



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 2883/3
Permit Holder:	BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd
Duration of Permit:	2 May 2009 – 30 November 2025

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

PART I – CLEARING AUTHORISED

1. Purpose for which clearing may be done

Clearing for the purpose of railway construction and maintenance and associated works.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Lot 5418 on Deposited Plan 404418, Mulga Downs.
Lot 65 on Deposited Plan 48920, Marble Bar and Mulga Downs.
Lot 96 on Deposited Plan 60709, Mulga Downs.
Lot 135 on Deposited Plan 48926, Marble Bar.

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 366 hectares of native vegetation within the combined areas hatched yellow on attached Plans 2883/3a, 2883/3b, 2883/3c, 2883/3d, 2883/3e and 2883/3f.

4. 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

5. Avoid, minimise etc clearing

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:

- avoid the clearing of native vegetation;
- minimise the amount of native vegetation to be cleared; and
- reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.

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*:

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

7. Retain vegetative material and topsoil, revegetation and rehabilitation

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.
- (b) at an *optimal time* within 12 months following clearing authorised under this Permit, *revegetate* and *rehabilitate* the area(s) that are no longer required for the purpose for which they were cleared under this Permit by:
 - (i) laying the vegetative material and topsoil retained under condition 7(a) on the cleared area(s).
- (c) within 24 months of laying the vegetative material and topsoil on the cleared area in accordance with condition 7(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 7(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

8. Records must be kept

- (a) The Permit Holder must maintain the following records for activities done pursuant to this Permit in relation to the clearing of native vegetation authorised under this Permit:
 - (i) the species composition, structure and density of the cleared area;
 - (ii) 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;
 - (iii) the date that the area was cleared; and
 - (iv) the size of the area cleared (in hectares).
- (b) In relation to the *regeneration* of areas pursuant to condition 7 of this Permit:
 - (i) the location of any areas *regenerated*, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings;
 - (ii) a description of the *regeneration* activities undertaken;
 - (iii) the size of the area *regenerated* (in hectares); and
 - (iv) the species composition, structure and density of *regeneration*.

9. Reporting

- (a) The Permit Holder must provide to the CEO, on or before 1 October of each year, a written report:
 - (i) of records required under condition 8 of this Permit; and
 - (ii) concerning activities done by the Permit Holder under this Permit between 1 July and 30 June of the preceding financial year.
- (b) If no clearing authorised under this Permit was undertaken between 1 July to 30 June of the preceding financial year, a written report confirming that no clearing under this permit has been carried out, must be provided to the CEO on or before 1 October of each year.
- (c) Prior to 30 August 2025, the Permit Holder must provide to the CEO a written report of records required under condition 8 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under condition 9(a) of this Permit.

Definitions

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

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;

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;

optimal time means the period from November to December.

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

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 any plant -

- (a) that is a declared pest under section 22 of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*; or
- (b) published in a Department of Parks and Wildlife Regional Weed Rankings Summary, regardless of ranking; or
- (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.

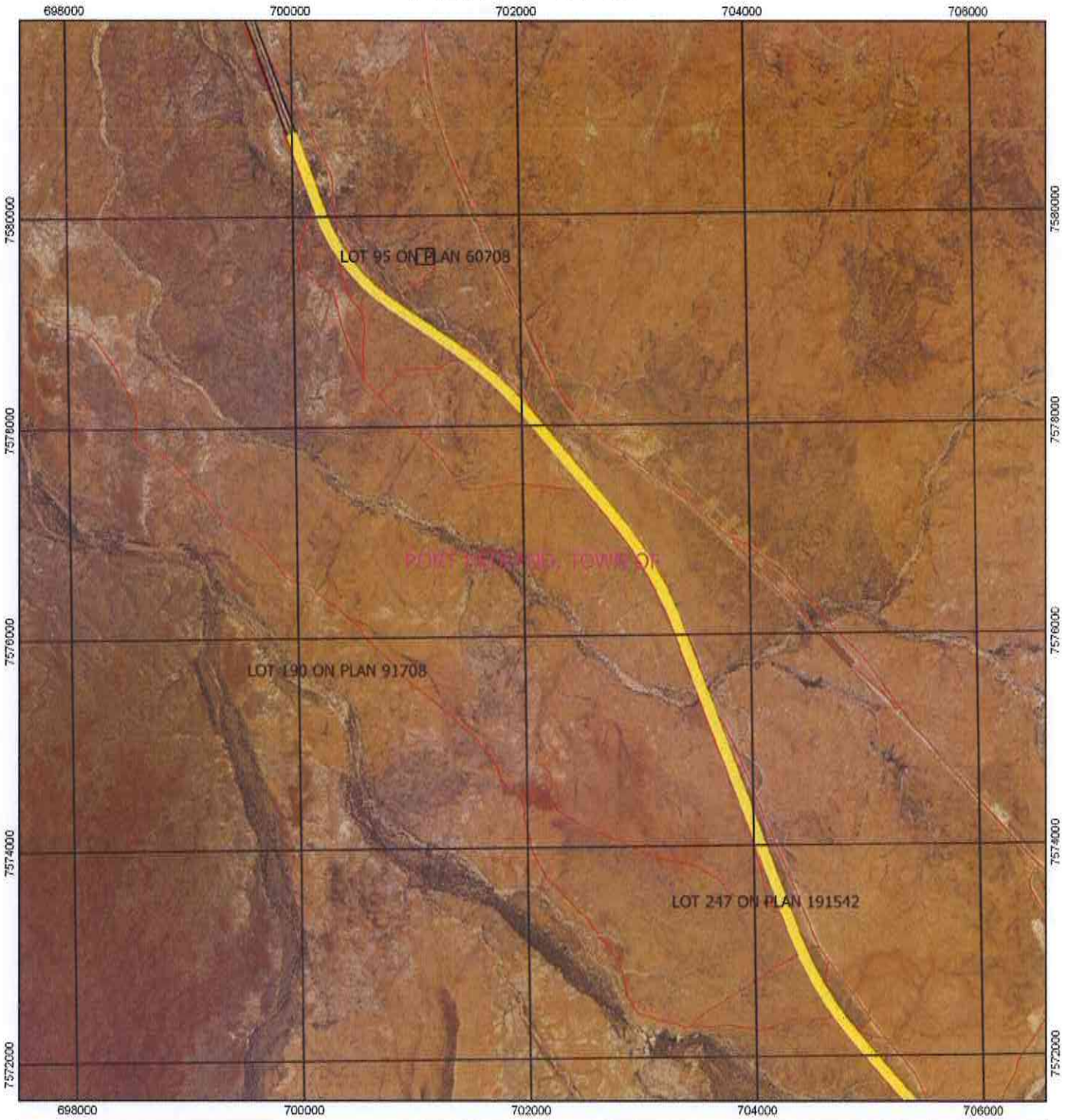


M Warnock
SENIOR MANAGER
CLEARING REGULATION






*Officer delegated under Section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986*

29 October 2015

Plan 2883/3a



Legend

-  Areas approved to clear
-  Cadastre
-  Roads
-  LGA
- Virtual Mosaic (LGATE-V001)
- 



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MGA 94
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

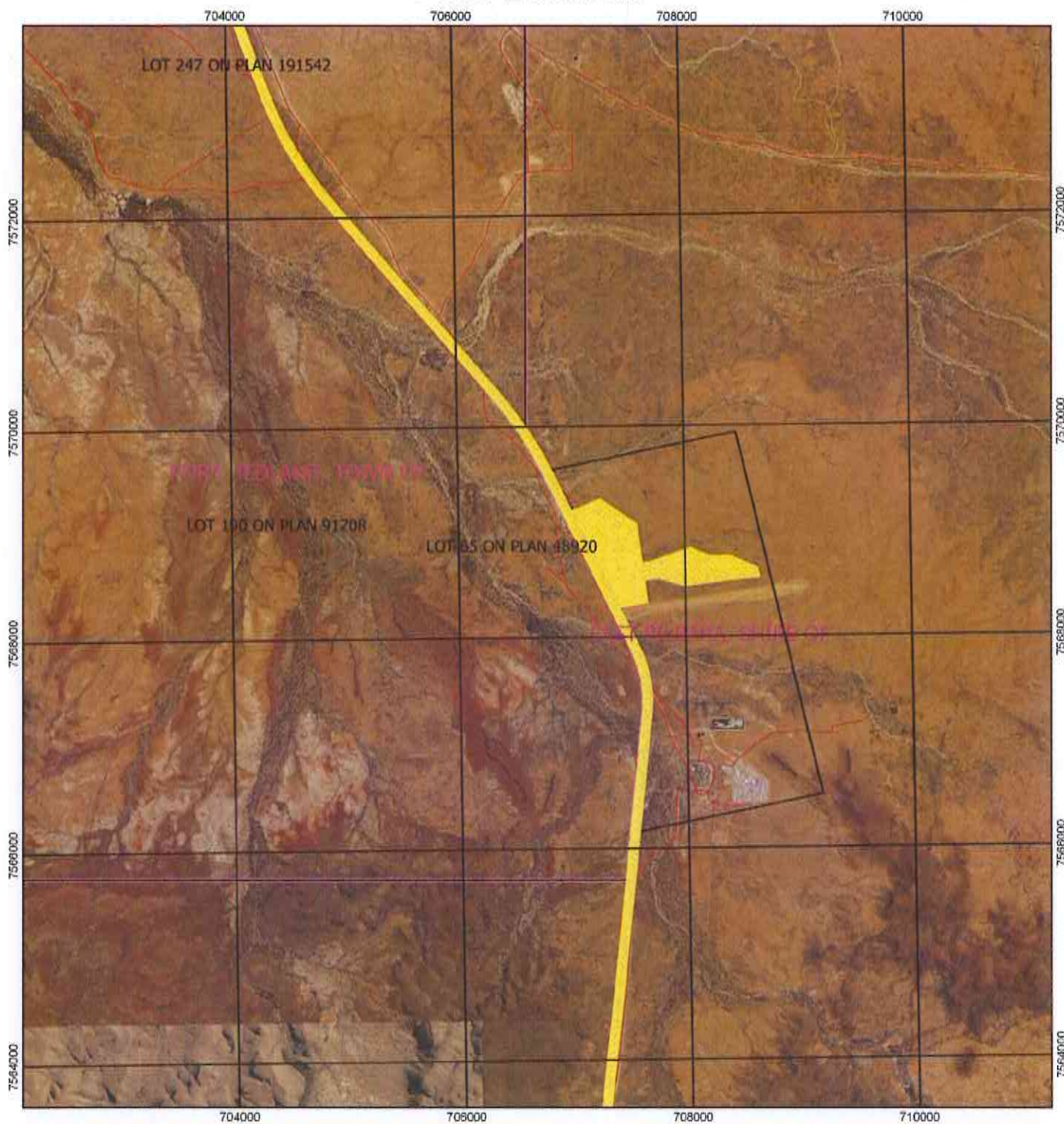
M Warnock Date *29/10/15*
M Warnock

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



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Plan 2883/3b



Legend

- Areas approved to clear
- Cadastre
- Roads
- LGA
- Virtual Mosaic (LGATE-V001)
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MGA 94
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

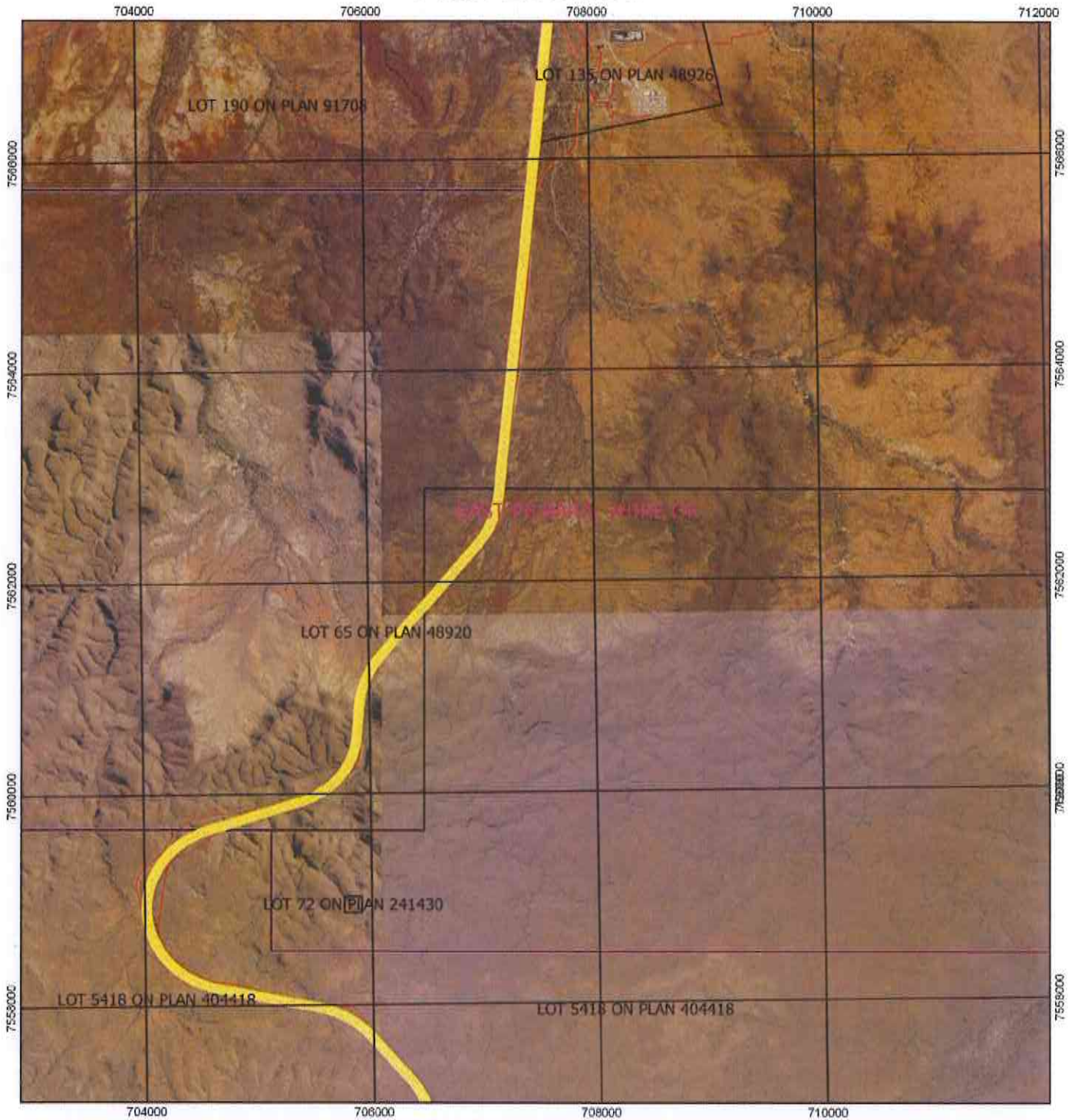
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M Warnock

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of the Environmental Protection Act 1986








GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Plan 2883/3c



Legend

-  Areas approved to clear
-  Cadastre
-  Roads
-  LGA
- Virtual Mosaic (LGATE-V001)
- 



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MGA 94
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

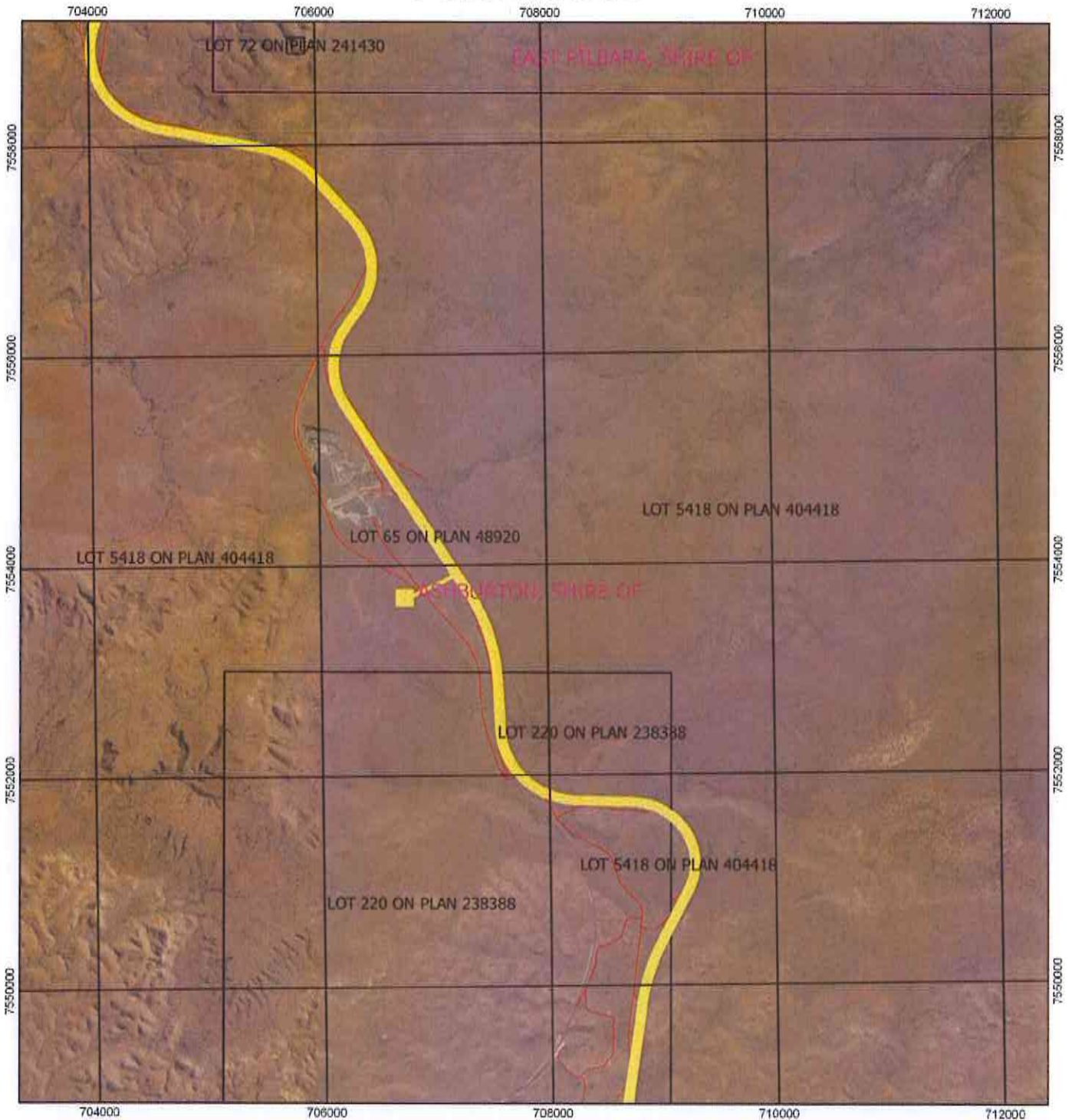
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M Wamock

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








GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Plan 2883/3d



Legend

-  Areas approved to clear
-  Cadastre
-  Roads
-  LGA
- Virtual Mosaic (LGATE-V001)
- 



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MGA 94
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

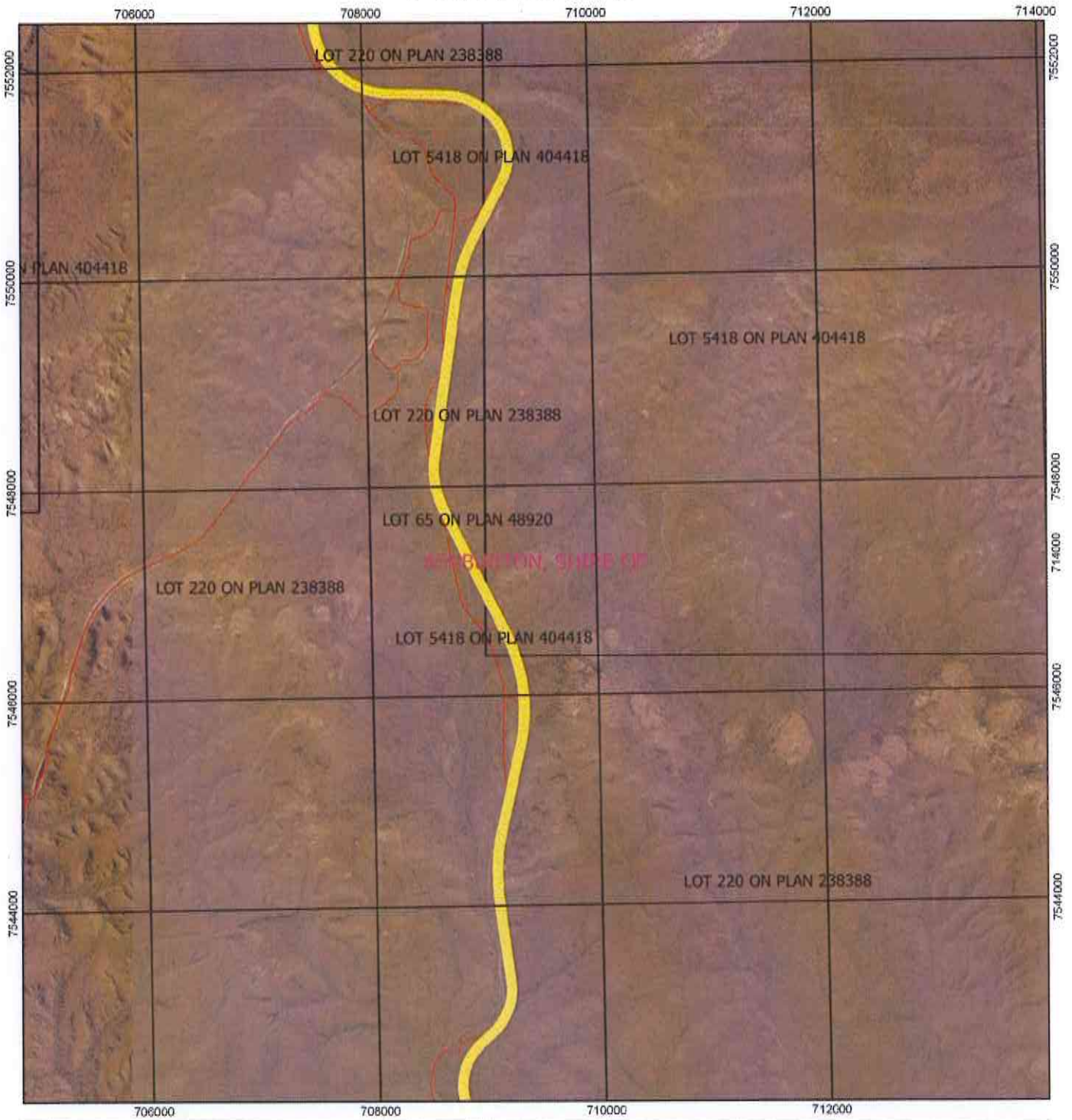
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M Warnock

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of the Environmental Protection Act 1986







GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Plan 2883/3e



Legend

-  Areas approved to clear
-  Cadastre
-  Roads
-  LGA
- Virtual Mosaic (LGATE-V001)
- 



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MGA 94
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

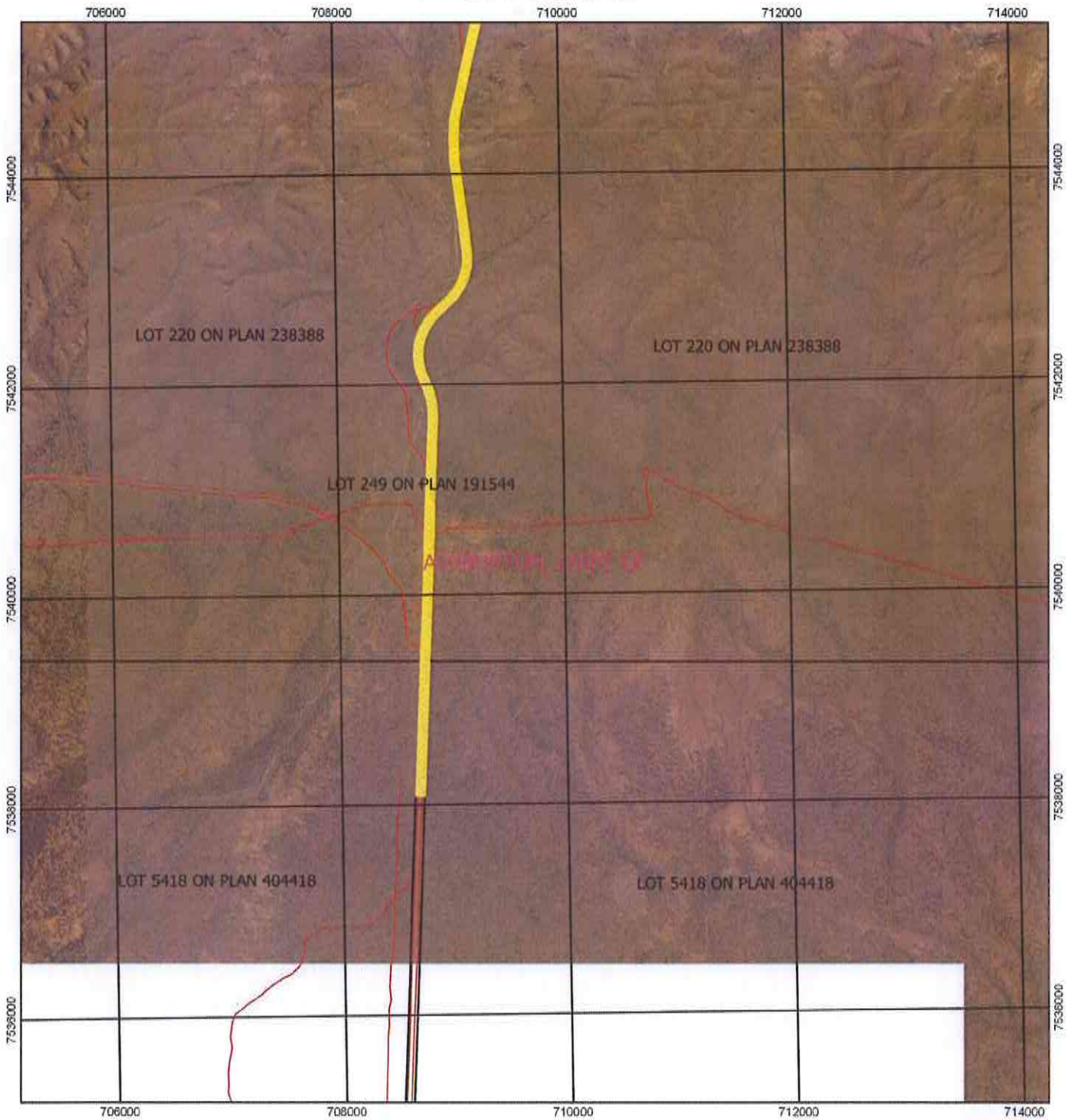
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M Warnock

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








GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Plan 2883/3f



Legend

-  Areas approved to clear
-  Cadastre
-  Roads
-  LGA
- Virtual Mosaic (LGATE-V001)
- 



1:40,000

MGA 94
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

M Warnock Date *29/10/15*
M Warnock

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



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 2883/3
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 5418 ON DEPOSITED PLAN 404418, MULGA DOWNS
LOT 135 ON DEPOSITED PLAN 48926, MARBLE BAR
LOT 65 ON DEPOSITED PLAN 48920, MARBLE BAR AND MULGA DOWNS
LOT 96 ON DEPOSITED PLAN 60709, MULGA DOWNS
Local Government Authority: SHIRE OF ASHBURTON, SHIRE OF EAST PILBARA, TOWN OF PORT HEDLAND
DER Region: NORTH WEST
LCDC: EAST PILBARA and ROEBOURNE - PORT HEDLAND
Localities: MARBLE BAR and MULGA DOWNS

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
366		Mechanical Removal	Railway construction or maintenance

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted
Decision Date: 29 October 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
<p>The vegetation under application is mapped as Beard vegetation associations (Shepherd et al. 2001):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 29: Sparse low woodland; Mulga, discontinuous in scattered groups; 93: Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; kanji over soft spinifex; 173: Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; kanji over soft spinifex & <i>Triodia wiseana</i> on basalt; 175: Short bunch grassland - savanna/grass plain (Pilbara); 562: Mosaic: Low woodland; Mulga in valleys / Hummock grasslands, open low tree-steppe; Snappy Gum over <i>Triodia wiseana</i>. 	<p>To clear up to 366 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 5418 on Deposited Plan 404418, Lot 65 on Deposited Plan 48920, Lot 96 on Deposited Plan 60709, and Lot 135 on Deposited Plan 48926, Mulga Downs and Marble Bar, for the purpose of railway construction and maintenance and associated works.</p>	<p>Excellent; Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery, 1994).</p> <p>To</p> <p>Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery, 1994).</p>	<p>Ecologia Environment Pty Ltd (2008) conducted a Level 1 flora and vegetation survey of the proposed rail duplication area on 9 October 2007 and between 30 March and 2 April 2008, in order to describe finer scale vegetation types than those described by Beard vegetation mapping. Details of these vegetation types can be found in Decision Report CPS 2883/2.</p>

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

The application is to amend Clearing Permit CPS 2883/2 to extend the permit duration until November 2025. A review of current environmental information reveals no new additional information. Therefore the assessment against the clearing principles has not changed and can be found in the Clearing Permit Decision Report CPS 2883/1.

Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

Comments The assessment against Planning and Other Matters has not changed and can be found in Decision Report CPS 2883/1.

No public submissions have been received in relation to this application.

4. References

- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Ecologia Environment Pty Ltd (2008) Spring Siding to Hesta Siding Rail Duplication Project. Application to clear native vegetation under the Environmental Protection Act 1986: Spring Siding to Hesta Siding and Repeater Station 5 Flora Report. Unpublished report for BHP Billiton Iron ore Pty Ltd.
- Shepherd, D.P., Beeston, G.R. and Hopkins, A.J.M. (2001) Native Vegetation in Western Australia, Extent, Type and Status. Resource Management Technical Report 249. Department of Agriculture, Western Australia.