

Attachment 3

Pro Forma: Advice for Native Vegetation Clearing Permit amendment pathway

Application to extend 'no clearing after' and expiry date (Administrative amendments)

Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) requires that amendments to clearing permits, including administrative amendments, be reviewed. The purpose of the review is to clarify whether there have been any substantial changes in conservation values and/or impacts within the application area since the original assessment. Such changes may result in supporting surveys no longer being adequate to support the revised assessment and/or change the outcomes when assessed against the 10 Clearing Principles listed under Schedule 5 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.

The purpose of this pro forma is to provide DMIRS with information on:

- changes in conservation values since the original assessment.
- the significance of those changes; and
- the appropriate approval pathway for the area in question.

Where demonstrated through this pro forma, that previous survey information meets current regulator expectations and no substantial changes to known conservation values and/or clearing impacts exist, Rio Tinto Iron Ore (RTIO) would not pursue further survey work to support the administrative amendment.

Where previous supporting surveys are no longer adequate to meet current regulator expectations, or there have been significant changes to the known conservation values since assessment was made, supplementary supporting information will accompany an amendment to the NVCP or new clearing permit application. Rio Tinto will seek confirmation from DMIRS on the appropriate pathway.

Current		Proposed	
CPS#	4594/8	CPS#	4594/8
No clearing after date	30/06/2023	No clearing after date	30/06/2028
Expiry date	31/12/2028	Expiry date	31/12/2033
Clearing approved (ha)	251.4		

Justification of extension:	<p>The proposed request to extend the no clearing after date and extend the duration of the permit is not anticipated to have any additional environmental impacts above those already assessed and managed by imposed clearing permit conditions.</p> <p>No new species of conservation significance have been identified as potentially occurring within the clearing permit boundary, despite there having been recent survey work completed in the surrounding area.</p>
Bio Input/Desktop assessment	
Date/s of field surveys:	<p>Flora and vegetation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 19-25th June, 2-6th September, 6-8th October 2009 (Biota 2009a) - 13-17th & 26-30th September 2011 (Biota 2012a) - 23-27th May 2011 (Biota 2012b) - 10-19th August 2013 (Astron 2013) <p>Fauna</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 20-29th October 2009 (Biota 2009b) - 3-10th May 2010 (Biota 2011) - 2-4th August 2013 (Astron 2013)
Survey type/s:	<p>Biota (2009a) – Level 2 Flora and Vegetation survey</p> <p>Biota (2012a) – Level 2 Flora and Vegetation survey</p> <p>Biota (2012b) – Level 2 Flora and Vegetation survey</p> <p>Astron (2013) – Level 1 Vegetation, Flora and Fauna survey</p> <p>Biota (2009b) – Level 2 Fauna survey</p> <p>Biota (2011) – Level 2 Fauna survey</p>
Constraints / limitations:	<p>Biota (2009a, 2012a, 2012b) – the entire study area was not systematically sampled for rare flora due to size. Rainfall was below average for Biota 2012a survey but the 2012b component occurred following optimal seasonal conditions.</p> <p>Biota (2011) – due to large survey area, not all sections of the area were equally ground-truthed and sampled for fauna</p>
Have any additional field surveys been undertaken within the Permit area since the original application was submitted?	<p>Yes:</p> <p>Single season Detailed flora and vegetation survey (Biologic 2021)</p> <p>Multi-phase Detailed Flora and Vegetation survey (Astron 2018a)</p> <p>Targeted searched for <i>Aluta quadrata</i> (RTIO 2012)</p> <p>Level 1 and Targeted conservation significant fauna survey (Astron 2018b)</p> <p>Greater Paraburdoo Level 2 Fauna Survey (Astron 2018)</p> <p>Western Range Project Detailed Terrestrial Vertebrate Fauna Survey (Biologic 2021)</p> <p>Western Range Ghost Bat VHF Targeted survey (Biologic 2020)</p> <p>Ratty Spring and Paraburdoo Pools Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bat monitoring program 2015-2020 (Bat Call WA 2020)</p>
Presence of Threatened flora/fauna?	<p>The following species are present but will not be impacted by the proposed clearing or as a result of extending clearing dates. All species were identified and assessed previously by DMIRS, with existing fauna and flora</p>

	<p>management conditions remaining effective and appropriate in managing any potential impacts:</p> <p><i>Aluta quadrata</i> (EN)</p> <p>Ghost Bat (<i>Macroderma gigas</i>) (VU)</p> <p>Grey Falcon (<i>Falco hypoleucos</i>) (VU)</p> <p>Northern Quoll (<i>Dasyurus hallocatus</i>)</p> <p>Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bat (<i>Rhinonictis aurantia</i>) (VU)</p> <p>Pilbara Olive Python (<i>Liasis olivaceus barroni</i>) (VU)</p>
Presence of Priority flora/fauna?	<p>The following priority flora species have been identified within the application area. The location of Priority Flora are identified within Rio Tinto's internal works approval system as restricted areas. Wherever possible, works avoid impacting on these areas.</p> <p><i>Goodenia</i> sp. East Pilbara (A.A. Mitchell PRP 727) (P3)</p> <p><i>Grevillea saxicola</i> (P3)</p> <p><i>Hibiscus campanulatus</i> (P1)</p> <p><i>Hibiscus</i> sp. Gurinbiddy Range (M.E. Trudgen MET 15708) (P2)</p> <p><i>Ptilotus trichocephalus</i> (P4)</p> <p><i>Sida</i> sp. Barlee Range (S. van Leeuwen 1642) (P4)</p> <p>Two Priority fauna species were also identified within the assessment area:</p> <p><i>Ardeotis australis</i> (Formerly P4 now not of conservation significance)</p> <p><i>Pseudomys chapmani</i> (P4) (inactive mounds only)</p>
Presence of Threatened Ecological Communities?	No.
Presence of Priority Ecological Communities?	No.
Have there been any changes to the conservation rank of species or communities identified in previous surveys?	<p>The conservation status of Grey Falcon has increased from P4 to VU in 2020. This species was previously recorded within the application area (two individuals). As noted in the report submitted with the previous application, this species is highly mobile and expected to forage across a broad range of habitats.</p> <p>The Australian Bustard (<i>Ardeotis australis</i>) has been removed from the priority fauna list and is no longer a species of conservation significance or concern.</p>

Have any new species, communities or habitats of elevated environmental value been identified within the boundary of the clearing permit?	<p>The following flora species have since been recorded in the Application Area within the Rio Tinto database:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Grevillea saxicola</i> (P3 – 5 individuals recorded between 2013-2017) • <i>Hibiscus campanulatus</i> (P1 – 1366 individuals recorded between 2013-2020) • <i>Hibiscus</i> sp. Gurinbiddy Range (M.E. Trudgen MET 15708) (P2 – 3 individuals recorded in 2020) <p>The location of Priority Flora are identified within Rio Tinto's internal works approval system as restricted areas. Wherever possible, works avoid impacting on these areas.</p>
Other changes relevant to conservation of significant biological values in the context of the impact assessment (e.g., changes in known species distributions, new threats etc.)?	No other changes to conservation significant biological values in the context of this impact assessment have been identified. No new activities are being proposed within this application.
Is a field survey required to validate desktop assessment? Why / why not?	A field survey is not required. Multiple additional detailed and targeted surveys have been completed for flora, vegetation and fauna since the previous application was submitted. The desktop assessment has indicated good overall coverage with few survey limitations. The NVCP area and clearing limit are not being increased. Only changes relating to dates have been requested.
Is a new survey required? Why / why not?	A new survey is not required. No changes are requested for the scope of work, and no changes to the clearing limit have been requested. The current survey coverage provides a sufficient level of environmental information for the Application Area. Where potential habitat has been identified for threatened fauna and priority flora it has been classified as exclusion and restriction areas to minimise any impact to these species.

Based on the above information the risk of significant impacts to ecological values (flora, fauna, and ecological communities) due to extending the 'no clearing' and expiry date, is low.

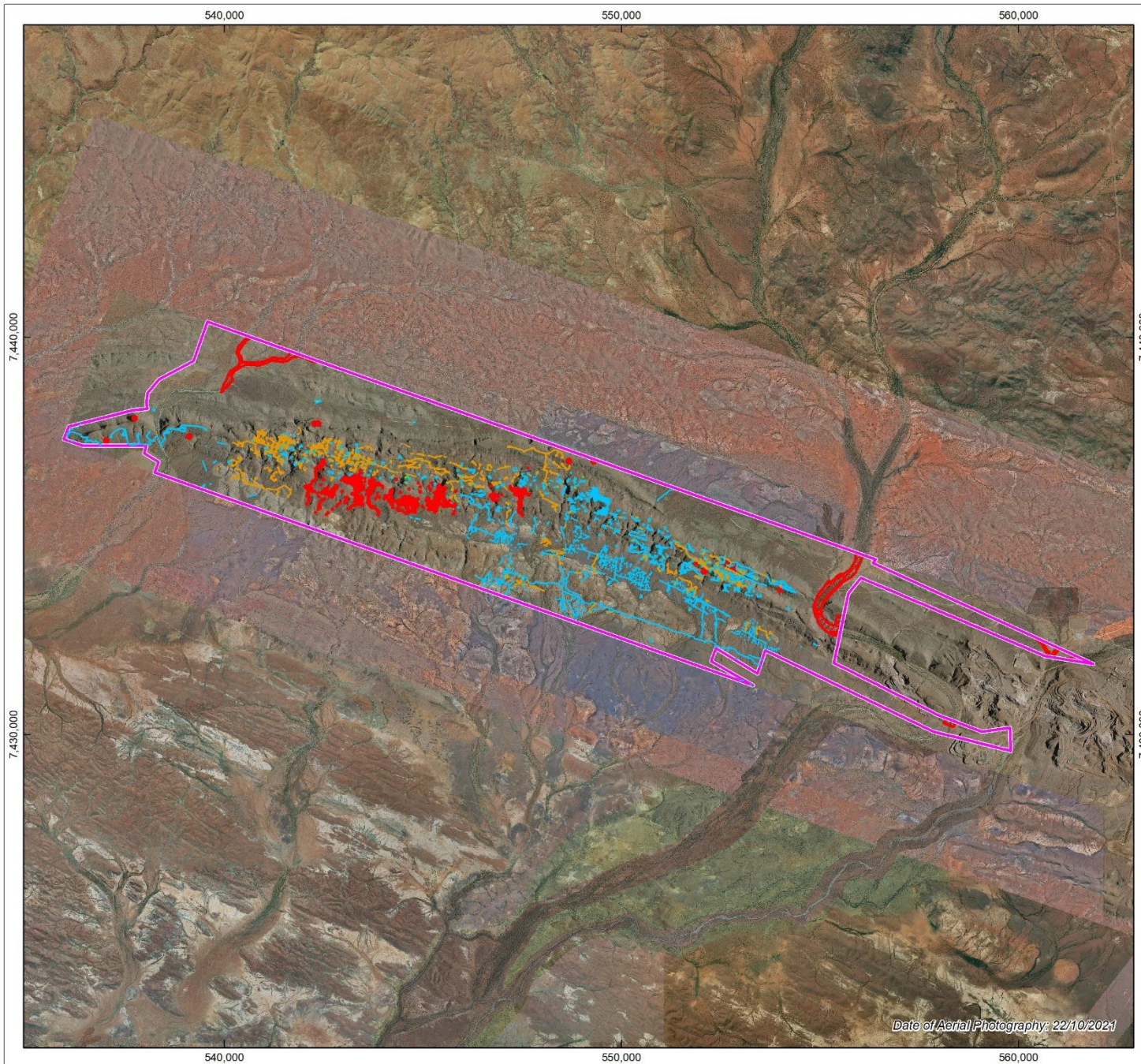
RTIO proposes an administrative amendment to extend the 'no clearing after' date and the expiry date. DMIRS Native Vegetation Branch to advise if this approach is considered appropriate.

Desktop Assessment Completed by:

Name: Madi Roberts
Title: Zoologist, Biological Assessments

Review Completed by:

Name: Alicia Michael
Title: Superintendent Biological Assessments



RioTinto

CPS 4594 Overview

Drawn: GIS Team
Plan: PDE0176387v3
Date: June 2022

Proj: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 50
Scale: 1:130,000 @ A4
gisteam@riotinto.com

Legend

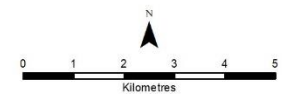
- CPS Boundary
- Protected Condition

Current Period

- Disturbed
- Rehabilitated

Historical

- Disturbed
- Rehabilitated



Date of Aerial Photography: 22/10/2021

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Map 1: CPS 4594 Overview