



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 2468/4
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: Iron Ore (Mount Newman) Agreement Act 1964, Special lease for Mining Operations
3116/6038 (Document I 123402 L), Lot 135 on Deposited Plan 48926
Local Government Area: Shire of East Pilbara
Colloquial name: Redmont Construction Camp Project

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
37		Mechanical Removal	Construction of Redmont Camp extension and associated works.

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted
Decision Date: 12 March 2015

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
Beard vegetation associations have been mapped for the whole of Western Australia, and are a useful tool to examine the vegetation extent in a regional context. One Beard vegetation association is located within the area proposed to be cleared (GIS Database). This vegetation association is:	Redmont Construction Camp BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd (hereafter referred to as BHP Billiton) proposes to clear up to 37 hectares of native vegetation within a total boundary of 77.7 for the purpose of the construction of Redmont Camp extension and associated works. The project is located approximately 205 kilometres south of Port Hedland, adjacent to the Newman to Port Hedland railway line (BHP Billiton, 2008).	Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery, 1994); To Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery, 1994).	Clearing permit CPS 2468/1 was granted by the Department of Mines and Petroleum on 10 July 2008, and was valid from 9 August 2008 to 1 September 2013. The clearing permit authorised the clearing of 30 hectares of native vegetation. Clearing permit CPS 2468/1 was amended on 24 September 2009 to increase the total area to be cleared from 30 to 31 hectares, and to increase the purpose permit boundary by approximately 0.3 hectares (CPS 2468/2). The increase allowed for the construction of an access track into the Redmont Camp extension area. Clearing permit CPS 2468/2 was amended on 25 January 2012 changing the reporting date for the clearing permit from 1 September each year to 1 October each year, change the Clearing Permit boundary and an increase in the approved area from 31 to 37 hectares. There were no additional environmental impacts as a result of this amendment.
Beard vegetation association 93 - Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; kanji over soft spinifex.			
Flora and vegetation surveys of the application area were completed by Ecologia in 2007 and 2008. As a result of the flora and vegetation surveys, there were seven vegetation associations identified within the application area (Ecologia, 2007a; 2008a; 2008b):			
Plain vegetation type 1: Scattered <i>Corymbia hamersleyana</i> low trees, over open to moderately dense (in patches) <i>Acacia ancistrocarpa</i> and/or <i>Acacia bivenosa</i> medium to tall shrubs, over sparse mixed low shrubs, with moderately dense <i>Triodia pungens</i> hummock grass;			
Plain vegetation type 2: Scattered <i>Hakea lorea</i> subsp. <i>lorea</i> low trees, over sparse <i>Acacia stellaticeps</i> and <i>Pluchea tetranthera</i> low shrubs, with open mixed tussock and <i>Triodia epactia</i> hummock grasses;			
Plain vegetation type 3: Sparse <i>Corymbia hamersleyana</i> and <i>Acacia eriopoda</i> low trees, over open <i>Acacia inaequilatera</i> and <i>Acacia bivenosa</i> tall shrubs, over open mixed <i>Acacia</i> and <i>Senna</i> spp., medium to low shrubs, with moderately dense <i>Triodia epactia</i> hummock grass;			
Plain vegetation type 4: Sparse <i>Corymbia hamersleyana</i> low trees, over sparse <i>Acacia bivenosa</i> medium to high shrubs, over open <i>Acacia stellaticeps</i> low shrubs, with moderately dense <i>Triodia epactia</i> hummock grass;			BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd applied for an amendment to Clearing Permit 2468/3 on 19

Recently burnt area: Open mixed low shrubs dominated by *Trachymene oleracea* subsp. *oleracea* with some scattered tussock grasses;

Floodplain / minor depression vegetation: Open *Corymbia hamersleyana* low trees, over sparse to open *Acacia trachycarpa* and *Acacia coriacea* subsp. *pendens* tall shrubs, over open *Acacia bivenosa* medium to low shrubs, over sparse *Pluchea ferdinandi-muelleri* low shrubs, over moderately dense *Triodia wiseana*, *Triodia angusta* hummock grasses, with sparse *Cenchrus ciliaris* tussock grass; and

Mixed hummock and tussock grassland, with scattered *Hakea lorea* subsp. *lorea* outcropping tall shrubs: Scattered *Hakea lorea* subsp. *lorea* low trees, over sparse *Acacia stellaticeps* and *Pluchea tetranthera* low shrubs, with open mixed tussock and *Triodia epactia* hummock grasses.

January 2015. BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd requested to extend the duration of the permit to 30 November 2025, with clearing authorised until 30 November 2020, a reporting date of 1 October each year, and a final reporting date of 30 November 2025.

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

The amendment to extend the duration of the permit to 30 November 2025, with clearing authorised until 30 November 2020, a reporting date of 1 October each year, and a final reporting date of 30 November 2025 is unlikely to result in any significant change to the environmental impacts of the proposed clearing. The size of the area approved to clear (37 hectares) and the permit boundaries remain unchanged.

The assessment against the clearing Principles remains consistent with the assessment contained in decision report CPS 2468/3.

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

Comments

There is one native title claim over the application area (GIS Database). The claim (WC99_016) has been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on behalf of the claimant group (GIS Database). However, the tenure has been granted in accordance with the future act regime of the *Native Title Act 1993* and the nature of the act (i.e. the proposed clearing activity) has been provided for in that process, therefore, the granting of a clearing permit is not a future act under the *Native Title Act 1993*.

There is one registered Site of Aboriginal Significance located approximately 180 metres to the south-west of the area applied to clear (Site ID 8777) (GIS Database). It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Sites of Aboriginal Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

It is the proponent's responsibility to liaise with the Department of Parks and Wildlife and the Department of Water to determine whether a Works Approval, Water Licence, Bed and Banks Permit, or any other licences or approvals are required for the proposed works.

Methodology GIS Database:

- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
- Native Title Claims - Determined by the Federal Court
- Native Title Claims - Filed at the Federal Court
- Native Title Claims - Registered with the NNTT

4. References

- BHP Billiton (2008) Redmont Camp Extension Application to Clear Native Vegetation (Purpose Permit) under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. Supporting Documentation. February 2008.
- ENV Australia Pty Ltd (2009) Jimplebar Spur 2 Flora and Vegetation Assessment. Prepared for BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd. November 2009.
- Ecologia (2007a) Rapid Growth Project 5 Redmont Camp Extension Flora and Vegetation Survey. Unpublished report for BHP Billiton Iron Ore.
- Ecologia (2008a) Rapid Growth Project 5 (RPG5) Quarry Four Lease, Flora and Vegetation Report Version 2. Unpublished report for BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd.
- Ecologia (2008b) Redmont Camp Extension Flora and Vegetation Survey Unpublished report for BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd.
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Outback Ecology Services (2009) BHP Billiton Iron Ore: Jimplebar Linear Development Flora and Vegetation Assessment. July 2009.

5. Glossary

Acronyms:

BoM	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government
DAA	Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (now DPaW and DER)
DER	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia
DMP	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia
DRF	Declared Rare Flora
DotE	Department of the Environment, Australian Government
DoW	Department of Water, Western Australia
DPaW	Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia
DSEWPaC	Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (now DotE)
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
EP Act	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Federal Act)
GIS	Geographical Information System
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – commonly known as the World Conservation Union
PEC	Priority Ecological Community, Western Australia
RIWI Act	<i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> , Western Australia
s.17	Section 17 of the <i>Environment Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community

Definitions:

{DPaW (2013) Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora and Fauna. Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia}:-

T	Threatened species: Specially protected under the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i> , listed under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna or the Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora (which may also be referred to as Declared Rare Flora). Threatened Fauna and Flora are further recognised by the Department according to their level of threat using IUCN Red List criteria. For example Carnaby's Cockatoo <i>Calyptorhynchus latirostris</i> is specially protected under the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i> as a threatened species with a ranking of Endangered. <u>Rankings:</u> CR: Critically Endangered - considered to be facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild. EN: Endangered - considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild. VU: Vulnerable - considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.
X	Presumed Extinct species: Specially protected under the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i> , listed under Schedule 2 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Presumed Extinct Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Presumed Extinct Flora (which may also be referred to as Declared Rare Flora).
IA	Migratory birds protected under an international agreement: Specially protected under the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i> , listed under Schedule 3 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice. Birds that are subject to an agreement between governments of Australia and Japan, China and The Republic of Korea relating to the protection of migratory birds and birds in danger of extinction.
S	Other specially protected fauna: Specially protected under the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i> , listed under Schedule 4 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice.
P1	Priority One - Poorly-known species: Species that are known from one or a few collections or sight records (generally less than five), all on lands not managed for conservation, e.g. agricultural or pastoral lands, urban areas, Shire, rail reserves and Main

Roads WA road, gravel and soil reserves, and active mineral leases and under threat of habitat destruction or degradation. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more localities but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and appear to be under immediate threat from known threatening processes.

P2

Priority Two - Poorly-known species:

Species that are known from one or a few collections or sight records, some of which are on lands not under imminent threat of habitat destruction or degradation, e.g. national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves, State forest, unallocated Crown land, water reserves, etc. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more localities but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and appear to be under threat from known threatening processes.

P3

Priority Three - Poorly-known species:

Species that are known from collections or sight records from several localities not under imminent threat, or from few but widespread localities with either large population size or significant remaining areas of apparently suitable habitat, much of it not under imminent threat. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from several localities but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and known threatening processes exist that could affect them.

P4

Priority Four - Rare, Near Threatened and other species in need of monitoring:

- (a) Rare. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed, or for which sufficient knowledge is available, and that are considered not currently threatened or in need of special protection, but could be if present circumstances change. These species are usually represented on conservation lands.
- (b) Near Threatened. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed and that do not qualify for Conservation Dependent, but that are close to qualifying for Vulnerable.
- (c) Species that have been removed from the list of threatened species during the past five years for reasons other than taxonomy.

P5

Priority Five - Conservation Dependent species:

Species that are not threatened but are subject to a specific conservation program, the cessation of which would result in the species becoming threatened within five years.