



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 413/5
Permit Holder:	Paddington Gold Pty Ltd
Duration of Permit:	9 July 2005 to 9 July 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 mining.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Mining Tenement M24/165

Mining Tenement M24/390

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 50 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross hatched yellow on attached Plan 413/5.

4. 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 – ASSESSMENT SEQUENCE AND MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

5. Avoid, minimise etc clearing

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:

- 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 *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

Where *priority flora* species *Ptilotus chortophytus* has been identified and its written location provided to the CEO, the Permit Holder shall ensure that:

- (a) no clearing of identified *Ptilotus chortophytus* occurs; and
- (b) no clearing occurs within 50 metres of identified *Ptilotus chortophytus* unless first approved by the CEO.

PART III – RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

8. Records must be kept

The Permit Holder must maintain the following records in relation to the clearing of native vegetation authorised under this Permit:

- (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;
- (b) the date that the area was cleared; and
- (c) the size of the area cleared (in hectares).

9. Reporting

- (a) The Permit Holder must provide to the CEO on or before 30 June of each year, a written report:
 - (i) of records required under condition 8 of this Permit; and
 - (ii) concerning activities done by the Permit Holder under this Permit between 1 July to 30 June of the preceding year.
- (b) If no clearing authorised under this Permit was undertaken between 1 July to 30 June of the preceding year, a written report confirming that no clearing under this permit has been carried out, must be provided to the CEO on or before 30 June of each year.
- (c) Prior to 9 April 2019 the Permit Holder must provide to the CEO a written report of records required under condition 8 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under condition 9(a) of this Permit.

DEFINITIONS

The following meanings are given to terms used in this Permit:

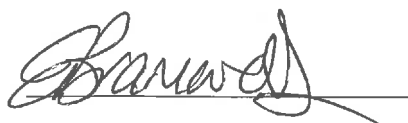
fill means material used to increase the ground level, or fill a hollow;

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);

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;

weed/s means any plant -

- (a) that is declared under section 37 of the *Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act 1976*; 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

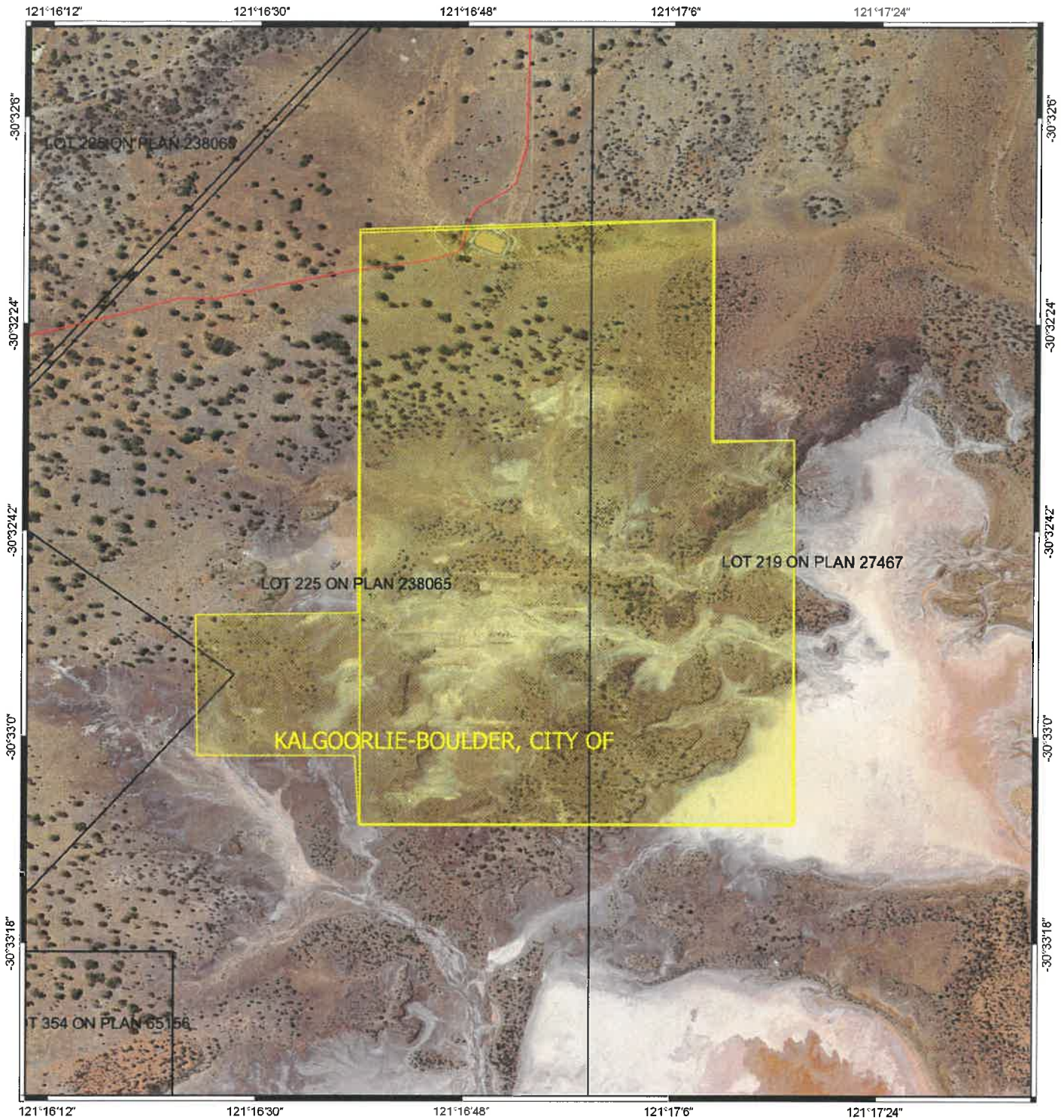


Emma Bramwell
A/ MANAGER
CLEARING REGULATION

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

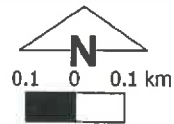
12 June 2018

Plan 413/5



Legend

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



MGA94
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

E. Bramwell Date: 12/06/18
E. BRAMWELL

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 413/5
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Paddington Gold Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: Mining Tenement M24/165
Mining Tenement M24/390
Local Government Authority: City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
DWER Region: Goldfields

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
50		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 413/4 by extending the duration of the permit by five years to 9 July 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 413/4 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 413/4 by five years to 9 July 2023.

Clearing Permit CPS 413/4 authorises the applicant to clear up to 50 hectares of native vegetation (within a 166.1 hectare project footprint) within the land parcels 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;
- 468: Medium woodland – salmon gum (*Eucalyptus salmonophloia*) and Goldfields blackbutt (*Eucalyptus lesouefii*); and
- 540: Succulent steppe with open low woodland – sheoak (*Allocasuarina* sp.) over saltbush (Shepherd et al., 2001).

A Level 1 Flora and Fauna Assessment conducted by GHD Pty Ltd identified the following six vegetation associations within the application area:

- V1: *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* woodland consists of a *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* over scattered tall shrubs comprised of *Exocarpos aphyllus* and *Casuarina pauper* over *Atriplex nummularia*, *Eremophila scoparia*, *Maireana sedifolia*, and *Cratystylis subspinescens* open heath over a low open shrubland of *Tecticornia doleiformis* and *Ptilotus obovatus*;
- V2: open samphire shrubland consists of *Tecticornia indica* subsp. *bidens*, *Maireana glomerifolia* and *Frankenia interioris* var. *interioris* low shrubland over *Eragrostis dielsii* scattered grasses over *Disphyma crassifolium*, *Calandrinia polyandra* and *Eriochiton sclerolaenoides* scattered herbs;
- V3: *Eucalyptus clelandii* woodland consists of *Eucalyptus clelandii* over *Casuarina pauper*, *Alectryon oleifolius* subsp. *canescens* and *Santalum spicatum* scattered low trees over *Eremophila interstans* subsp. *interstans*, *Eremophila oldfieldii* subsp. *angustifolia*, *Acacia tetragonophylla* and *Dodonaea lobulata* scattered tall shrubs over *Ptilotus obovatus*, *Atriplex nummularia*, *Atriplex vesicaria* and *Olearia muelleri* low scattered shrubs over scattered herbs and grasses;
- V4: mixed open woodland consists of *Eucalyptus* sp. over scattered low trees of *Casuarina pauper* over *Acacia tetragonophylla*, *Alectryon oleifolius* subsp. *canescens* and *Eremophila* sp. scattered tall shrubs over *Atriplex nummularia*, *Maireana sedifolia* and *Dodonaea lobulata* shrubland over a low open shrubland of *Cratystylis microphylla*, *Ptilotus obovatus*, and *Scaevola spinescens*;

- V5: *Eucalyptus* sp. open woodland consists of *Eucalyptus griffithsii* and *Eucalyptus cylindrifolia* over *Casuarina pauper* and *Acacia burkittii* low open woodland over *Santalum spicatum*, *Eremophila miniata* subsp. *miniata* and *Exocarpos aphyllus* high open shrubland over *Scaevola spinescens*, *Melaleuca laterifolia*, and *Eremophila oppositifolia* subsp. *angustifolia* shrubland over *Westringia rigida*, *Ptilotus obovatus*, *Olearia muelleri* and *Zygophyllum eremaeum* low open shrubland over an open hummock grassland of *Triodia irritans*;
- V6: open Chenopod shrubland consists of *Hakea preissii*, *Acacia tetragonophylla* and *Eremophila scoparia* scattered tall shrubs over *Rhagodia drummondii*, *Maireana pyramidata*, *Tecticornia doleiformis* and *Atriplex nummularia* shrubland over *Ptilotus obovatus*, *Frankenia interioris* var. *interioris* and *Sclerolaena obliquicuspis* low shrubland over scattered herbs and grasses (GHD, 2012).

Vegetation Condition:

A Level 1 Flora and Fauna Assessment conducted by GHD Pty Ltd identified that the condition of the vegetation within the application area ranged between (GHD, 2012):

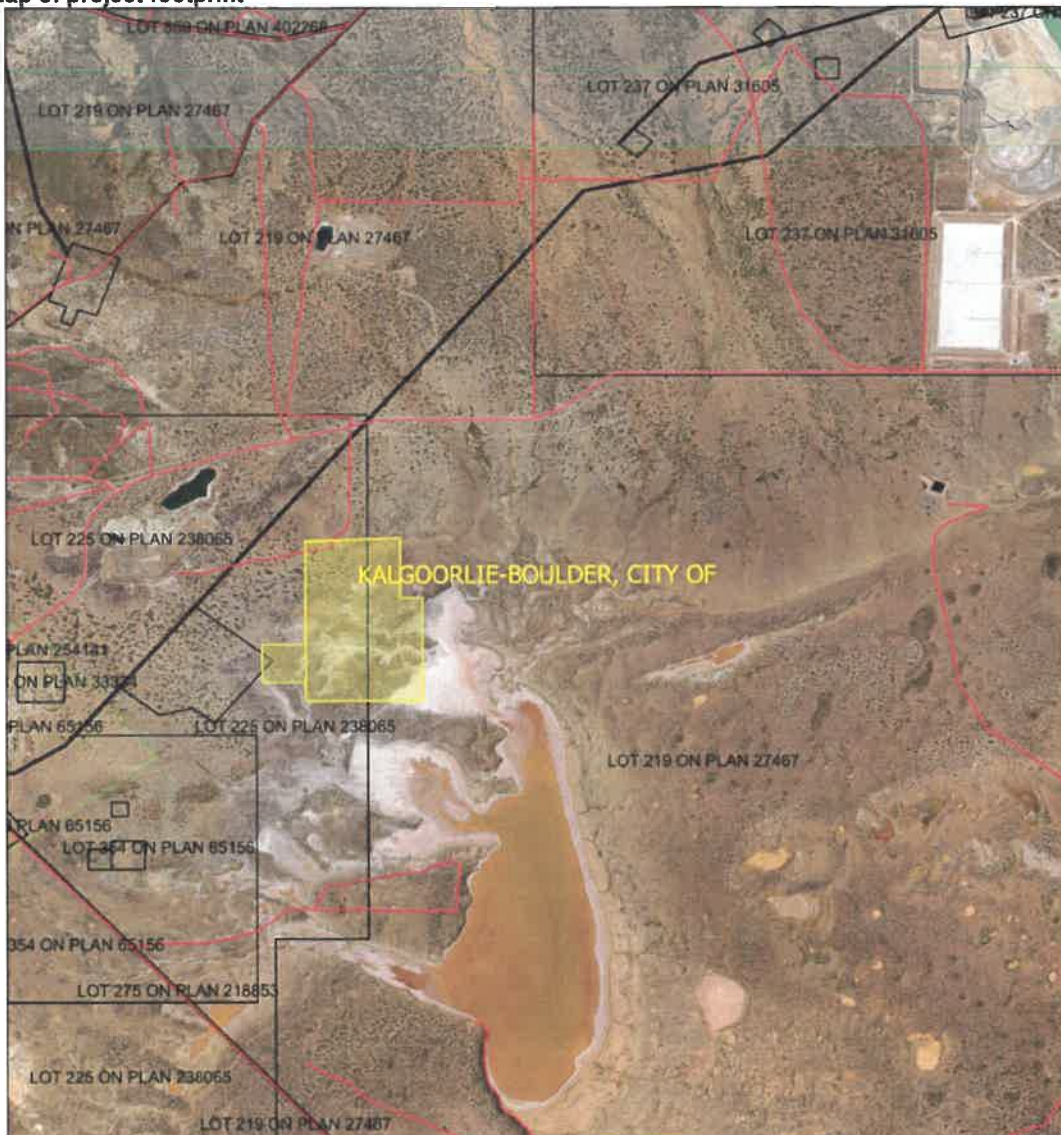
- Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery, 1994);
- Good: Vegetation structure significantly altered by very obvious signs of multiple disturbance; retains basic structure or ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994);
- Degraded: Basic vegetation structure severely impacted by disturbance; scope for regeneration but not to a state approaching Good condition without intensive management (Keighery 1994); and
- Completely Degraded: The structure of the vegetation is no longer intact and the area is completely or almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994).

The main disturbance at the site is the result of previous clearing and grazing impacts, weed invasion, roads and tracks.

Soil / Landform Type:

The soils within the application area have been mapped as shallow calcareous loamy soils, with shallow brown and grey-brown calcareous earths below which weathered rock occurs at shallow depths and gypseous and saline loams, together with gypseous and saline soils on the lake beds (Northcote et al., 1960-68).

Figure 1: Map of project footprint



3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

On review of Clearing Permit CPS 413/4, 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 413/4, relating to an increase in the area of the proposed clearing from 20 hectares to 50 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 413/1 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 413/4 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 413/4 noted that the project footprint remained unchanged. The assessment of amendment application CPS 413/4 found that on review of current environmental information, the increased area of proposed clearing is likely to impact on priority flora (principle (a)) and watercourses (principle (f)), and may impact on surface water quality (principle (i)), but was otherwise consistent with the findings outlined in the decision report for application CPS 413/1. It is noted that a 21 day appeal period applied to the decision to grant amended Clearing Permit CPS 413/4, and no appeals were received.

Clearing Permit CPS 413/4 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 413/4 also requires the Permit Holder to ensure that no clearing of identified priority flora *Ptilotus chrotophytus* occurs, and to ensure that no clearing occurs within 50 metres of identified *Ptilotus chrotophytus* unless approved by DWER.

The above requirements have not changed in the amended permit, and it is considered that the conditions are adequate to ensure that impacts to conservation significant flora as a result of the proposed clearing are avoided.

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

- GHD Pty Ltd (2012) Norton Gold Fields Ltd, Paddington Operations – Golden Flag Project – Level 1 Flora and Fauna Assessment. Unpublished report dated December 2012 (DWER ref. A591812).
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Northcote, K.H. with Beckmann, G.G., Bettenay, E., Churchward, H.M., van Dijk, D.C., Dimmock, G.M., Hubble, G.D., Isbell, R.F., McArthur, W.M., Murtha, G.G., Nicolls, K.D., Paton, T.R., Thompson, C.H., Webb, A.A. and Wright, M.J. (1960-68): 'Atlas of Australian Soils, Sheets 1 to 10, with explanatory data'. CSIRO and Melbourne University Press: Melbourne.
- 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