



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 154/1

Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: G5SA

Local Government Area: Shire of Ashburton

Colloquial name: Paraburdoo Construction Camp Site

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
10		Mechanical Removal	Mining

2. Site Information

2.1. Existing environment and information

2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description	Clearing Description	Vegetation Condition	Comment
Vegetation Association 567 - Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; mulga and kanji over soft spinifex and T. basedowii.	The area to be cleared has been cleared previously and partially rehabilitated. Exotic species located on the site include Cenchrus ciliaris, Cenchrus setiger, and Aerva javanica.	Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994)	Consultant's report (Pilbara Iron, 2004)

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

(a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

The vegetation to be cleared was previously cleared and partially rehabilitated. The existence of introduced flora species indicates an existing level of disturbance (Pilbara Iron 2004). The biodiversity value of the site to be cleared is unlikely to be of greater significance than other undisturbed areas.

Methodology

(b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

Due to the existing level of disturbance on the site (Pilbara Iron 2004), the vegetation is unlikely to provide habitat for indigenous fauna that is not provided by undisturbed vegetation.

Methodology

(c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, significant flora.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

No Declared Rare or Priority flora were located in the vegetation to be cleared.

Methodology

Pilbara Iron (2004).
GIS database: Declared Rare and Priority Flora List - CALM 13/08/03.

(d) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a significant ecological community.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

No Threatened Ecological Communities are known from the site.

Methodology GIS databases:
- Threatened Ecological Community Database - CALM 15/07/03.
- Threatened Plant Communities - DEP 06/95.

(e) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.

Comments **Proposal is not at variance to this Principle**
There is ~100% of the pre-European extent of this vegetation association remaining (848,590ha). Of this, over 20% is protected within conservation reserves.

Methodology Shepherd et al. (2001).
GIS database: Pre-European Vegetation - DA 01/01.

(f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
The vegetation is not associated with any watercourse or wetland.

Methodology GIS database: Hydrography, linear - DOE 01/02/04.

(g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
The area that is proposed for clearing has been cleared previously and then partially rehabilitated. It is not likely that the clearing will result in land degradation.

Methodology LCO DAWA Advice

(h) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.

Comments **Proposal is not at variance to this Principle**
There are no conservation areas adjacent to the proposed clearing.

Methodology GIS database - CALM Managed Lands and Water – CALM 01/08/04.

(i) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
The vegetation clearing is unlikely to have a significant impact on surface or ground water quality. Wastewater from the construction camp will be managed in accordance with EP Act operating requirements.

Methodology Correspondence from Hamersley Iron (27/08/2004)

(j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence of flooding.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
The site has been subject to previous disturbance (Pilbara Iron, 2004). The proposed clearing is unlikely to have any significant effect on flooding in the area.

Methodology

(k) Planning instrument or other matter.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
The subject area is not within a Town Planning Scheme area. The land is subject to a State Agreement Act (General Purpose Lease G5SA) and was previously cleared and utilised as a construction camp. Partial rehabilitation followed this use and the site still shows evidence of disturbance.

Methodology Pilbara Iron (2004).
GIS database - Town Planning Scheme Zones - MFP 08/98.

4. Assessor's recommendations

The recommendations of the Department of Environment to the CEO of the Department should be made consistent with the outcomes of the assessment by each of the agencies. Any conditions on the approval should also be outlined. These may be developed in consultation with such other agencies as required.

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Decision	Comment / recommendation
Mining	Mechanical Removal	10	Grant	Construction Camp

5. References

- Hamersley Iron (27/08/2004), Hamersley's Brownfields Developments - Outline of Accommodation Requirements at Tom Price, Paraburdoo and Karijini Lodge (TRIM Ref KT13780).
- Keighery, BJ (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Shepherd, D.P., Beeston, G.R. and Hopkins, A.J.M. (2001) Native Vegetation in Western Australia, Extent, Type and Status. Resource Management Technical Report 249. Department of Agriculture, Western Australia.
- Pilbara Iron (2004) Botanical Survey Advice, Environment Department, Project No 2004/38, Docs # 102812. DoE TRIM ref IN17857.