

NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

Pastoral Land Act 1992 – section 91H(2)(a)

CLEARING PERMIT

Permit Number: PLC24/04

Auvergne Station

Perpetual Pastoral Lease 1081

NT Portions 2676, 4353 and 5133

Victoria River District Pastoral District

APPROVED PURPOSE

To use and develop the land for the purpose of clearing native vegetation for Pastoral Purposes, in accordance with the attached Schedule of Conditions and the Endorsed Drawing.


PERMITTED CLEARING AREA

The area of 750.70 hectares within NT Portion 2676 depicted in the Endorsed Drawing.

CLEARING PERIOD

Subject to sections 91J, 91K, 91N, 91Q, 91R and 91S of the *Pastoral Land Act 1992*, the clearing period is 10 years from the date of issue.

Date of Permit: 20 May 2024

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Paul Burke
Chairperson, Pastoral Land Board

DEFINITIONS

In this Permit:

“**Clearing Activities**” means any works associated with the clearing of native vegetation, including, but not limited to, any earth-disturbing preparatory works within the Permitted Clearing Area.

“**Endorsed Drawing**” means any clearing plan subject to the conditions of the Permit that has been endorsed by the Board as forming part of this Permit.

“**Pastoral Lessee**” has the same meaning as in the *Pastoral Land Act 1992*.

“**Pastoral Purposes**” has the same meaning as in the *Pastoral Land Act 1992*.

“**Permit Holder**” means the Pastoral Lessee.

“**Permitted Clearing Area**” means the area shown on the Endorsed Drawing.

SCHEDULE OF CONDITIONS

1. The Permit Holder must ensure that Clearing Activities are carried out in accordance with the Endorsed Drawing Number PLC24/04-001.
2. The Permit Holder must have, and must ensure that any person who carries out the clearing on its behalf has, a copy of this Permit and the Endorsed Drawing Number PLC24/04-001, in possession at all times while carrying out Clearing Activities and comply with them.
3. Appropriate erosion and sediment control measures are to be employed throughout the clearing, establishment and operational phases of the development, including (but not limited to):
 - a. retention of buffer zones where appropriate and measures to address seasonal timing of works,
 - b. management of groundcover and minimisation of bare ground,
 - c. crop layout and maintenance of natural sheet flow patterns,
 - d. avoidance or removal of soil windrows or other surface modifications that create concentrated flow paths for runoff, and
 - e. installation of erosion controls on access tracks, fence-lines and firebreaks where appropriate.
4. Consent for the clearing of native vegetation subject to this permit is provided for Pastoral Purposes only.

NOTES

1. The permitted clearing area has been made for the approved purpose, subject to section 91P of the *Pastoral Land Act 1992*. Consent must be sought from the Pastoral Land Board prior to the commencement of a change in use (including a change from non-irrigation to irrigation and/or crop type). Contact PastoralAssessment.DEPWS@nt.gov.au for further advice.
2. This permit will be revoked automatically upon the termination or surrender of the Pastoral Lease. For the avoidance of doubt, a transfer of the Pastoral Lease does not revoke this Permit.
3. Despite any term or condition of this clearing permit, the Permit Holder must at its own cost in all respects, comply with all relevant laws, statutes and subordinate instruments, applicable to the clearing of pastoral land.
4. This permit is at all times subject to existing rights, title and interests of all other persons (including any rights or interests registered on the certificate as to title (as defined by the *Land Titles Act 2001*). The Permit Holder must comply with all terms and conditions of such existing rights, title and interests. The Permit Holder must not unreasonably or unduly interfere with, impede, restrict or limit the rights, title or interests of any person.
5. Despite assessments made under Northern Territory legislation, the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* requires that the Permit Holder self-assess potential risk to protected matters identified by the protected matters search tool and self-refer where scientific uncertainty exists in relation to the likelihood of a significant impact occurring or being likely to occur.
6. The extraction of surface water or groundwater in connection with the activities contemplated under this Permit must be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the *Water Act 1992*. For advice on water matters, telephone: (08) 8999 4455 or email: WaterResources.DEPWS@nt.gov.au.
7. Information regarding best practice erosion and sediment control is available on the following websites: <https://www.austieca.com.au/>; <https://nt.gov.au/environment/soil-land-vegetation>; <https://catchmentsandcreeks.com.au/fact-sheets/>. For further information, contact the Development Coordination Branch, Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security on: (08) 8999 4404.
8. All land in the Northern Territory is subject to the *Weeds Management Act 2001*. The Act states that the owner or occupier of land must:
 - (a) take all reasonable measures to prevent the land being infested with a declared weed; and
 - (b) take all reasonable measures to prevent a declared weed or potential weed on the land spreading to other land.

Further information is provided at: <https://nt.gov.au/environment/weeds/how-to-manage-weeds/prevent-weed-spread-industry-and-recreation/pastoral-industry>.

9. Prickly acacia, neem, mesquite, gamba grass, grader grass and chinee apple are each subject to a Statutory Weed Management Plan. Management obligations outlined in these Plans are legally binding on all owners and occupiers. Management requirements and copies of the Statutory Weed Management Plans are available at <https://nt.gov.au/environment/weeds/weed-management-planning>. Alternatively contact the Weed Management Branch for further advice on (08) 8999 4567 or email weedinfo.depws@nt.gov.au.
10. Standard precautions to reduce bushfire risk should be taken in relation to the use of heavy machinery and burning of felled vegetation windrows. Fire prevention measures are to be implemented in accordance with the requirements of the *Bushfires Management Act 2016*.
11. A Permit to Burn must be obtained prior to the ignition of any felled vegetation on the land which is the subject of this Permit during the northern Fire Danger Period. The subject area falls within the Savannah Fire Management Zone. To obtain a Permit to Burn, contact the Katherine Bushfires NT office, Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security by email bushfires.nt@nt.gov.au or on (08) 8973 8871.
12. It is an offence to disturb or destroy declared places and objects without consent under the *Heritage Act 2011*. Should any heritage or archaeological material be discovered during the clearing operation, the Permit Holder must cease operation and telephone the Heritage Branch on (08) 8999 5039.
13. Under the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989*, entry onto and carrying out of work on Aboriginal sacred sites is an offence unless the work is done in accordance with an Authority Certificate issued by the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA). It is the responsibility of the Permit Holder to ensure that all works comply with the requirements of this Act; and AAPA recommends the Permit Holder obtain an Authority Certificate. For further information, telephone (08) 8999 4332, email enquiries.aapa@nt.gov.au or refer to <https://www.aapant.org.au/>.
14. The Permit Holder is required to comply at all times with the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998* including the General Environmental Duty under section 12 of the Act, and dust management requirements. More information can be found at: <https://ntepa.nt.gov.au/your-business/environmental-obligations-and-duties>. For advice telephone: (08) 8924 4218.