



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 3508/1
Permit holder:	Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd
Duration of Permit:	27 March 2010 – 27 March 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 reinstating an access track for pipeline maintenance

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Mining Tenement ML4SA
Nanutarra-Wittenoon Road Reserve
unallocated Crown land

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 1.5 hectares of native vegetation within the area shaded yellow on attached Plan 3508/1

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.

PART IV – RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

7. 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;
 - (iii) the date that the area was cleared; and
 - (iv) the size of the area cleared (in hectares).

8. 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 7 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 27 December 2014, the Permit Holder must provide to the CEO 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.

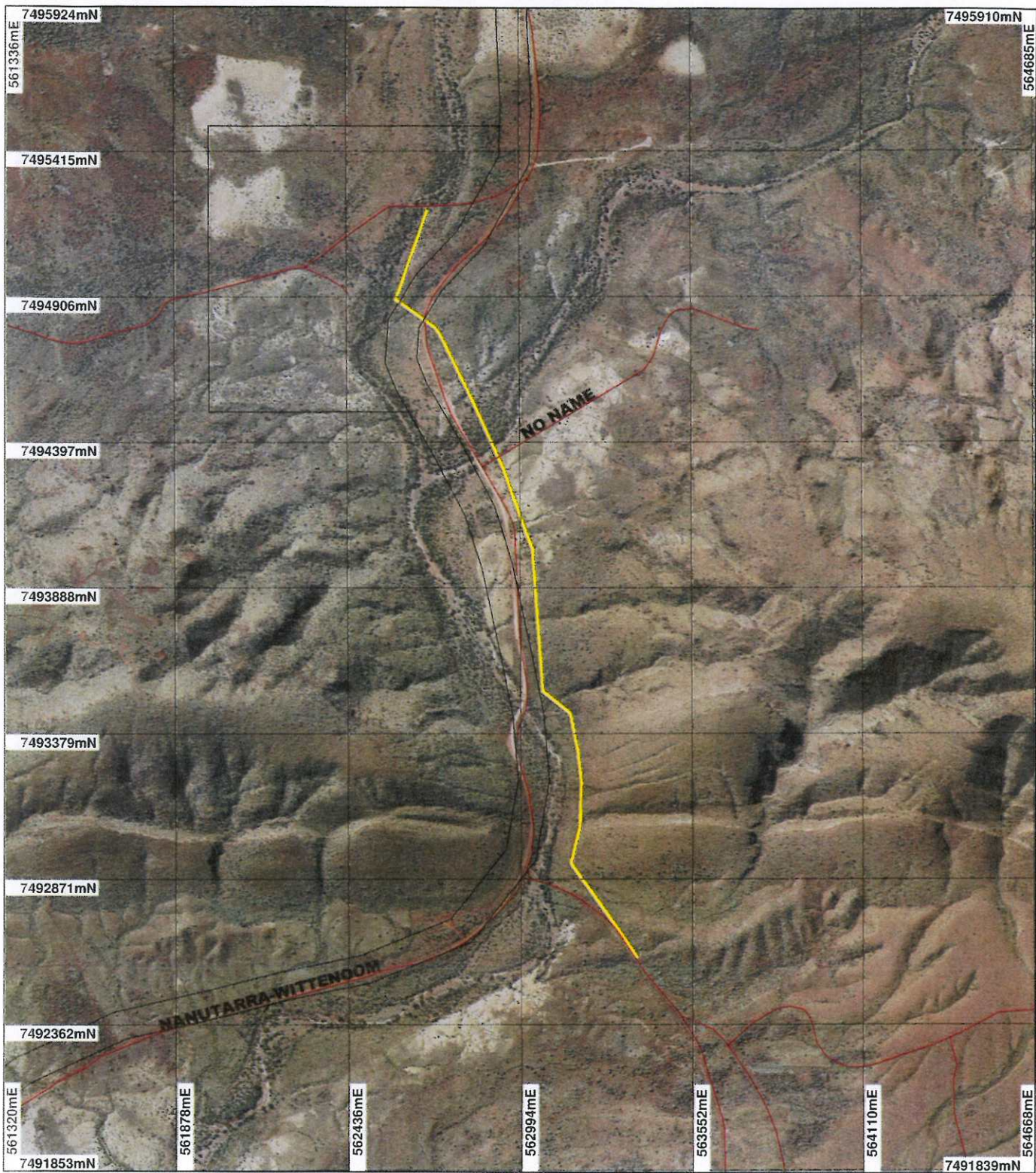


Kelly Faulkner
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

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

25 February 2010

Plan 3508/1



LEGEND

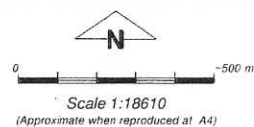
Clearing Instruments

- Areas Approved to Clear
- Road Centrelines
- Cadastrate
- Freehold (cont)

- Crown Reserve
- State Forest / Timber Reserve
- Marino Park
- Crown Lease
- Lease / Reserve
- Lease on State Forest / Timber Reserve (cont)

- Public Roads
- Unallocated Crown Land
- Water

Mount Lionel 50cm
Orthomosaic - Landgate
2004



Geocentric Datum Australia 1994

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

Date 25/2/00
Kelly Paulkner

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.: 3508/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property:
MINING TENEMENT ML4SA
UNALLOCATED CROWN LAND (MOUNT SHEILA 6751)
ROAD RESERVE (MOUNT SHEILA 6751)

Local Government Area:

Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
1.5		Mechanical Removal	To reinstate an access track for pipeline 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 Associations: 567 - Hummock grasslands, grass steppe; spinifex, <i>Triodia inutils</i>	The proposal is to clear 1.5 hectares of native vegetation within the Shire of Ashburton for the purpose of reinstating an existing access track for pipeline maintenance.	Excellent: Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery 1994)	The vegetation condition was determined using ortho photography and a flora survey conducted by Biota Environmental Sciences in 2007.
82 - Hummock grasslands, low tree steppe; snappy gum over <i>Triodia wiseana</i>	Twenty- eight vegetation communities were mapped by Biota Environmental Services during a survey conducted in 2007 of the larger West Turner Section 10 area. Three of these communities occur within the area under application.		
	Vegetation of Stony Plains : <i>Acacia</i> aff. <i>aneura</i> (narrow fine veined), <i>A. aneura</i> (grey bushy form), <i>A. pruinocarpa</i> , <i>A. rhodophloia</i> tall shrubland over <i>Triodia epactia</i> , <i>T. wiseana</i> hummock grassland.		
	Vegetation of Rises and Swales: <i>Acacia bivenosa</i> (spindly variant) tall open shrubland over <i>Cassia pruinosa</i> scattered tall shrubs over <i>Triodia wiseana</i> hummock grassland.		
	Vegetation of Creeklines: <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> , <i>E. victrix</i> open forest over <i>Acacia citrinoviridis</i> low woodland over <i>Melaleuca</i>		

glomerata, *Acacia coriacea*
subsp. *pendens* tall open
shrubs over *Cenchrus*
ciliaris open tussock
grassland. (Biota, 2007)

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

The proposal to clear 1.5 hectares of native vegetation within the Shire of Ashburton is for the purpose of upgrading an existing access track for pipeline maintenance.

Twenty- eight vegetation communities were mapped by Biota Environmental Sciences during a survey conducted in 2007 of the larger West Turner Section 10 area. Three of these communities occur within the area under application:

Vegetation of Stony Plains: *Acacia* aff. *aneura* (narrow fine veined), *A. aneura* (grey bushy form), *A. pruinocarpa*, *A. rhodophloia* tall shrubland over *Triodia epactia*, *T. wiseana* hummock grassland.

Vegetation of Rises and Swales: *Acacia bivenosa* (spindly variant) tall open shrubland over *Cassia pruinosa* scattered tall shrubs over *Triodia wiseana* hummock grassland.

Vegetation of Creeklines: *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, *E. victrix* open forest over *Acacia citrinoviridis* low woodland over *Melaleuca glomerata*, *Acacia coriacea* subsp. *pendens* tall open shrubs over *Cenchrus ciliaris* open tussock grassland. (Biota, 2007)

These vegetation types are well represented within the larger West Turner Section 10 area and the mapped Beard vegetation associations 567 and 82 both retain 100% of their pre European extent.

The 2009 fauna survey of the West Turner study area by Biota Environmental Sciences covered 11 575 hectares and yielded a combined total of 126 vertebrate species, comprising 58 avifauna species, 20 mammals and 48 herpetofauna species. The species recorded were generally representative of the taxa commonly recorded in this part of the bioregion (Biota, 2009) and given the small size of the area to be cleared the vegetation to be removed is unlikely to provide significant habitat for native fauna.

The application area is not associated with any permanent wetlands or watercourses however there are numerous ephemeral watercourses and drainage lines which intercept the application area and therefore vegetation will be cleared that is growing in association with these watercourses. These watercourses are minor, natural drainage channels that are widespread across the Pilbara landscape which are responsible for quickly dispersing floodwaters after significant rainfall events and the minimal amount of vegetation to be affected within these watercourses is unlikely to be significant in a local context. The proposed clearing is unlikely to cause or exacerbate land degradation, water quality or flooding due to the presence of roadside drainage infrastructure associated with the construction of the access track.

The assessment recommendation is that the proposal to clear 1.5 hectares of native vegetation for the purpose of reinstating an existing access track for pipeline maintenance is unlikely to be at variance with any of the clearing principles.

Methodology

Biota (2007)
Biota (2009)
Keighery (1994)
Shepherd et al. (2007)
GIS database:
- Pre European Vegetation - DA 01/01
- Mt Lionel 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004
- SAC Biodatasets - accessed 18 January 2010
- CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 01/06/05
- Hydrography linear - DOW 13/7/06
- Hydrography linear (hierarchy) - DoW 13/7/06
- Hydrographic catchments, catchments - DoW 01/06/07

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

Comments

Notice has been given as required by section 24M of the Native Title Act (1993) for the area of clearing required within unallocated crown land the subject of native title claim WC97-089.

Methodology

GIS database:
- Native Title Claims - LA 2/5/07
- Aboriginal Sites of Significance 26 April 2007

- Country Area Water Supply Act (Part IIA) Clearing Control Catchments 29/06/2006
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas - DoW 13/07/06
- RIWI Act, Irrigation Districts - DoW 13/07/06

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 assessment recommendation is that the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to any of the clearing principles.

5. References

- Biota Environmental Sciences (2007) A Vegetation and Flora Survey of the West Turner Section 10 Area and Infrastructure Corridor.
- Biota Environmental Sciences (2009) A Two-Phase Fauna Survey of the West Turner Syncline Area.
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Sac Bio Datasets (9/12/2009). Department of Environment and Conservation, Sac Bio Datasets, Kensington, 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.

6. Glossary

Term	Meaning
BCS	Biodiversity Coordination Section of DEC
CALM	Department of Conservation and Land Management (now BCS)
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection (now DEC)
DoE	Department of Environment (now DEC)
DMP	Department of Mines and Petroleum (ex DoIR)
DRF	Declared Rare Flora
EPP	Environmental Protection Policy
GIS	Geographical Information System
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community
WRC	Water and Rivers Commission (now DEC)