



## CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

### PERMIT DETAILS

Purpose Permit Number: 4630/1

File Number: A1807/201103

Duration of Permit: From 7 January 2012 to 31 December 2024

### PERMIT HOLDER

BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd

### LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

*Iron Ore (Mount Goldsworthy) Agreement Act 1964*, Mineral Lease 281SA (AML 70/281)

### PURPOSE FOR WHICH THE CLEARING MAY BE DONE

1. Clearing for the purpose of mineral exploration, hydrological investigations and supporting infrastructure.

### CONDITIONS

#### Type of clearing authorised

1. The Permit Holder must not clear more than 280 hectares of native vegetation. All clearing must be within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 4630/1.

#### Period in which clearing is authorised

2. The Permit Holder shall not clear any native vegetation after 31 December 2019.

#### Avoid, minimise etc clearing

3. 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

4. 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.

#### Flora Management

5. Where rare flora or *priority flora* have been identified and their written locations provided to the CEO, the Permit Holder shall ensure that:
  - (a) no clearing occurs within 50 metres of identified rare flora, unless approved by the CEO, and no clearing of identified rare flora occurs unless approved under section 23F(2) of the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*; and
  - (b) no clearing of identified *priority flora* occurs and no clearing occurs within 10 metres of identified *priority flora*, unless approved by the CEO.

#### Vegetation Management

6. The Permit Holder shall not clear any native vegetation within the area cross-hatched red on attached Plan 4630/1 for the purpose of mineral exploration, hydrological investigations and supporting infrastructure.

### **Fauna Management**

7. The Permit Holder shall not clear within 10 metres of *gorges* and *gullies*.

### **Retain and spread vegetative material and topsoil**

8. The Permit Holder shall:

- (a) retain the vegetative material and topsoil removed by clearing authorised under this Permit and stockpile the vegetative material in an area that has already been cleared;
- (b) within 12 months following clearing, *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 8(a);
- (c) within 4 years of laying the vegetative material and topsoil on the cleared area in accordance with Condition 8(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 8(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**

9. 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) the purpose for which clearing was undertaken.
- (b) In relation to the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* of areas pursuant to Condition 8 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**

- 10. (a) The Permit Holder shall provide a report to the Executive Director, Environment, Department of Mines and Petroleum by 1 October each year for the life of this Permit, demonstrating adherence to all conditions of this Permit, and setting out the records required under Condition 9 of this Permit in relation to clearing carried out between 1 July and 30 June of the previous financial year.
- (b) Prior to 31 December 2024, the Permit Holder must provide to the Executive Director, Environment, Department of Mines and Petroleum a written report of records required under Condition 9 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under Condition 10(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;

*gorge* means a narrow cleft with steep, rocky walls through which water may flow during or immediately after periods of rainfall;

*gully* means a steep sided valley through which water may flow during or immediately after periods of rainfall;

*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);

*regenerate/ed/ion* means *revegetation* that can be established from in situ seed banks 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 *regeneration*, *direct seeding* and/or *planting*, so that the species composition, structure and density is similar to pre-clearing vegetation types in that area;

*weeds* 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*.



Ian Briggs  
A/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
ENVIRONMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND PETROLEUM

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

15 December 2011