


# Environmental Approval

PURSUANT TO SECTION 69 OF THE *ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION ACT 2019*

Approval number	EP2023/026- 001
Approval holder	NTR AG PTY LTD & THE TRUSTEE FOR MOHR-BELL FAMILY TRUST & THE TRUSTEE FOR PANCHO TRUST (trading as Pancho Beef)
Australian Business Number (ABN)	81 243 084 385
Registered business address	Address for service of documents: PO Box 238 Katherine NT 0851
Action	Mathison Land Clearing Proposal
Action description	Clearing of 4,060.03 hectares (ha) of native vegetation, at a rate of ~450 ha/year for the purposes of growing hay and fodder crops.
Advisory notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Approval is granted under section 69 of the <i>Environment Protection Act 2019</i> for the action to be undertaken in the manner described, including with implementation of the environmental management measures, commitments and safeguards documented in the <b>referral</b>. If there is an inconsistency between the <b>referral</b> and this environmental approval, the requirements of this environmental approval prevail.</li> <li>ii. Submission of all notices, reports, documents or other correspondence required to be provided to the <b>CEO or Minister</b> as a condition of this approval must be provided in electronic form by emailing <a href="mailto:environmentalregulation@nt.gov.au">environmentalregulation@nt.gov.au</a></li> </ul>
Address of action	Mathison Station, 9437 Victoria Highway, Delamere NT 0852 (NT Portion 7061)
NT EPA Assessment Report number	105
Person authorised to make decision	Hon Kate Worden MLA,  Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water Security
Signature	
Date of decision	02/01/24

## Environmental approval conditions

### 1 Limitations and extent of action

1-1 The action is to be within the following limitations and extent:

Action element	Limitation or maximum extent
Land clearing	No more than 4,060.03 ha in total to be cleared of native vegetation, and clearing must be within the <b>approved extent</b> .

### 2 Culture and heritage

2-1 The approval holder must implement the action to meet the following environmental objective:

(1) Protect culture and heritage.

2-2 To support achieving the environmental objective required by condition 2-1, prior to commencement of the action, the approval holder must obtain an **Authority Certificate** for the action.

2-3 At least 10 business days prior to the commencement of the action, the approval holder must provide the **Minister** evidence that it has obtained an **Authority Certificate** required by condition 2-2.

### 3 Atmospheric processes

3-1 The approval holder must implement the action to meet the following environmental objective:

(1) Minimise greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions so as to contribute to the Northern Territory Government's goal of achieving net zero GHG emissions by 2050.

3-2 To support achievement of condition 3-1 the approval holder must:

(1) develop and implement a **monitoring plan** that includes the collection of **baseline data** prior to the commencement of the action; and

(2) implement its **Greenhouse Gas Abatement Plan** for the **life of action**.

3-3 The **monitoring plan** must be developed and implemented by a **qualified person**.

3-4 The **monitoring plan** must be reviewed by an **independent qualified person** who must prepare a report summarising their review and any recommendations for amendments.

3-5 At least 10 business days prior to the commencement of the action, the approval holder must provide the **Minister**:

(1) its **monitoring plan**;

(2) the **independent qualified person's** report required under condition 3-4; and

(3) where the recommendations included in the **independent qualified person's** report required under condition 3-4 have not been adopted, justification for not incorporating the recommendations into the **monitoring plan**.

3-6 The approval holder must submit a **revised Greenhouse Gas Abatement Plan** to the **Minister** either:

- (1) within five years of the commencement of the action;
- (2) at least 60 business days before total cumulative **land clearing** reaches 3,500 ha; or
- (3) where the results of the **monitoring plan** indicate that the targets within the **Greenhouse Gas Abatement Plan** need to be revised

whichever occurs first.

3-7 The revised **Greenhouse Gas Abatement Plan** must:

- (1) include revised carbon accounting based on:
  - (a) site specific monitoring data, including **baseline data** obtained via the **monitoring plan** required under condition 3-2; or
  - (b) contemporary best practice design, process, technology and management methods to:
    - (i) estimate **scope 1 emissions** from the action; or
    - (ii) avoid, minimise, mitigate or abate GHG emissions from the action;
- (2) include an overarching long-term emissions reduction target;
- (3) include regular interim targets to minimise, mitigate and/or abate GHG emissions generated by the action;
- (4) include the methods that will be applied to achieve the interim targets to minimise, mitigate and/or abate GHG emissions generated by the action, to the greatest extent practicable;
- (5) include a schedule for periodic public reporting on implementation and progress against the interim and overarching long-term targets;
- (6) include a timetable for review of the **revised Greenhouse Gas Abatement Plan** that is considerate of the **life of the action** and the identified interim and overarching targets; and
- (7) be prepared in accordance with the most recent version of the NT EPA Environmental Factor: Atmospheric Greenhouse Gas Emissions guideline and the NT Government Greenhouse Gas Emissions Management for New and Expanding Large Emitters policy.

#### 4 Reporting

4-1 The approval holder must provide an annual report on the results of the **monitoring plan** (inclusive of any raw data) to the **Minister**.

4-2 Unless a different date or frequency is approved by the **Minister**, the first annual report required under condition 4-1 must be submitted by 31 October addressing the period of the preceding financial year from 1 July to 30 June, and subsequent reports must be submitted annually from that date.

4-3 Every five year period ending 30 June after the submission of the **revised Greenhouse Gas Abatement Plan** to the **Minister** in accordance with condition 3-6, the approval holder must:

- (1) obtain from an **independent qualified person**, a report on the results of the **monitoring plan**; and

- (2) submit the report required by condition 4-3(1) to the **Minister** within 30 business days of its completion.

4-4 The report required by condition 4-3, must be submitted by 31 October addressing the period of the preceding five financial years, or part thereof, from 1 July to 30 June, and subsequent reports must be submitted:

- (1) 10 years;
- (2) 15 years; and
- (3) 20 years

following the submission of the **revised Greenhouse Gas Abatement Plan** to the **Minister** in accordance with condition 3-6.

4-5 The **Minister** may approve a different date or frequency for the submission of reports in accordance with condition 4-4.

4-6 The report required by condition 4-3 must:

- (1) provide all monitoring data (inclusive of any raw and processed data) required by the conditions of this approval;
- (2) provide an analysis and interpretation of monitoring data to demonstrate the effectiveness of monitoring and management measures implemented in accordance with the **monitoring plan and revised Greenhouse Gas Abatement Plan**;
- (3) provide a comparison between the actual and predicted **scope 1 emissions**; and
- (4) be provided in a form suitable for publication online by the CEO.

## 5 **Staging, combining and revision of plans**

5-1 The approval holder may review and revise any plan required by this approval and must provide:

- (1) the revised plan to the **Minister** within 10 business days prior to any amendment(s) being implemented;
- (2) a tabulated summary of the amendment(s) with document references;
- (3) reasons for the amendment(s); and
- (4) a description of how the plan will meet the conditions of this environmental approval.

5-2 The approval holder may:

- (1) prepare and submit any plan required by this approval on a staged basis (if a clear description is provided as to the specific stage and scope of the action to which the plan applies, the relationship of the stage to any future stages and the trigger for updating the plan);
- (2) combine any plan required by this approval (if a clear relationship is demonstrated between the plans that are proposed to be combined); and

- (3) update any plan required by this approval (to ensure the plans required under this approval are updated on a regular basis and incorporate additional measures or amendments to improve the environmental performance of the action).

5-3 The approval holder must implement the action to comply with the latest revision of any plans required by this approval.

## **6 Commencement of action**

6-1 This approval expires five years after the date on which it is granted, unless the action has commenced on or before that date.

6-2 Within 10 business days of the commencement of the action the approval holder must provide notification in writing to the **Minister**.

## **7 Change of contact details**

7-1 The approval holder must provide notification in writing to the **Minister** of any change of its name, physical address or postal address for the serving of notices or other correspondence within 10 business days of such change.

## **8 Provision of environmental data**

8-1 All environmental monitoring data required to be collected or obtained under this environmental approval and the approval holder's commitments, standards and management plans must be retained by the approval holder for a period of not less than 10 years commencing from the date that the data is collected or obtained.

8-2 The approval holder must, as and when directed by the **Minister**, provide any environmental data (including sampling design, sampling methodologies, empirical data and derived information products such as maps) relevant to the assessment of the action and implementation of this environmental approval, to the **Minister** in the form and manner and at the intervals specified in the direction.

## Definitions

The terms used in this approval have the same meaning as the terms defined in the EP Act and Environment Protection Regulations 2020.

approved extent	The extent identified in Figure 1 , comprising polygons A, B, C, D, E1, E2 and I
Authority Certificate	Has the same meaning as in section 3 of the <i>Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989</i> .
baseline data	<p><b>Baseline data</b> are site specific information, collected before the action commences. These data serve as a point of reference for subsequent monitoring data, that are collected after the action commences.</p> <p><b>Baseline data</b> are obtained via environmental surveys to record and collate statistics and other relevant information about the existing environmental conditions within the <b>approved extent</b>, relevant control sites, and/or offset sites. <b>Baseline data</b> must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• high resolution (minimum scale 1:25,000) vegetation and soil mapping; or</li> <li>• integrated land unit mapping (consistent with the DEPWS approach to land unit mapping in the NT).</li> </ul> <p><b>Baseline data</b> survey standards must comply with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Survey standard - Schoknecht, N, Wilson, PR and Heiner, I 2008, 'Chapter 14: Survey specification and planning', in McKenzie, NJ, Grundy, MJ, Webster, R and Ringrose-Voase, AJ (Eds). <i>Guidelines for Surveying Soil and Land Resources</i>. Second Edition. Australian Soil and Land Survey Handbook Series, CSIRO Publishing, Melbourne.</li> <li>• Soil, land and vegetation description - National Committee on Soil and Terrain (NCST) 2009, <i>Australian Soil and Land Survey Field Handbook</i>. Third Edition. Australian Soil and Land Survey Handbook Series, CSIRO Publishing, Melbourne.</li> </ul> <p>Vegetation field assessments must also include diameter at breast height (DBH) and tree height to enable calculation of Above Ground Biomass (AGB).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soil classification - Isbell, RF and the National Committee on Soil and Terrain (NCST) 2021, <i>The Australian Soil Classification</i>. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. Australian Soil and Land Survey Handbook Series, CSIRO Publishing, Melbourne.</li> <li>• Soil chemical laboratory testing (eg. soil carbon (%)) - Rayment, GE and Lyons, D 2011, <i>Soil Chemical Methods – Australasia</i>. Australian Soil and Land Survey Handbook Series, CSIRO Publishing, Melbourne.</li> </ul> <p>Laboratory testing must be undertaken by an Australasian Soil and Plant Analysis Council (ASPAC) accredited laboratory.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soil physical sampling (soil bulk density) - McKenzie, NJ, Coughlan, KJ and Cresswell, HP (Ed.) 2002, <i>Soil Physical Measurement and Interpretation for Land Evaluation</i>. Australian</li> </ul>

	<p>Soil and Land Survey Handbook Series, CSIRO Publishing, Melbourne.</p> <p>Based on the above established soil physical sampling methods for measuring soil bulk density, DEPWS has developed methods for particular soils in the Northern Territory. These locally applicable methods can be acquired from DEPWS and utilised during investigations.</p>
<b>DEPWS</b>	Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security
<b>Greenhouse Gas Abatement Plan</b>	<b>Referral Appendix A. Mathison Station – Greenhouse Gas Abatement Plan. November 2022</b>
<b>independent qualified person</b>	<p>A qualified person as defined under section 4 of the EP Act; and who also meets the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) was not involved in the preparation of the approval holder's <b>referral</b>; and</li> <li>b) is independent of the personnel involved in the design, construction and operation of the action; and</li> <li>c) has obtained written approval from the CEO to be the qualified person to satisfy the <b>independent qualified person</b> reporting requirements under this approval.</li> </ul>
<b>land clearing</b>	The removal or destruction, by any means, of native vegetation on an area of land. <b>Land clearing</b> includes the selective removal of a species of plant, a group of species of plants, a storey or group of storeys in whole or in part.
<b>life of action</b>	The period of time from the commencement of the action until the issue of a closure certificate under section 213 of the EP Act, or revocation of the environmental approval by the Minister at the request of the approval holder under section 114 of the EP Act.
<b>monitoring plan</b>	<p>A program to monitor performance of the current revision of the <b>Greenhouse Gas Abatement Plan</b> that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• monitoring indicators and methods;</li> <li>• sampling locations, timing and frequency;</li> <li>• prior to the commencement of land clearing, the collection of representative <b>baseline data</b>; and</li> <li>• a schedule to review and revise the <b>monitoring plan</b> based on the monitoring results.</li> </ul>
<b>NT EPA</b>	Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority.
<b>referral</b>	The approval holder's <b>referral</b> to the <b>NT EPA</b> under section 48 of the EP Act.
<b>revised Greenhouse Gas Abatement Plan</b>	The revised <b>Greenhouse Gas Abatement Plan</b> required by condition 3-6.

<b>scope 1 emissions</b>	GHG emissions released to the atmosphere as a direct result of an activity, or series of activities at a facility/site/project level (e.g. production of electricity by the burning of gas, or the burning of diesel in trucks operating on a project's site).
<b>qualified person</b>	As defined under section 4 of the EP Act <b>qualified person</b> means: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) a registered environmental auditor; or</li> <li>(b) a registered environmental practitioner; or</li> <li>(c) a person or class of persons, who have the qualifications and experience determined by the CEO for the purpose of this definition.</li> </ul>

### Location and extent of action

Spatial data depicting information provided in Figure 1 is held by the Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security as follows:

- NTEPA2023/0073-013 – Spatial Files – Pancho Beef – Mathison Land Clearing Proposal



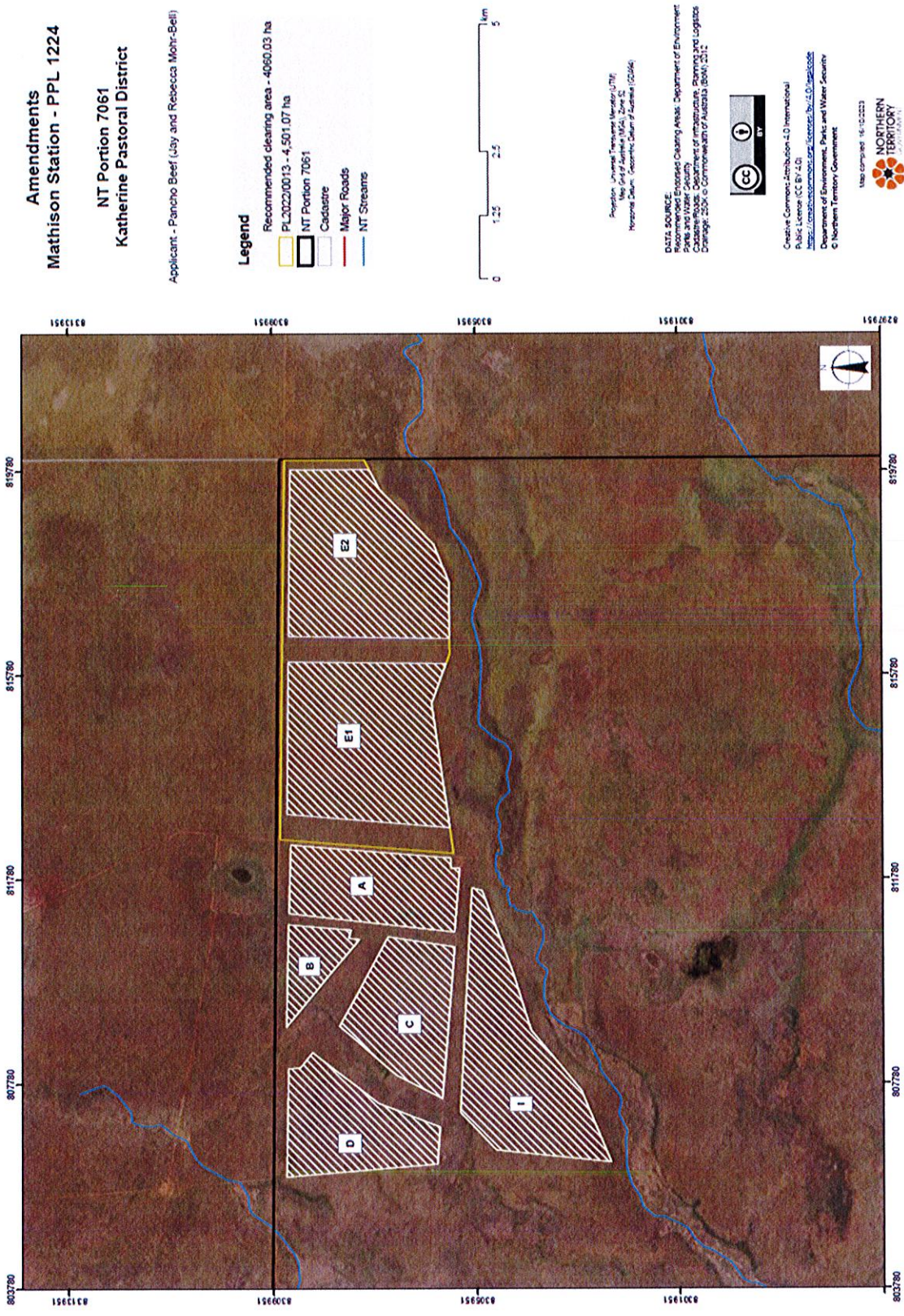


Figure 1 Location and approved extent (subject to conditions of this approval)