



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 4442/5
Permit Holder:	Pilbara Iron Company (Services) Pty Ltd
Duration of Permit:	8 June 2012 – 30 June 2025

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 maintenance and improvement of the existing integrated Rio Tinto Iron Ore railway and transport corridor infrastructure system to ensure the ongoing operational efficacy of this system.

2. Type of clearing authorised

(a) In accordance with this Permit, the Permit Holder may clear native vegetation for *project activities*, which means any one or more of the following:

- (i) establishment of new water *bores* and pipelines to transport water from the water *bores*;
- (ii) construction of new *turkey nest dams*;
- (iii) maintenance of existing access tracks within environmentally sensitive areas;
- (iv) construction of new access tracks;
- (v) maintenance, installation and upgrade of *culverts, floodways, causeways* and *bridges* and drainage lines;
- (vi) maintenance and installation of *level crossings* and road intersections along rail network;
- (vii) maintenance and installation of signaling equipment and communications equipment;
- (viii) construction, maintenance and upgrade of *sidings*;
- (ix) widening of existing rail formations for *turnout* installations;
- (x) repair works required as a result of flooding/derailment events, including derailment recovery operations and diversions of access roads and railway embankments;
- (xi) construction of *laydown areas*;
- (xii) installation of *temporary structures*;
- (xiii) maintenance and upgrade of rail lines and formation materials;
- (xiv) providing clear access to all parts of the railway track, including signal infrastructure, driver change out areas, hot bearing detectors, dragging equipment detectors and rail bearing acoustic monitoring assets;
- (xv) creating and maintaining *firebreaks*;
- (xvi) clearing of *cutting drains*;
- (xvii) excavation of test pits and geotechnical works;
- (xviii) construction of *borrow pits*;
- (xix) construction of fences around *heritage sites* and other areas to be protected;
- (xx) installation and maintenance of railway and access road signage;
- (xxi) rehabilitation of previously cleared areas and rework of rehabilitated areas;
- (xxii) installation, maintenance and upgrade of infrastructure, including power and fuel infrastructure;
- (xxiii) dumping of *spoil*; and
- (xxiv) installation, maintenance and upgrade of *crossovers*.

- (b) The Permit authorises the Permit Holder to clear native vegetation for *project activities* to the extent that the Permit Holder has the power to clear native vegetation for those *project activities* under any *written law*.

3. Land on which clearing is to be done

Clearing authorised under this Permit is to be undertaken within land tenure or rights administered under the *Mining Act 1904 (WA)*, *Mining Act 1978 (WA)*, *Land Act 1933 (WA)*, *Land Administration Act 1997 (WA)*, *Property Law Act 1969 (WA)*, *Transfer of Land Act 1893 (WA)*, *Strata Titles Act 1985 (WA)*, the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914 (WA)* or the following State Agreement Acts –

- *Iron Ore (Hamersley Range) Agreement Act 1963*
- *Iron Ore (Robe River) Agreement Act 1964*
- *Iron Ore (Hamersley Range) Agreement Act 1968(Paraburdoo)*
- *Iron Ore (Mount Bruce) Agreement Act 1972*
- *Iron Ore (Channar Joint Venture) Agreement Act 1987*
- *Iron Ore (Hope Downs) Agreement Act 1992*
- *Iron Ore (Yandicoogina) Agreement Act 1996*

4. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 500 hectares of native vegetation per calendar year, being a total of 2500 hectares of native vegetation for the term of this Permit.

5. Period in which clearing is authorised

The Permit Holder shall not clear any native vegetation after 31 December 2020.

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.

7. Clearing not authorised

- (a) This Permit does not authorise the Permit Holder to clear native vegetation for *project activities*, where:
- (i) The Permit Holder does not have lawful authority to access land;
 - (ii) the *project activity* lies within Millstream Chichester or Karijini National Parks;
 - (iii) the *project activity* is within 200 metres of the outer boundary of known *threatened ecological communities*; or
 - (iv) one or more of the *project activities* are incorporated or related to a proposal that is *referred* to and assessed under Part IV of the *EP Act* by the *EPA*.
- (b) If a *proposal* incorporating one or more of the *project activities* has been *referred* to the *EPA*, this Permit does not authorise any clearing for that *project activity*, until:
- (i) the *EPA* has given notice under section 39A(3) of the *EP Act* that it has decided not to assess the proposal; and
 - (ii) either:
 - (A) the period within which an appeal against the *EPA*'s decision may be lodged has expired without an appeal being lodged; or
 - (B) an appeal has been lodged against the *EPA*'s decision not to assess the proposal and the appeal was dismissed.
- (c) Condition 7(a) does not apply where the Permit Holder has obtained the consent of the *EPA* to conduct minor and preliminary works in accordance with section 41A(3), the Permit Holder may conduct any clearing in order to undertake those minor and preliminary works.
- (d) If the Permit Holder intends to clear native vegetation under this Permit for one or more of the *project activities* that are incorporated in a proposal *referred* to the *EPA*, then the Permit Holder must have regard to any advice or recommendations made by the *EPA* under section 39A(7) of the *EP Act*.

PART II – ASSESSMENT SEQUENCE AND MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

8. Weed control

When undertaking any clearing or other activity pursuant to this Permit, the Permit Holder must take the following steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *weeds*:

- (a) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
- (b) ensure that no *weed*-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill* or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and
- (c) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.

9. Flora management

- (a) Prior to undertaking any clearing, the Permit Holder shall engage a *botanist* to undertake a reconnaissance survey of the area(s) to be cleared in accordance with the *Technical Guidance Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment*, to identify possible occurrences of, and habitat suitable for, rare and *priority flora*.
- (b) Prior to undertaking any clearing, where an area has been identified in accordance with condition 9(a) as containing possible occurrences of, and habitat suitable for, rare or *priority flora*, the Permit Holder shall engage a *botanist* to inspect that area for the presence of rare and *priority flora*.
- (c) Where rare flora or *priority flora* are identified in relation to condition 9(b) of this Permit, the Permit Holder shall ensure that:
 - (i) no clearing occurs within 50 metres of identified rare flora, unless approved by the CEO in writing;
 - (ii) no clearing of identified rare flora occurs unless approved under section 23F(2) of the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*;
 - (iii) no clearing of identified *priority flora* occurs unless approved by the CEO in writing; and
 - (iv) no clearing occurs within 10 metres of identified *priority flora*, unless approved by the CEO in writing.

10. Priority and threatened ecological community management

- (a) Prior to undertaking any clearing within or within 20m of the boundary of the following priority ecological communities, the Permit Holder shall engage a *botanist* to undertake a targeted flora and vegetation survey of the area(s) to be cleared in accordance with *Technical Guidance Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment*:
 - (i) West Angelas Cracking-Clays (Site Identifications: ANGELAS02, ANGELAS04, ANGELAS05, ANGELAS06, ANGELAS07, ANGELAS08, ANGELAS09 and ANGELAS10);
 - (ii) Roebourne Plains Gilgai Grasslands (Site Identifications: Edna01, Edna02, Blackhill S, RPG1, DRW14, KA01a, KA01c, KA01d and KA01e);
 - (iii) Coolibah - Lignum flats, sub type 1 (Site Identifications: Coondewanna, Coolibah07, Coolibah09, Coolibah29, Coolibah30, Coolibah32, Coolibah33, Coolibah 34, Coolibah35, Coolibah36, Coolibah37, Coolibah38, Coolibah39, Coolibah40 and Coolibah41);
 - (iv) Coolibah - Lignum flats, sub type 2 (Site Identifications: Lake Robinson and Coolibah06);
 - (v) Sand sheet vegetation (Robe Valley) (Site Identification: MEA14);
 - (vi) Wona Land System (Site Identification: Wittenoom); or
 - (vii) Horseflat Land System (Site Identifications: hof1077, hof1204, hof614, hof845, hof890 and hof993).
- (b) The Permit Holder must ensure that no clearing occurs within or within 20m of the mapped boundary of any community as listed in condition 10(a), unless approved by the CEO in writing.

- (c) If any possible new occurrences of any priority ecological community on the *Department's* "Priority Ecological Communities for Western Australia" list, or threatened ecological community on the *Department's* "threatened ecological communities for Western Australia" list are located during surveys, then this information must be provided to DER.
- (d) The Permit Holder must ensure that no clearing occurs within or within 20m of the mapped boundary of any possible new occurrences of priority or threatened ecological community located during surveys, unless approved by the CEO in writing.

11. Fauna management

- (a) Prior to undertaking any clearing, the Permit Holder shall engage a *fauna specialist* to undertake a Level 1 survey of the area(s) to be cleared, in accordance with *Guidance Statement No. 56* to identify areas of habitat on which fauna, listed in the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice* in operation at the time, have a specific dependence.
- (b) Prior to undertaking any clearing, where habitat areas are identified in accordance with condition 11(a), the area(s) shall be inspected for the presence of fauna listed in the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice* by a *fauna specialist*, in accordance with *Guidance Statement No. 56*.
- (c) Prior to undertaking clearing, where habitat areas are identified in accordance with condition 11(a), the Permit Holder must:
 - (i) avoid areas identified in accordance with condition 11(a); or
 - (ii) where the areas identified in accordance with condition 11(a) can not be avoided, prepare, implement and adhere to a *Fauna Management Plan*, designed by a *fauna specialist*.
- (d) Prior to undertaking any clearing, where fauna is identified in accordance with condition 11(b), the Permit Holder must prepare, implement and adhere to a *Fauna Management Plan*, designed by a *fauna specialist*.
- (e) The *Fauna Management Plan* must include the following:
 - (i) a plan for managing the *impacts*;
 - (ii) a plan for managing any fauna identified in accordance with condition 11(b);
 - (iii) a table setting out the Permit Holder's commitments to the *Fauna Management Plan* requirements; and
 - (iv) a program for monitoring compliance with the Permit Holder's commitments.
- (f) Once the Permit Holder has developed a *Fauna Management Plan*, the Permit Holder must provide that *Fauna Management Plan* to the CEO for the CEO's approval. The clearing to which the *Fauna Management Plan* relates and the implementation of the *Fauna Management Plan* shall not take place until the Permit Holder receives approval from the CEO.
- (g) If it is necessary to modify the *Fauna Management Plan* approved by the CEO, then the Permit Holder must provide that modified *Fauna Management Plan* to the CEO for the CEO's approval.

12. 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) At an optimal time within 12 months following the completion of works 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 12(a) on the cleared area(s).

- (c) within 24 months of laying the vegetative material and topsoil on the cleared area in accordance with condition 12(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 12(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.
- (d) Where additional *planting* or *direct seeding* of native vegetation is undertaken in accordance with condition 12(c)(ii) of this permit, the Permit Holder shall repeat condition 12(c)(i) and 12(c)(ii) within 24 months of undertaking the additional *planting* or *direct seeding* of native vegetation.
- (e) Where a determination by an *environmental specialist* that the composition, structure and density within areas *revegetated* and *rehabilitated* will result in a similar species composition, structure and density to that of pre-clearing vegetation types in that area, as determined in condition 12(c)(i) and (ii) of this permit, that determination shall be submitted for the CEO's consideration. If the CEO does not agree with the determination made under condition 12(c)(ii), the CEO may require the Permit Holder to undertake additional *planting* and *direct seeding* in accordance with the requirements under condition 12(c)(ii).

PART III – MONITORING, RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

13. 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 dates on which clearing was done; and
 - (iv) the size of the area cleared (in hectares).
- (b) In relation to flora management pursuant to condition 9 of this Permit:
 - (i) the location of each rare flora and *priority flora* species 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 species name of each rare flora and *priority flora* identified; and
 - (iii) a copy of the *botanist's* flora survey report.
- (c) In relation to priority and threatened ecological community management pursuant to condition 10 of this Permit:
 - (i) the name and site identification of each priority ecological community and possible new occurrences of priority or threatened ecological community;
 - (ii) the location of each priority ecological community and possible new occurrences of priority or threatened ecological community 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 boundary of the priority ecological community or possible new occurrences of priority or threatened ecological community identified;
 - (iv) the species composition of each priority ecological community identified;
 - (v) a map of the condition of each priority ecological community identified; and
 - (vi) a copy of the *botanist's* flora and vegetation survey report.

- (d) In relation to fauna management pursuant to condition 11 of this Permit:
 - (i) a description and results of the fauna management activities undertaken in accordance with the *Fauna Management Plan* approved by the CEO; and
 - (ii) a copy of the *fauna specialist's* survey report.
- (e) In relation to the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* of areas pursuant to condition 12 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*, and
 - (v) a copy of the environmental specialist's report.

14. Reporting

- (a) The Permit Holder must provide to the CEO on or before 30 June of each year, a written report:
 - (i) of records required under condition 13 of this Permit; and
 - (ii) concerning activities done by the Permit Holder under this Permit between 1 January to 31 December of the preceding calendar year.
- (b) If no clearing authorised under this Permit was undertaken between 1 January to 31 December of the preceding calendar year, a written report confirming that no clearing under this permit has been carried out, must be provided to the CEO on or before 30 June of each year.
- (c) Prior to 30 March 2025, the Permit Holder must provide to the CEO a written report of records required under condition 13 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under condition 14(a) of this Permit.

15. Interpretation

The following rules of interpretation apply to this Permit:

- (a) a reference to any written law includes a reference to that written law as amended, repealed or replaced from time to time; and
- (b) if a word or phrase is defined, other parts of speech and grammatical forms of that word or phrase have corresponding meanings.

16. Severance

It is the intent of these conditions that they shall operate so that, if a condition or part of a condition is beyond the CEO's power to impose, or is otherwise ultra vires or invalid, that condition or part of a condition shall be severed and the remainder of these conditions shall nevertheless be valid to the extent that they are within the CEO's power to impose and are not otherwise ultra vires or invalid.

17. Inconsistency

- (a) The *EP Act* prevails to the extent of any inconsistency between its provisions and the conditions of this Permit.
- (b) Subject to condition 17(a), this Permit prevails to the extent of any inconsistency between its conditions, and the provisions of any other document referred to in this Permit.

DEFINITIONS

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

botanist: means a person who holds a tertiary qualification in environmental science or equivalent, and has a minimum of 2 years work experience in identification and surveys of flora native to the bioregion being inspected or surveyed, or who is approved by the CEO as a suitable botanist for the bioregion;

bore/s an opening in the ground made or used to obtain access to underground water;

borrow pit/s means an area from which material is sourced to construct infrastructure or to alter the ground level, including by filling a hole;

bridge/s a structure spanning an area, including a river, chasm, road or railway, and affording passage;

causeway/s means a raised road or path, as across low or wet ground or water bodies;

crossover/s means a connection between two tracks achieved by linking two adjacent *turnouts*;

culvert/s means a metal, wooden, plastic, or concrete conduit through which surface water can flow under or across roads, railways or embankments;

cutting drain/s means a drain to allow water to be diverted away from an engineered structure;

Department means the Department of Environment Regulation (Western Australia);

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 is engaged by the Permit Holder for the purpose of providing environmental advice, 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;

EPA means the Western Australian Environmental Protection Authority;

EP Act means the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*;

fauna clearing person means a person who has obtained a licence from the Department, issued pursuant to the *Wildlife Conservation Regulations 1970* authorising them to take fauna;

Fauna management plan means a plan developed by the Permit Holder for the management of fauna at the site in accordance with condition 11 of this Permit;

fauna specialist: means a person who holds a tertiary qualification specializing in environmental science or equivalent, and has a minimum of 2 years work experience in fauna identification and surveys of fauna native to the region being inspected or surveyed, or who is approved by the CEO as a suitable fauna specialist for the bioregion, and who holds a valid fauna licence issued under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*;

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

firebreak/s means a firebreak established in accordance with the *Bush Fires Act 1954*;

floodway/s means an engineered path to channel floodwaters away from areas to be protected;

Guidance Statement No 56 means Guidance for the Assessment of Environmental Factors: Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Australia. Guidance Statement No 56, Environmental Protection Authority (2004);

heritage site/s means:

- (a) an "Aboriginal site" as defined in the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* (WA);
- (b) a "significant Aboriginal area" or "significant Aboriginal object" as defined in the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984* (Cth); or
- (c) a site that has or is proposed to be listed on the "Register", as that term is defined in the *Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990* (WA); and
- (d) a place that is listed, or proposed to be listed on the "National Heritage List", as that term is defined in the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth).

impacts means any impact of clearing on environmental values;

laydown area/s means a place where materials, topsoil and equipment can be regularly stored on the ground for a period of time;

level crossing/s a place where a road and railway intersect at the same level;

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;

optimal time means the period from November to December for undertaking *direct seeding*;

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 Parks and Wildlife's Threatened and Priority Flora List for Western Australia* (as amended);

project activity/ies means those activities described in condition 2(a) of this Permit;

referred means referred to the Environmental Protection Authority under Part IV of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*;

regeneration means *revegetation* that can be established from in situ seed banks contained either within the topsoil or seed-bearing *mulch*;

rehabilitate means actively managing an area containing native vegetation in order to improve the ecological function of that area;

revegetate 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;

revegetation plan means a plan developed by the Permit Holder for the revegetation and *rehabilitation* of a site in accordance with condition 13 of this Permit;

siding/s means a short siding or passage which enables vehicles, including trains, to pass one another;

site preparation means management of existing site topsoil and preparation of the finished soil surface, for example by ripping or tilling the soil surface and respreading site topsoil and chipped native vegetation;

spoil material that has built up around a structure, for example as a result of a derailment or weather event;

Technical Guidance Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment means the Environmental Protection Authority "Technical Guidance Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment (December 2016);

temporary structure/s means a structure not placed on permanent footings;

threatened ecological community/ies means those ecological communities endorsed by the Minister for the Environment and described in the "List of Threatened Ecological Communities on the Department of Parks and Wildlife's Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) Database";

turkey nest dam/s means a dam constructed on relatively flat ground with earth walls on all sides;

turnout means an earthworks pad constructed to allow for access to install and maintain a rail *crossover*;

vegetation establishment period means a period of at least two summers after the *revegetation* during which time replacement and infill *revegetation* works may be required for areas in which revegetation has been unsuccessful, and involves regular inspections of *revegetation* sites to monitor the success of *revegetation*;

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.

Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice means those fauna taxa gazetted as rare fauna pursuant to section 14(4)(a) of the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* (as amended);

written law has the same meaning as it is given in section 5 of the *Interpretation Act 1984*.



DR ANNE MATHEWS
SENIOR MANAGER
CLEARING REGULATION

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

22 February 2017



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 4442/5
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Pilbara Iron Company (Services) Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Land on which clearing is to be done:

Clearing authorised under this Permit is to be undertaken within land tenure or rights administered under the *Mining Act 1904 (WA)*, *Mining Act 1978 (WA)*, *Land Act 1933 (WA)*, *Land Administration Act 1997 (WA)*, *Property Law Act 1969 (WA)*, *Transfer of Land Act 1893 (WA)*, *Strata Titles Act 1985 (WA)*, the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914 (WA)* or the following State Agreement Acts –

- *Iron Ore (Hamersley Range) Agreement Act 1963*
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- *Iron Ore (Hamersley Range) Agreement Act 1968(Paraburdoo)*
- *Iron Ore (Mount Bruce) Agreement Act 1972*
- *Iron Ore (Channar Joint Venture) Agreement Act 1987*
- *Iron Ore (Hope Downs) Agreement Act 1992*
- *Iron Ore (Yandicoogina) Agreement Act 1996*

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
2500		Mechanical Removal	Railway construction or maintenance

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted

Decision Date: 23 February 2017

Reasons for Decision: The clearing permit application received on 21 December 2016 has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with s51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. It has been concluded that the proposed clearing is at variance to clearing principles (a), (d) and (h), may be at variance to principles (b), (c), (f) and (g), and is not likely to be at variance to the remaining clearing principles.

The application area comprises a diverse array of vegetation types covering a vast area of the Pilbara landscape.

To mitigate the potential significant environment impacts associated with biodiversity, priority and rare flora, fauna, and priority and threatened ecological communities conditions have been added to the permit requiring the Permit Holder to undertake flora and fauna surveys prior to clearing.

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
Mapped Beard vegetation associations (Shepherd et al., 2001):	The clearing of up to 500 hectares per year for the maintenance and improvement of the existing integrated Rio Tinto Iron Ore railway and transport corridor infrastructure system to ensure the ongoing operational efficiency of this system.	Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery, 1994)	The condition of the vegetation was determined via aerial imagery.
Association 117 - Hummock grasslands, grass steppe; soft spinifex.		To	
Association 127 - Bare areas; mud flats.		Pristine: No obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery, 1994)	
Association 589 - Mosaic: Short bunch grassland - savanna / grass plain (Pilbara) / Hummock grasslands, grass steppe; soft spinifex.			

Association 157 - Hummock grasslands, grass steppe; hard spinifex, *Triodia wiseana*.

Association 152 - Hummock grasslands, grass steppe; soft & hard spinifex soft spinifex.

Association 93 - Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; kanji over soft spinifex.

Association 619 - Medium woodland; river gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*).

Association 587 - Mosaic: Hummock grasslands, open low tree-steppe; snappy gum over *Triodia wiseana* / Hummock grasslands, shrub-steppe; kanji over *Triodia pungens*.

Association 603 - Hummock grasslands, sparse shrub steppe; *Acacia bivenosa* over hard spinifex.

Association 175 - Short bunch grassland - savanna/grass plain (Pilbara).

Association 607 - Hummock grasslands, low tree steppe; snappy gum & bloodwood over soft spinifex & *Triodia wiseana*.

Association 609 - Mosaic: Hummock grasslands, open low tree steppe; bloodwood with sparse kanji shrubs over soft spinifex / Hummock grasslands, open low tree steppe; snappy gum over *Triodia wiseana* on a lateritic crust.

Association 605 - Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; *Acacia pachycarpa* & waterwood over soft spinifex.

Association 82 - Hummock grasslands, low tree steppe; snappy gum over *Triodia wiseana*.

Association 29 - Sparse low woodland; mulga, discontinuous in scattered groups.

Association 583 - Hummock grasslands, sparse shrub steppe; kanji & *Acacia bivenosa* over hard spinifex *Triodia basedowii* & *T. wiseana*.

Association 646 - Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; snakewood over *Triodia basedowii*.

Association 644 - Hummock grasslands, open low tree steppe; mulga & snakewood over soft spinifex & *Triodia basedowii*.

Association 645 - Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; kanji & snakewood over soft spinifex & *Triodia wiseana*.

Association 565 - Hummock grasslands, low tree steppe; bloodwood over soft spinifex.

Association 567 - Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; mulga & kanji over soft spinifex & *Triodia basedowii*.

Association 18 - Low woodland; mulga
(Acacia aneura).

Association 162 - Shrublands;
snakewood scrub.

Association 181 - Shrublands; mulga
& snakewood scrub.

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments This amendment has been made to extend the clearing duration until 31 December 2020.

Conditions 9 and 10 have also been updated to refer to the Environmental Protection Authority's 'Technical Guidance, Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment' instead of Guidance Statement 51.

The assessment against the clearing principles has not changed and can be found in the Clearing Permit Decision Report CPS 4442/1.

Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

Comments The assessment against Planning Instruments and Other Matters has not changed and can be found in Clearing Permit Decision Report CPS 4442/1.

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.
- 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.