



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Purpose Permit Number: 2779/2

File Number: A1532/200802

Duration of Permit: From 7 February 2009 to 31 July 2014

PERMIT HOLDER

BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Iron Ore (Mount Newman) Agreement Act 1964,

Mineral Lease 244 SA (AML 70/244)

PURPOSE FOR WHICH THE CLEARING MAY BE DONE

1. Clearing for the purposes of mineral exploration, borrow pit excavation and associated works.

CONDITIONS

Type of clearing authorised

1. The Permit Holder must not clear more than 290 hectares of native vegetation. All clearing must be within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 2779/2.

Clearing not authorised

2. This Permit does not authorise the Permit Holder to clear native vegetation for drill pads, sumps or borrow pits within 10 metres of Homestead Creek within the area cross-hatched yellow on Plan 2779/2.

Avoid, minimise etc clearing

3. In determining the amount of native vegetation to be cleared authorised under this Permit, 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.

Weed control

4. 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.

Flora management

- 5.(a) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder shall engage a *botanist*, in accordance with *Guidance Statement No. 51* to inspect that area for the presence of rare flora listed in the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2010(2)* and *priority flora*.
- (b) Where rare flora or *priority flora* are identified in relation to Condition 5(a) of this Permit, the Permit Holder shall ensure that:
 - (i) no clearing occurs within 50 metres of identified rare flora, unless approved by the *CEO*; and
 - (ii) no clearing of identified *priority flora* occurs and no clearing occurs within 10 metres of identified *priority flora*, unless approved by the *CEO*.

Retain and spread vegetative material and topsoil

6. 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 completion of 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 5 metres of uncleared land;
 - (ii) laying the vegetative material and topsoil retained under Condition 6(a).
- (c) within 4 years of laying the vegetative material and topsoil on the cleared area in accordance with Condition 6(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 6(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.

Records to be kept

7.(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 flora management pursuant to Condition 5 of this Permit:

- (i) the location of each rare and *priority flora* species 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 species name of each rare and *priority flora* species identified; and
- (iii) a copy of the *botanist's* survey report.

(c) In relation to the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* of areas pursuant to Condition 6 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).

Reporting

8.(a) The Permit Holder shall provide a report to the Executive Director, 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 7 of this Permit in relation to clearing carried out between 1 July and 30 June of the previous financial year.

(b) Prior to 31 July 2014, the Permit Holder must provide to the Executive Director, Environment, Department of Mines and Petroleum a written report of records required under Condition 7 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under Condition 7(a) of this Permit.

Definitions

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

botanist means a person with specific training and/or experience in the ecology and taxonomy of Western Australian flora;

CEO means the Chief Executive Officer, Department of Environment and Conservation (Western Australia);

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 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;

Guidance Statement No. 51 means the Environmental Protection Authority Guidance Statement No. 51, Guidance for the Assessment of Environmental Factors - Terrestrial Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Australia (2004);

local provenance means native vegetation seeds and propagating material from natural sources within 100 kilometres 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;

priority flora means those plant taxa described as priority flora classes 1, 2, 3 or 4 in the *Department's Declared Rare and Priority Flora List for Western Australia* (as amended);

regenerate/ed/ion means re-establishment of vegetation from in situ seed banks and propagating material (such as lignotubers, bulbs, rhizomes) contained either within the topsoil or seed-bearing *mulch*;

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;

weed/s 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 *Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act 1976*.



Phil Gorey
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ENVIRONMENT
DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND PETROLEUM

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

10 November 2011