



## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 353/1

Permit type: Area Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd

### 1.3. Property details

Property: AML70/4

Local Government Area: Shire Of Ashburton

Colloquial name: Section 7 and North Deposit Haul Road

### 1.4. Application

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

## 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
Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; mulga & kanji over soft spinifex & T. basedowii.	No Declared Rare Flora were located on site.	Excellent: Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery 1994)	Botanical Survey undertaken by Pilbara Iron (2004)

## 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**  
There is nothing to indicate that the proposed area for clearing represents an area of outstanding biodiversity and there is an estimated 100% of these vegetation types remaining (Shepherd et al, 2001).

**Methodology** Pilbara Iron Botanical Survey Advice, 2004  
Shepherd et al, 2004

### (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 may be at variance to this Principle**  
A Western Pebble-Mound Mouse mound has been found within the site proposed for clearing. Advice provided by CALM (email correspondence 1/02/05) states there is no special requirement to protect the mound.

**Methodology** Advice from CALM - email correspondence 1/02/05

### (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**  
The proposed area for clearing is not located near known sites of Declared Rare or Priority Flora. No CALM Priority Listed species were found in vegetation surveys conducted at the site (Pilbara Iron, 2004).

**Methodology** Pilbara Iron (2004)  
GIS Database: Declared Rare and Threatened Flora List - CALM 13/08/03

**(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 Threatened Ecological Communities within the area proposed for clearing.

**Methodology** GIS System: 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 at the site is Beards Vegetation Association 82 and 567 (Hopkins et al. 2001) of which there is ~ 100% of their Pre-European extent remaining (Shepherd et al. 2001).

**Methodology** Hopkins et al. (2001); Shepherd et al. (2001); GIS Database: Pre-European Vegetation - DA 01/01

**(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 may be at variance to this Principle**

The area proposed for clearing is not near any Ramsar Listed Wetlands. The area does, however run through a minor drainage line.

**Methodology** Pilbara Iron (2004)  
GIS Databases: RAMSAR Wetlands - CALM 21/10/02; Rivers, 1M - GA 01/06/00

**(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**

Land degradation is unlikely to result from the proposed activities if the area is appropriately managed as part of mining operations.

**Methodology** Pilbara Iron (2004)

**(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 area proposed for clearing is about 18km to the west of Karajini National Park, a conservation area with significant conservation value. It is unlikely that the proposed clearing will have an impact on the reserve.

**Methodology** GIS Database: CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 01/06/04

**(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**

The area proposed for clearing is not located in a Public Drinking Water Source Area. The substrate is largely fractured rock with limited permeability to underground aquifers. The activity is therefore not expected to have a significant impact on surface or groundwater quality.

**Methodology** GIS Databases: Public Drinking Water Source Areas (PDWSA's) - DoE 29/11/04; Hydrography, linear - DoE 1/2/04

**(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 in this region occurs primarily in response to seasonal rainfall events. It is unlikely that the clearing of this vegetation would result in increased flooding.

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

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

**Comments**

The area proposed for clearing is located within mining lease AML 70/4.

The Shire of Ashburton (2004) has raised no concerns with the proposal to clear at this site.

**Methodology** Shire of Ashburton (2004); GIS Database: Mining Tenements - DOIR 1/09/03

#### 4. Assessor's recommendations

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Decision	Comment / recommendation
Mining	Mechanical Removal	65.7	Grant	No conditions on permit.

#### 5. References

- Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002) Biodiversity Action Planning. Action planning for native biodiversity at multiple scales ; catchment bioregional, landscape, local. Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Victoria.
- 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, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Pilbara Iron - Botanical Survey Advice (2004)
- 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.