



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Purpose Permit Number: 3215 / 1
File Number: A1283/200901
Duration of Permit: From 17 October 2009 to 30 November 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 244SA (AML 70/244)

PURPOSE FOR WHICH THE CLEARING MAY BE DONE

1. Clearing for the purpose of mineral exploration.

CONDITIONS

Type of clearing authorised

1. The Permit Holder must not clear more than 140 hectares of native vegetation. All clearing must be within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 3215/1.
2. The Permit Holder shall not clear any native vegetation within the area shaded red on attached Plan 3215/1 for the purpose of mineral exploration.

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.

Flora management

4. (a) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the site shall be inspected by a *flora specialist* for the presence of rare flora listed in the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2008(2)* and *priority flora* taxa.
 - (b) Where rare flora or *priority flora* are identified in relation to Condition 4(a) of this Permit, the Permit Holder shall ensure that:
 - (i) all records of rare flora and *priority flora* are submitted to the Director, Environment Division;
 - (ii) no clearing occurs within 50 metres of identified rare flora, unless approved by the Director, Environment Division; and
 - (iii) no clearing occurs with 10 metres of identified *priority flora*, unless approved by the Director, Environment Division.

Weed control

5. 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.

Retain and spread vegetative material and topsoil

6. The Permit Holder shall:

- (i) retain the vegetative material and topsoil removed by clearing authorised under this Permit;
- (ii) stockpile the vegetative material and topsoil in an area that has already been cleared; and
- (iii) within twelve months following clearing authorised under this Permit, lay the vegetative material and topsoil on the cleared area.

Records to be kept

7. 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;
 - (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 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;
 - (ii) a description of the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* activities undertaken; and
 - (iii) the size of the area *revegetated* and *rehabilitated* (in hectares).
- (c) In relation to flora management pursuant to Condition 4(b)(i) of this Permit:
 - (i) the location of each rare flora and *priority flora* recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings; and
 - (ii) the species name of each rare flora and *priority flora* identified.

Reporting

8. (a) The Permit Holder shall provide a report to the Director, Environment Division, Department of Mines and Petroleum by 1 September 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 30 November 2014, the Permit Holder must provide to the Director, Environment Division, 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 8(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;

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

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

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 that are 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 *revegetation* that can be established from in situ seed banks 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 *regeneration*, *direct seeding* and/or *planting*, so that the species composition, structure and density is similar to pre-clearing vegetation types in that area; and

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
DIRECTOR
ENVIRONMENT DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND PETROLEUM
Officer with delegated authority under Section 20
of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*

17 September 2009