



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1 Application details and outcome

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	2551/4
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	Robe River Co Pty Ltd
Application received:	7 July 2022
Application area:	32.1 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Mineral exploration
Method of clearing:	Mechanical Removal
Tenure:	Iron Ore (Robe River) Agreement Act 1964, Mineral Lease 248SA (AML 70/248)
Location (LGA area/s):	Shire of Ashburton
Colloquial name:	Mesa D and Mesa E Exploration Drilling

1.2. Description of application

The permit holder had originally applied for clearing permit CPS 2551/1 to allow clearing of up to 32.1 hectares of native vegetation within two separate application areas totalling to approximately 447.3 hectares for the purpose of mineral exploration. The clearing permit was intended to develop a total of 309 drill pads of 20 x 20 metres across the application areas via bulldozer with the blade up where practicable.

On 11 March 2010, amended clearing permit CPS 2551/2 was granted by the Department to extend the timeframe to complete rehabilitation from 6 months to 12 months and permit duration from 31 July 2012 to 31 July 2015.

On 23 July 2015, amended clearing permit CPS 2551/3 was granted by the Department to extend permit duration from 31 July 2015 to 31 July 2025. Similarly, on 16 April 2020, amended clearing permit CPS 2551/4 was granted by the Department to extend permit duration from 31 July 2025 to 31 December 2028.

The permit holder applied to surrender clearing permit CPS 2551/4 on 7 May 2022 as no further clearing of native vegetation is required.

1.3. Decision on application

Decision:	Surrendered
Decision date:	22 August 2023
Decision area:	32.1 hectares of native vegetation, as depicted in Section 1.5, below.

1.4. Reasons for decision

In making the decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for:

- a review of the permit holder's compliance with conditions of Clearing Permit CPS 2551/4 (section 2.1 of this report)
- other matters considered relevant to the decision (section 2.2 of this report).

The application to surrender was submitted, accepted and determined in accordance with sections 51M and 51MA of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.

After consideration of the above information, the Delegated Officer decided to accept the surrender application for clearing permit CPS 2551/4.

1.5. Site map

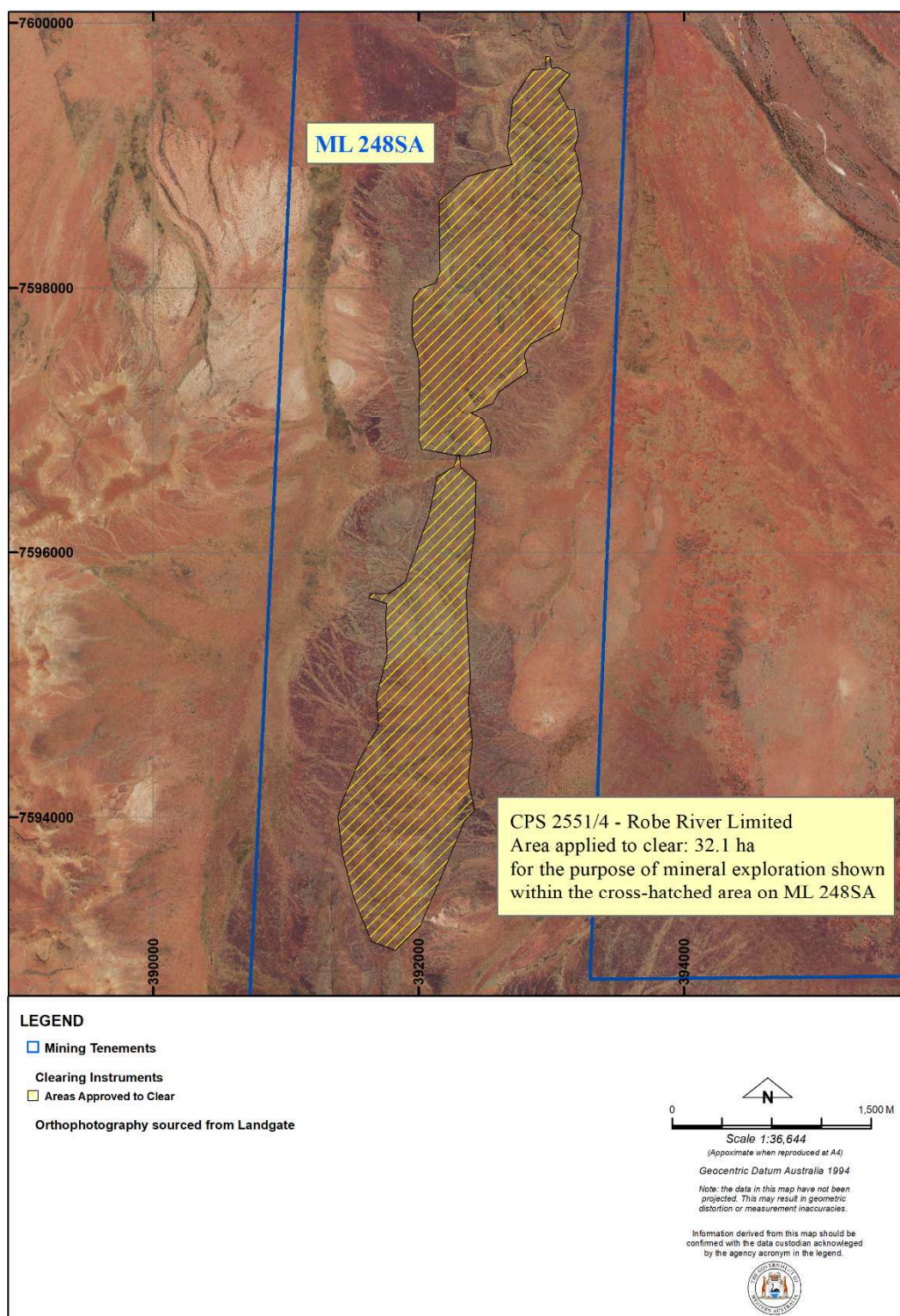


Figure 1 Map of the application area. The areas cross-hatched yellow indicate the areas which have been revoked

2 Assessment

2.1. Review of compliance with clearing permit conditions

The surrender application was assessed by reviewing the compliance of the Permit Holder's proposed works with the conditions imposed on the approved clearing permit.

The Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (the Department) reviewed the annual clearing permit reports for Clearing Permit CPS 2551/4. The Department identified that the permit holder has not cleared native vegetation under CPS 2551/4 since the permit was issued on 6 September 2008 (Rio Tinto, 2022). Aerial imagery captured on 5 June 2023 confirms that there has been no clearing of native vegetation under CPS 2551/4.

The Department's review of the permit holder's requirements under Clearing Permit CPS 2551/1 did not identify any non-compliance with the clearing permit conditions, and has satisfied the conditions on the permit.

2.2. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The Department accepted the permit holder's application to surrender Clearing Permit CPS 2551/4 and in accordance with section 51M(5)(a) of the EP Act, invited the permit holder to provide comments on its proposed decision to revoke the permit.

End

Appendix A. References

Rio Tinto (2022) CPS 2551/1 – Final Report. Prepared by Rio Tinto, July 2022.