

PASTORAL LAND BOARD

Pastoral Land Act – section 38(1)(h)

CONSENT TO CLEAR PASTORAL LAND

PERMIT NUMBER: PLC06/3

DESCRIPTION OF LAND THE SUBJECT OF THE PERMIT

Station Name: Murray Downs
Pastoral Lease No: PPL 1139
NT Portion: 2286
Pastoral District: Tennant Creek Pastoral District

DETAILS OF APPROVED CLEARING

The Pastoral Land Board on 11 April 2006 granted consent to the selective clearing of juvenile tree and shrub species including Mulga (*Acacia aneura*) Ironwood (*Acacia estrophiolata*) Wild Orange (*Capparis umbonata*) and Gum (*Eucalyptus* species) shrubs within an area of approximately 300 hectares, in accordance with the attached schedule of conditions and the endorsed clearing plan.

REASONS FOR DECISION

1. The application is in accordance with the Land Clearing Guidelines 2002.
2. Soil types in the areas approved for clearing are suitable for selective clearing and pastoral land use.
3. The property management plan for land clearing development addresses relevant resource management issues.

PERIOD OF THE PERMIT

This permit will lapse if clearing has not commenced within 3 years and/or has not been completed within 5 years of the date of this permit; and the lessee will need to seek an extension of time from the Pastoral Land Board to complete the clearing.

APPEAL

Under section 119 of the *Pastoral Land Act*, a pastoral lessee who is dissatisfied with a decision of the Pastoral Land Board may appeal to the Pastoral Land Appeal Tribunal against the decision of the Board. Appeals may be lodged with the Registrar of the Appeal Tribunal within 28 days of notification of the decision of the Board.



J B Forwood AM
Chairman
Pastoral Land Board
28/4/2006

CONSENT TO CLEAR PASTORAL LAND

PERMIT NUMBER: PLC06/3 SCHEDULE OF CONDITIONS

1. Clearing carried out under this permit shall be in accordance with drawing number 06/1139/2 endorsed as forming part of this permit, to the satisfaction of the Chairman, Pastoral Land Board.
2. Selective clearing is to target juvenile Mulga (*Acacia aneura*) Ironwood (*Acacia estrophiolata*) Wild Orange (*Capparis umbonata*) and Gum (*Eucalyptus* species) shrubs, to the satisfaction of the Chairman, Pastoral Land Board.
3. All clearing is to be carried out on the contour.
4. Areas of rock outcrops and stone arrangements are not to be cleared and are to be avoided during clearing procedures and any construction works carried out.
5. Clearing and ongoing resource management shall be in accordance with the Property Management Plan for Land Clearing Development endorsed as forming part of this permit, to the satisfaction of the Chairman, Pastoral Land Board.
6. The Director Rangelands Management Branch, Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts is to be notified before the commencement of clearing and on completion of the clearing development.

NOTES:

1. The Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority recommends that the pastoral lessee obtain an Authority Certificate to indemnify against prosecution under the *Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989*.
2. The permit holder is advised that there are statutory obligations under *the Weeds Management Act 2001* to take all practical measures to manage weeds on the property. For advice on weed management please phone (08) 8973 8110.
3. Fire prevention measures are to be implemented in accordance with the requirements of the *Bushfires Act*. Permits must be obtained from the Regional Fire Control Officer of the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts (telephone 89 760321) before ignition of any felled timber in this area.
4. The *Heritage Conservation Act 1991* protects archaeological places and objects, regardless of the level of documentation that the Heritage Conservation Services, Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts has of such sites. It is an offence to undertake work on a place or object without the consent of the Minister for Natural Resource, the Environment and Heritage.
5. It is the responsibility of the pastoral lessee to refer the proposed development to the Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Heritage under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* should they believe the proposed development may have a significant impact on a matter of national environmental significance as outlined in that legislation.



J B Forwood AM
Chairman
Pastoral Land Board



**NORTHERN TERRITORY
PASTORAL LAND BOARD**

This is the Property Management Plan for Land Clearing
Development referred to in Pastoral Land Clearing Permit
No. PLC06/3 issued on 28 April 2006


CHAIRMAN
PASTORAL LAND BOARD

Property Management Plan for Land Clearing Development

**Pastoral Lease No: PPL 1139
Murray Downs Station**

1. Overview of Proposed Clearing & Whole Property Development

Summary of clearing & development program for the whole property.

Murray Downs is fully developed with all existing waters trappable. As time and money permits additional pipelines and watering points will be established to keep cattle spread out over the property. This will be in effect a form of rotational grazing management allowing traditional watering points and pasture time to rest and gain additional benefit of the summer rain season.

A 10ha block of land was cleared and ripped in 2004 for hay production (under a previous clearing application).

Details of the natural resources (native vegetation and pasture, soils, waters, average rainfall) and current status (is native vegetation stable, current land condition and weed status).

The proposed development area is in good condition with no weed infestation and has not been used for approximately 5 years.

The average annual rainfall for Murray Downs Station is 350mm (14").

How does the proposed clearing development fit into the long term aims for the property?

Since buying Murray Downs in 1979, there has been an ongoing improvement program and this application will supplement the existing infrastructure.

Our aim is to have good quality quiet cattle suitable for export and feedlot. This development will help educate weaner cattle, making them easier to handle. The added benefit of this program will add to the occupational health and safety of Station employees and reduce the need for additional personnel.

Number of cattle currently carried and proposed final number of cattle to be carried on the property following completion of the clearing development.

Murray Downs currently carries approximately 6,000 (actual) head of cattle. Management do not anticipate carrying higher cattle numbers.

2. Cost and Benefit of Development

Cost of the proposed clearing development; total, per ha or km².

Ha to be cleared	Machinery cost/hr	Time per hectare	Total Cost
298	\$ 130.00	3	\$116,220

The cost per hectare of the proposed development is \$390.

Annual cost of ongoing maintenance following completion of the clearing development per ha or km².

Actual annual cost to maintain the project is not known, but it is anticipated some shrub regrowth will be required in approximately 10 years. This regrowth will be controlled in small patches using a cutter-bar.

Anticipated cost for this control is roughly \$10,000 over ten years, therefore costing \$1,000 per year.

Projected increase in carrying capacity following completion of the clearing development (per km² and total for the clearing project).

Nil. The paddocks will be utilised on a seasonal mustering basis, so will not be continually stocked.

Projected increased annual income from the clearing development; per ha or km².

The project will save approximately \$9-10,000 per year in wages once developed. It is also anticipated the property will obtain a better price per head of cattle as a result of the better cattle handling techniques proposed.

3. Details of Proposed Clearing

Areas not to be cleared due to natural resource limitations (slope, rock outcrop, seasonal inundation, poor soils, highly erodible soils, watercourse and drainage line buffers and native vegetation strips to be retained for soil and drainage management).

Nil

Areas not to be cleared due to environmental and heritage considerations identified in Section II on the application form. Areas to be retained for wildlife corridors.

Fully grown trees such as *Eucalyptus opaca* (Bloodwood), *Acacia estrophiolata* (Ironwood), *Capparis umbonata* (Wild Orange), *Eucalyptus species* (Gum tree), *Hakea suberea* (Corkwood), and large *Acacia aneura* (Mulga) will be left for shelter and wind breaks.

Details of clearing method, technique & timing of each stage (eg chaining, windrowing, raking, burning, pin wheel rake, site preparation).

The clearing process will only be carried out after approximately 50mm of rain and over a three (3) year period. During the last week, over 75mm of rain has been recorded at the Murray Downs Homestead.

The site will be pushed and raked in one pass and then the soil will be ripped one way to aid water infiltration. It is anticipated the pushed heaps of vegetation will be burned when conditions are favourable.

Details of waterway establishment, graded banks and other earthworks for run off management and infrastructure development.

There are no waterways in the immediate area of the project and the Murray Creek is approximately 500m to the north of the paddock.

If there is excessive runoff occurring during a rainfall event, contour spreader and ponding banks will be constructed to protect the soil surface and infrastructure development.

Details of pasture establishment and development methods (species, sowing rates, sowing methods, fertiliser regimes).

Ripping will break up the soil surface and aid water infiltration during rainfall events. It is anticipated the increase in soil moisture will accelerate the establishment, growth, and bulk of native pasture species. Trial areas have been cleared and ripped in the past with very good pasture growth results.

4. Ongoing Resource Management

Grazing regimes and pasture management plan (periods of stocking, stocking rates, spelling, fertiliser, and woody regrowth management)

Each of the proposed holding paddocks will be used twice yearly for approximately 3 days at a time. During this time, the stocking rate will be very high.

The proposed holding paddocks will not be stocked with cattle over the summer months, allowing the pasture to regrow and set seed with the full benefit of the wet season.

Weed Management Plan (to include weed species present, area of weeds, areas at risk, control measures proposed, including measures to prevent new weed infestations)

There are no weeds in the proposed area.

Murray Downs Station has an ongoing program to control Parkinsonia and Rubberbush. Since 1979, over \$300,000 has been spent to control these weeds.

Exotic Pasture Species Management Plan (to include details of exotic pasture species and areas planted. Buffer zones around exotic pasture species, location of watercourses, measures proposed to prevent spread to non target areas, grazing systems, location of fences & watering points)

Not Applicable

Fire Management Plan (use of fire for management and protection from wildfires.

The proposed fencing infrastructure will be protected on an as needs basis with the fencelines being flat graded when required.

Native Vegetation Management Plan (prevention of degradation to remaining native vegetation, including native vegetation buffers).

The proposed development area is thought to be too small to adversely impact on the surrounding vegetation.

Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (erosion prevention and strategies for rehabilitation if erosion occurs.

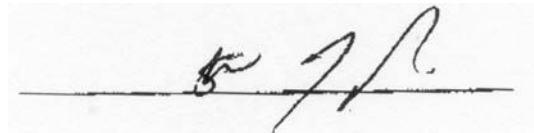
Murray Downs Station has a history of ongoing soil reclamation and soil rehabilitation programs.

The proposed development site was set up for flood irrigation during the 1940's and there were water control banks constructed on the eastern end of the proposed site.

Feral Animal Management Plan

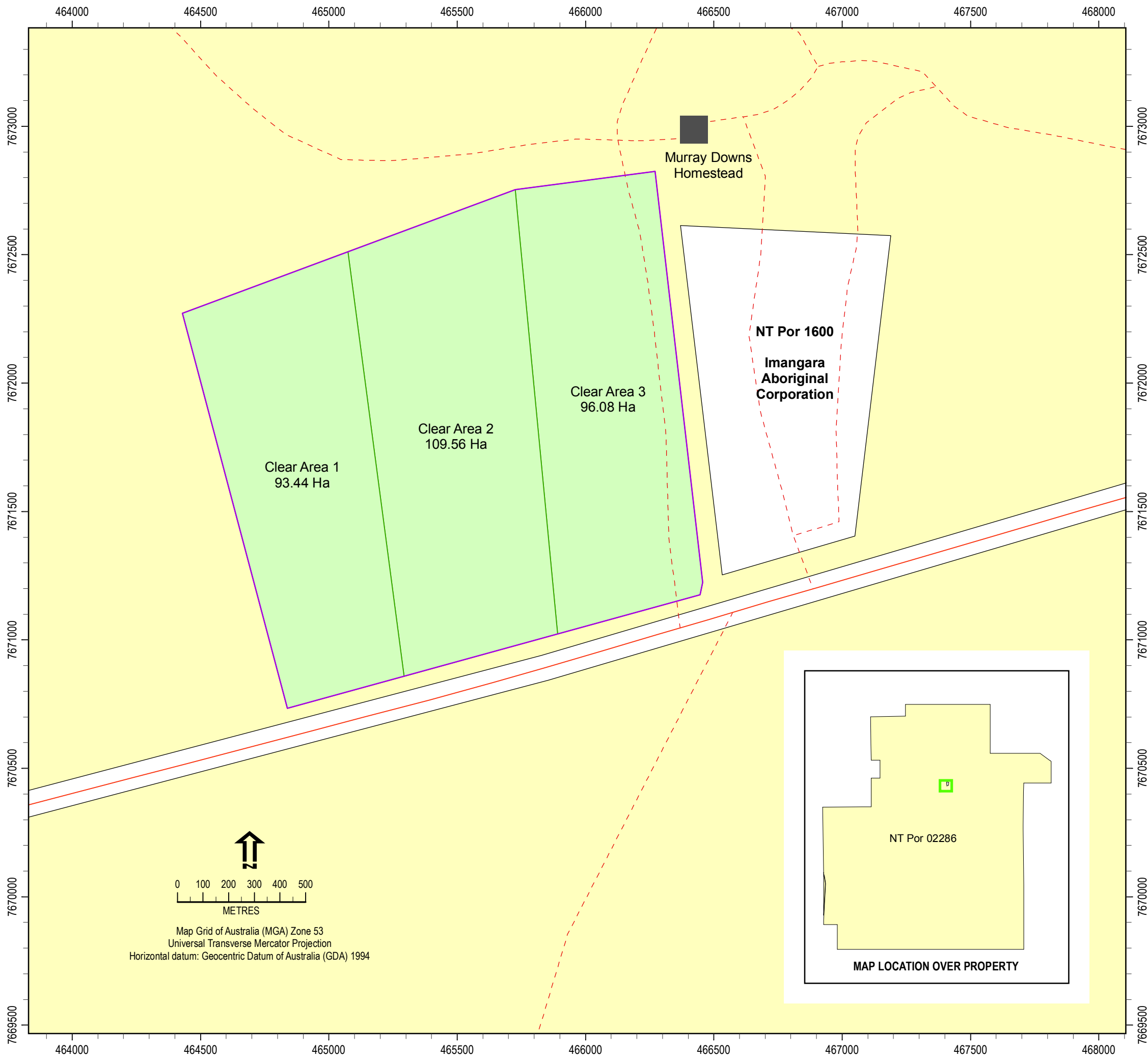
Not Applicable


APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE:

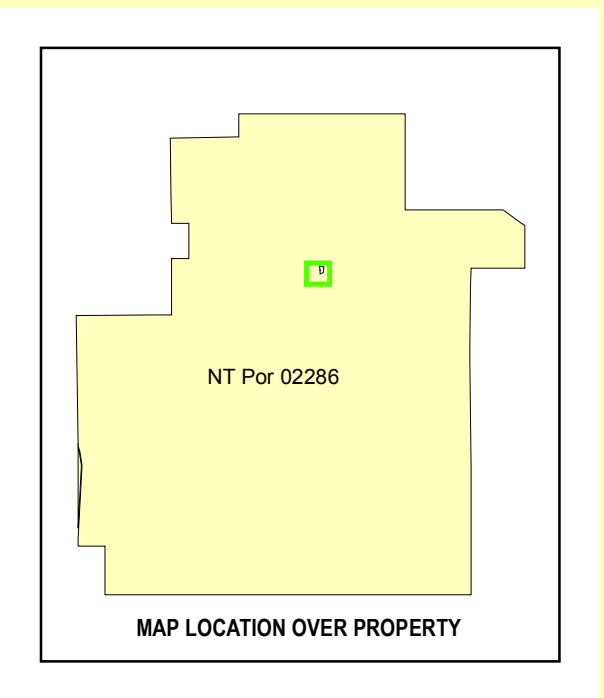
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B. J. R.', written over a horizontal line.

DATE:

16 December 2005









 0 100 200 300 400 500
 METRES
 Map Grid of Australia (MGA) Zone 53
 Universal Transverse Mercator Projection
 Horizontal datum: Geocentric Datum of Australia (GDA) 1994



DATA SOURCE
Property Infrastructure:
 Rangelands Management Branch, DNRETA, Alice Springs
 (Current as at last DNRETA inspection date of 09/09/04)
 For further property details refer to MYD.plt from this department
Cleared Areas:
 Proposed by applicant and drawn using GPS point data
 supplied by Rangelands Monitoring Branch, Alice Springs
Map Produced by:
 Spatial Data and Mapping Branch, DNRETA, Katherine

For further information contact
 Director Rangelands Management Branch
 Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts
 Phone: (08) 8999 4892, Fax: (08) 8999 4462
 Plot file reference - Natural Resources, Katherine
 NR06K008.pdf, Date 20 February, 2006

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- LEGEND**
-  Approved areas for clearing the total area of clearing is 299.07ha
 -  Cadastral property boundary
 -  Existing fenceline
 -  Watercourse
 -  Road / track

Drawing No. 06 / 1139 / 2

This is the drawing referred to in Pastoral Land Clearing

Permit No:

Issued on:

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 CHAIRMAN, PASTORAL LAND BOARD

**MURRAY DOWNS
 PASTORAL LEASE
 NT Por 2286 PPL 1139
 APPROVED AREAS
 FOR CLEARING**