



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 173/1

Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: AML70/246

Colloquial name: Tom Price Southern Ridge Western Land Slip

1.4. Application

| Clearing Area (ha) | No. Trees | Method of Clearing | For the purpose of: |
|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 47.8 | | Mechanical Removal | Mining |

2. Site information

2.1. Existing environment and information

2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description

Vegetation Association 82 - Hummock grasslands, low tree steppe; snappy sum over *Triodia wiseana*.

Clearing Description

Whilst the vegetation has obviously been impacted upon by adjacent mining activities, occurrences of Priority Flora and flora of special local interest were recorded from the site.

Vegetation Condition

Excellent: Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery 1994)

Comment

Vegetation condition assessment based on information provided in Permit application.

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 borders an active mine pit. Whilst no Declared Rare Flora were located within the application area, a number of occurrences of Priority flora will be cleared (*Indigofera ixocarpa*, *Triumfetta leptacantha*, *Dampiera anonyma*, and *Eremophila magnifica*). Of these species, surveys have identified their occurrence elsewhere in the local area.

The site to be cleared is therefore unlikely to be of higher biodiversity significance than the vegetation in the local region.

Methodology Permit application

(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 proximity of the vegetation to an open mine pit suggests that the vegetation is not likely to be significant habitat for fauna.

Methodology Aerial photograph

(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**

Two species of special local interest (Geijera alicifolia, Daviesia eremaea) that occur within the area to be cleared will be retained. There are no known Declared Rare Flora in the project area.

Methodology Permit application; GIS database: Declared Rare and Priority Flora Lists - 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 vegetation at the site is a component of Beard Vegetation Association 82 of which there is ~100% of the pre-European extent remaining (2,920,910 ha). Of this area, ~10% of the association is represented in conservation areas (Shepherd et al. 2001).

Methodology GIS database: Pre-European Extent - 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 clearing is required to enable the pit wall of the existing mine to be re-angled, thus, the area to be cleared will become part of the active mine pit. Land degradation impacts will be managed to minimise impacts on the mining operation.

Methodology Permit application

(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 likely to be at variance to this Principle**

There are no conservation reserves in the vicinity of the area to be cleared.

Methodology GIS database: CALM Managed Lands and Waters - 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 impact of the clearing on ground water quality is unlikely to be significant given that the area will be managed as part of an existing mine pit.

Methodology Aerial photograph

(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**

It is unlikely that the clearing of vegetation from the site will impact on the flood regimes of the area.

Methodology

(k) Planning instrument or other matter.

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

The site is not within a Town Planning Scheme.

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

4. Assessor's recommendations

| Purpose | Method | Applied area (ha)/ trees | Decision | Comment / recommendation |
|---------|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------|---|
| Mining | Mechanical Removal | 47.8 | Grant | Clearing and associated mine wall re-stabilisation required for continued safety during mine operation. |

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.