



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	2629/3
Duration of Permit:	From 6 December 2008 to 6 December 2028
Permit Holder:	BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd

The Permit Holder is authorised to clear native vegetation subject to the following conditions of this Permit.

PART I – CLEARING AUTHORISED

1. Land on which clearing is to be done

Iron Ore (Mount Newman) Agreement Act 1964, Lease 3116/3687, Special Lease for Mining Operations, I154279 L (Lot 65 on Deposited Plan 48920)

Iron Ore (Mount Newman) Agreement Act 1964, Lease 3116/6297, Special Lease for Mining Operations, I150310 L (Lot 140 on Deposited Plan 48922)
Miscellaneous Licence 45/134

2. Purpose for which clearing may be done

Clearing for the purposes of railway construction and maintenance and associated activities.

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 261 hectares of native vegetation. All clearing must be within the areas shaded yellow on attached Plans 2629/3A and 2629/3B.

4. Period in which the clearing is authorised

The Permit Holder shall not clear any native vegetation after 6 December 2023.

5. 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.

PART II – ASSESSMENT SEQUENCE AND MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

6. Weed control

When undertaking any clearing or other activity authorised under 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 soil, *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. Erosion management

The Permit Holder shall implement erosion control measures to minimise potential erosion within the areas approved to clear and adjacent areas. Such measures could include, but are not limited to:

- (i) *gabions/reno mattresses*; and
- (ii) *rip rap rock protection*.

8. Fauna Management

Permit Holder shall conduct all activities pursuant to this permit in accordance with the document titled: "*Rail Expansion Project Northern Quoll Management Plan (Revision 2)*", dated October 2008 and retained on Department of Mines and Petroleum File No: A1176/200802.

9. Retain and spread vegetative material and topsoil

The Permit Holder shall:

- (a) retain the vegetative material and topsoil removed by clearing authorised under this Permit and stockpile the vegetative material and topsoil in an area that has already been cleared.
- (b) within 12 months following clearing authorised under this permit, *revegetate* and *rehabilitate* the areas that are no longer required for the purpose for which they were cleared under this Permit by:
 - (i) re-shaping the surface of the land so that it is consistent with the surrounding 10 metres of uncleared land; and
 - (ii) laying the vegetative material and topsoil retained under Condition 9(a).
- (c) within 4 years of laying the vegetative material and topsoil on the cleared area in accordance with Condition 9(b) of this Permit:
 - (i) engage an *environmental specialist* to determine the species composition, structure and density of the area revegetated and rehabilitated; and
 - (ii) where, in the opinion of an *environmental specialist*, the composition, structure and density determined under Condition 9(c)(i) of this Permit will not result in a similar species composition, structure and density to that of pre-clearing vegetation types in that area, *revegetate* the area by deliberately *planting* and/or *direct 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 and ensuring only *local provenance* seeds and propagating material are used.

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

10. Records to 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 authorised under this Permit,
 - (i) the location where the clearing occurred, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;
 - (ii) the date that the area was cleared;
 - (iii) the size of the area cleared (in hectares); and
 - (iv) purpose for which clearing was undertaken.
- (b) In relation to the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* of areas pursuant to Condition 9 of this Permit:
 - (i) the location of any areas *revegetated* and *rehabilitated*, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;
 - (ii) a description of the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* activities undertaken; and
 - (iii) the size of the area *revegetated* and *rehabilitated* (in hectares).

11. Reporting

- (a) The Permit Holder shall provide a report to the Director Operations, Environment, Department of Mines and Petroleum by 1 October each year for the life of this permit, demonstrating adherence to all conditions of this permit, and setting out the records required under Condition 10 of this permit in relation to clearing carried out between 1 July and 30 June of the previous financial year.
- (b) Prior to 6 December 2028, the Permit Holder must provide to the Director Operations, Environment, Department of Mines and Petroleum a written report of records required under Condition 10 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under Condition 11(a) of this Permit.

DEFINITIONS

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

CEO means the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Environment and Regulation or an Officer with delegated authority under Section 20 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*;

direct seeding means a method of re-establishing vegetation through the establishment of a seed bed and the introduction of seeds of the desired plant species;

environmental specialist means a person 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, or who is approved by the *CEO* as a suitable environmental specialist;

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

gabions/reno mattresses means a wire mesh cage, usually rectangular, filled with rock and used to protect channel banks and other sloping areas from erosion;

local provenance means native vegetation seeds and propagating material from natural sources within 200 kilometres and the same Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) subregion of the area cleared;

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;

planting means the re-establishment of vegetation by creating favourable soil conditions and planting seedlings of the desired species;

rehabilitate/ed/ion means actively managing an area containing native vegetation in order to improve the ecological function of that area;

revegetate/ed/ion means the re-establishment of a cover of *local provenance* native vegetation in an area using methods such as natural *regeneration*, *direct seeding* and/or *planting*, so that the species composition, structure and density is similar to pre-clearing vegetation types in that area;

rip rap rock protection means rocks, broken rocks, cobbles, stones, boulders or concrete debris placed together in a set and stable manner to a specified thickness for the protection of earth slopes and surfaces;

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 former Department of Environment and Conservation Regional Weed Assessments, regardless of ranking; or

(c) not indigenous to the area concerned.



Steve Tantala
DIRECTOR OPERATIONS
ENVIRONMENT
DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND PETROLEUM

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

17 October 2013