



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	2283/5
Duration of Permit:	From 23 May 2008 to 31 December 2027
Permit Holder:	Hamersley Iron 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

Iron Ore (Rhodes Ridge) Agreement Authorisation Act 1972, Temporary Reserve 70/4193
Iron Ore (Rhodes Ridge) Agreement Authorisation Act 1972, Temporary Reserve 70/4882
Iron Ore (Rhodes Ridge) Agreement Authorisation Act 1972, Temporary Reserve 70/4883
Iron Ore (Rhodes Ridge) Agreement Authorisation Act 1972, Temporary Reserve 70/4884

2. Purpose for which clearing may be done

Clearing for the purpose of mineral exploration.

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 342 hectares of native vegetation. All clearing must be within the areas shaded yellow on attached Plans 2283/5A, 2283/5B, 2283/5C and 2283/5D.

4. Period in which clearing is authorised

The Permit Holder shall not clear any native vegetation after 31 December 2022.

5. Clearing not authorised

The Permit Holder shall not clear any native vegetation within the areas shaded red on attached Plans 2283/5A, 2283/5B, 2283/5C and 2283/5D.

6. Application

This Permit allows the Permit Holder to authorise persons, including employees, contractors and agents of the Permit Holder, to clear native vegetation for the purposes of this Permit subject to compliance with the conditions of this Permit and approval from the Permit Holder.

PART II - MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

7. 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*:

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

8. Flora Management

Where *priority flora* species *Euphorbia inappendiculata* var. *queenslandica*, *Isotropis parviflora* and *Oxalis* sp. Pilbara have been identified and their written locations, provided to the CEO, within the reports 'Rio Tinto (2016) Flora, Vegetation and Fauna Habitat Assessment at Ophthalmia. Native Vegetation Clearing Permit – Supporting Report, July 2016' and 'Flora, Vegetation and Fauna Habitat Assessment at Ophthalmia. Native Vegetation Clearing Permit – Supporting Report, RTIO-HES-0300311, May 2017', the Permit Holder shall ensure that:

- (i) no clearing of identified *priority flora* occurs unless first approved by the CEO; and
- (ii) no clearing occurs within 10 metres of identified *priority flora* unless first approved by the CEO.

9. Vegetation Management

- (a) Where practicable the Permit Holder shall avoid clearing *riparian vegetation*; and
- (b) Where a *watercourse* is to be impacted by clearing, the Permit Holder shall maintain the existing surface flow.

10. Retain and spread vegetative material and topsoil

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 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) re-shaping the surface of the land so that it is consistent with the surrounding 5 metres of uncleared land; and
 - (ii) laying the vegetative material and topsoil retained under Condition 10(a).
- (c) within 4 years of laying the vegetative material and topsoil on the cleared area in accordance with Condition 10(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 10(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

11. Records to be kept

The Permit Holder must maintain the following records for activities done pursuant to this Permit:

- (a) In relation to the clearing of native vegetation authorised under this Permit,
 - (i) 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 or decimal degrees;
 - (ii) the date that the area was cleared;
 - (iii) the size of the area cleared (in hectares); and
 - (iv) purpose for which clearing was undertaken.

- (b) In relation to the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* of areas pursuant to Condition 10 of this Permit:
 - (i) the location of any areas *revegetated* and *rehabilitated*, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;
 - (ii) a description of the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* activities undertaken; and
 - (iii) the size of the area *revegetated* and *rehabilitated* (in hectares).

12. Reporting

- (a) The Permit Holder shall provide a report to the Director Operations, Environment, Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety by 30 June each year for the life of this permit, demonstrating adherence to all conditions of this permit, and setting out the records required under Condition 11 of this permit in relation to clearing carried out between 1 January and 31 December of the previous calendar year.

- (b) Prior to 31 December 2027, the Permit Holder must provide to the Director Operations, Environment, Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety a written report of records required under Condition 11 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under Condition 12(a) of this Permit.

DEFINITIONS

The following meanings are given to terms used in this Permit:

CEO means the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation or an officer with delegated authority under Section 20 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986;

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;

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 *CEO* as a suitable environmental specialist.

fill means material used to increase the ground level, or fill a hollow;

local provenance means native vegetation seeds and propagating material from natural sources within 200 kilometres and 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;

planting means the re-establishment of vegetation by creating favourable soil conditions and planting seedlings of the desired species;

regenerate/ed/ion means re-establishment of vegetation from in situ seed banks and propagating material (such as lignotubers, bulbs, rhizomes) contained either within the topsoil or seed-bearing *mulch*;

rehabilitate/ed/ion means actively managing an area containing native vegetation in order to improve the ecological function of that area;

revegetate/ed/ion means the re-establishment of a cover of *local provenance* native vegetation in an area using methods such as *regeneration, direct seeding* and/or *planting*, so that the species composition, structure and density is similar to pre-clearing vegetation types in that area;

weed/s means any plant –

- (a) that is a declared pest under section 22 of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*; or
- (b) published in a Department of Parks and Wildlife’s Regional Weed Rankings Summary, regardless of ranking; or
- (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.

Danielle Risbey

Danielle Risbey | Acting Director Operations
Operations
21 December 2017

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