



## CLEARING PERMIT

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

**Purpose Permit number:** 4768/4

**Duration of Permit:** From 28 January 2012 to 30 November 2022

**Permit Holder:** BHP Billiton Iron Ore 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 (Mount Newman) Agreement Act 1964, Mineral Lease 244SA (AML 70/244)*
- 2. Purpose for which clearing may be done**  
Clearing for the purposes of mineral exploration, borrow pit excavation, safety bunds, construction and maintenance of water bores and powerlines, pipelines and associated activities.
- 3. Area of Clearing**  
The Permit Holder must not clear more than 290 hectares of native vegetation. All clearing must be within the areas cross-hatched yellow and shaded red on attached Plan 4768/4.
- 4. Restricted clearing**  
The Permit Holder shall only clear native vegetation within the areas shaded red on attached Plan 4768/4 for the purposes of power line, pipeline and creek crossing construction and maintenance.
- 5. Period in which clearing is authorised**  
The Permit Holder shall not clear any native vegetation after 30 November 2017.
- 6. Application**  
This Permit allows the Permit Holder to authorise persons, including employees, contractors and agents of the Permit Holder, to clear native vegetation for the purposes of this Permit subject to compliance with the conditions of this Permit and approval from the Permit Holder.
- 7. Compliance with Assessment Sequence and Management Procedures**  
Prior to clearing any native vegetation under Conditions 1, 2 and 3 of this Permit, the Permit Holder must comply with the Assessment Sequence and the Management Procedures set out in Part II of this Permit.

## **PART II – ASSESSMENT SEQUENCE AND MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES**

### **8. Avoid, minimise etc clearing**

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.

### **9. 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*:

- (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.

### **10. Clearing not authorised**

This Permit does not authorise the Permit Holder to clear native vegetation within 10 metres of Homestead Creek, except within the areas shaded red on attached Plan 4768/4.

### **11. Flora management**

(a) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder shall engage a *botanist*, in accordance with *Guidance Statement No. 51*, to inspect the area for the presence of rare flora listed in the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2012* and *priority flora*.

(b) Where rare flora or priority flora are identified in relation to Condition 11(a) of this Permit, the Permit Holder shall ensure that:

- (i) no clearing occurs within 50 metres of identified rare flora, unless approved by the CEO; and
- (ii) no clearing of identified priority flora occurs and no clearing occurs within 10 metres of identified priority flora, unless approved by the CEO.

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

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 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;
- (ii) ripping the ground on the contour to remove soil compaction; and
- (iii) laying the vegetative material and topsoil retained under Condition 12(a).

(c) within 4 years of laying the vegetative material and topsoil on the cleared area 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 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 12 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).

#### **14. Reporting**

- (a) The Permit Holder shall provide a report to the Director Operations, 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 13 of this permit in relation to clearing carried out between 1 July and 30 June of the previous financial year.
  
- (b) Prior to 30 November 2022, the Permit Holder must provide to the Director Operations, Environment, Department of Mines and Petroleum a written report of records required under Condition 13 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under Condition 14(a) of this Permit.

### **DEFINITIONS**

The following meanings are given to terms used in this Permit:

*botanist* means a person with specific training and/or experience in the ecology and taxonomy of Western Australian flora;

*CEO* means the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Environment and Conservation or an Officer with delegated authority under Section 20 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*;

*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;

*Guidance Statement No. 51* means the Environmental Protection Authority Guidance Statement No. 51, Guidance for the Assessment of Environmental Factors – Terrestrial Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Australia (2004);



*local provenance* means native vegetation seeds and propagating material from natural sources within 200 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, 4 or 5 in the Department's *Declared Rare and Priority List for Western Australia* (as amended);

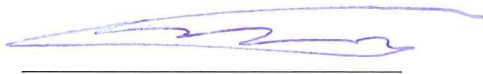
*regenerate/ed/ion* means re-establishment of vegetation from in situ seed banks and propagating material (such as lignotubers, bulbs, rhizomes) contained either within the topsoil or seed-bearing *mulch*;

*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 *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 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 Parks and Wildlife Regional Weed Summary, regardless of ranking; or
- (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.



Steve Tantala  
DIRECTOR OPERATIONS  
ENVIRONMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND PETROLEUM

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

19 February 2015