



## CLEARING PERMIT

*Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986*

<b>Purpose Permit number:</b>	4394/4
<b>Duration of Permit:</b>	6 August 2011 – 31 July 2024
<b>Permit Holder:</b>	Robe River Limited

The Permit Holder is authorised to clear native vegetation subject to the following conditions of this Permit.

### **PART I – CLEARING AUTHORISED**

**1. Land on which clearing is to be done**

General Purpose Lease 47/1235

*Iron Ore (Robe River) Agreement Act 1964*, Mineral Lease 248SA (AML 70/248)

**2. Purpose for which clearing may be done**

Clearing for the purposes of Mineral Exploration, Hydrogeological Drilling, Geotechnical Investigation and Associated Activities.

**3. Area of Clearing**

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 290 hectares of native vegetation. All clearing must be within the areas cross-hatched yellow or shaded red on attached Plans 4394/4A and 4394/4B.

**4. Clearing not authorised**

The Permit Holder shall only clear native vegetation within the areas shaded red on attached Plan 4394/4B for the purpose of access tracks.

**5. Period in which clearing is authorised**

The Permit Holder shall not clear any native vegetation after 31 July 2019.

**6. 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 – MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS**

### **7. Weed control**

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.

### **8. Retain and spread vegetative material and topsoil**

Where the *priority flora* species *Brachyscome* sp. Wanna Munna Flats (S. van Leeuwen 4662) have been identified and their written location(s), provided to the *CEO*, within the report 'Rio Tinto, Flora, Vegetation and Fauna Habitat Assessment at Deposit D, West Angelas. Native Vegetation Clearing Permit – Supporting Report. Internal Report, December 2014', the Permit Holder shall ensure that:

- (i) no clearing of identified *priority flora* occurs and no clearing occurs within 10 metres of identified *priority flora*, unless approved by the *CEO*.

### **9. Vegetation Management**

- (a) Where practicable the Permit Holder shall avoid clearing riparian vegetation; and
- (b) Where a *watercourse* is to be impacted by clearing, the Permit Holder shall maintain the existing surface flow.

### **10. Retain and spread vegetative material and topsoil**

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 areas 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;
  - (ii) ripping the ground on the contour to remove soil compaction; and
  - (iii) laying the vegetative material and topsoil retained under Condition 10(a).
- (c) within 4 years of laying the vegetative material and topsoil on the cleared area in accordance with Condition 10(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 10(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**

#### **11. Records to 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 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;
  - (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 10 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; and
  - (iii) the size of the area *revegetated* and *rehabilitated* (in hectares).

#### **12. Reporting**

- (a) The Permit Holder shall provide a report to the Director Operations, Environment, Department of Mines and Petroleum by 31 July each year for the life of this permit, demonstrating adherence to all conditions of this permit, and setting out the records required under Condition 11 of this permit in relation to clearing carried out between 1 July and 30 June of the previous financial year.
- (b) Prior to 31 July 2024, the Permit Holder must provide to the Director Operations, Environment, Department of Mines and Petroleum a written report of records required under Condition 11 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under Condition 12(a) of this Permit.

#### **Definitions**

The following meanings are given to terms used in this Permit:

*CEO* means the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Environment Regulation or an Officer with delegated authority under Section 20 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*;

*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 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;

*priority flora* means those plant taxa described as priority flora classes 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 in the *Department of*

*Environment and Conservation's Threatened 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;

*riparian vegetation* has the meaning given to it in Regulation 3 of the Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004;

*watercourse* has the meaning given to it in section 3 of the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*;

*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 Summary, regardless of ranking; or
- (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.



Steve Tantala  
DIRECTOR OPERATIONS  
ENVIRONMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND PETROLEUM

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

11 June 2015