GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	4594/9
Duration of Permit:	From 7 January 2012 to 31 December 2033
Permit Holder:	Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd

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
Iron Ore (Hamersley Range) Agreement Act 1968, Mineral Lease 246SA (AML 70/246)

2. Clearing authorised (purpose)
The Permit Holder is authorised to clear native vegetation for the purpose of mineral exploration, geotechnical investigations, hydrogeological investiations, construction camp and associated activities.

3. Area of Clearing
The Permit Holder must not clear more than 251.4 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross-hatched yellow in Figures 1 – 4 of Schedule 1.

4. Type of Clearing Authorised
The Permit Holder shall not clear native vegetation unless the purpose for which the clearing is authorised is enacted within 6 months of the authorised clearing being undertaken.

5. Directional clearing
The Permit Holder shall must:

(a) conduct all clearing authorised under this permit in one direction towards adjacent vegetation; and
(b) allow a reasonable time for fauna present within the area being cleared to move into that adjacent native vegetation ahead of the clearing activity.

6. Period in which clearing is Authorised
The Permit Holder must not clear any native vegetation after 30 June 2028.

PART II - MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

7. Avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing
In determining the amount of native vegetation to be cleared under this Permit, the Permit Holder must apply the following principles, set out in descending order of preference:

(a) avoid the clearing of native vegetation;
(b) minimise the amount of native vegetation to be cleared; and
(c) reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.

8. 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*:

(a) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
(b) ensure that no known *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

Where *threatened flora* species *Aluta quadrata* have been identified and their written locations, provided to the *CEO*, within the reports as retained on DEMIRS file A1611/201101: 'Astron (2018) Greater Paraburdoo Detailed Flora and Vegetation Survey, April 2018' as Object ID A69319983, 'Biologic (2020) Greater Paraburdoo Iron Ore Hub Aquatic Ecosystem Survey Report 2019 - 2020, October 2020', as Object ID A69320154, 'Biologic (2020) Greater Paraburdoo Iron Ore Hub: Aquatic Fauna Survey Interim Report Dry Season 2019, March 2020' as Object ID A69320218, 'Biologic (2021) Western Range Single Detailed Flora and Vegetation Survey, June 2021', as Object ID A69319774, and 'Biota (2009) Western Range Phase 1: Vegetation and Flora Summary Report, December 2009', as Object ID A69320249, the Permit Holder shall ensure that:

(i) no clearing occurs within 50 metres of identified *Aluta quadrata*, unless approved by the *CEO*.

10. Fauna Management

(a) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit holder shall engage a *fauna specialist* to identify habitat suitable for:

(i) *Dasyurus hallucatus* (Northern Quoll) dens;
(ii) *Rhinonicteris aurantius* (Pilbara Orange Leaf-nosed Bat) roost caves and adits; and
(iii) *Macroderma gigas* (Ghost Bat) roost caves.

(b) Prior to undertaking any clearing within or within 50 metres of habitat considered suitable for dens or roosts as identified in relation to Condition 10(a) of this Permit, the areas shall be inspected by a *fauna specialist* for the presence of *Dasyurus hallucatus* (Northern Quoll) dens, *Rhinonicteris aurantius* (Pilbara Orange Leaf-nosed Bat) roost caves and adits or *Macroderma gigas* (Ghost Bat) roost caves.

(c) Where *Dasyurus hallucatus* (Northern Quoll) dens, *Rhinonicteris aurantius* (Pilbara Orange Leaf-nosed Bat) roost caves and adits or *Macroderma gigas* (Ghost Bat) roost caves are identified in relation to Condition 10(b) of this Permit, the Permit Holder shall ensure that no clearing occurs within 50 metres of the identified *Dasyurus hallucatus* (Northern Quoll) dens, *Rhinonicteris aurantius* (Pilbara Orange Leaf-nosed Bat) roost caves and adits or *Macroderma gigas* (Ghost Bat) roost caves, unless approved by the *CEO*.

11. Vegetation Management

(a) where practicable the Permit Holder shall avoid *clearing riparian vegetation*; and

(b) where a *watercourse* or *drainage line* is to be impacted by clearing, the Permit Holder shall ensure that the existing surface flow is maintained, or reinstated downstream into existing natural drainage lines.

12. Retain vegetative material and topsoil, 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) within 12 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) ripping the ground on the contour to remove soil compaction;
(ii) laying the vegetative material and topsoil retained under Condition 12(a) on the cleared area; and
(iii) re-shaping the surface of the land so that it is consistent with the surrounding 5 metres of uncleared land.

(c) within 4 years of undertaking *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* 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.

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

13. Records to be kept

The Permit Holder must maintain records relating to the listed relevant matters in accordance with the specifications detailed in Table 1.

Table 1: Records that must be kept

No.	Relevant matter	Specifications
1.	In relation to the authorised clearing activities generally	(a) 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; (b) the date that the area was cleared; (c) the size of the area cleared (in hectares); (d) actions taken in accordance with Condition 4; (e) actions taken to avoid, minimise, and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing in accordance with Condition 7; (f) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *weeds* in accordance with Condition 8; (g) actions taken in accordance with Condition 10; and (h) action taken in accordance with Condition 11.
2.	In relation to flora management pursuant to Condition 9	(a) the name and location of each *threatened 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; (b) actions taken to demarcate each *threatened flora* species recorded and their relevant buffers; and (c) actions taken to avoid the clearing of *threatened flora* species.
3.	In relation to the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* management pursuant to Condition 12	(a) 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; (b) a description of the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* activities undertaken; and (c) the size of the area *revegetated* and *rehabilitated* (in hectares).

14. Reporting

(a) The Permit Holder shall provide a report to the *CEO* by 30 June each year for the life of this Permit, demonstrating adherence to all conditions of this Permit, and setting out the records required under Condition 13 of this Permit in relation to clearing carried out between 1 January and 31 December of the previous calendar year.

(b) If no clearing authorised under this Permit was undertaken between 1 January and 31 December of the previous calendar year, a written report confirming that no clearing under this permit has been carried out, must be provided to the *CEO* by 30 June of each year.

(c) Prior to 31 December 2033, 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) or 14(b) of this Permit.

DEFINITIONS

In this permit, the terms in Table 2 have the meanings defined.

Table 2: Definitions

Term	Definition
CEO	the Chief Executive Officer of the Department responsible for administering the clearing provisions contained within the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* or an Officer with delegated authority under Section 20 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.
clearing	has the meaning given under section 3(1) of the EP Act.
condition/s	a condition to which this clearing permit is subject under section 51H of the EP Act.
drainage line	Means a natural depression that carries surface water runoff.
department	means the department established under section 35 of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994* (WA) and designated as responsible for the administration of the EP Act, which includes Part V Division 3.
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 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.
EP Act	*Environmental Protection Act 1986* (WA)
fauna specialist	means a person who holds a tertiary qualification specialising 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 *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.
fill	means material used to increase the ground level, or to fill a depression.
local provenance	means native vegetation seeds and propagating material from natural sources within <200 kilometres in the same Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) subregion 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.
native vegetation	has the meaning given under section 3(1) and section 51A of the EP Act.

Term	Definition
planting	means the re-establishment of vegetation by creating favourable soil conditions and planting seedlings of the desired species.
regeneration	means *revegetation* that can be established from in situ seed banks contained either within the topsoil or seed-bearing *mulch.*
rehabilitate / rehabilitated / rehabilitation	means actively managing an area containing native vegetation in order to improve the ecological function of that area.
revegetate / revegetated / revegetation	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.
riparian vegetation	has the meaning given to it in Regulation 3 of the Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulation 2004.
threatened flora	means those plant taxa listed as threatened flora under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*
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 Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions species-led ecological impact and invasiveness ranking summary, regardless of ranking; or (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.

END OF CONDITIONS

Hailey Packer | Acting Executive Director Resource and Environmental Compliance
Resource and Environmental Compliance Division
18 December 2023

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

SCHEDULE 1

The boundary of the area authorised to be cleared is shown in the map below (Figure 1).

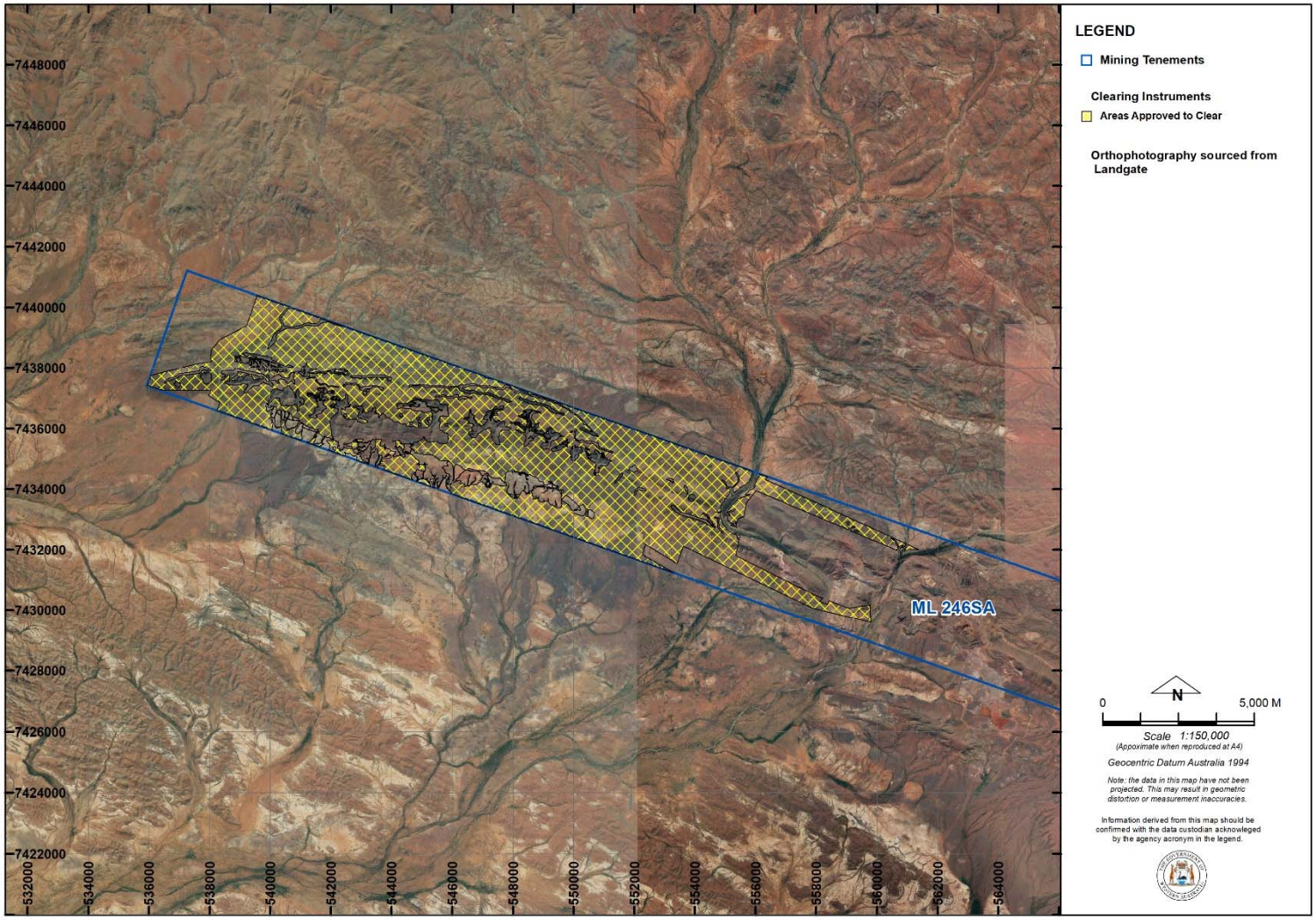

Figure 1: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur

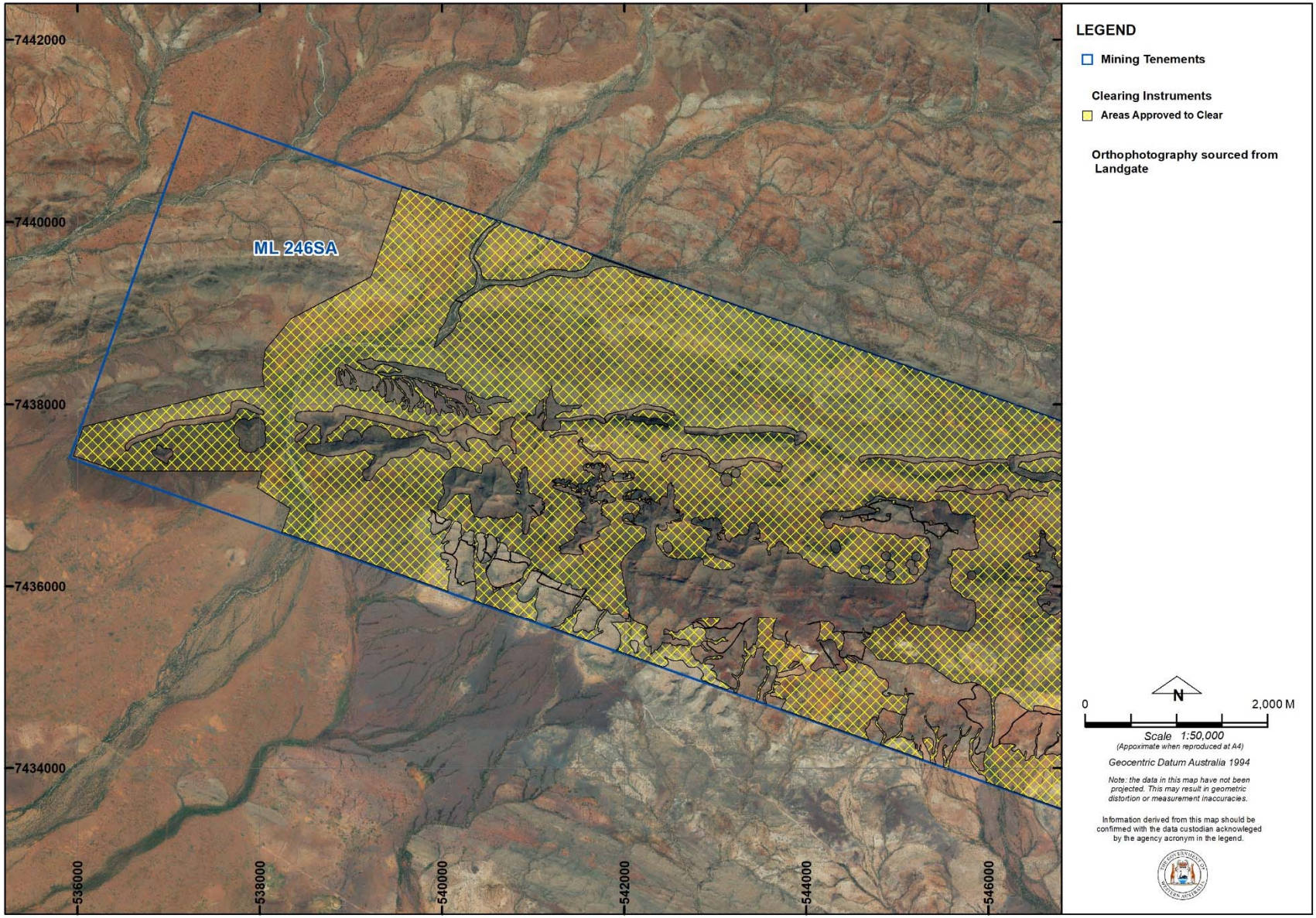

Figure 2: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur

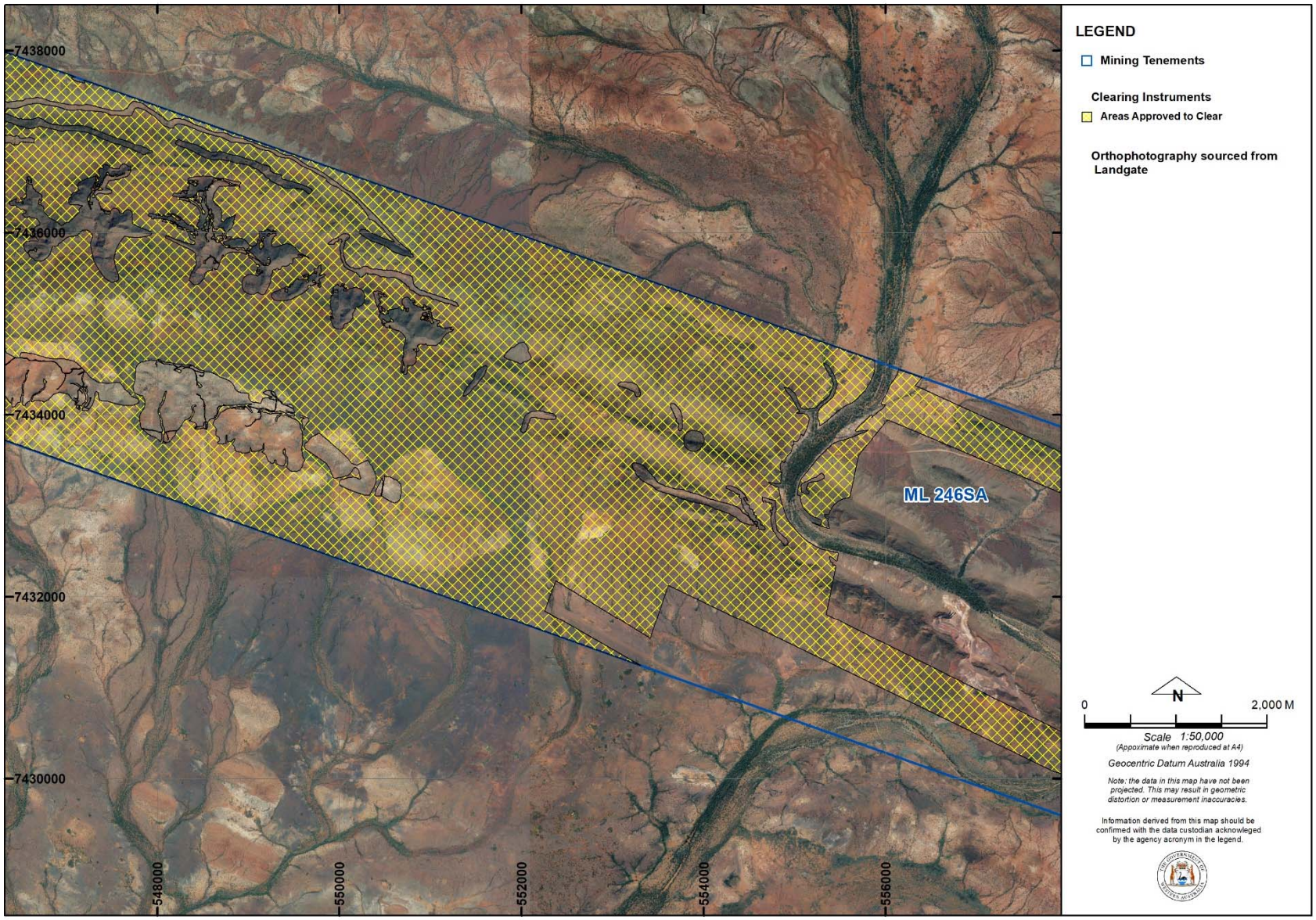

Figure 3: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur

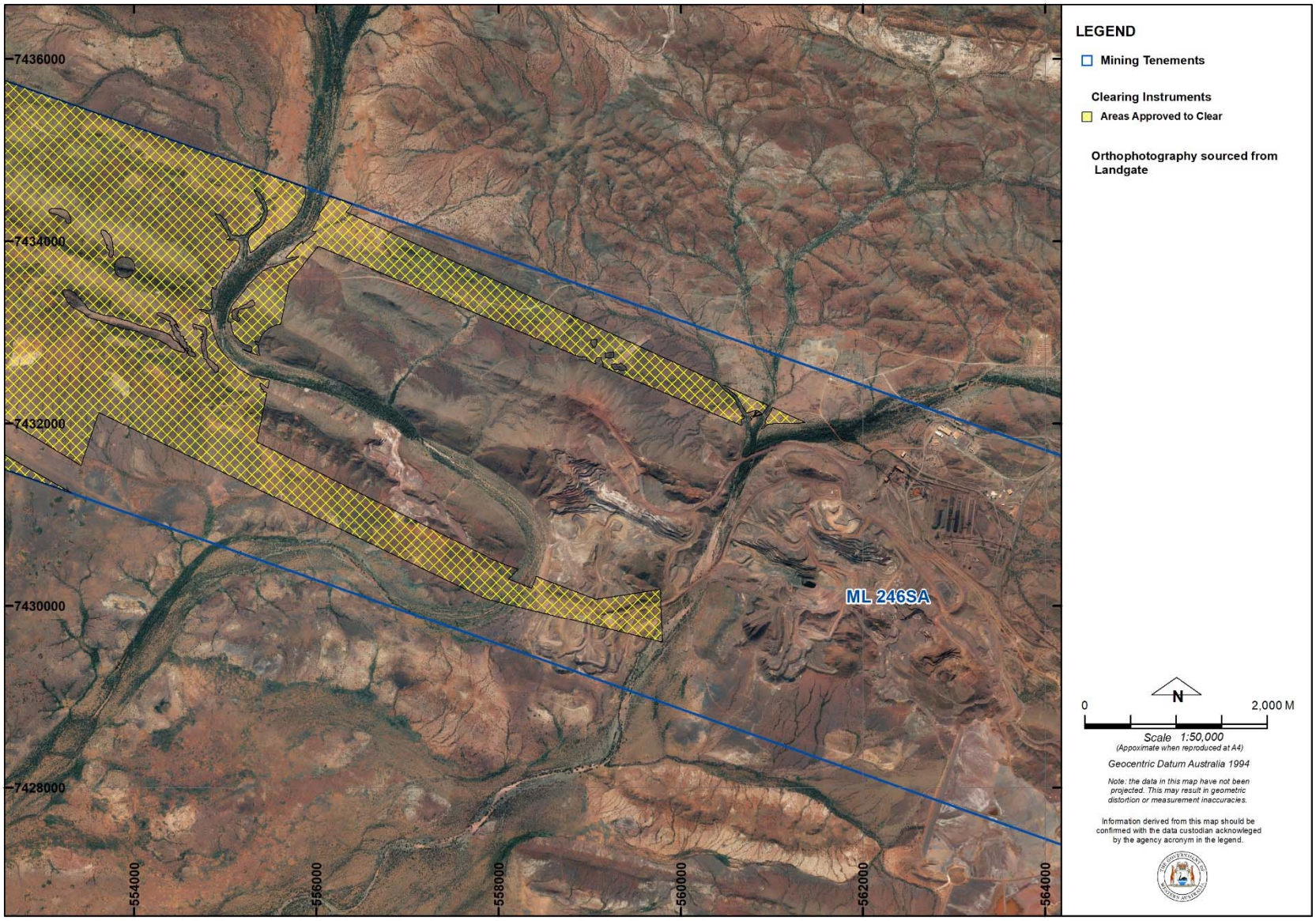

Figure 4: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur