



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number: CPS 2993/7
Permit Holder: BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd
Duration of Permit: 18 July 2009 – 28 February 2026

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, maintenance and associated works.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Lot 65 on Deposited Plan 48920, Port Hedland
Lot 19 on Deposited Plan 48921, Port Hedland
Lot 6254 on Deposited Plan 35659, Port Hedland
Lot 86 on Deposited Plan 213620, Port Hedland
Lot 87 on Deposited Plan 213620, Port Hedland
Great Northern Highway road reserve (PIN 11431984), Port Hedland
Unnamed road reserve (PIN 11734375), Pippingarra

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 71 hectares of native vegetation within the combined areas cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 2993/7a and Plan 2993/7b and Plan 2993/7c.

4. Period in which clearing is authorised

The Permit Holder shall not clear any native vegetation after 30 November 2020.

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.

6. Compliance with Assessment Sequence and Management Procedures

Prior to clearing any native vegetation under conditions 1, 2 and 3 of this Permit, the Permit Holder must comply with the Assessment Sequence and the Management Procedures set out in Part II of this Permit.

PART II – ASSESSMENT SEQUENCE AND MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

7. 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:

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

8. Weed control

- (a) 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.
- (b) At least once in each 12 month period for the term of this Permit, the Permit Holder must remove or kill any *weeds* growing within areas cleared under this Permit.

9. 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 in an area that has already been cleared.
- (b) 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) re-shaping the surface of the land so that it is consistent with the surrounding 5 metres of uncleared land; and
 - (ii) ripping the ground on the contour to remove soil compaction; and
 - (iii) laying the vegetative material and topsoil retained under condition 9(a) on the cleared area(s) that are no longer required for the purpose for which they were cleared under this Permit.
- (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 must 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 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 or decimal degrees;
 - (iii) the date that the area was cleared;
 - (iv) the size of the area cleared (in hectares); and
- (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;
 - (iii) the size of the area *revegetated* and *rehabilitated* (in hectares);
 - (iv) the species composition, structure and density of *revegetation* and *rehabilitation*;
 - (v) a copy of the environmental specialist's report; and
 - (vi) the date that the area was *revegetated* and *rehabilitated*.

11. 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 10 of this Permit; and
 - (ii) concerning activities done by the Permit Holder under this Permit between 1 July to 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 November 2025, the Permit Holder must provide to the CEO 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:

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;

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.



James Widenbar
MANAGER
CLEARING REGULATION



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

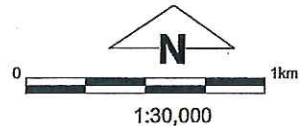
21 April 2016

Plan 2993/7a



Legend

-  Imagery
-  Clearing Instruments Activities
-  Roads
-  Local Government Authority



(Approximate when reproduced at A4)
GDA 94 (Lat/Long)

Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

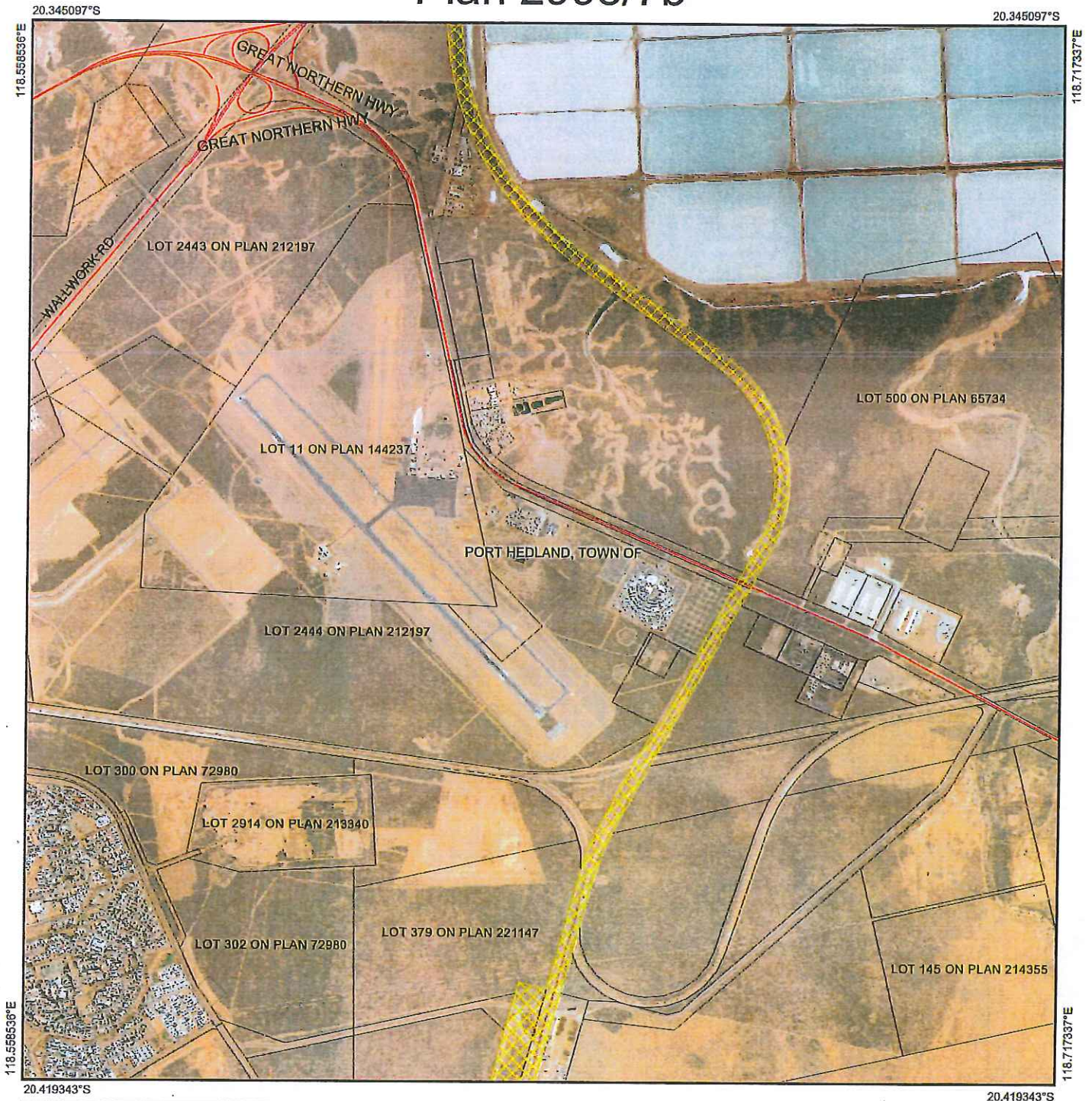
James Widenbar Date *21/11/2016*
James Widenbar

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



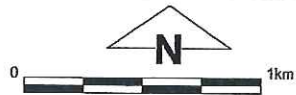
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Plan 2993/7b



Legend

-  Imagery
-  Clearing Instruments Activities
-  Roads
-  Local Government Authority



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(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

GDA 94 (Lat/Long)

Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

James Widenbar Date *21/4/2016*
 Date

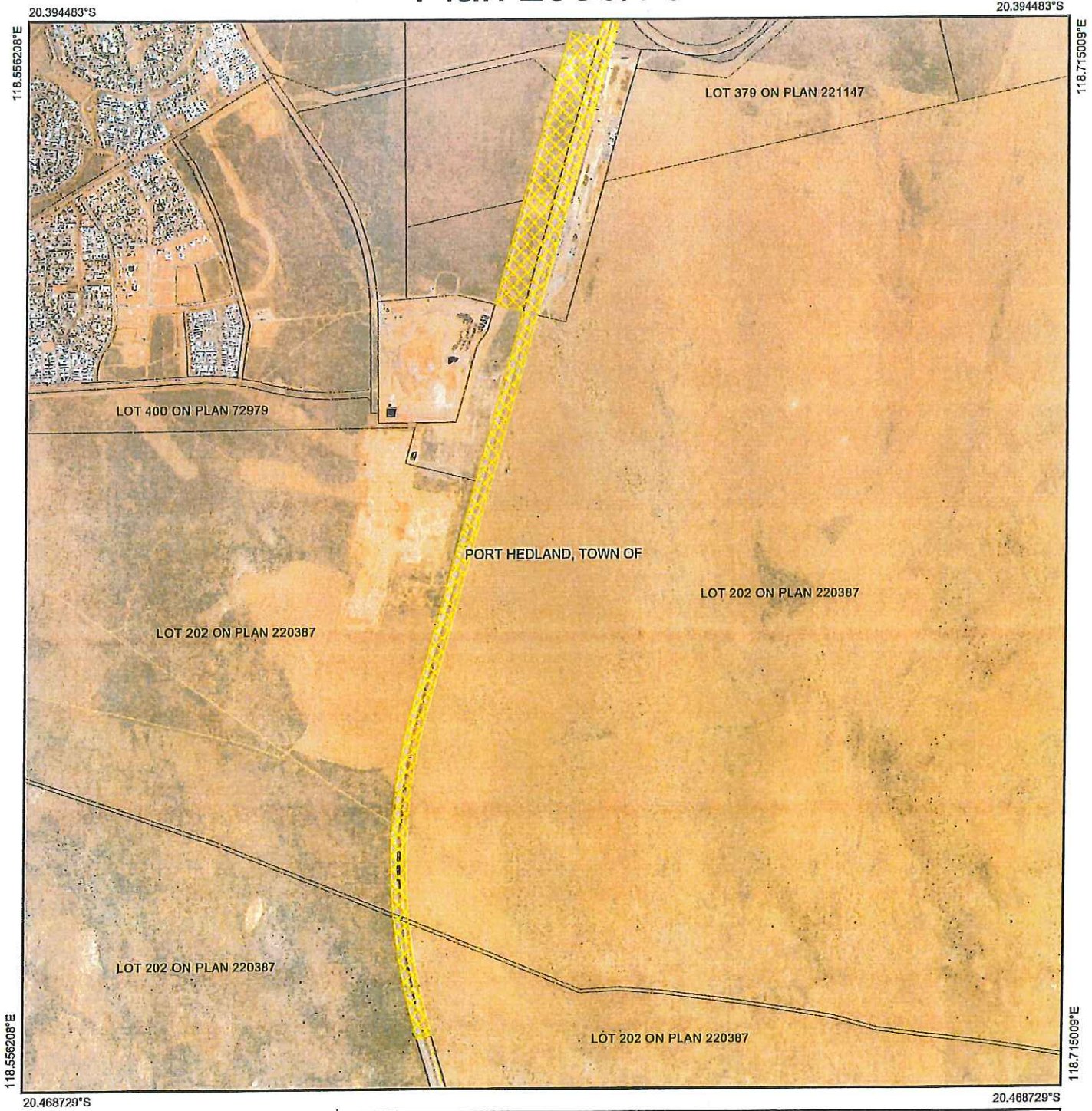
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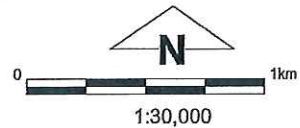
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Plan 2993/7c

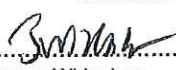


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(Approximate when reproduced at A4)
GDA 94 (Lat/Long)
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

 Date 21/11/2016
James Widenbar

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1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 2993/7
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 86 ON DEPOSITED PLAN 213620, PORT HEDLAND
LOT 87 ON DEPOSITED PLAN 213620, PORT HEDLAND
LOT 65 ON DEPOSITED PLAN 48920, PORT HEDLAND
LOT 19 ON DEPOSITED PLAN 48921, PORT HEDLAND
LOT 6254 ON DEPOSITED PLAN 35659, PORT HEDLAND
GREAT NORTHERN HIGHWAY ROAD RESERVE (PIN 11431984), PORT HEDLAND
UNNAMED ROAD RESERVE (PIN 11734375), PIPPINGARRA

Local Government Authority: PORT HEDLAND, TOWN OF
DER Region: NORTH WEST
Localities: PORT HEDLAND and PIPPINGARRA

1.4. Application

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

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted
Decision Date: 21 April 2016
Reasons for Decision: The clearing application has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with s51O of the Environmental Protection Act 1986, and has concluded that the proposed clearing is at variance to principles (f), may be at variance to principles (b), (c), and (i) and is not likely to be at variance to the remaining clearing principles.

The application is an amendment to Clearing Permit CPS 2993/6, with changes to the final date of clearing, the final reporting date, the permit expiry date and the clearing footprint. A review of current environmental information reveals no new additional information.

Through assessment it has been determined that the clearing may impact on riparian vegetation. Avoid and minimise clearing conditions on the permit will minimise the impact to this vegetation.

Furthermore implementation of revegetation conditions will assist in mitigating any long term impacts to environmental values of the area.

State policies and other relevant policies have been taken into consideration in the decision to grant a clearing permit.

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
Beard vegetation association 647 is described as hummock grasslands, dwarf-shrub steppe; Acacia translucens over soft spinifex (Shepherd et al. 2001).	Clearing of 71 hectares of vegetation within Lot 65 on Deposited Plan 48920, Lot 19 on Deposited Plan 48921, Lot 6254 on Deposited Plan 35659, Lot 86 on Deposited Plan 213620, Lot 87 on Deposited Plan 213620, Great Northern Highway road reserve (PIN 11431984), Port Hedland, unnamed road reserve (PIN 11734375), Pippingarra for the purpose of railway construction, maintenance and associated works.	Excellent; Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery 1994). To Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely /almost completely without native species (Keighery 1994).	The vegetation description and condition was determined from two Level 2 flora and vegetation surveys (Onshore Environmental Consultants Pty Ltd 2014; ENV Australia Pty Ltd 2011).
Beard vegetation association 43 is described as low forest; mangroves (Kimberley) or thicket; mangroves (Pilbara) (Shepherd et al. 2001).			

Beard vegetation association 117 is described as hummock grasslands, grass steppe; soft spinifex (Shepherd et al. 2001).

Beard vegetation association 127 is described as bare areas; mud flats (Shepherd et al. 2001).

Beard vegetation association 589 is described as mosaic: Short bunch grassland - savanna / grass plain (Pilbara) / Hummock grasslands, grass steppe; soft spinifex (Shepherd et al. 2001).

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments The applicant has applied to amend Clearing Permit CPS 2993/6, requesting to amend the final date of clearing, the final reporting date, the permit expiry date and to increase the clearing footprint by 1.38 hectares. 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 2993/6.

Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

Comments The assessment against planning and other matters has not changed and can be found in Clearing Permit CPS 2993/6 Decision Report.

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.
- ENV Australia Pty Ltd (2011) Port Hedland Regional Flora and Vegetation Assessment. DER REF: A1036016.
- Onshore Environmental Consultants Pty Ltd (2014) Mainline Rail Expansion Level 2 Flora and Vegetation Survey. DER REF: A1036020.
- Shepherd, D.P., Beeston, G.R., and Hopkins, A.J.M. (2001), Native Vegetation in Western Australia. Technical Report 249. Department of Agriculture Western Australia, South Perth.