



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 4690/4
Permit type: Purpose

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: Iron Ore (Hamersley Range) Agreement Act 1963, Mineral Lease 4SA (AML 70/4)
Local Government Area: Shire of Ashburton
Colloquial name: Metawandy Project

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
70		Mechanical Removal	Mineral and Hydrogeological Exploration, Geotechnical Investigations, Access Tracks and Associated Activities

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 16 June 2016

2. Site Information

2.1. Existing environment and information

2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description The amended application area has been broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation association (GIS Database):

82: Shrublands; mulga & snakewood scrub.

The following vegetation units were recorded within the application area for CPS 4690/4 during surveys conducted by Rio Tinto (2011, 2015):

Hill Slope Vegetation

HS4: *Acacia aneura*, *Acacia pruinocarpa* high open shrubland over *Triodia wiseana* hummock grassland;

Drainage Line Vegetation

D3: *Acacia citrinoviridis*, *Acacia aneura*, *Santalum lanceolatum* low open forest over *Senna oligophylla*, *Eremophila forrestii*, *Acacia pyrifolia* shrubland over *Triodia wiseana* open hummock over *Cymbopogon ambiguus* very open tussock grassland;

Hill Top and Breakway Vegetation

HTB3: *Grevillea berryana*, *Acacia citrinoviridis*, *Acacia rhodophloia* low woodland over *Eremophila latrobei* open shrubland *Triodia wiseana* hummock grassland;

HTB4: *Eucalyptus leucophloia* low woodland over *Acacia pruinocarpa* high open shrubland over *Dodonaea pachyacra*, *Eremophila tietkensis*, *Scaevola spinescens* shrubland over *Triodia wiseana*, *Triodia melvillei* hummock grassland;

Plains Vegetation

F3: *Acacia xiphophylla* open scrub over *Acacia synchronicia*, *Rhagodia eremaea* open shrubland over *Triodia longiceps*, *Triodia wiseana* open hummock grassland;

Vegetation of Rocky Areas

R1: Scattered low trees of *Corymbia ferritcola*, *Eucalyptus leucophloia* and *Grevillea berryana* over tall open shrubland of *Acacia hamersleyensis* with scattered *Acacia pruinocarpa*, *Acacia incurvaneura* and *Astrotricha hamptonii* over open shrubland of *Dodonaea pachyneura* and *Eremophila latrobei* subsp. *glabra* open hummock grassland of *Triodia wiseana* and *Triodia* sp. Robe River (M.E. Trudgen et al. MET 12367) over scattered tussock grasses of *Eriachne mucronata* over scattered herbs of *Nicotiana benthamiana*, *Rhodanthe margarethae* and *Lobelia heterophylla* subsp. *pilbarensis*.

R2: Open tussock grassland of *Triodia* sp. Robe River (M.E. Trudgen et al. MET 12367) and *Triodia wiseana* over scattered tussock grasses of *Eriachne mucronata*.

Vegetation of Rocky Slopes

S2: Scattered low trees of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* with scattered *Hakea chordophylla* and *Acacia pruinocarpa* over low open shrubland of *Acacia arida* over open hummock grassland of *Triodia wiseana* with scattered *Triodia* sp. Robe River (M.E. Trudgen et al. MET 12367);

S3: Low open woodland to scattered trees of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* over scattered tall shrubs of *Acacia pruinocarpa* over open shrubland of *Acacia bivenosa*, *Acacia maitlandii* and *Petalostylis labicheoides* over open hummock grassland of *Triodia wiseana* and *Triodia* sp. Robe River (M.E. Trudgen et al. MET 12367);

S4: Low open woodland to scattered low trees of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* over scattered tall shrubs of *Acacia pruinocarpa* over open shrubland of *Acacia arida* with scattered *Senna glutinosa* subsp. *glutinosa* over open hummock grassland of *Triodia wiseana* and *Triodia* sp. Robe River (M.E. Trudgen et al. MET 12367);

S5: Low open woodland to tall open shrubland of *Acacia aptaneura* with scattered *Acacia pruinocarpa* over mixed scattered shrubs over very open hummock grassland of *Triodia wiseana*;

S6: Low open woodland of *Acacia incurvaneura* with scattered *Acacia pruinocarpa* and *Grevillea berryana* and *Psyrax latifolia* over very open hummock grassland of *Triodia wiseana* and *Triodia* sp. Robe River (M.E. Trudgen et al. MET 12367).

S7: Scattered low trees of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* over tall open shrubland of *Acacia hamersleyensis* and *Acacia pruinocarpa* over scattered shrubs of *Eremophila latrobei* subsp. *glabra* over open hummock grassland of *Triodia* sp. Robe River (M.E. Trudgen et al. MET 12367) and *Triodia wiseana*;

S8: Open shrubland of *Acacia xiphophylla* over very open hummock grassland of *Triodia wiseana*;

S9: Open shrubland of *Acacia citrinoviridis* over very open hummock grassland of *Triodia wiseana*;

S10: Scattered tall shrubs of *Acacia pruinocarpa* over open hummock grassland of *Triodia wiseana*;

Vegetation of Undulating Slopes and Low Rises

U1: Open shrubland of *Acacia arida* over open hummock grassland of *Triodia wiseana*;

U2: Open shrubland of *Acacia bivenosa* and *Acacia atkinsiana* over open hummock grassland of *Triodia wiseana*;

U3: Scattered low trees of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* over open shrubland of *Acacia bivenosa* with scattered *Petalostylis labicheoides* over open hummock grassland of *Triodia wiseana*;

Vegetation of Plains

P1: Tall shrubland to tall open shrubland of *Acacia kempeana* and *Acacia bivenosa* with scattered *Acacia pruinocarpa* over open hummock grassland of *Triodia wiseana*;

P2: Low woodland to low open woodland of *Acacia aptaneura* with scattered *Acacia pruinocarpa* over tall open shrubland of *Acacia kempeana* over low open shrubland of *Eremophila phyllopoda* subsp. *obliqua* and *Eremophila forrestii* subsp. *forrestii* over open hummock grassland of *Triodia wiseana*;

P3: Low woodland of *Acacia aptaneura* with scattered *Acacia pruinocarpa* and *Acacia citrinoviridis* over open shrubland of *Eremophila forrestii* subsp. *forrestii*, *Dodonaea petiolaris* and *Dodonaea lanceolata* over open hummock grassland of *Triodia wiseana*;

P4: Tall open shrubland of *Acacia aptaneura* and *Acacia pruinocarpa* over scattered shrub of *Acacia atkinsiana* and *Acacia tetragonophylla* and *Senna glutinosa* subsp. *pruinosa* over very open hummock grassland of *Triodia wiseana*;

P5: Scattered low trees of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* over open shrubland of *Acacia synchronicia* and *Acacia bivenosa* over hummock grassland of *Triodia longiceps* with scattered *Triodia wiseana*;

Vegetation of Gullies

G1: Low open woodland of *Corymbia ferritcola* with scattered *Eucalyptus leucophloia* over tall open shrubland of *Acacia hamersleyensis*, *Acacia citrinoviridis* and *Acacia pruinocarpa* over open shrubland of *Dodonaea pachyneura*, *Prostanthera albiflora*, *Senna glutinosa* subsp. *glutinosa* and *Santalum lanceolatum* over open hummock grassland of *Triodia* sp. Robe River (M.E. Trudgen et al. MET 12367) and *Triodia wiseana* over scattered tussock grasses of *Eriachne mucronata* and *Cymbopogon ambiguus*;

G2: Scattered low trees of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* over open shrubland of *Stylobasium spathulatum*, *Acacia pruinocarpa*, *Gossypium robinsonii*, *Petalostylis labicheoides*, *Acacia bivenosa* and *Senna glutinosa* subsp. *glutinosa* over open hummock grassland of *Triodia wiseana* with scattered *Triodia* sp. Robe River (M.E. Trudgen et al. MET 12367) over scattered tussock grasses of *Eriachne mucronata* and *Cymbopogon ambiguus*;

Vegetation of Drainage Lines

D1: Low open forest to low woodland of *Acacia citrinoviridis* over mixed shrubland over open hummock grassland of *Triodia wiseana* and *Triodia* sp. Robe River (M.E. Trudgen et al. MET 12367);

D3: Scattered low trees of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* with scattered *Acacia citrinoviridis* over tall open scrub to tall open shrubland of *Acacia monticola*, *Acacia maitlandii*, *Petalostylis labicheoides*, *Acacia kempeana*, *Acacia bivenosa* and *Acacia pruinocarpa* over open hummock grassland of *Triodia wiseana* and *Triodia* sp. Robe River (M.E. Trudgen et al. MET 12367);

D4: Tall open scrub to tall shrubland of *Acacia kempeana*, *Acacia pruinocarpa* and *Acacia citrinoviridis* over open hummock grassland of *Triodia wiseana*; and

Other Mapped Units

CL: Cleared areas, such as track.

Clearing Description	Metawandy Project. Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 70 hectares of native vegetation within a total boundary of approximately 1046 hectares, for the purpose of mineral and hydrogeological exploration, geotechnical investigations, access tracks and associated activities. The project is located approximately 120 kilometres north-west of Paraburdoo, in the Shire of Ashburton.
Vegetation Condition	Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994); To: Pristine: No obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery, 1994).
Comment	Vegetation condition was obtained from flora and vegetation surveys conducted by Rio Tinto (2011; 2015). Clearing Permit CPS 4690/1 was granted by the Department of Mines and Petroleum on 8 December 2011 authorising the clearing of up to 4 hectares of native vegetation within a total boundary of 50.5 hectares. On 10 April 2014, Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd applied to amend CPS 4690/1 to increase the clearing permit boundary from 50.5 hectares to 296 hectares and the area approved to clear by 30 hectares from 4 hectares to 34 hectares. On 11 February 2015, Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd applied to amend CPS 4690/2 for the purpose of increasing the area approved to clear by eight hectares from 34 hectares to 42 hectares, and increasing the permit boundary from 296 hectares to 470 hectares. The applicant also requested to extend the duration of the permit from 31 July 2021 to 31 July 2026. On 3 March 2016, Hamersley Iron applied to amend CPS 4690/3 for the purpose of increasing the area approved to clear by 28 hectares from 42 hectares to 70 hectares, increasing the permit boundary to 1046 hectares, extending the period in which clearing is authorised, extending the permit duration, amending the permit reporting date and reporting period, and amending the purpose for which clearing may be done.

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments Hamersley Iron has applied to increase the amount of clearing authorised by 28 hectares and to increase the permit boundary by 576 hectares. Hamersley Iron has also applied to extend the period in which clearing is authorised, extend the permit duration, amend the reporting period and reporting date, and amend the purpose for which clearing may be done. The proposed amendments will allow for additional mineral exploration as part of the Metawandy Project. The following assessment is of the additional application area proposed under CPS 4690/4 (576 of 1046 hectares), the remaining area (470 hectares) has been assessed under CPS 4690/1 to CPS 4690/3.

Four species of Priority flora were recorded within the additional application area:

- *Sida* sp. Hamersley Range – Priority 1 as listed by DPaW
- *Indigofera* sp. Bungaroo Creek – Priority 3 as listed by DPaW
- *Nicotiana umbratica* – Priority 3 as listed by DPaW
- *Triodia* sp. Robe River – Priority 3 as listed by DPaW

A condition limiting clearing within 10 metres of *Sida* sp. Hamersley Range is to remain on the permit and will minimise potential impacts to this species.

Advice from DPaW is that the application area represents the most south-westerly extent of both *Indigofera* sp. Bungaroo Creek and *Nicotiana umbratica*, and hence it is important to maintain a viable population of these species in the local area (DPaW, 2016). The proposed clearing has the potential to have a significant impact on the local population of *Nicotiana umbratica* (DPaW, 2016). A permit condition limiting clearing within 10 metres of *Indigofera* sp. Bungaroo and *Nicotiana umbratica* will minimise potential impacts to each species.

DPaW advises that *Triodia* sp. Robe River is found throughout the majority of the application area (DPaW, 2016). Given the approved clearing will only impact a small part of the application area (70 hectares of 1046 hectares), it is unlikely there will be significant impacts to the local population.

No Threatened flora has been identified within the additional application area (Rio Tinto, 2015; GIS Database). No Threatened Ecological Communities or Priority Ecological Communities are known to occur within the additional area (GIS Database) and none were recorded during a flora and vegetation survey (Rio Tinto, 2015). The additional application area is not located within a conservation reserve (GIS Database).

Several weed species have the potential to occur within the additional application area (Rio Tinto, 2015). Weed invasion has the potential to alter the biodiversity of an area. Potential impacts to biodiversity as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by a weed management condition which remains on the permit.

Fauna surveys conducted over the application area identified eight broad fauna habitats, Rocky Slopes, Mulga on Slopes, Rocky Breakaways and Cliffs, Undulating Slopes and Low Rises, Gully, Mulga on Plain, Drainage Line – Medium and Drainage Line – Minor (Rio Tinto, 2015). Gullies, rocky breakaways and cliffs have the potential to act as significant fauna habitat. Rio Tinto also identified areas considered to be of local significance to fauna conservation referred to as “special areas” (Rio Tinto, 2015). A permit condition limiting clearing to access tracks only, will apply to gullies, rocky breakaways, cliffs, and identified special areas.

No fauna species of conservation significance were recorded within the additional application area (Rio Tinto, 2015). The additional application area contains suitable foraging habitat for the Pilbara Leaf nosed bat, which has been recorded in areas adjacent to the application area (Rio Tinto, 2015). However, due to the lack of deep caves, permanent pools, and the abundance of suitable habitat in the surrounding area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to have a significant impact on the Pilbara Leaf Nosed Bat (Rio Tinto, 2015).

There are no permanent watercourses or wetlands within the additional application area (GIS Database). However, there are minor and medium ephemeral drainage lines which cut through the area (Rio Tinto, 2015). A riparian vegetation condition remains on the permit minimising the clearing of vegetation growing in association with these drainage lines.

The additional clearing proposed is unlikely to have a significant impact on surface water or groundwater. The additional application area is not within a Public Drinking Water Source Area (GIS Database).

The application has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with s.510 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, and the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance with Principles (a), (b), (c), (d), (g), (h), (i) and (j), is not at variance to Principles (e), and is at variance to Principle (f).

Methodology DPaW (2016)
Rio Tinto (2011)
Rio Tinto (2015)

GIS Database:
- DPaW Tenure
- IBRA Australia
- Hydrography, linear
- Pre – European Vegetation
- Threatened and Priority Flora List
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities Boundaries
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities Buffers

Planning instrument, Native Title, Previous EPA decision or other matter

Comments: There is one native title claim (WC 2001/005) over the area under application (DAA, 2016). This claim has been registered with the Native Title Tribunal on behalf of the claimant group. However, the tenure has been granted in accordance with the future act regime of the *Native Title Act 1993* and the nature of the act (ie. the proposed clearing activity) has been provided for in that process, therefore the granting of a clearing permit is not a future act under the *Native Title Act 1993*.

There are no registered Sites of Aboriginal Significance located in the area applied to clear (DAA, 2016). It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Sites of Aboriginal Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

It is the proponent's responsibility to liaise with the Department of Environment Regulation, the Department of Parks and Wildlife and the Department of Water, to determine whether a Works Approval, Water Licence, Bed and Banks Permit, or any other licences or approvals are required for the proposed works.

The clearing permit application was advertised on 28 March 2016 by the Department of Mines and Petroleum inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received.

Methodology: DAA (2016)

4. References

- DAA (2016) Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Aboriginal Affairs. <http://maps.dia.wa.gov.au/AHIS2/> (Accessed 16 April 2016)
- DPaW (2016) Advice received in relation to Clearing Permit CPS 4690/4. Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia, 13 May 2016.
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia
- Rio Tinto (2011) Flora and Vegetation Survey for proposed evaluation drilling at Metawandy, Native Vegetation Clearing Permit Supporting Report. Rio Tinto Iron Ore, Western Australia, September 2011.
- Rio Tinto (2015) Flora, Vegetation and Fauna Habitat Assessment at Metawandy, 2015. Rio Tinto Iron Ore, Western Australia, February 2015.

5. Glossary

Acronyms:

BoM	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government
DAA	Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (now DPaW and DER)
DER	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia
DMP	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia
DRF	Declared Rare Flora
DotE	Department of the Environment, Australian Government
DoW	Department of Water, Western Australia
DPaW	Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia
DSEWPaC	Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (now DotE)
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
EP Act	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Federal Act)
GIS	Geographical Information System
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – commonly known as the World Conservation Union
PEC	Priority Ecological Community, Western Australia
RIWI Act	<i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> , Western Australia
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community

Definitions:

{DPaW (2015) Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora and Fauna. Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia}:-

T	Threatened species: Published as Specially Protected under the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i> , listed under Schedules 1 to 4 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora (which may also be referred to as Declared Rare Flora). Threatened fauna is that subset of ‘Specially Protected Fauna’ declared to be ‘likely to become extinct’ pursuant to section 14(4) of the Wildlife Conservation Act. Threatened flora is flora that has been declared to be ‘likely to become extinct or is rare, or otherwise in need of special protection’, pursuant to section 23F(2) of the Wildlife Conservation Act. The assessment of the conservation status of these species is based on their national extent and ranked according to their level of threat using IUCN Red List categories and criteria as detailed below.
CR	Critically endangered species Threatened species considered to be facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild. Published as Specially Protected under the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i> , in Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora.
EN	Endangered species Threatened species considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild. Published as Specially Protected under the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i> , in Schedule 2 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora.
VU	Vulnerable species Threatened species considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild. Published as Specially Protected under the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i> , in Schedule 3 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora.
EX	Presumed extinct species Species which have been adequately searched for and there is no reasonable doubt that the last individual has died. Published as Specially Protected under the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i> , in Schedule 4 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Presumed Extinct Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Presumed Extinct Flora.

- IA Migratory birds protected under an international agreement**
Birds that are subject to an agreement between the government of Australia and the governments of Japan (JAMBA), China (CAMBA) and The Republic of Korea (ROKAMBA), and the Bonn Convention, relating to the protection of migratory birds. Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, in Schedule 5 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice.
- CD Conservation dependent fauna**
Fauna of special conservation need being species dependent on ongoing conservation intervention to prevent it becoming eligible for listing as threatened. Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, in Schedule 6 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice.
- OS Other specially protected fauna**
Fauna otherwise in need of special protection to ensure their conservation. Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, in Schedule 7 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice.
- P Priority species**
Species which are poorly known; or
Species that are adequately known, are rare but not threatened, and require regular monitoring. Assessment of Priority codes is based on the Western Australian distribution of the species, unless the distribution in WA is part of a contiguous population extending into adjacent States, as defined by the known spread of locations.
- P1 Priority One - Poorly-known species:**
Species that are known from one or a few locations (generally five or less) which are potentially at risk. All occurrences are either: very small; or on lands not managed for conservation, e.g. agricultural or pastoral lands, urban areas, road and rail reserves, gravel reserves and active mineral leases; or otherwise under threat of habitat destruction or degradation. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and appear to be under immediate threat from known threatening processes. Such species are in urgent need of further survey.
- P2 Priority Two - Poorly-known species:**
Species that are known from one or a few locations (generally five or less), some of which are on lands managed primarily for nature conservation, e.g. national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves and other lands with secure tenure being managed for conservation. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and appear to be under threat from known threatening processes. Such species are in urgent need of further survey.
- P3 Priority Three - Poorly-known species:**
Species that are known from several locations, and the species does not appear to be under imminent threat, or from few but widespread locations with either large population size or significant remaining areas of apparently suitable habitat, much of it not under imminent threat. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from several locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and known threatening processes exist that could affect them. Such species are in need of further survey.
- P4 Priority Four - Rare, Near Threatened and other species in need of monitoring:**
(a) Rare. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed, or for which sufficient knowledge is available, and that are considered not currently threatened or in need of special protection, but could be if present circumstances change. These species are usually represented on conservation lands.
(b) Near Threatened. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed and that are close to qualifying for Vulnerable, but are not listed as Conservation Dependent.
(c) Species that have been removed from the list of threatened species during the past five years for reasons other than taxonomy.

Principles for clearing native vegetation:

- (a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.
- (b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.
- (c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora.
- (d) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a threatened ecological community.
- (e) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.
- (f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.
- (g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.
- (h) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.
- (i) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.
- (j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.