



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 3746/2
Permit Holder:	BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd
Duration of Permit:	8 August 2010 – 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, installation and relocation of power lines and installation of fibre optic cable.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Special Lease M653978
Special Lease J998591
Special Lease I154279
Miscellaneous Licence L45/130
Miscellaneous Licence L45/131

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 120 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 3746/2.

4. Period in which clearing is authorized

- (a) The Permit Holder shall not clear any native vegetation within Special Lease J998591 after 1 November 2015 unless the Permit Holder has first provided documentary evidence to the CEO that the duration of Special Lease J998591 has been extended to at least 28 February 2026.
- (b) 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.

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.

8. 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 8(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 8(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 8(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

9. 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 8 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*.

10. 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 9 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 9 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under condition 10(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;



Jane Clarkson
MANAGER
CLEARING REGULATION

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

25 June 2015

Plan 3746/2



Legend

-  Areas approved to clear
-  Roads
-  LGA
-  Cadastre
- Virtual Mosaic (LGATE-V001)



MGA 94
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1984

 Date: 26.6.15
Jane Clarkson

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





1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 3746/2
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: BHP Billiton Iron Ore Ptd Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: SPECIAL LEASE M653978
SPECIAL LEASE J998591
SPECIAL LEASE I154279
MISCELLANEOUS LICENCE L45/130
MISCELLANEOUS LICENCE L45/131
PORT HEDLAND, TOWN OF

Local Government Authority: NORTH WEST
DER Region: NO DISTRICT
DPaW District: ROEBOURNE - PORT HEDLAND
LCDC: WEDGEFIELD, BOODARIE, SOUTH HEDLAND, PORT HEDLAND and PIPPINGARRA
Localities:

1.4. Application

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

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit: Granted
Decision Date: 25 June 2015

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; <i>Acacia translucens</i> over soft spinifex (Shepherd et al. 2001).	Clearing of 120 hectares of vegetation within Special Lease M653978, Special Lease J998591, Special Lease I154279, Miscellaneous Licence L45/130 and Miscellaneous Licence L45/131 for the purpose of railway construction, maintenance and associated works, installation and relocation of power lines and installation of fibre optic cable.	Very Good; Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994). To Completely Degraded; No longer intact, completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery 1994).	The area under application contains the existing Goldsworthy rail line and Newman to Port Hedland rail line and has been previously disturbed by, and largely cleared for, the construction and operation of these railways. BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd (BHP) has applied to clear up to 120 hectares of native vegetation for the purposes of duplicating these rail lines. The condition of vegetation within the majority of the area under application ranges from good to poor (ENV 2009a), with one site surveyed as being in very good and one in completely degraded condition (ENV 2009a). The main source of disturbance is the construction and operation of the existing railways and associated infrastructure such as roads and fences (ENV 2009a). Additional causes of disturbance include grazing by cattle, dumping of waste and the presence of introduced species (ENV 2009a). Much of the applied area is surrounded by a fence, which has reduced disturbance beyond this area and vegetation adjacent to the area under application is in very good to excellent condition (ENV 2009a).

Vegetation condition was determined from aerial photography, photographs and supporting information provided by the applicant (ENV 2009a; ENV 2009b).

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments The applicant has applied to amend Clearing Permit CPS 3746/1, requesting to amend the annual reporting date, the annual reporting period, the final date of clearing, the final reporting date and the permit expiry date. 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 3746/1.

Methodology

Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

Comments The land on which clearing is to be done under Clearing Permit 3746/2 has been updated, as a portion of Special Lease J998591 and Great Northern Highway and Wallwork Road reserves were transferred to Special Lease M653978.

The assessment against planning and other matters has not changed and can be found in Clearing Permit CPS 3746/1 Decision Report.

Methodology

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 (2009a) Goldsworthy Rail Duplication Flora and Vegetation Assessment. Unpublished report for BHP Billiton Iron Ore. DEC Ref: A303743
- ENV (2009b) Goldsworthy Rail Duplication Fauna Assessment. Unpublished report for BHP Billiton Iron Ore. DEC Ref: A303743
- 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.