



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 236/1

Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: AML70/4

Colloquial name: Tom Price mine site

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
35.3		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 <i>Triodia wiseana</i> .	The vegetation on site has been previously disturbed. It is adjacent to two active mine pits and a waste dump.	Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994)	Vegetation assessment based on permit application and aerial photograph.

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 the subject of this application has been previously disturbed. The area is situated between two mine pits and a waste dump.

Two occurrences of the Priority 2 species (*Indigofera ixocarpa*) and one of the Priority 4 species (*Eremophlia magnifica magnifica*) were located in the site. Both species have been identified in several other locations.

It is unlikely, therefore, that the vegetation is of significant biodiversity value.

Methodology Aerial photograph; 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 level of disturbance to the vegetation and proximity to mine pits and a waste dump suggests that the site is not of high habitat value 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 Priority listed species were identified at the site (*Eremophlia magnifica magnifica* and *Indigofera ixocarpa*). Both have been identified elsewhere.

It is therefore unlikely that the clearing of the vegetation will significantly impact on the continued existence of these species.

Methodology Permit application

(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 at the site is a component of Beard Vegetation Association 82 (Hopkins et al. 2001), of which there is ~100% of the pre-European extent remaining (2,920,910ha), over 10% of which is protected within the conservation estate (Shepherd et al., 2001).

Methodology GIS Database: Pre-European Extent - DA 01/01; Shepherd et al. (2001); Hopkins 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 site from which the vegetation will be cleared will become an expansion to the existing Southern Ridge Pit. Therefore, any land degradation impacts will be managed as part of the mining operation, and are likely to be minimal.

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 at variance to this Principle**

There are no conservation reserves adjacent to the area to be cleared; the site is surrounded by mine pits and a waste dump.

Methodology GIS Database: CALM Managed Lands and Waters - 1/06/04; Aerial photograph

(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**

Due to the nature of the vegetation at the site (disturbed grassland with low overstorey component) it is unlikely that the clearing will have a significant impact on surface or ground water quality.

Methodology Permit application

(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**

Flooding in the Pilbara is highly responsive to rainfall events. It is unlikely that the clearing of vegetation will exacerbate the flood regime in the local area.

Methodology

Planning instrument or other matter.

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

The mining tenement is the subject of a State Agreement Act.

Methodology Permit application

4. Assessor's recommendations

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Decision	Comment / recommendation
Mining	Mechanical Removal	35.3	Grant	Recommend that the permit be granted.

5. References

Hopkins, A.J.M., Beeston, G.R. and Harvey J.M. (2001) A database on the vegetation of Western Australia. Stage 1. CALMScience after J. S. Beard, late 1960's to early 1980's Vegetation Survey of Western Australia, UWA Press.

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.