



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	10533/1
Duration of Permit:	From 27 June 2024 to 26 June 2039
Permit Holder:	BHP Iron Ore Pty Ltd

The Permit Holder is authorised to clear native vegetation subject to the following conditions of this Permit.

PART I - CLEARING AUTHORISED

1. Land on which clearing is to be done

Miscellaneous Licence 46/144

2. Clearing authorised (purpose)

The Permit Holder is authorised to clear native vegetation for the purpose of hydrological and hydrogeological investigations, access tracks and associated activities.

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 200 hectares of native vegetation within the areas cross-hatched yellow and shaded blue in Figure 1 of Schedule 1.

4. Type of Clearing Authorised

The Permit Holder shall not clear native vegetation unless the purpose for which the clearing is authorised is enacted within six months of the authorised clearing being undertaken.

5. Directional clearing

The Permit Holder shall must:

- conduct all clearing authorised under this permit in one direction towards adjacent vegetation; and
- allow a reasonable time for fauna present within the area being cleared to move into that adjacent native vegetation ahead of the clearing activity.

6. Period in which clearing is Authorised

The Permit Holder must not clear any native vegetation after 26 June 2034.

PART II - MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

7. Avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing

In determining the amount of native vegetation to be cleared under this Permit, the Permit Holder must apply the following principles, set out in descending order of preference:

- (a) avoid the clearing of native vegetation;
- (b) minimise the amount of native vegetation to be cleared; and
- (c) reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.

8. 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*:

- (a) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
- (b) ensure that no known or *weed*-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill* or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and
- (c) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.

9. Vegetation Management

- (a) where practicable the Permit Holder shall avoid *clearing riparian vegetation*; and
- (b) where a *watercourse* or *drainage line* is to be impacted by clearing, the Permit Holder shall ensure that the existing surface flow is maintained, or reinstated downstream into existing natural *drainage lines*.

10. Watercourse Management

When undertaking clearing within the areas shaded blue in Figure 1 of Schedule 1, the Permit Holder shall ensure that:

- (a) clearing is limited to five hectares;
- (b) clearing is only undertaken during the dry season (1 July – 30 November); and
- (c) trees with a height of 4 metres or more are not cleared.

11. Flora Management

Where the *priority flora* species *Crotalaria smithiana* and *Indigofera rivularis* have been identified and their locations, provided to the *CEO*, within the file 'Spectrum Priority flora locations', as retained on Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety File Number DMS2564/2024 as Object ID A76267545, the Permit Holder shall ensure that:

- (i) no individual plants of identified *Crotalaria smithiana* are cleared, unless first approved by the *CEO*;
- (ii) no clearing occurs within 10 metres of the identified *Crotalaria smithiana*, unless first approved by the *CEO*;
- (iii) no individual plants of identified *Indigofera rivularis* are cleared, unless first approved by the *CEO*; and
- (iv) no clearing occurs within 10 metres of the identified *Indigofera rivularis*, unless first approved by the *CEO*.

12. Fauna management

Where the *priority fauna* species *Dasyercus blythi* (Brush-tailed mulgara) or its burrows (active and inactive) have been identified and their locations provided to the *CEO*, within the file 'Mulgara Burrow Locations' as retained on Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety File Number DMS2564/2024 as Object ID A76925751, the Permit Holder shall ensure that:

- (a) no clearing occurs within 10 metres of the identified *Dasyercus blythi* (Brush-tailed mulgara) burrows, unless first approved by the *CEO*.

13. Fauna management

- (a) Within one month prior to undertaking any clearing within the areas cross-hatched yellow and shaded blue in Figure 1 of Schedule 1, the Permit Holder shall engage a *fauna specialist* to inspect the areas to be cleared to identify the following critical habitat for fauna:
- (i) *Macrotis lagotis* (Bilby) burrows; and
 - (ii) *Dasyercus blythi* (Brush-tailed Mulgara) burrows.
- (b) Where burrows (active or inactive) are identified in relation to Condition 13(a) of the Permit, the Permit Holder shall ensure that:
- (i) no clearing occurs within 50 metres of the identified *Macrotis lagotis* (Greater Bilby) burrows, unless first approved by the *CEO*; and
 - (ii) no clearing occurs within 10 metres of the identified *Dasyercus blythi* (Brush-tailed Mulgara) burrows, unless first approved by the *CEO*.

14. Fauna spotter

The Permit Holder shall engage a fauna spotter to traverse the project area ahead of clearing machinery at the time of clearing and alert machinery operators to avoid fauna.

15. Retain vegetative material and topsoil, revegetation and rehabilitation

The Permit Holder shall:

- (a) retain the vegetative material and topsoil removed by clearing authorised under this Permit and stockpile the vegetative material and topsoil in an area that has already been cleared;
- (b) within 12 months following completion of clearing authorised under this Permit, *revegetate* and *rehabilitate* the areas that are no longer required for the purpose for which they were cleared under this Permit by:
- (i) ripping the ground on the contour to remove soil compaction;
 - (ii) laying the vegetative material and topsoil retained under Condition 15(a) on the cleared area;
 - (iii) re-shaping the surface of the land so that it is consistent with the surrounding 10 metres of uncleared land;
- (c) within 4 years of undertaking *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* in accordance with Condition 15(b) of this Permit:
- (i) engage an *environmental specialist* to determine the species composition, structure and density of the area *revegetated* and *rehabilitated*; and
 - (ii) where, in the opinion of an *environmental specialist*, the composition structure and density determined under Condition 15(c)(i) of this Permit will not result in a similar species composition, structure and density to that of pre-clearing vegetation types in that area, *revegetate* the area by deliberately *planting* and/or *direct seeding* native vegetation that will result in a similar species composition, structure and density of native vegetation to pre-clearing vegetation types in that area and ensuring only *local provenance* seeds and propagating material are used.

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

16. Records to be kept

The Permit Holder must maintain records relating to the listed relevant matters in accordance with the specifications detailed in Table 1.

Table 1: Records that must be kept

No.	Relevant matter	Specifications
1.	In relation to the authorised clearing activities generally	<ul style="list-style-type: none">(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;

No.	Relevant matter	Specifications
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (c) the size of the area cleared (in hectares); (d) actions taken in accordance with Condition 5; (e) actions taken to avoid, minimise, and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing in accordance with Condition 7; (f) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of <i>weeds</i> in accordance with Condition 8; (g) actions taken in accordance with Condition 9; (h) actions taken in accordance with Condition 10; and (i) actions taken in accordance with Condition 14.
2.	In relation to flora management pursuant to Condition 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) actions taken to demarcate each <i>priority flora</i> species recorded and their relevant buffers; and (b) actions taken to avoid the clearing of <i>priority flora</i> species.
3.	In relation to fauna management pursuant to Condition 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) actions taken to demarcate each <i>Dasyercus blythi</i> burrow recorded and their relevant buffers; and (b) actions taken to avoid the clearing of <i>Dasyercus blythi</i> burrows.
4.	In relation to fauna management pursuant to Condition 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the location of each <i>Dasyercus blythi</i> and <i>Macrotis lagotis</i> burrows, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings; (b) actions taken to demarcate each <i>Dasyercus blythi</i> and <i>Macrotis lagotis</i> burrows recorded and their relevant buffers; and (c) actions taken to avoid <i>Dasyercus blythi</i> and <i>Macrotis lagotis</i> burrows.
5.	In relation to the <i>revegetation</i> and <i>rehabilitation</i> management pursuant to Condition 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The location of any areas <i>revegetated</i> and <i>rehabilitated</i>, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA 1994), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings; (b) a description of the <i>revegetation</i> and <i>rehabilitation</i> activities undertaken; and (c) the size of the area <i>revegetated</i> and <i>rehabilitated</i> (in hectares).

17. Reporting

- (a) The Permit Holder shall provide a report to the *CEO* by 1 October each year for the life of this Permit, demonstrating adherence to all conditions of this Permit, and setting out the records required under Condition 16 of this Permit in relation to clearing carried out between 1 July and 30 June of the previous financial year.
- (b) If no clearing authorised under this Permit was undertaken between 1 July and 30 June of the previous financial year, a written report confirming that no clearing under this permit has been carried out, must be provided to the *CEO* by 1 October of each year.
- (c) Prior to 26 June 2039, the Permit Holder must provide to the *CEO* a written report of records required under Condition 16 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under Condition 17(a) or 17(b) of this Permit.

DEFINITIONS

In this Permit, the terms in Table 2 have the meanings defined.

Table 2: Definitions

Term	Definition
CEO	the Chief Executive Officer of the Department responsible for administering the clearing provisions contained within the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> or an Officer with delegated authority under Section 20 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> .
clearing	has the meaning given under section 3(1) of the EP Act.
condition/s	a condition to which this clearing permit is subject under section 51H of the EP Act.
department	means the department established under section 35 of the <i>Public Sector Management Act 1994</i> (WA) and designated as responsible for the administration of the EP Act, which includes Part V Division 3.
direct seeding	means a method of re-establishing vegetation through the establishment of a seed bed and the introduction of seeds of the desired plant species.
drainage line/s	means a natural depression that carries surface water runoff.
environmental specialist	means a person who holds a tertiary qualification in environmental science or equivalent, and has experience relevant to the type of environmental advice that an environmental specialist is required to provide under this Permit, or who is approved by the <i>CEO</i> as a suitable environmental specialist.
EP Act	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> (WA)
fauna specialist	means a person who holds a tertiary qualification specialising in environmental science or equivalent, and has a minimum of 2 years work experience in fauna identification and surveys of fauna native to the region being inspected or surveyed, or who is approved by the <i>CEO</i> as a suitable fauna specialist for the bioregion, and who holds a valid fauna licence issued under the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> .
fill	means material used to increase the ground level, or to fill a depression.
local provenance	means native vegetation seeds and propagating material from natural sources within 200 kilometres in the same Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) subregion of the area cleared.
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.
native vegetation	has the meaning given under section 3(1) and section 51A of the EP Act.
planting	means the re-establishment of vegetation by creating favourable soil conditions and planting seedlings of the desired species.
priority flora	means those plant taxa described as priority flora classes 1, 2, 3, or 4 in the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' <i>Threatened and Priority Flora List for Western Australia</i> (as amended).
regeneration	means <i>revegetation</i> that can be established from in situ seed banks contained either within the topsoil or seed-bearing <i>mulch</i> .
rehabilitate / rehabilitated / rehabilitation	means actively managing an area containing native vegetation in order to improve the ecological function of that area.
revegetate / revegetated / revegetation	means the re-establishment of a cover of <i>local provenance</i> native vegetation in an area using methods such as natural <i>regeneration</i> , <i>direct seeding</i> and/or <i>planting</i> , so

Term	Definition
	that the species composition, structure and density is similar to pre-clearing vegetation types in that area.
riparian vegetation	has the meaning given to it in Regulation 3 of the Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulation 2004.
watercourse	has the meaning given to it in section 3 of the <i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> .
weed/s	<p>means any plant –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) that is a declared pest under section 22 of the <i>Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007</i>; 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.

END OF CONDITIONS

Danielle Risbey

Danielle Risbey | Acting General Manager Mine Closure and Environmental Services
Resource and Environmental Compliance Division
04 June 2024

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

SCHEDULE 1

The boundary of the area authorised to be cleared is shown in the map below (Figure 1).

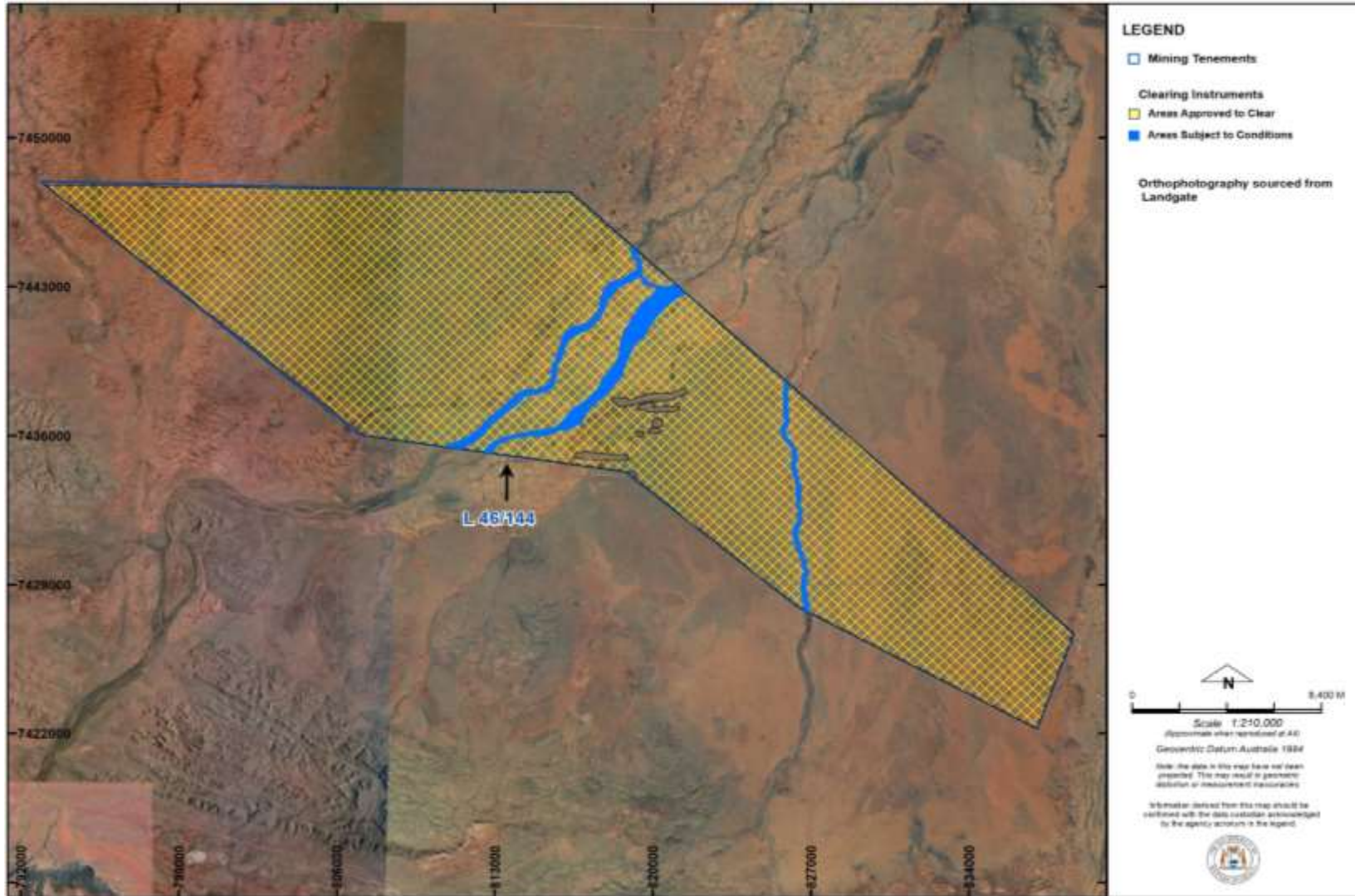


Figure 1: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur.