Department of Environment
Government of Western Australia

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 203/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: **Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd, c/o Hames Sharley**

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 30 ON PLAN 241590
LOT 623 ON PLAN 14726
Local Government Area: Shire of Ashburton
Colloquial name: Paraburdoo townsite

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
19	0	Mechanical Removal	Building or Structure

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 181 - Shrublands, mulga and snakewood scrub	The areas proposed for clearing show obvious signs of disturbance, with the presence of exotic species such as Cenchrus ciliaris, Aerva javanica, and Malvastrum americanum.	Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994)	

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 within the sites shows obvious signs of previous disturbance, including the presence of exotic species (Pilbara Iron, 2004). As the sites are adjacent to developed blocks within the township of Paraburdoo, it is unlikely that they would have a higher level of biological diversity than less disturbed 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 level of disturbance already evident within the sites (Pilbara Iron, 2004), it is unlikely that the vegetation plays a significant role as habitat for fauna.

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 at variance to this Principle**
No declared rare or priority flora were located on the sites (Pilbara Iron, 2004).

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 at variance to this Principle**
There are no known Threatened Ecological Communities within the sites proposed for clearing.

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**
Vegetation Association 181 covers the sites to be cleared. There is ~100% of the pre-European extent remaining (1,922,170ha) with ~4% of the toal area within conservation reserves or on pastoral leases managed by CALM.

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 within a watercourse or wetland.

Methodology GIS database: Hydrography, linear - DOE 1/2/04

(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**
A desktop assessment of the application did not identify that the clearing of vegetation is likely to cause appreciable 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 reserves in close proximity to the areas to be cleared.

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**
It is unlikely that the clearing of vegetation at the four proposed sites will have a significant impact on surface or ground water quality. Storm water run-off will be connected to the town's existing system.

Methodology GIS database: Hydrography, linear - DOE 1/2/04

(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 proposed clearing is unlikely to exacerbate flooding within the area.

Methodology

(k) Planning instrument or other matter.

Comments **Proposal is at variance to this Principle**
The Shire of Ashburton Town Planning Scheme #7 has been referred to the Minister for Planning for gazettal. This will amend the current zonings for these Lots to Residential (K Pearson, pers comm).

Methodology

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
Building or Structure	Mechanical Removal	19	0		Accommodation

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.

Pilbara Iron (2004) Botanical Survey Advice No. 2004/58

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.