



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 237 / 2

File Number: DEC4214

Duration of Permit: From 30 April 2005 to 31 December 2012

PERMIT HOLDER

WMC Resources Ltd (BHP Billiton Nickel West)

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

M53/167

M53/56

M53/165

M53/489

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

Clearing of up to 485 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 237/2.

CONDITIONS

1. Avoid, minimise, etc. clearing

In determining the amount of native vegetation to be cleared 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.

2. Revegetation

- (a) The Permit Holder shall retain the vegetative material and topsoil removed by clearing authorised under this Permit.
- (b) Within six months of an area no longer being required for the purpose for which it was cleared under this clearing permit, the permit holder must *revegetate* those areas by:
 - (i) Deliberately planting and/or 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;
 - (ii) Ensuring only local provenance seeds and propagating material from within 10km of the area cleared are used to *revegetate* the area;
 - (iii) Laying vegetative material and topsoil retained in accordance with condition 2(a) on the area.

- (c) Within one year of undertaking *revegetation* in accordance with condition 2(b), the Permit Holder must:
 - (i) Determine the species composition, structure and density of the area revegetated; and
 - (ii) Where, in the opinion of an *environmental specialist*, the composition structure and density determined under condition 2(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 additional planting or seeding of *native vegetation* in accordance with the requirements of condition 2(b)(i) and (ii).

3. Weed Control

When undertaking any clearing 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*:

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

4. Records must 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 undertaken pursuant to this Permit:
 - (i) the species composition structure and density of the cleared area;
 - (ii) the location where the clearing occurred, recorded using Geocentric Datum Australia 1994;
 - (iii) the date(s) that the area was cleared; and
 - (iv) the size of the area cleared (in hectares).
- (b) In relation to the *revegetation* of areas in accordance with condition 2:
 - (i) the location of any area *revegetated* be recorded using Geocentric Datum Australia 1994;
 - (ii) a description of the *revegetation* activities; and
 - (iii) the size of the area *revegetated* (in hectares).

5. Reporting

The Permit Holder must provide to the CEO on or before 30 June of each year, for the *term* of this Permit, a written report of records required under conditions 4 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:

CEO means the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Environment and Conservation;

environmental specialist means a person who is engaged by the Permit Holder for the purpose of providing environmental advice, 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;

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

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;

revegetate, revegetated and 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;

term means the duration of this Permit, including as amended or renewed;

weed means a species listed in Appendix 3 of the "Environmental Weed Strategy" published by the Department of Conservation and Land Management (1999), and plants declared under section 37 of the Agricultural and Related Resources Protection Act 1976.



Keith Claymore
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Department of Environment and Conservation
Officer delegated under Section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

8 November 2007