



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Purpose Permit Number: 4573/1
File Number: A1554/201101
Duration of Permit: From 19 November 2011 to 19 November 2016

PERMIT HOLDER

Robe River Mining Co Pty Ltd

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Iron Ore (Robe River) Agreement Act 1964, Special Lease for Mining Operations 3116/4621 (Document I 123393 L) (Lease Extension E 702246), Lot 62 on Deposited Plan 57725.
Iron Ore (Robe River) Agreement Act 1964, Special Lease for Mining Operations 3116/4622 (Document I 123390 L) (Lease Extension E 702246), Lot 63 on Deposited Plan 54397.
Iron Ore (Hamersley Range) Agreement Act 1963, Special Lease for Mining Operations 3116/4984 (Document I 195323 L) (Lease Extension J761009), Lot 32 on Deposited Plan 47815.
Miscellaneous Licence 47/47
Miscellaneous Licence 47/103

PURPOSE FOR WHICH THE CLEARING MAY BE DONE

1. Clearing for the purpose of geotechnical investigations

CONDITIONS

Type of clearing authorised

1. The Permit Holder must not clear more than 5.5 hectares of native vegetation. All clearing must be within the area cross hatched yellow on attached Plans 4573/1 A, 4573/1 B and 4573/1 C.

Avoid, minimise etc clearing

2. 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:
 - (i) avoid the clearing of native vegetation;
 - (ii) minimise the amount of native vegetation to be cleared; and
 - (iii) reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.

Weed control

3. 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.

Vegetation Management

4. The permit holder shall not clear native vegetation within the area shaded red on attached Plan 4573/1 C.

Flora Management

5. (a) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder shall engage a *botanist* to undertake a flora survey of the area to be cleared in accordance with *Guidance Statement No. 51*.
- (b) Where rare, *priority* or *undescribed flora* are identified in relation to Condition 5(a) of this Permit, the Permit Holder shall ensure that:
- (i) no clearing of identified *priority flora* or *undescribed flora* occurs and no clearing occurs within 10 metres of identified *priority flora* or *undescribed flora*, unless approved by the Executive Director, Environment, Department of Mines and Petroleum; and
 - (ii) no clearing occurs within 50 metres of identified rare flora, unless approved by the Executive Director, Environment, Department of Mines and Petroleum.

Retain vegetative material and topsoil, revegetation and rehabilitation

6. 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 6 months following completion of 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; and
 - (ii) ripping the ground on the contour to remove soil compaction; and
 - (iii) laying the vegetative material and topsoil retained under Condition 6(a).
 - (c) within 4 years of laying the vegetative material and topsoil on the cleared area in accordance with Condition 6(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 6(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.

Records to be kept

7. 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 flora management pursuant to Condition 5 of this Permit:
 - (i) the location of each rare and/or *priority flora* species, or *undescribed flora* 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 and/or *priority flora* species, or *undescribed flora* identified; and
 - (iii) a copy of the botanists flora survey report.
 - (c) In relation to the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* of areas pursuant to Condition 6 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).

Reporting

8. (a) The Permit Holder shall provide a report to the Executive Director, 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 7 of this permit in relation to clearing carried out between 1 July and 30 June of the previous financial year.
- (b) Prior to 19 November 2016, the Permit Holder must provide to the Executive Director, Environment, Department of Mines and Petroleum 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.

Definitions

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

botanist means a person with specific training and/or experience in the biology, identification and taxonomy of Western Australian flora;

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

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;

Guidance Statement No. 51 means the Environmental Protection Authority Guidance Statement No 51, Guidance for the Assessment of Environmental Factors - Terrestrial Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Australia (2004);

local provenance means native vegetation seeds and propagating material from natural sources within 100 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 or 4 in the *Department's Declared Rare and Priority Flora List for Western Australia* (as amended);

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;

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

undescribed flora taxa means any flora taxon (either at the generic, species or infraspecies level) that has been discovered, but not yet formally described as per the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature.

weed/s means a species listed in Appendix 3 of the "Environmental Weed Strategy" published by the Department of Conservation and Land Management (1999), and plants declared under section 37 of the *Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act 1976*.



Phil Gorey
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ENVIRONMENT
DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND PETROLEUM

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

26 October 2011