



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number: CPS 3367/1
Permit Holder: Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd
Duration of Permit: 03 January 2010 – 03 January 2015

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 road construction or maintenance.
- 2. Land on which clearing is to be done**
UNALLOCATED CROWN LAND, MOUNT SHEILA 6751 (PIN 714253)
- 3. Area of Clearing**
The Permit Holder must not clear more than 1.2 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 3367/1.
- 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.
- 5. 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

- 6. 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.
- 7. 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.

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

8. Records must be kept

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:

- (a) the species composition, structure and density of the cleared area;
- (b) 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;
- (c) the date that the area was cleared; and
- (d) the size of the area cleared (in hectares).

9. Reporting

- (a) The Permit Holder must provide to the CEO, on or before 30 June of each year, a written report of records required under condition 8 of this Permit and activities done by the Permit Holder under this Permit between 1 January and 31 December of the preceding year.
- (b) Prior to 6 September 2014, 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:

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

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;

term means the duration of this Permit, including as amended or renewed;

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*.

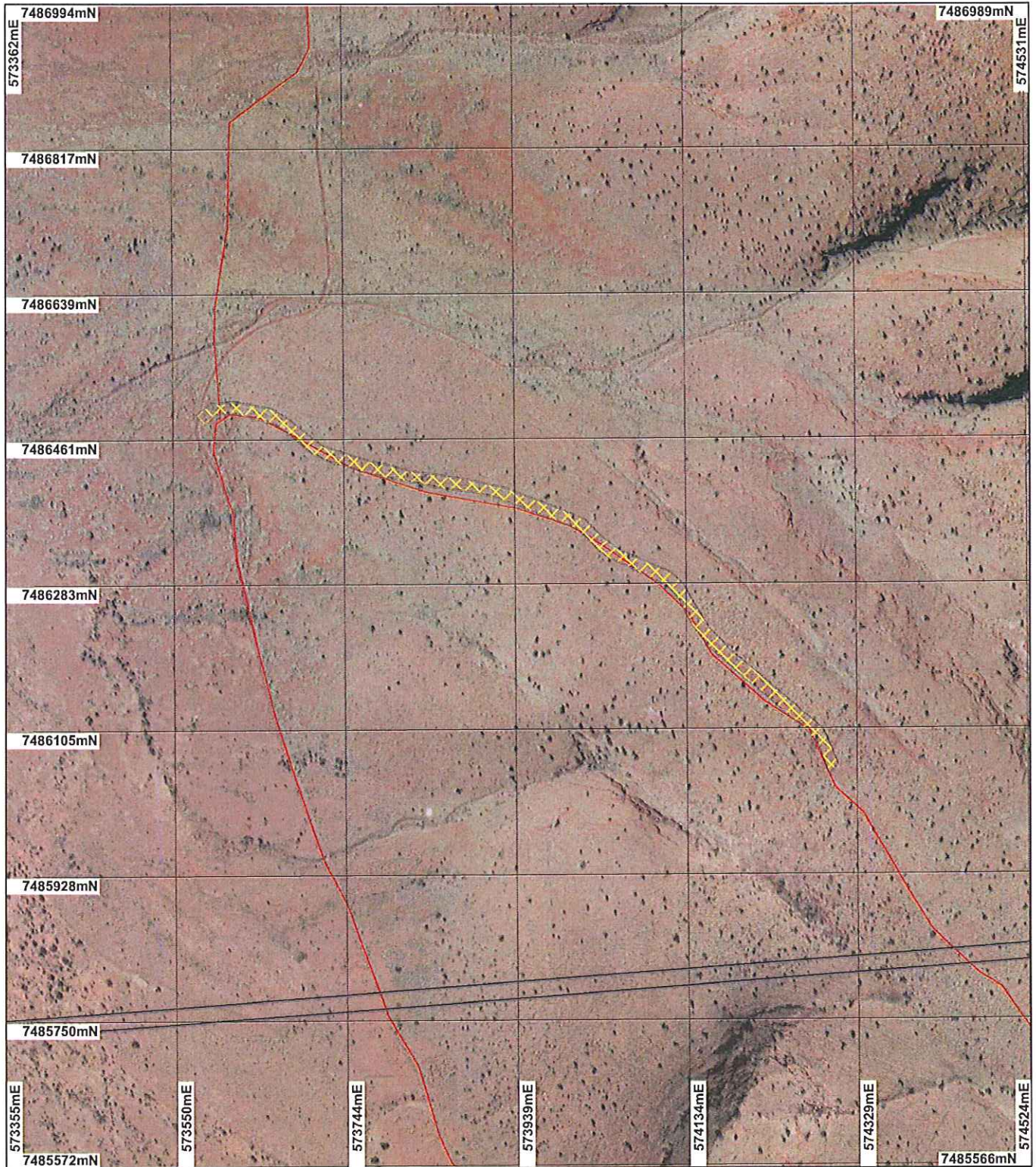


Kelly Faulkner
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

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

03 December 2009

Plan 3367/1



LEGEND

- Road Centrelines
- Cadastre
- Clearing Instruments
- Areas Approved to Clear
- Mount Lionel 50cm
- Ordnance Survey Landgate



0 150 m

Scale 1:6500
(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

Geocentric Datum Australia 1994

Note: the data in this map have not been
projected. This may result in geometric
distortion or measurement inaccuracies.

Date 3/12/09

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

Information derived from this map should be
confirmed with the data custodian acknowledged
by the agency acronym in the legend.



Department of
Environment and Conservation

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1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 3367/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: UNALLOCATED CROWN LAND (MOUNT SHEILA 6751)

Local Government Area:

Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

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

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 82: Hummock grasslands, low tree steppe; snappy gum over <i>Triodia wiseana</i> (Shepherd 2007).	Sixty three plant species have been recorded within the area under application. Apart from the existing track which is completely disturbed, the surrounding vegetation is in a good condition. A fire has affected the area within the last five years.	Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994)	The Flora and vegetation condition have been assessed by Rio Tinto (2009) through a botanical survey conducted on 5th August 2009.

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

The proposal is to clear 1.2 hectares of native vegetation for the purpose of widening an existing track to access construction of an earth ramp. The area under application is situated within the Pilbara Bioregion. Sixty three plant species have been recorded within the area under application; none of them is known to be of conservation significance. Apart from the existing track which is completely disturbed, the surrounding vegetation is in a good (Keighery 1994) condition. A fire has affected the area within the last five years (Rio Tinto 2009).

There are several records of flora and fauna species of conservation significance and threatened ecological communities within the local area (50 kilometre radius), none of which were recorded within the application area. Due to the small scale of the proposed clearing the vegetation under application is not likely to be significant as habitat.

Vegetation under application is mapped as Beard vegetation association 82 - Hummock grasslands, low tree steppe; snappy gum over *Triodia wiseana* (Shepherd 2007) which has a pre-clearing extent of approximately 100%.

There are minor non-perennial watercourses running alongside the existing alignment with the closest being approximately 50 metres away from the area under application. Due to the small scale of clearing and aridity of the region, the proposal is not likely to deteriorate water quality or cause land degradation.

An environmental weed *Cenchrus ciliaris* (Buffel Grass) is known to occur within the Tom Price locality however, weed invasion in the area under application is minimal (Rio Tinto 2009). To minimise the likelihood of this weed being introduced to the area under application, weed management conditions will be placed on the Permit.

As significant environmental impacts are unlikely, it is considered that the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to the Clearing Principles.

Methodology EPA (2000)

Keighery (1994)
Rio Tinto (2009)
Shepherd (2007)

Planning instrument, Native Title, Previous EPA decision or other matter.

Comments

According to cadastral information, the area under application is Unallocated Crown Land.

Shire of Ashburton (2009) advised no objection as there is no restriction of access to Mt Sheila and surrounding tourist destinations.

The applicant has obtained authority from Department of Regional Development and Lands to access the area under application.

There is a Native Title claim over the area under application. The claimants have been notified and no response received within the timeframe given.

The applicant requires the existing access track to be widened to accommodate an increase in heavy haulage vehicles to be used during the construction of an earth ramp. The Department of Regional Development and Lands has requested that once the earth ramp is completed the access track be returned to its original state.

Methodology Shire of Ashburton (2009)

4. Assessor's comments

Comment

The application has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with s51O of the Environmental Protection Act 1986, and the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to any of the Clearing Principles.

5. References

- EPA (2000) Environmental protection of native vegetation in Western Australia. Clearing of native vegetation, with particular reference to the agricultural area. Position Statement No. 2. December 2000. Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia.
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Rio Tinto (2009) Flora and vegetation survey for multiple areas at Tom Price and supporting document to a native vegetation clearing permit application. AR-09-04781. Rio Tinto Iron Ore, Perth, Western Australia.
- Shepherd, D.P. (2007). Adapted from: 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. Includes subsequent updates for 2006 from Vegetation Extent dataset ANZWA1050000124.
- Shire of Ashburton (2009) Response to Direct Interest Letter. Shire of Ashburton, Western Australia (DEC TRIM Ref: DOC 105767).

6. Glossary

Term	Meaning
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation
GIS	Geographical Information System
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)