



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 170/1

Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: AML70/4

Local Government Area: Shire of Ashburton

Colloquial name: Tom Price Iron Ore Mine

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
1.8		Mechanical Removal	Road construction or maintenance

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 82 - Hummock grasslands, low tree steppe; snappy gum over <i>Triodia wiseana</i> .	From the aerial photograph, the vegetation appears to be in good condition, however is adjacent to an existing road and close to a mine dump.	Excellent: Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery 1994)	Aerial photograph used for assessment.
Vegetation Association 567 - Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; mulga and kanji over soft spinifex and <i>T. basedowii</i> .	From the aerial photograph, the vegetation appears to be in good condition, however is adjacent to an existing road and close to a mine dump.	Excellent: Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery 1994)	Aerial photograph used for assessment.

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 area to be cleared is a small proportion of both vegetation associations within the Bioregion. It is adjacent to an existing cleared area and close to two mine dumps. Therefore, the site is unlikely to have significant biodiversity values relative to sites further away from mining and related infrastructure.

Methodology Aerial photograph

(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**

The area to be cleared is next to an existing road and between two mine dumps. It is unlikely that the clearing of 1.8ha will have a significant impact on fauna in the local area.

Methodology Permit application

(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**

There are no known Declared Rare or Priority flora within the site.

Methodology 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**
There are no known Threatened Ecological Communities at the site.

Methodology GIS database: Threatened Ecological Communities - CALM 15/7/03

(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**
The site includes vegetation within Beard Vegetation Associations 82 and 567. Of these, both have ~100% of their pre-European extent (Vegetation Association 82 being 2,920, 910ha and Vegetation Association 567 being 848,590ha), with ~10% of association 82 and over 20% of association 567 managed for conservation (Shepherd et al, 2001).

Methodology GIS database: Pre-European Vegetation - DA 01/01, Shepherd et al, 2001

(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 at variance to this Principle**
The vegetation to be cleared is not associated with a watercourse or wetland.

Methodology Aerial photograph

(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 to be cleared is minimal and unlikely to result in an increased risk of land degradation.

Methodology

(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 reserves adjacent to the area proposed for clearing.

Methodology GIS database: CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 1/06/04

(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 area to be cleared is minimal and is unlikely to have a significant impact on the quality of surface or ground water.

Methodology

(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 area to be cleared is minimal and unlikely to increase the incidence of flooding.

Methodology

(k) Planning instrument or other matter.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
The area is not within a Town Planning Scheme.

Methodology GIS database: Town Planning Scheme Zones - MFP 8/98

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
Road construction or maintenance	Mechanical Removal	1.8	Grant	

5. References

- 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.