



## CLEARING PERMIT

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

### PERMIT DETAILS

Purpose Permit Number: 4578/1

File Number: A1569/201101

Duration of Permit: From 5 November 2011 to 5 November 2016

### PERMIT HOLDER

Rio Tinto Exploration Pty Limited

### LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

*Iron Ore (Hamersley Range) Agreement Act 1963, Mineral Lease 4SA (AML 70/4)*

### PURPOSE FOR WHICH THE CLEARING MAY BE DONE

1. Clearing for the purpose of mineral exploration.

### CONDITIONS

#### Type of clearing authorised

1. The Permit Holder must not clear more than 10 hectares of native vegetation. All clearing must be within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 4578/1.

#### 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.

#### Retain and spread vegetative material and topsoil

4. 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) laying the vegetative material and topsoil retained under Condition 4(a) on the cleared area.

- (c) within 4 years of laying the vegetative material and topsoil on the cleared area in accordance with Condition 4(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 4(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

5. 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 4 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

- 6. (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 5 of this Permit in relation to clearing carried out between 1 July and 30 June of the previous financial year.
- (b) Prior to 5 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 5 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under Condition 6(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 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;

*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 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;

*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 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

13 October 2011