



## CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

<b>Purpose permit number:</b>	CPS 2351/2
<b>Permit holder:</b>	BHP Billiton Nickel West Pty Ltd
<b>Purpose of clearing:</b>	Mineral Exploration
<b>Shire:</b>	City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
<b>Duration of permit:</b>	22 June 2008 – 22 June 2018

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The permit holder is authorised to clear native vegetation for the above stated purposes, subject to the conditions of this Permit.

### **PART I – CLEARING AUTHORISED**

#### **1. Land on which clearing is to be done**

Lot 14 on Deposited Plan 58833, Feysville.

#### **2. Area of clearing**

The Permit holder must not clear more than 300 hectares within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 2351/2.

#### **3. 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.

#### **4. Compliance with Assessment Sequence and Management Procedures**

Prior to clearing any native vegetation under conditions 1 and 2 of this Permit, the Permit holder must comply with the Assessment Sequence and the Management Procedures set out in Part II of this Permit.

### **PART II – ASSESSMENT SEQUENCE AND MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES**

#### **5. Avoid, minimise etc clearing**

- (a) In determining the amount of native vegetation to be cleared for the purposes of mineral exploration the Permit holder must have regard to the following principles, set out in order of preference:
- (i) avoid the clearing of native vegetation;
  - (ii) minimise the amount of native vegetation to be cleared; and
  - (iii) reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.

## 6. Weed Control

- (a) When undertaking any clearing and *revegetation*, or other activity pursuant to 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 *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.

## 7. Flora Management

- (a) Prior to undertaking any clearing within the area in accordance with this permit, the area shall be inspected by a *flora specialist* who shall identify *Priority Flora taxa* and *Significant Flora taxa*.
- (b) Where *Priority Flora taxa* and *Significant Flora taxa* are identified in relation to condition 7(a) the Permit holder shall ensure that:
  - (i) All records of *Priority flora taxa* and *Significant Flora taxa* are submitted to the CEO;
  - (ii) No clearing occurs within 10m of identified *Priority Flora taxa* and *Significant Flora taxa*, unless approved by the CEO.

## 8. Fauna Management

- (a) Prior to clearing, the site shall be walked, inspected and surveyed by a *fauna specialist* to identify the presence of Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) mounds.
- (b) The Permit holder shall not clear within 50m of Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) mounds identified in condition 8(a) above.

## 9. Revegetation

The Permit holder must *revegetate* all areas cleared for the purpose of exploration and prospecting in accordance with the following:

- (a) The Permit holder shall retain the vegetative material and topsoil removed by clearing in accordance with this Permit;
- (b) Within six months of the area no longer being required for the purpose of the exploration and prospecting the Permit holder must *revegetate* the area by:
  - (i) Deep ripping the soil of any area to be rehabilitated;
  - (ii) Laying topsoil retained in accordance with condition 9(a) on the area;

- (c) Within one year of undertaking *revegetation* in accordance with condition 9(b), the Permit holder must:
  - (i) Determine the species composition, structure and density of the area *revegetated*;
  - (ii) Where, in the opinion of an *flora specialist*, the composition structure and density determined under condition 9(c)(i) will not result in a similar species composition, structure and density to pre-clearing vegetation types in that area the Permit holder must undertake planting or seeding of native vegetation; and
  - (iii) Propagative material must be sourced from within 50 km of the area to be *revegetated*.

### **PART III – RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING**

#### **10. Records must be kept**

The Permit holder must maintain the following records for activities done pursuant to this Permit, as relevant:

- (a) In relation to the clearing of native vegetation:
  - (i) the location where the clearing occurred, recorded using Geocentric Datum Australia 1994;
  - (ii) the date that the area was cleared; and
  - (iii) the size of the area cleared (in hectares).
- (b) In relation to Flora Management pursuant to condition 7:
  - (i) the location of each *Priority Flora taxa* and *Significant Flora taxa* recorded using Geocentric Datum Australia 1994; and
  - (ii) the species of each *Priority Flora taxa* and *Significant Flora taxa* identified.
- (c) In relation to fauna management pursuant to condition 8:
  - (i) The location of each Malleefowl mound in accordance with condition 8(a) recorded using Geocentric Datum Australia 1994.
- (d) In relation to the *revegetation* of areas pursuant to conditions 9(b) and (c):
  - (i) The location of any area *revegetated* recorded using Geocentric Datum Australia 1994;
  - (ii) A description of the *revegetation* activities undertaken; and
  - (iii) The size of the area *revegetated* (in hectares).

#### **11. Reporting**

The Permit holder must provide to the CEO, on or before 30 June of each year, a written report of records required under condition 10 and activities done by the Permit holder under this Permit between 1 January and 31 December of the preceding year.

## Definitions

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

*fauna specialist* means a person with training and specific work experience in fauna identification or faunal assemblage surveys of Western Australian fauna;

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

*flora specialist* means a person with specific training and/or experience in the ecology and taxonomy of Western Australian flora;

*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;

*Priority Flora taxa* means those plant taxa that described as priority flora classes 1, 2, 3 or 4 in the *Declared Rare and Priority Flora List for Western Australia*, Department of Environment and Conservation, as amended;

*revegetation* means the re-establishment of a cover of native vegetation in an area such that the species composition, structure and density is similar to pre-clearing vegetation types in that area, and can involve regeneration, direct seeding and/or planting.

*Significant Flora taxa* means the species identified as *Daviesia sp. affin. pachyloma* and *Lepidosperma sp. affin. diurnum* within the Western Botanical (2007) Flora and Vegetation Assessment, Selcast Project Area, December 2007.

*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 the Department of Environment and Conservation Regional Weed Assessments, regardless of ranking; or
- (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.



M Warnock  
MANAGER  
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

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

6 June 2013



# Plan 2351/2



**LEGEND**

<p><b>Clearing Instruments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Areas Approved to Clear</li> <li> Road Centrelines</li> <li> Cadastre for labelling</li> </ul>	<p><b>Lake Lefroy 1.4m Orthomosaic</b></p> <p>- DLI 02</p>
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0 ~2 km

Scale 1:75000  
(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

Geocentric Datum Australia 1994

Note: the data in this map have not been projected. This may result in geometric distortion or measurement inaccuracies.

*M. Warnock* Date 6/6/13

M. Warnock

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

Information derived from this map should be confirmed with the data custodian acknowledged by the agency acronym in the legend.

**Department of Environment and Conservation**

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## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 2351/2  
Permit type: Purpose Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: BHP Billiton Nickel West Pty Ltd

### 1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 48 ON PLAN 226304 ( FEYSVILLE 6431)  
Local Government Area: City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder  
Colloquial name:

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
300		Mechanical Removal	Mineral Exploration

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant  
Decision Date: 6 June 2013

## 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
<p>Beard Vegetation Associations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 9: Medium woodland; coral gum (<i>Eucalyptus torquata</i>) &amp; goldfields blackbutt (<i>E. le soufii</i>);</li> <li>- 221: Succulent steppe; saltbush; and</li> <li>- 468: Medium woodland; salmon gum &amp; goldfields blackbutt (Shepherd 2006).</li> </ul>	<p>The proposal is to clear 300ha of native vegetation within a 2,452ha area over a period of 5 years for exploration and drilling within the Selcast tenement, located ~10km north of Kambalda. The clearing is required for ~100 exploration drilling pads and seismic survey access tracks, with a total line clearing of 550 (line) kilometres. Survey lines will be spaced ~120m apart (BHP Billiton 2008).</p> <p>Ten vegetation associations have been identified within the Selcast Project Area (Western Botanical 2007). These are described as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Woodlands of <i>Eucalyptus torquata</i>, <i>E. lesouefii</i> with sclerophyll shrubs on subcropping mafic basalt, dolerite, gabbro and felsic porphyry;</li> <li>- Sclerophyll shrublands and woodlands on ferricrete, sedimentary or kaolinitic remnants and saprolitic ultramafics often expressed as low breakaways;</li> <li>- Rocky <i>Acacia-Mallee</i> shrublands on sands over gabbro, granite or schist;</li> <li>- Mixed <i>Eucalypt</i></li> </ul>	<p>Excellent: Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery 1994)</p>	<p>The vegetation clearing description is based on information provided in the application for a clearing permit (BHP Billiton 2008), the Flora and Vegetation Survey (Western Botanical 2007) and aerial orthomosaics.</p> <p>The vegetation appears to range in condition from excellent (~90%) to degraded in areas of localised disturbance, therefore an overall condition rating of excellent has been assigned.</p>

woodlands with *Atriplex nummularia* shrub understorey on shallow alkaline loams with calcrete nodules;

- Eucalypt woodlands with Sclerophyll understorey on deep alluvial clays and loams;

- Eucalypt woodlands with *Maireana sediflora* (Pearl Bluebush);

- Jam thickets (*Acacia* sp. Narrow Phyllode (BR Maslin 7831)) in clay depressions;

- Internally drained Claypans and Crabholes;

- Broad drainage Tract with *Eucalyptus salmonophloia*, *E. salubris* woodlands with *Eremophila ionantha* shrubland; and

- Chenopod Shrublands, *Atriplex bunburyana* and/or *A. vesicaria* (Western Botanical 2007). Overall the region is broadly characterised by eucalypt woodlands with either chenopod or sclerophyll understorey (Western Botanical 2007).

Evidence of past disturbance is visible throughout the Selcast Project Area, including old drill pads and tracks (Western Botanical 2007). The vegetation under application also includes some rehabilitation areas from previous mining activities. These rehabilitation areas are less than 10 yrs old although have progressed well (Western Botanical (2007).

### 3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

#### Comments

This amendment has been made to extend the permit duration until 22 June 2018 and update the property details on the clearing permit.

The assessment against the clearing principles has not changed and can be found in Decision Report CPS 2351/1.

#### Methodology

### Planning instrument, Native Title, Previous EPA decision or other matter.

#### Comments

The assessment against Planning and Other Matters has not changed and can be found in Decision Report CPS 2351/1.

#### Methodology

### 4. References

BHP Billiton (2008) Letter and supporting information for clearing permit application. Dated 18 January 2008 (TRIM Ref. DOC45389).

Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.



Shah, B. (2006) Conservation of Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo on the Swan Coastal Plain, Western Australia. December 2006. Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo Recovery Project. Birds Australia, Western Australia.  
Western Botanical (2007) Flora and Vegetation Assessment. Selcast Project Area. December 2007. Prepared for BHP Billiton Nickel West. Prepared by Western Botanical, Bassendean, Western Australia (TRIM Ref. DOC45389).

## 5. Glossary

Term	Meaning
BCS	Biodiversity Coordination Section of DEC
CALM	Department of Conservation and Land Management (now BCS)
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection (now DEC)
DoE	Department of Environment
DoIR	Department of Industry and Resources
DRF	Declared Rare Flora
EPP	Environmental Protection Policy
GIS	Geographical Information System
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community
WRC	Water and Rivers Commission (now DEC)