



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 290/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: **Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd**
Postal address: G.P.O. Box A42 Perth WA 6837
Contacts: Phone: 9327 2351
Fax: 9327 2008
E-mail:

1.3. Property details

Property: AML70/4

Colloquial name: Tom Price Iron Ore Mine

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
18.4		Mechanical Removal	Mining

2. Existing Environment

2.1. Existing environment and information

Vegetation Description	Clearing Description	Vegetation Condition	Comment
Vegetation Association # 82 – Hummock grasslands, low tree steppe; snappy gum over <i>Triodia wiseana</i> (Shepherd et al., 2001).	There are no Declared Rare Flora within the area to be cleared, however, a survey of the site identified three Priority Flora species and a species of conservation significance.	Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994)	The vegetation to be cleared is adjacent to an existing mine pit, and as such, is subject to disturbance from mining activities. The area in which <i>Geijera salicifolia</i> is located should be protected from clearing.

3. Assessment of application against Clearing Principles

(a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.

Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The vegetation the subject of this proposal surrounds an existing mine pit and as such is unlikely to represent an area of outstanding biodiversity.

Methodology Permit application

(b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.

Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The area to be cleared is almost entirely surrounded by mine workings (pit, tailings dump and tracks). It is unlikely that it is of significant habitat value for fauna.

Methodology Aerial photograph

(c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, significant flora.

Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

There were no known Declared Rare Flora located during a survey of the area proposed for clearing. Three Priority Flora species were identified (*Indigofera ixocarpa*, *Dampiera anonyma* ms, and *Cynanchum* sp. Hamersley).

In addition, *Geijera salicifolia* was discovered within a gorge close to the area proposed for clearing. The species is considered to be of conservation significance as only a very few plants have been located in Western Australia. The area within which this species was found should be protected from adjacent clearing.

Methodology GIS Database: Declared Rare and Priority Flora Lists - CALM 13/08/03; Pilbara Iron (2004)

(d) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a significant ecological community.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

There are no known Threatened Ecological Communities in the area proposed for clearing.

Methodology GIS Database: Threatened Ecological Communities - CALM 15/7/03

(e) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

The vegetation proposed to be cleared is Beard Vegetation Association 82 (Hopkins et al. 2001) of which there is ~100% of the pre-European extent remaining (2,920,910ha) (Shephard et al., 2001). Of this, ~10% is protected within lands managed for conservation.

Methodology GIS Database: Pre-European Extent - DA 01/01; Hopkins et al (2001); Shephard et al. (2001)

(f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

The vegetation to be cleared is not associated with a wetland or watercourse.

Methodology GIS Database: Hydrology, linear - DOE 1/2/04

(g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

It is unlikely that the clearing of a further 18ha of vegetation adjacent to an existing mine pit will result in off-site land degradation if managed in accordance with appropriate mine site management strategies.

Methodology Aerial photograph

(h) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

The vegetation to be cleared is not adjacent to any areas managed for conservation purposes.

Methodology GIS Database: CALM Managed Lands and Waters - 1/06/04

(i) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

It is unlikely that the clearing of a further 18ha of vegetation adjacent to an existing mine pit will result in surface or ground water degradation if managed in accordance with appropriate mine site management strategies.

Methodology Aerial photograph

(j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence of flooding.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

Flooding within the local area is the result of seasonal rainfall patterns. It is unlikely that the clearing of ~18ha will have any impact on the flood regimes of the region.

Methodology GIS Database: Rainfall, Mean Annual - BOM 30/09/01

Planning instrument or other matter.

Comments

The Shire of Ashburton raised no objections to the proposed clearing.

Methodology Shire of Ashburton (2004)

4. Assessor's recommendations

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Decision	Comment / recommendation
Mining	Mechanical Removal	18.4	Grant	Geijera salicifolia was discovered within a gorge close to the area proposed for clearing. The species is considered to be of conservation significance as only a very few plants have been located in Western Australia. The area within which this species was found should be protected from nearby clearing.

5. References

Hopkins, A.J.M., Beeston, G.R. and Harvey J.M. (2001) A database on the vegetation of Western Australia. Stage 1. CALMScience after J. S. Beard, late 1960's to early 1980's Vegetation Survey of Western Australia, UWA Press.

Keighery, BJ (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

Pilbara Iron (2004), Botanical Survey Advice, No. 2004/55.

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.