**CONTEXT**: This form should only be used for pastoral land clearing (PLC) applications that qualify for the simplified assessment process outlined in Schedule 1 of the PLC Guidelines, as published by the Pastoral Land Board in accordance with the *Pastoral Land Act 1992*. The questions in this application form seek to address the ‘Matters to be taken into account’ by the Pastoral Land Board as specified in the PLC Guidelines. For further information, contact the Vegetation Assessment Unit, Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security (DEPWS) on (08) 8999 4454 or see the following website: <https://nt.gov.au/property/land-clearing/pastoral-land/clearing-native-vegetation-on-pastoral-land>

**PRE-LODGEMENT:** Circulate this application form and a copy of the proposed clearing extent and Land Types spatial data (i.e. shapefile/kml) to the following work units for assessment and attach their formal responses to the application. Agency responses will be provided within five business days.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Flora & Fauna Division, DEPWS | Biodiversity.Assessments@nt.gov.au  | 08 8995 5000 |
| Plant Industries Branch, DITT | Plant.Industries@nt.gov.au  | Pastures: 08 8999 2214 | Crops: 08 8999 2222 |
| Heritage Branch, DTFHC | Heritage.Branch@nt.gov.au  | 08 8999 5039 |

**LODGEMENT**: Submit the completed form with all required attachments and agencies responses, and a copy of the proposed clearing shapefile/kml through [Development Applications Online](https://www.ntlis.nt.gov.au/planning-notices-online/notices/).

# Application details

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Station Name:** |  |
| **NT Portion/s:**  |  |
| **Pastoral District:** |  |
| **Pastoral Lease No:** |  |
| **Proposed Clearing Area (ha)** |  |
| **Document Version Number:** |  |
| **Date:** |  |

# Applicant details

For an application to be correctly made under section 91F of the *Pastoral Land Act 1992*, it must be lodged by the pastoral lessee or a person authorised by written consent from the pastoral lessee. Once the application has been accepted, payment of the application fee should be made to the Receiver of Territory Monies and the receipt forwarded to PastoralAssessment.DEPWS@nt.gov.au.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Form completed by:** |  |
| **Name of consultant:** |  |
| **Name of lessee:** |  |
| **Applicant\* name:** |  |
| **Applicant\* telephone:** |  |
| **Applicant\* email:** |  |
| **Applicant\* postal address:** |  |

\*All correspondence regarding the application will be directed to the applicant.

[ ]  Attach Lessee/s Authorisation form. Attachment No:

# Description of proposal

Provide an overview summarising the proposed development. Include any relevant information or details you wish to be considered that is not captured in the following sections.

[Insert free text]

# Existing clearing

## Provide details of the extent of existing clearing within the lease.

**Note:** PLC permits are published online at <https://nt.gov.au/property/land-clearing/pastoral-land/pastoral-land-clearing-applications-and-permits>

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Site | Area (ha) | Year cleared | Permit No. | Area within proposed clearing extent (ha) | Description |
| *Example:* *Site 1 Front Paddock* | *10.5ha* | *1990* | *NA* | *7.5* | *Western half of Front Paddock cleared in 1980 for improved pasture, now contains regrowth. This area (excluding stream buffer) is proposed to be cleared.*  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total:** |  |  |  |  |  |

[ ]  Attach a map showing areas of existing clearing within the property

Attachment No:

# Proposed clearing

## Provide details of the proposed clearing extent.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Site Id | Proposed Use | Area (ha) |
| *Example: Polygon 1* | *Non-irrigated improved pasture for grazing and hay production (Jarra Finger Grass).* | *90.5ha* |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Total:** |  |

## Provide a proposed Clearing Plan.

The proposed Clearing Plan is a map showing the geo-referenced location of the proposed clearing areas as identified in Section 5.1. The maps should include:

* The map datum (e.g. GDA94)
* The map projection or zone
* A north arrow
* A grid or scale bar
* A suitable background (e.g. cadastre and aerial/satellite imagery)

[ ]  Attach proposed Clearing Plan. Attachment No:

## Contact the Plant Industries Branch, DITT\* to confirm the proposed pastures/crops are appropriate.

[ ]  Attach the completed Agronomy Assessment – Agency Response.

Attachment No:

\* DITT – Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade

# Water Resources

In accordance with Schedule 1 of the PLC Guidelines and associated Policy, Simplified clearing applications will only be accepted for non-irrigated purposes. Should irrigation be proposed, a Standard application will need to be submitted.

# Land Resources

## Provide a Land Type map for the proposed clearing extent.

**Note:** Consideration of an application cannot proceed without the collection and orderly presentation of field-verified site-specific data and mapping. In accordance with the Northern Territory Planning Scheme Land Clearing Guidelines (LCG) (refer to Land and vegetation resource assessment - sections 4.2.3 to 4.2.6) all clearing applications need to be accompanied by an appropriate soil, vegetation and land resource assessment in the form of a Land Type map at a scale of 1:5,000 to 1:20,000.

[ ]  Attach a Land Type map for proposed clearing extent. Attachment No:

[ ]  Attach one Land Type description for each Land Type unit (use proforma at **Appendix A**).

Attachment No:

## Provide a Land Capability Assessment (LCA) for Land Types with the proposed clearing extent.

**Note**: Land capability of the proposed clearing extent must be in accordance with the criteria outlined in Schedule 1 of the PLC Guidelines. Applications will not be accepted for land characterised by slope exceeding 2%.

[ ]  Attach a LCA table for Land Types within the proposed clearing extent (use proforma at **Appendix B**).

Attachment No:

[ ]  Attach a map of the proposed clearing extent showing the Land Types’ overall land capability classes.

Attachment No:

# Biodiversity

## Describe any records of threatened flora and fauna species or migratory species

Provide details of any species listed under the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1976* (TPWC) or the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC) within 10km of the proposed clearing extent. Also describe any such species for which there are no records but have a reasonable likelihood of occurring within the habitats (i.e. Land Types) comprising the proposed clearing extent.

**Note:** Information should be obtained from the following websites or by contacting the Flora and Fauna Division, DEPWS (telephone: 08 8995 5000). Add additional rows to the table/s as needed.

<http://nrmaps.nt.gov.au/>

[www.nt.gov.au/environment/animals/classification-of-wildlife](http://www.nt.gov.au/environment/animals/classification-of-wildlife)

<http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/protected-matters-search-tool>

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Common name | Species | TPWC | EPBC | Location |
| *Example* |  |  |  |  |
| *Ghost Bat* | *Macroderma gigas* | *Near Threatened* | *Vulnerable* | *Nearest record is 5km* |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

## Describe potential impacts to species identified above from the proposed clearing.

**Note:** To determine the risk to threatened species, information should be considered at the scale of the proposed clearing and at a regional context. Consider any associations that the species may have with landforms, vegetation structure or dominant plant species proposed for clearing.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Common name | Potential impact | Risk\* | Justification |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

\*Use the following risk matrix (adapted from Table 17 in LCG):

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Risk rating | Characteristics |
| Low | The proposed clearing extent is characterised by a combination of factors such as:* It is relatively small area
* It does not contain sensitive or significant vegetation
* It is unlikely to provide habitat for the identified species
* It is unlikely to cause offsite impacts to the identified species.
 |
| Medium | The proposed clearing extent has characteristics between the Low and High risk classes.(e.g. it may support the identified species, however the local occurrence of the species may not be considered significant or the extent of clearing as a proportion of habitat available to the species may be sufficiently small enough to not pose a High risk).  |
| High | The proposed clearing extent is important habitat for the identified species. Note: If the clearing has the potential to negatively impact the species identified, even a small clearing extent could be categorised as high risk.  |

## Identify which of the following types of sensitive features are present within proximity of the proposed clearing extent.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Feature | Present/Absent |
| Drainage depressions and streams |  |
| Wetlands |  |
| Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems |  |
| Sinkholes |  |
| Other sensitive or significant vegetation |  |

## Identify the individual sensitive features within proximity of the proposed clearing extent and the associated Land Type.

**Note:** Schedule 1 of the PLC Guidelines outlines the minimum required buffer widths for sensitive features. A Standard application will need to be submitted if these requirements cannot be applied. To populate the “value” field, refer to the relevant section of the LCG.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Feature | Land Type | Value / Order | Location in relation to proposed clearing extent | Schedule 1 buffer width (m) | Proposed buffer width (m) |
| ***Examples****:**Dry Rainforest**Crocodile Creek**Wetland* | *8d**5c**6a* | *Low**2nd order stream**High* | *West of polygon 4**East of polygon 1**South of polygon 2* | *100m**100m**250m* | *150m**125m**250m* |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

## Identify the wildlife corridors to be retained within proximity of the proposed clearing extent and reasons for siting and design.

**Note:** A corridor of 100m is considered the minimum width to be viable in the NT context for general application and as a default, corridor density should be at a rate of one corridor per linear kilometre of clearing or equivalent – refer to the LCG – Wildlife corridors (section 4.4.10). In accordance with Section 7.1.1 of the Policy, wildlife corridor configuration should meet the LCG or an acceptable variation.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Corridor Id. | Location | Proposed width (m) | Justification |
| *Example: Eastern corridor* | *Between polygons 1 and 2* | *200m* | *Connects areas of species X habitat and incorporates low value wetland.*  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

## Assess the risk of the proposed clearing to regional biodiversity and provide an overall risk rating.

**Note:** To determine the risk to regional biodiversity, information is to be considered at the scale of the proposed clearing footprint and evaluated within a regional context. Refer to the LCG - Biodiversity Information (section 4.4.2 and 4.4.3) or contact the Flora and Fauna Division, DEPWS (telephone: 08 8995 5000).

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Consideration | Yes/No | Explain |
| Are there any important biodiversity values within the proposed clearing extent? |  |  |
| Are there any important biodiversity values within proximity of the proposed clearing extent?  |  |  |
| Does the proposed clearing have the potential to impact any important biodiversity values?  |  |  |
| Have all reasonable alternatives been considered to avoid impacts to important biodiversity values?  |  |  |
| What is the overall biodiversity risk rating (Low, Medium High)?  | NA |  |

## Contact the Flora and Fauna Division, DEPWS for formal advice regarding biodiversity risk.

[ ]  Attach the completed Biodiversity Assessment – Agency Response.

Attachment No:

# Land Management

## Outline the proposed Establishment Plan and provide details explaining the proposed methods.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Activity | E.g. | Timing(month & year) | Method(describe) |
| **Preparatory works** | Boundary marking, implementation of erosion and sediment controls, weed management |  |  |
| **Felling of vegetation** | Machinery and techniques |  |  |
| **Removal of felled vegetation** | Machinery and techniques, in-situ or pushed-up, burning, mulching, windrow management, etc. |  |  |
| **Site preparation** | Machinery and techniques, levelling/contouring, installation of banks or soil conservation measures, cultivation |  |  |
| **Planting** | Method for each pasture / crop type, spelling, rotations, cover crops, etc.  |  |  |
| **Harvesting** | Method for each pasture / crop type |  |  |
| **Grazing** | Cattle introduction and subsequent stocking regime |  |  |
| **Maintenance** | Regrowth control, weed management, erosion monitoring |  |  |

## Property boundary buffers.

In accordance with Schedule 1 of the PLC Guidelines and associated Policy, Simplified PLC applications will only be accepted for proposed clearing extents that have applied 210m wide buffers to the cadastral boundary (unless adjoining a stock route). A Standard application will need to be submitted, should 210m wide property boundary buffers not be proposed.

## Describe any land management buffers to be retained within proximity of the proposed clearing extent.

**Note**: A land management buffer is different to a wildlife corridor or property boundary buffer – refer to the LCG Land Management Buffers (section 4.3.4).

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Buffer Id. | Location | Width (m) | Purpose and design justification |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

## Provide evidence that erosion does not occur within the proposed clearing extent.

**Note:** In accordance with Schedule 1 of the PLC Guidelines and associated Policy, Simplified PLC applications will only be accepted for areas without existing sheet, rill/gully or tunnel erosion. A Standard application will need to be submitted, should erosion exist within the proposed clearing extent.

[ ]  Attach georeferenced photos of the proposed clearing extent (e.g. provide numbered photos and a map showing photo locations). The number and location of photos should be representative of the proposed clearing area (e.g. at a minimum, provide at least one photo per land unit within each polygon and at least one photo per 50ha).

Attachment No:

# Archaeological sites and heritage places

**Note**: If known heritage places or archaeological sites exist within the proposed clearing, or if the Heritage Branch determines that there is a greater than low likelihood of unrecorded archaeological sites being present with the proposed clearing, a Standard application may need to be submitted.

## Provide details of any heritage or archaeological surveys conducted by a qualified archaeologist within the property and any findings relevant to the proposed clearing extent.

**Note**: Archaeological surveys may indicate the presence or absence of archaeological sites.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Survey name | Year conducted | Completed by | Findings relevant to the proposed clearing extent |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

[ ]  Attach relevant information including specific site information and copies of the report/s.

Attachment No:

## Provide details of any archaeological sites within the proposed clearing extent known by circumstances other than formally documented by an archaeologist.

**Note**: The applicant is obligated under the *Heritage Act* to inform the Heritage Branch of known archaeological sites.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Site/place | Exact location | Description |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

[ ]  Attach relevant information including photographs.

Attachment No:

## Contact the Heritage Branch, DTFHC\* to obtain:

## a search of the archaeological site database for known sites within and in close proximity to the proposed clearing extent

* an assessment of the likelihood that there are unrecorded archaeological sites within the proposed clearing extent.

**Note:** To facilitate assessment by the Heritage Branch, provide:

* Spatial data (shapefiles or kml) indicating the proposed clearing extent and related works.
* Georeferenced photos of the proposed clearing extent. The number and location of photos should be representative of the proposed clearing area (e.g. at a minimum, provide at least one photo per land unit within each polygon and at least one photo per 50ha).
* Technical reports or other environmental information on the proposed clearing extent in relation to land types. This should include a general description of the landform (e.g. flat alluvial plains, riparian or open woodland) and other details (e.g. percentage of rocky outcrops, surface stone, slope).

[ ]  Attach the completed Heritage Assessment – Agency Response. Attachment No:

\* Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities

# Sacred Sites

Contact the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority to obtain an Abstract of Records and consent to use the information for the purposes of this application.

[ ]  Attach the Abstract of Records Attachment No:

Have you, or do you intend to apply for an Authority Certificate?

[ ]  Yes Attachment No:

If yes, please provide a copy of the Authority Certificate as part of the application or before the Pastoral Land Board determines the application.

[ ]  No

If an Authority Certificate is not provided and you do not intend to apply for an Authority Certificate, please explain why an Authority Certificate has not been included as part of the application.

[Insert free text]

# Greenhouse Gas Emissions

## Provide an estimate of the emissions (tonnes CO2-e) from the clearing.

 **tCO2-e**

**Note:** The ‘Large Emitters Policy’ came into effect in September 2021. Information on how to obtain an estimate of the average emissions (tCO2-e) per hectare for your project can be found [here](https://ftp-dlrm.nt.gov.au/main.html?download&weblink=a52c9ccbdcd5007e8b5fac324382a7d6&realfilename=CarbonEmissions_Average.zip) or by accessing the link at <https://nt.gov.au/property/land-clearing/pastoral-land/clearing-native-vegetation-on-pastoral-land>.

# Environment Protection

## Has the application been referred for assessment under the *Environment Protection Act 2019*?

**Note:** Refer to the document ‘[Referring a proposal to the NT EPA](https://ntepa.nt.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/805167/referring-proposed-action-to-ntepa-guideline.pdf)’ available on the following website <https://ntepa.nt.gov.au/your-business/environment-impact-assessment> or contact the Environment Division, DEPWS via telephone 08 8924 4218 or email eia.ntepa@nt.gov.au

[ ]  Yes.

[ ]  No.

[ ]  Attach a completed referral checklist located in Appendix 1 of [Referring a proposal to the NT EPA](https://ntepa.nt.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/805167/referring-proposed-action-to-ntepa-guideline.pdf)

Attachment No:

# Checklist of Attachments and Required Spatial Data

## Complete the following checklist.

**Note:** Spatial data for the items indicated must be provided before the application will be accepted. ESRI shapefile is the preferred format - kml/kmz also accepted. Contact: PastoralAssessment.DEPWS@nt.gov.au

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| AttachmentNo. | Name | QuestionNo. | Item attached | Spatial data  |
|  | Lessee/s Authorisation form | 1 |  | NA |
|  | Map of existing clearing | 4.1 |  | NA |
|  | Agency Response from Plant Industries Branch, DITT | 5.3 |  | NA |
|  | Proposed Clearing Plan | 5.2 |  | **Required** |
|  | Land Type map | 7.1 |  | **Required** |
|  | Land Type descriptions | 7.1 |  | NA |
|  | LCA table | 7.2 |  | NA |
|  | LCA map | 7.2 |  | NA  |
|  | Agency Response from the Flora & Fauna Division, DEPWS | 8.7 |  | NA |
|  | Agency Response from the Heritage Branch, DTFHC | 10.3 |  | NA |
|  | Abstract of Records or Authority Certificate  | 10.4 |  | NA |
|  | EPA referral checklist | 11.1 |  | NA |
|  | Other additional info | NA |  | **Optional** |

Appendix A – Land Type description proforma

**Note:** Complete one table per Land Type (see Question 7.1). Data generated from Land Type field investigations may be requested – refer to the LCG - Vegetation data (section 4.2.5).

[ ]  Attach map showing site inspection track, site locations, photo points and Land Types.

Attachment No:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Attribute  | Description  |
| **Land Type** | *E.g. Use a letter or number to distinguish each Land Type.* |
| **Landform** | *E.g. Describe the landform, slope range, extent of surface rock. Refer to LCG Section 4.2.4 (Yellow Book).*  |
| **Soil** | *E.g. Describe the dominant soil in this Land Type highlighting features such as soil texture, depth, colour, occurrence of surface gravel or cracking, Wet season drainage. Refer to LCG Section 4.2.4 (Yellow Book).*  |
| **Vegetation** | *E.g. Describe the average height and cover of the upper-storey (e.g. individual tree canopies generally overlapping, partially separated, clearly separated or very sparse) and the dominant trees, shrubs, grasses and weeds. Refer to Section 4.2.5 (NVIS level 5).*  |
| **Photo No.** | *E.g. Insert numbered photo (representative of Land Type) and show location on map.*  |

Appendix B – Land Capability Assessment table

**Note:** Refer to the LCG – Soil and land resource attributes (section 4.2.7.1).

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Land Type | ASS | Flooding | Microrelief | Salinity | Sodicity | Slope | Soil depth | Drainage | Surface Rock | Wind erosion  | Initial capability class | Overall capability class |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |