Department of Environment
Government of Western Australia

# Clearing Permit Decision Report

## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

**Permit application No.:** 234/1
**Permit type:** Area Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

**Proponent's name:** **Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd**

### 1.3. Property details

**Property:** AML70/246
**Colloquial name:** Paraburdoo mine site

### 1.4. Application

| Clearing Area (ha) | No. Trees | Method of Clearing | For the purpose of: |
|---|---|---|---|
| 15.1 | | 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 82 - Hummock grasslands, low tree steppe; snappy gum over Triodia wiseana. | Vegetation at the site has been previously disturbed. | Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994) | Assessment based on aerial photograph and 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**

Much of the area proposed for clearing has been previously disturbed. It abuts existing mine workings (the 4 West Pit). It is therefore unlikely that the vegetation of the site is of significant biodiversity value.

**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 level of disturbance at the site and proximity to a working mine pit suggest that the vegetation is of limited habitat value 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**

There are no known Declared Rare or Priority Flora known in the area proposed for clearing.

**Methodology** 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 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 of the site is Beard Vegetation Association 82, of which there is ~100% of the pre-European extent remaining. Of this, over 10% is protected within conservation reserves or the CALM estate (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 likely to be at variance to this Principle**

The vegetation to be cleared is not associated with a watercourse or wetland.

**Methodology** GIS Database: Hydrology, 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**

As the site abuts an existing mining operation, it is likely that any land degradation will be managed to minimise impacts on the existing mine pit. It is therefore unlikely that the clearing of the vegetation will result in significant 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**

The vegetation to be cleared is not adjacent to any conservation areas.

**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**

From the limited information available, and in view of the existing mining operations, it is unlikely that the clearing of vegetation will have a significant impact on ground water quality. Movement of sediment into nearby floodways immediately following clearing and prior to mining will need to be managed.

**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**

Due to the climatic variability in rainfall events, it is unlikely that the clearing of 15.1ha of vegetation will have a significant impact on the flood regimes of the area.

**Methodology**

### Planning instrument or other matter.

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

The site is part of a State Agreement Act mining tenement.

**Methodology** GIS Database: Mining Tenements - DOIR 1/09/03

## 4. Assessor's recommendations

| Purpose | Method | Applied area (ha)/ trees | Decision | Comment / recommendation |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mining | Mechanical Removal | 15.1 | **Grant** | Recommend that the permit is granted. |

## 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.