



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 4813/1
Permit Holder:	Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd
Duration of Permit:	9 April 2012 – 9 April 2017

The Permit Holder is authorised to clear native vegetation subject to the following conditions of this Permit.

PART I – CLEARING AUTHORISED

1. Purpose for which clearing may be done

Clearing for the purpose of fence line and access tracks

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Part Lot 99 on Deposited Plan 238653 (Mount Sheila 6751)
Lot 113 on Plan 238653 (Mount Sheila 6751)

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 21 hectares of native vegetation within the combined areas cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 4813/1 (a) and Plan 4813/1 (b).

4. 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.

5. Type of clearing authorised

This Permit authorises the Permit Holder to clear native vegetation for activities to the extent that the Permit Holder has the power to clear native vegetation for those activities under the *Land Administration Act 1997* or any other written law.

6. 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

7. 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:

- avoid the clearing of native vegetation;
- minimise the amount of native vegetation to be cleared; and
- 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*:

- (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.

9. Watercourse

- (a) Where practicable the Permit Holder shall avoid clearing riparian vegetation.
- (b) Where a watercourse is to be impacted by clearing, the Permit Holder shall maintain the existing surface flow of that watercourse by use of culverts.

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

10. Records must be kept

The Permit Holder must maintain the following records for activities done pursuant to this Permit:

In relation to the clearing of native vegetation authorised under this Permit:

- (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 or decimal degrees;
- (b) the date that the area was cleared; and
- (c) the size of the area cleared (in hectares).

11. Reporting

- (a) The Permit Holder must provide to the CEO on or before 30 June of each year, a written report:
 - (i) of records required under condition 10 of this Permit; and
 - (ii) concerning activities done by the Permit Holder under this Permit between 1 January and 31 December of the preceding year.
- (b) Prior to 9 January 2017, the Permit Holder must provide to the CEO a written report of records required under condition 10 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under condition 11(a) of this Permit.

DEFINITIONS

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

fill means material used to increase the ground level, or fill a hollow;

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;

weed/s 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*.

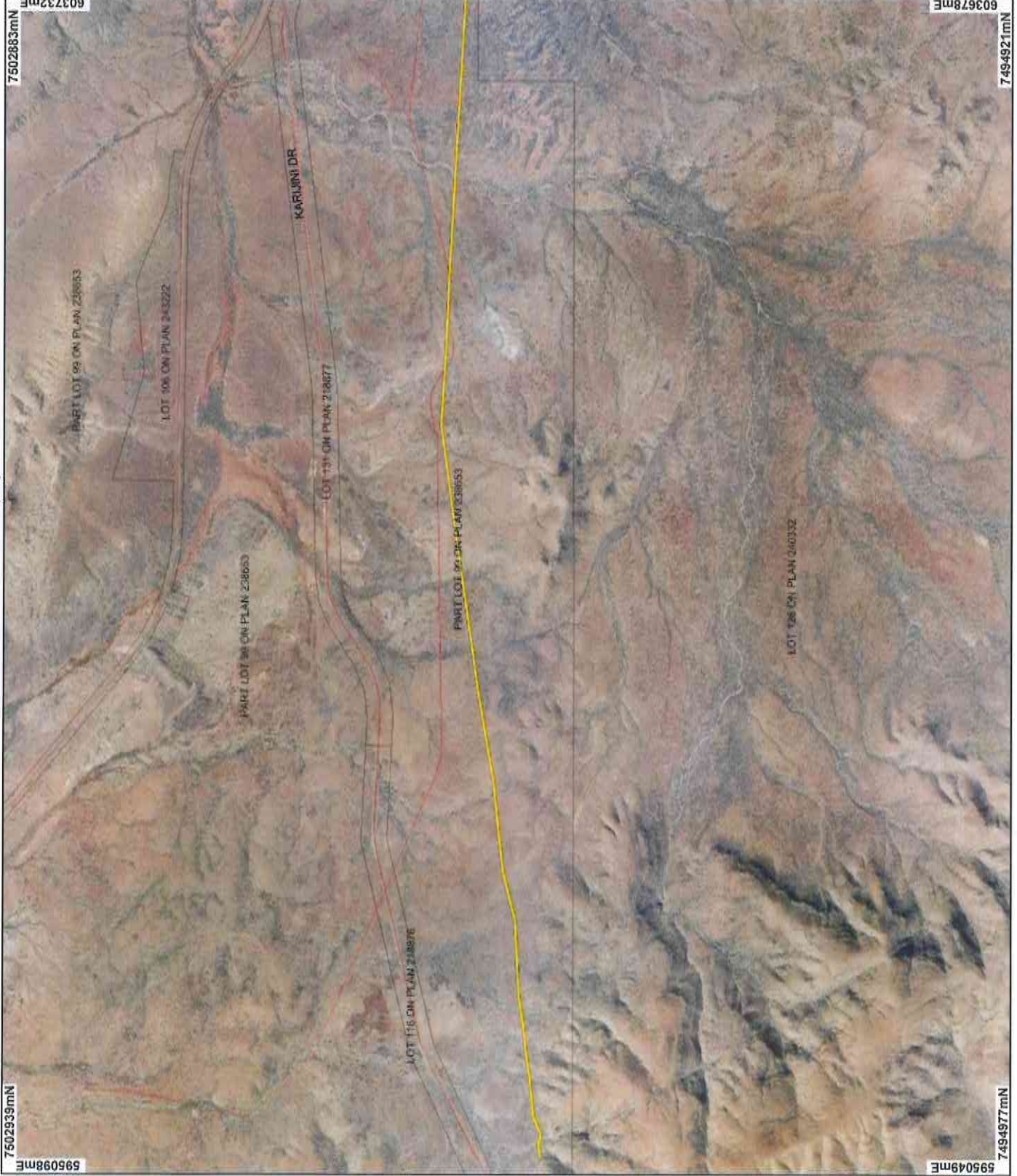


M Warnock
MANAGER, COMPLIANCE AND AUDIT.
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

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

16 March 2012

Plan 4813/1 (a)



LEGEND

- Road Centrelines
- Clearing Instruments
- Areas Approved to Clear
- Cadastre for labelling
- Mount Bruce 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004
- Mount Lionel 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004



0 1 2 km

Scale 1:40000

(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

Geocentric Datum Australia 1994

Note: the data in this map have not been projected. This may result in geometric distortion or measurement inaccuracies.

M. Wismock Date 16/3/12

M. Wismock

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

Information derived from this map should be confirmed with the data custodian acknowledged by the agency acronym in the legend.



Department of Environment and Conservation

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Plan 4813/1 (b)



LEGEND

- Road Centrelines
- Clearing Instruments
- Areas Approved to Clear
- Cadastral for labelling
- Mount Bruce 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004
- Mount Lionel 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004



0 1 km

Scale 1:40001

(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

Geocentric Datum Australia 1994

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audited Date 16/3/12

M Wainock

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

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1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 4813/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: PART LOT 99 ON PLAN 238653 (MOUNT SHEILA 6751)
LOT 113 ON PLAN 238653 (MOUNT SHEILA 6751)

Local Government Area: Shire of Ashburton

Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
11		Mechanical Removal	Fence Line Maintenance
10		Mechanical Removal	Road construction or maintenance

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 16 March 2012

2. Site Information

2.1. Existing environment and information

2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description	Clearing Description	Vegetation Condition	Comment
Mapped Beard vegetation association 18 is described as Low woodland; mulga (<i>Acacia aneura</i>) (Shepherd 2009).	The application proposes to clear up to 21 hectares of native vegetation within Part Lot 99 on Plan 238653 and Lot 113 on Plan 238653, Mount Sheila for the purpose of a fence line and access track. The vegetation is in very good (Keighery 1994) condition.	Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994)	The condition of the vegetation was determined through aerial imagery (Mount Lionel 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004 and Mount Bruce 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004).
Mapped Beard vegetation association 29 is described as Sparse low woodland; mulga, discontinuous in scattered groups (Shepherd 2009).			
Mapped Beard vegetation association 82 is described as Hummock grasslands, low tree steppe; snappy gum over <i>Triodia wiseana</i> (Shepherd 2009).			
Mapped Beard vegetation association 567 is described as Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; mulga & kanji over soft spinifex & <i>Triodia basedowii</i> (Shepherd 2009).			

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

The application proposes to clear up to 21 hectares of native vegetation within Part Lot 99 on Plan 238653 and Lot 113 on Plan 238653, Mount Sheila for the purpose of a fence line and access track. The construction of the fence line/access track is required to prevent cattle coming out of Karijini National Park from straying into Hamersley Station (Hamersley 2012).

Within the local area (10km radius) two fauna species of conservation significance have been recorded. The Western Pebble-mound Mouse (*Pseudomys chapmani*, Priority 4 Wildlife Conservation Act 1950), and the *Malurus leucopterus* subsp. *leucopterus* (Threatened, Wildlife Conservation Act 1950; Threatened, Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999) have been recorded within 10km of the application area, with the Western Pebble-mound mouse having the closest record less than 1km away from the application area (DEC 2007-). The Western Pebble-mound Mouse occurs throughout the central and eastern Pilbara. The species is typically found on colluvial slopes of rocky, hummock grassland with little or no soil and an overstorey of *Acacia* (Rio Tinto 2010). The area under application may contain suitable habitat for this species, however it is noted that the area under application is surrounded by large tracts of conservation area including the Karijini National Park, which are likely to provide similar habitat. Therefore the vegetation under application is not significant habitat for indigenous fauna.

The application area is intersected by a number of minor non-perennial watercourses; therefore the vegetation within the application area may be growing in association with a watercourse and therefore may be at variance

to principle (f). Watercourse management will assist in mitigating any impacts to watercourses within the proposed clearing area.

The application area lies adjacent to the Karijini National Park, an area listed on the Register of National Estate. The disturbance caused by the proposed clearing will increase the likelihood of weeds spreading into the National Park. Therefore the proposed clearing may be at variance to principle (h). Weed management practices will assist in mitigating the risk of weeds spreading into Karijini National Park.

The assessment determined that the proposed clearing is not likely to significantly impact any biodiversity, habitat or environmental values or cause appreciable land degradation within the local or regional context. Given the above, the proposal may be at variance to principle (f) and (h) is not likely to be at variance to the any of the remaining clearing principles.

Methodology

Reference:

DEC (2007-)

Hamersley (2012)

GIS Databases:

- Mount Lionel 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004

- Mount Bruce 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004

- Pre-European Vegetation - DA

- SAC Biodatasets - Accessed February 2012

- Hydrography, linear

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

Comments

The application proposes to clear up to 21 hectares of native vegetation within Part Lot 99 on Plan 238653 and Lot 113 on Plan 238653, Mount Sheila for the purpose of a fence line and access track.

There are three Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the area under application. The applicant has advised that heritage surveys have been carried out and they are aware of their requirements under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 (Hamersley 2012).

The area under application falls within the Pilbara groundwater and Surface Water area which are areas proclaimed under the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914.

The area under application is within the Hamersley Agricultural project assessed by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA). The EPA determined under Section 40 of the EP Act that the level of assessment for the proposal is Assessment on Proponent Information (API). The EPA's decision was made on 28 March 2011.

During construction, care needs to be taken not to create new tracks that will disrupt surface water flow. Disruption to surface water flows by road construction can be minimised by appropriate design and placement (DEC 2012).

Operations for the fence line construction with a high fire risk such as hot works, including but not limited to welding and grinding, should be managed in order to avoid ignition of surrounding vegetation and reduce fire risk (DEC 2012).

Methodology

References

DEC (2012)

Hamersley (2012)

GIS Databases:

- Aboriginal Sites of Significance

- Environmental Impact Assessments

- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas

4. References

DEC (2007 -) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Environment and Conservation. URL: <http://naturemap.dec.wa.gov.au/>. Accessed 29/02/2012.

DEC (2012) Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd - CPS 4813/1 - 21ha - fence line and access track. DEC ref: A479914

Hamersley (2012) Application for a clearing Permit (Purpose Permit) construction of fence and service track - tenement PL 3114/1277. DEC ref: A464366

Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

Shepherd, D.P. (2009) Adapted from: Shepherd, D.P., Beeston, G.R., and Hopkins, A.J.M. (2001), Native Vegetation in Western Australia. Technical Report 249. Department of Agriculture Western Australia, South Perth.

5. Glossary

Term	Meaning
BCS	Biodiversity Coordination Section of DEC
CALM	Department of Conservation and Land Management (now BCS)
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection (now DEC)
DoE	Department of Environment
DoIR	Department of Industry and Resources
DRF	Declared Rare Flora
EPP	Environmental Protection Policy
GIS	Geographical Information System
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community
WRC	Water and Rivers Commission (now DEC)