 - (i) no clearing of *critical habitat* of the identified rare or *priority fauna* occurs, unless first approved by the CEO; and
 - (ii) no taking of identified fauna occurs, unless first approved by the CEO.

10. Threatened ecological community management

- (a) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder shall engage an *ecologist* to conduct a *flora and vegetation survey* of the Permit Area to identify *threatened ecological communities* and *priority ecological communities*.
- (b) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder shall provide to the CEO, the results of the *flora and vegetation survey* in a report.
- (c) If *threatened ecological communities* and *priority ecological communities* are identified, the *flora and vegetation survey* report must include the following:
 - (i) the location of *threatened ecological communities* and *priority ecological communities* 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 name of each *threatened ecological community* and *priority ecological community* identified;
 - (iii) the methodology used to survey and identify *threatened ecological communities* and *priority ecological communities*; and
 - (iv) the extent of the *threatened ecological communities* or *priority ecological communities* shown on a map.
- (d) Where *threatened ecological communities* or *priority ecological communities* are identified under condition 10(a) the Permit Holder shall ensure that:
 - (i) no clearing occurs within 50 metres of identified *threatened ecological communities*, unless first approved by the CEO; and
 - (ii) no clearing occurs within 20 metres of identified *priority ecological communities*, unless first approved by the CEO.

11. Watercourse management

Where water flows or collects within a cleared area, the Permit Holder shall construct levee banks to divert water away from the cleared area and into existing drainage channels.

PART III – RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

12. Records to be kept

The Permit Holder must maintain the following records for activities done pursuant to this Permit:

- (a) In relation to the clearing of native vegetation authorised under this Permit:
 - (i) 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 or decimal degrees;
 - (ii) the date that the area was cleared;
 - (iii) the size of the area cleared (in hectares); and
 - (iv) the purpose for which clearing was undertaken.

13. Reporting

- (a) The Permit Holder must provide to the CEO on or before 31 July of each year, a written report:
 - (i) of records required under condition 12 of this Permit; and
 - (ii) concerning activities done by the Permit Holder under this Permit between 1 July to 30 June of the preceding financial year.
- (b) If no clearing authorised under this Permit was undertaken between 1 July to 30 June of the preceding financial year, a written report confirming that no clearing under this permit has been carried out, must be provided to the CEO on or before 31 July of each year.

- (c) Prior to 20 March 2019, the Permit Holder must provide to the CEO a written report of records required under condition 12 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under condition 13(a) of this Permit.

DEFINITIONS

Except as otherwise provided, terms used in this Permit have the meaning set out in the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.

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 CEO as a suitable botanist for the bioregion;

critical habitat means any part of the Permit Area comprising of the habitat of flora or fauna species and its population, that is critical for the health and long term survival of the flora or fauna species and its population;

ecologist means a person who holds a tertiary qualification in environmental science or equivalent, and has a minimum of 2 years work experience in flora identification, flora and vegetation surveys and vegetation data analysis of flora and vegetation native to the bioregion being inspected or surveyed, or who is approved by the CEO as a suitable ecologist for the bioregion;

fauna specialist means a person who holds a tertiary qualification specializing 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 CEO as a suitable fauna specialist for the bioregion, and who holds a valid fauna licence issued under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*;

fauna survey means a field-based investigation, including a review of established literature, of the biodiversity of fauna and/or fauna habitat of the Permit Area. Where conservation significant fauna are identified in the Permit Area, the survey should also include sufficient surrounding areas to place the Permit Area into local context;

flora and vegetation 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 priority or threatened ecological communities. The survey should include sufficient surrounding areas to place the Permit Area into local context;

priority ecological community/ies mean those ecological communities described as priority classes 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 in the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' *Priority Ecological Communities for Western Australia* (as amended);

priority fauna means those fauna taxa describes as priority fauna, classes 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 in the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' *Threatened and Priority Fauna Rankings List for Western Australia* (as amended);

priority flora means those plant taxa described as priority flora classes 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 in the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' *Threatened and Priority Flora List for Western Australia* (as amended);

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;

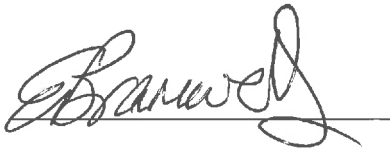
threatened ecological community/ies has the meaning given to it in clause 3 of the *Environmental Protection (Environmentally Sensitive Areas) Notice 2005*;

weed/s means any plant -

- (a) that is a declared pest under section 22 of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*;
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.

Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice means those plant taxa gazetted as rare flora pursuant to section 23F(2) of the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* (as amended).

Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice means those fauna taxa gazetted as rare fauna pursuant to section 14(4)(a) of the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* (as amended).

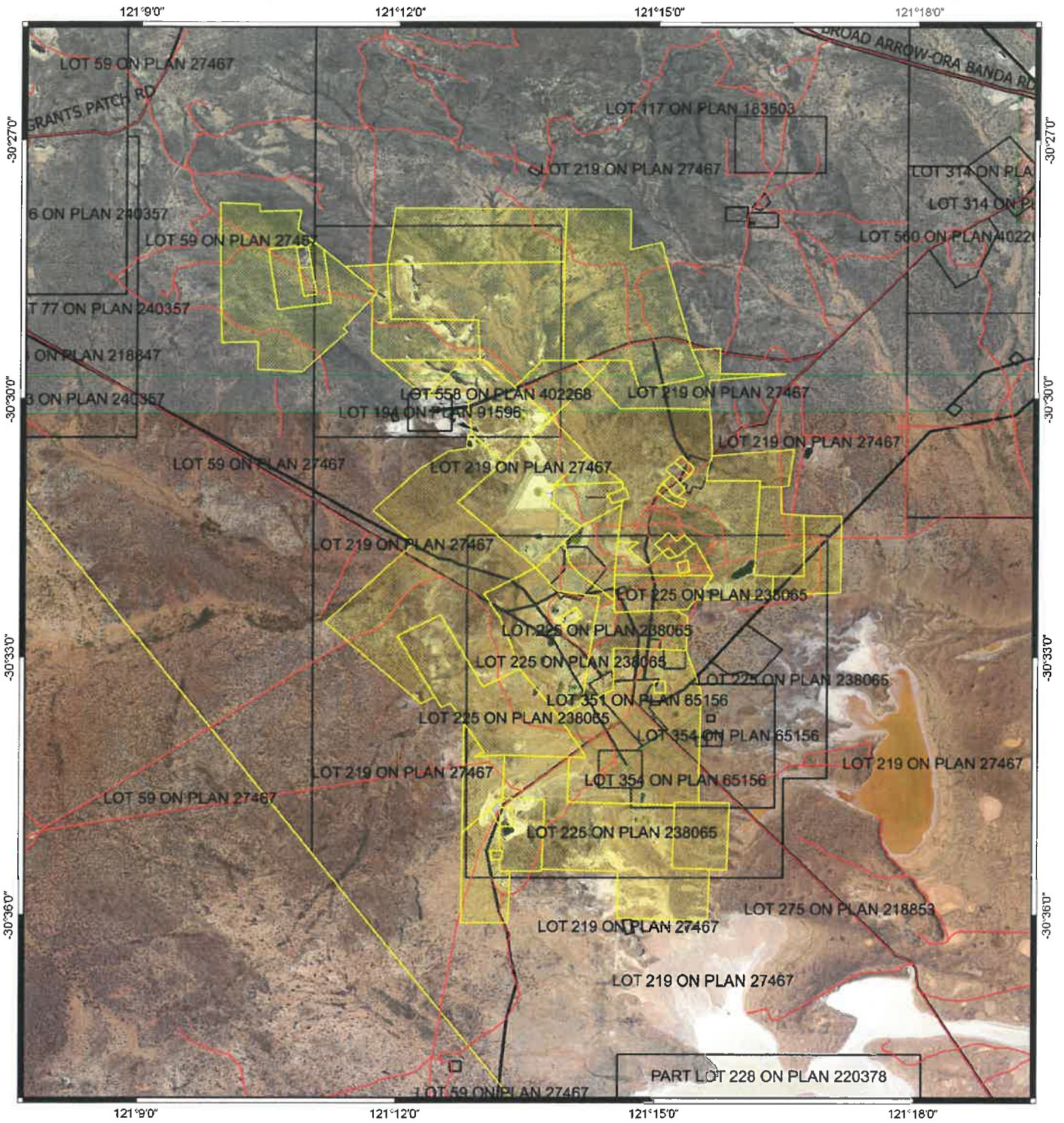


Emma Bramwell
A/ MANAGER
CLEARING REGULATION

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

12 June 2018

Plan 374/8



Legend

-  Areas approved to clear
-  Roads
-  Local Government Area cadastre
-  Cadastre
-  WANow_Imagery



MGA 94
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

E. Briamwell Date 12/06/18
E. BRIAMWELL

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



**GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: CPS 374/8
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Paddington Gold Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: Mining tenements and general purpose leases:

M24/403	M24/393	M24/16	M24/102
M24/255	M24/229	M24/227	M24/211
M24/231	M24/432	M24/705	M24/810
M24/291	M24/60	M24/709	M24/796
M24/205	M24/321	M24/266	M24/708
M24/270	M24/234	M24/265	M24/172
M24/138	M24/81	M24/155	M24/304
M24/187	M24/82	M24/79	M24/618
M24/271	M24/710	M24/236	M24/302
M24/220	M24/182	M24/166	G24/11
M24/272	M24/223	M24/256	G24/12

Colloquial name: Mount Pleasant Project
Local Government Authority: City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
DWER Region: Goldfields
Localities: Ora Banda and Kanowna

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
230		Mechanical Removal	Mineral production

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Application: Final Amendment

Decision Date: 12 June 2018

Reasons for Decision: The applicant applied to amend Clearing Permit CPS 374/6 by extending the duration of the permit by five years to 20 June 2023. The application was received by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) on 13 February 2018.

On review of the available information, the Delegated Officer noted the time that has elapsed since the original assessment in 2005, and that the conditions in Clearing Permit CPS 374/6 do not align with DWER's current practice. The Delegated Officer determined that an extension of five years is not appropriate, however formed the view that an extension of twelve months would provide the applicant with sufficient time to re-apply for the clearing, including to consider whether additional information is required to support the application.

2. Site information

Clearing Description: The application is to amend the duration of Clearing Permit CPS 374/6 by five years to 20 June 2023.

Clearing Permit CPS 374/6 authorises the applicant to clear up to 230 hectares of native vegetation (within a 9,153 hectare project footprint) within the mining tenements and general leases listed above, for the purpose of mineral production. The extent of the project footprint is indicated in Figure 1.

Vegetation Description: The application area is mapped as the following Beard vegetation associations:

- 125: Bare areas - salt lakes;
- 128: Bare areas - rock outcrops;
- 468: Medium woodland – salmon gum (*Eucalyptus salmonophloia*) and Goldfields blackbutt (*Eucalyptus lesouefii*);
- 540: Succulent steppe with open low woodland – sheoak (*Allocasuarina* sp.) over saltbush;
- 936: Medium woodland – salmon gum;
- 2901: Mosaic Medium woodland – black oak (*Casuarina pauper*, formerly *Casuarina cristata*) and Goldfields blackbutt/Shrublands; *Acacia quadrimarginea* thicket (Shepherd et al., 2001).

Vegetation Condition: The condition of the vegetation within the application area is considered to be:

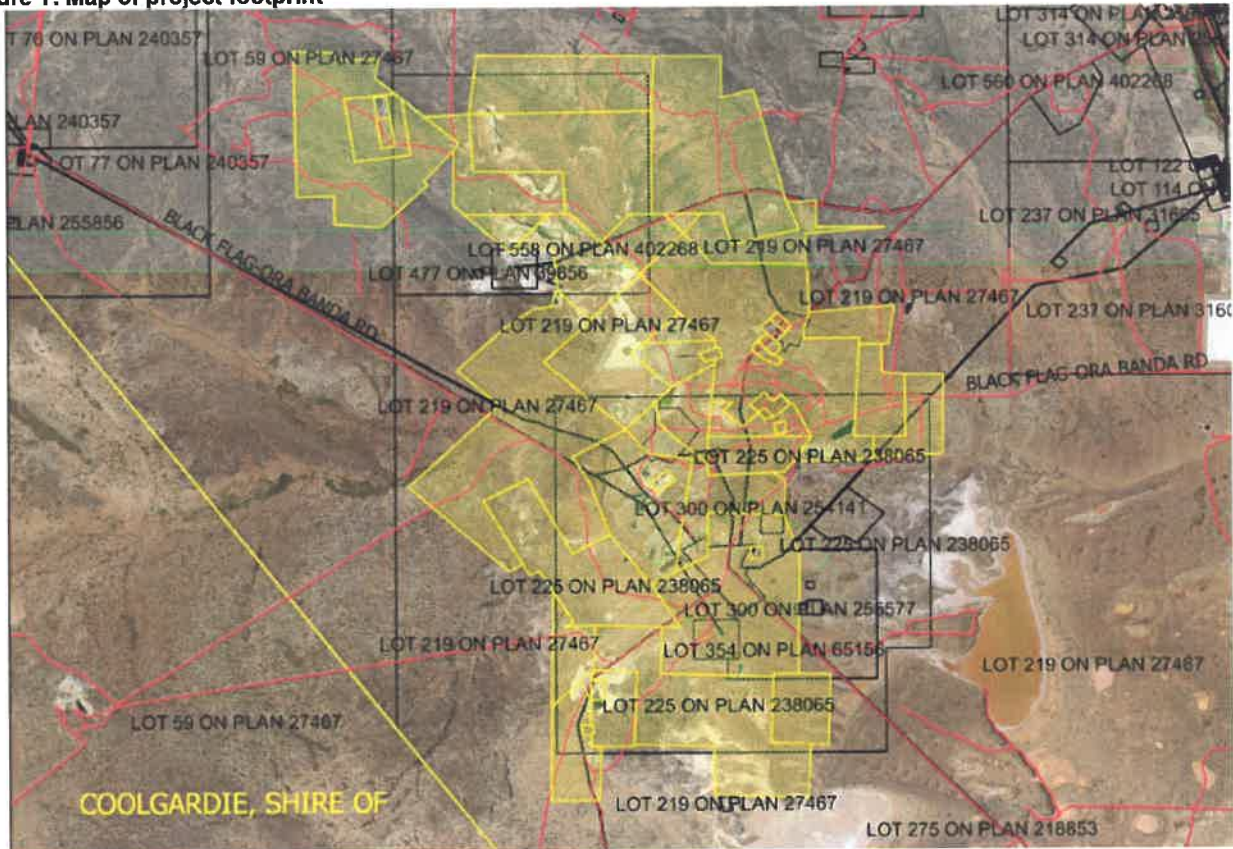
- Good: Vegetation structure significantly altered by very obvious signs of multiple disturbance; retains basic structure or ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994).
- Degraded: Basic vegetation structure severely impacted by disturbance; scope for regeneration but not to a state approaching Good condition without intensive management (Keighery 1994).

- Completely Degraded: The structure of the vegetation is no longer intact and the area is completely or almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994).

Vegetation condition was determined from aerial imagery, an Edith Cowan University (2005) report and information received from the former Department of Industry and Resources (DoIR, 2005).

Soil/Landform Type: Two soil types have been mapped within the application area, including greenstone rocky ranges and hills of calcareous loamy soils, and salt lakes with gypseous and saline loamy soil (Northcote et al., 1960-68).

Figure 1: Map of project footprint



3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

On review of Clearing Permit CPS 374/6, it has been identified that a substantial amount of time has passed since the permit was originally granted in 2005, suggesting that a re-assessment of the potential impacts of the clearing may be appropriate, and that the conditions in the permit do not align with DWER's current practice. However, an extension of twelve months is considered sufficient time to enable the applicant to re-apply for the clearing, including to consider whether additional information is required to support an assessment of the flora, vegetation and fauna values of the proposed clearing area.

Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

The application was advertised on DWER's website on 12/03/2018 for a 21 day public submission period. One submission was received during this period.

The submission objects to the amendment for the following reasons (summarised):

- The submission claims that up to 19 conservation significant (priority) flora species have been recorded within 25-40 kilometres of the project footprint, which may occur within the project area (Submission, 2018). The submission claims that existing flora surveys were based on desktop findings and/or were conducted outside of the flowering times for at least five of these species, and are therefore inadequate to determine the impacts of the proposed clearing on conservation significant flora (Submission, 2018). The submission requests that new surveys are conducted in accordance with the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) guidance documents (Submission, 2018).
- The submission claims that the assessment undertaken for amendment application CPS 374/6, relating to an increase in the area of the proposed clearing from 100 hectares to 230 hectares, did not include a detailed re-examination of the application or have regard for the latest information on rare or priority flora species (Submission, 2018). The submission claims that a new assessment should be undertaken for the amendment application, based on recent and comprehensive surveys and determine whether the proposed clearing has been designed to avoid, minimise and reduce impacts (Submission, 2018).
- The submission claims that since 2005 (when the original Clearing Permit CPS 374/1 was granted), conditions applied to permits have been strengthened, and that if granted the amended permit should include conditions requiring the Permit Holder to demonstrate that the proposed clearing has been designed to avoid, minimise and reduce impacts and to report on this, to revegetate and rehabilitate disturbed areas to pre-clearing condition and composition, and to prepare a completion report that should be made publicly available.

The assessment of amendment application CPS 374/6 was undertaken in accordance with the requirements of sections 51E and 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, including having regard to the ten clearing principles and to planning instruments and other matters considered to be relevant. The assessment of amendment application CPS 374/6 noted that the project footprint remained unchanged. The assessment of amendment application CPS 374/6 found that on review of current environmental information, the increased area of proposed clearing has the potential to increase the risk of wind erosion (principle (g)) but was otherwise consistent with the findings outlined in the decision report for application CPS 374/1. It is noted that a 21 day appeal period applied to the decision to grant amended Clearing Permit CPS 374/6, and no appeals were received.

Clearing Permit CPS 374/6 requires the Permit Holder to avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing in determining the amount of native vegetation to be cleared. Clearing Permit CPS 374/6 also requires the Permit Holder to, prior to undertaking the proposed clearing, undertake surveys:

- engage a botanist to conduct a targeted flora survey of the project footprint for the presence of rare and priority flora in accordance with the EPA *Guidance for the Assessment of Environmental Factors: Terrestrial Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Australia* (2004), to provide the results of the survey to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER), and to avoid clearing the habitat surrounding rare and priority flora (unless approved by DWER);
- engage a fauna specialist to conduct a fauna survey of the project footprint to identify critical habitat of threatened and priority fauna in accordance with the EPA *Guidance for the Assessment of Environmental Factors: Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Australia* (2004), to provide the results of the survey to DWER, and to avoid clearing the critical habitat of, or taking, threatened or priority fauna (unless approved by DWER);
- engage an ecologist to conduct a flora and vegetation survey of the project footprint to identify threatened ecological communities (TEC) and priority ecological communities (PEC), to provide the results of the survey to DWER, and to avoid clearing the habitat surrounding rare and priority flora (unless approved by DWER).

The above requirements have not changed in the amended permit, other than to update the references to EPA guidance documents to reflect the current versions published in December 2016, and it is considered that these conditions are adequate to ensure that impacts to conservation significant flora, fauna and ecological communities as a result of the proposed clearing are avoided and minimised.

In relation to the submitter's view that disturbed areas are revegetated and rehabilitated to pre-clearing condition and composition, it is noted that the mining tenements are subject to rehabilitation requirements, including through scraping and grading, maintenance of water flows, and re-spreading of stockpiled topsoil and vegetation. It is considered that similar requirements on the amended permit would be duplicative and are not necessary.

In relation to the submitter's view that the Permit Holder should be required to prepare a completion report and that this should be made publicly available, the amended permit requires the Permit Holder to record information in relation to each of the management conditions, and to report on these periodically. The mining tenements are also subject to the preparation of mine closure plans.

4. References

- Department of Industry and Resources (DoIR) (2005) Submission. Department of Industry and Resources, Western Australia (TRIM ref. ND 620).
- Edith Cowan University (2005) Vegetation and Flora of the Mt Pleasant Mining Area, Kalgoorlie West Operations - A report prepared for Placer Dome Inc, April 2005. Centre for Ecosystem Management, Edith Cowan University (TRIM ref. NI 1027).
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Schoknecht, N., Tille, P. and Purdie, B. (2004) Soil-landscape mapping in South-Western Australia – Overview of Methodology and outputs' Resource Management Technical Report No. 280. Department of Agriculture.
- Shepherd, D.P., Beeston, G.R. and Hopkins, A.J.M. (2001) Native Vegetation in Western Australia, Extent, Type and Status. Resource Management Technical Report 249. Department of Agriculture, Western Australia.
- Submission (2018) Public submission received in relation to clearing permit amendment application CPS 374/8 (DWER ref. A1646239).

GIS Databases:

- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
- DBCA Managed Estate
- Directory of Important Wetlands
- Groundwater salinity
- Hydrography, hierarchy
- Hydrography, linear
- Land Degradation datasets
- NLWRA, Current Extent of Native Vegetation
- SAC Bio Datasets (Accessed March 2018)
- Soils, Statewide
- Topographic contours
- Vegetation Complexes SCP