



## CLEARING PERMIT

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

<b>Purpose Permit number:</b>	CPS 4863/1
<b>Permit Holder:</b>	Robe River Mining Company Pty Ltd
<b>Duration of Permit:</b>	23 April 2012 – 23 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 underground powerline installation.

**2. Land on which clearing is to be done**

UNALLOCATED CROWN LAND (PIN 11261384 and 11261386)

LOT 706 ON PLAN 31274 (WICKHAM 6720)

LOT 750 ON PLAN 219430 (WICKHAM 6720)

LOT 771 ON PLAN 35754 (WICKHAM 6720)

LOT 772 ON PLAN 35754 (WICKHAM 6720)

LOT 796 ON PLAN 31274 (WICKHAM 6720)

LOT 797 ON PLAN 31274 (WICKHAM 6720)

LOT 798 ON PLAN 31274 (WICKHAM 6720)

LOT 799 ON PLAN 31274 (WICKHAM 6720)

**3. Area of Clearing**

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 1 hectare of native vegetation within the area cross hatched yellow on attached Plan 4863/1.

**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:

- (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.

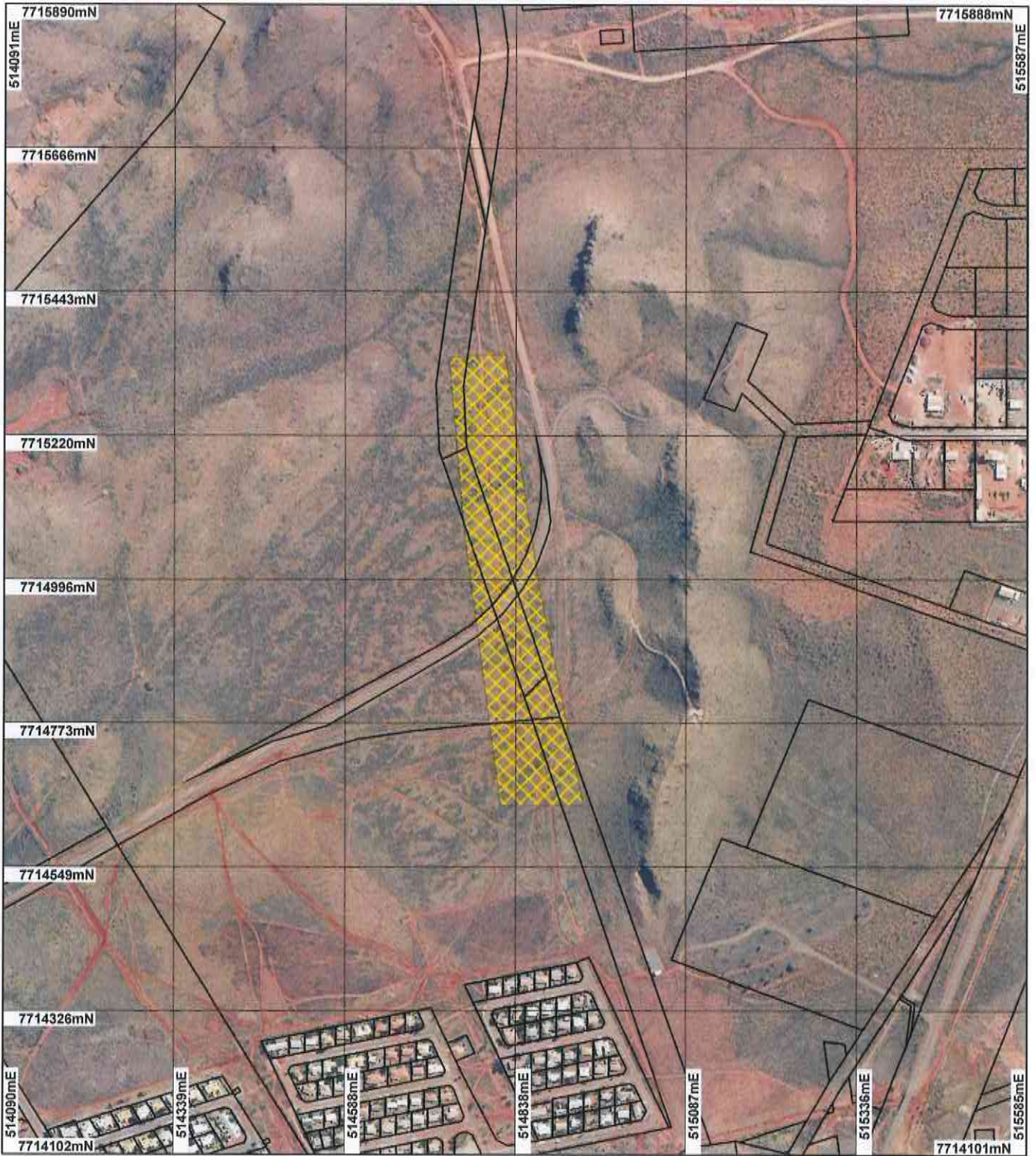


Kelly Faulkner  
MANAGER  
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

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

29 March 2012

# Plan 4863/1



## LEGEND

### Clearing Instruments

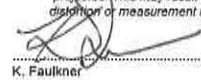
-  Areas Approved to Clear
-  Cadastre
- Roebourne 50cm Orthomosaic  
- Landgate 2007



Scale 1:8241  
(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.

 Date: 29/3/12  
K. Faulkner

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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## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 4863/1  
Permit type: Purpose Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Robe River Mining Company Pty Ltd

### 1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 796 ON PLAN 31274 (WICKHAM 6720)  
LOT 750 ON PLAN 219430 (WICKHAM 6720)  
UNALLOCATED CROWN LAND (WICKHAM 6720)  
UNALLOCATED CROWN LAND (WICKHAM 6720)  
LOT 772 ON PLAN 35754 (WICKHAM 6720)  
LOT 797 ON PLAN 31274 (WICKHAM 6720)  
LOT 798 ON PLAN 31274 (WICKHAM 6720)  
LOT 799 ON PLAN 31274 (WICKHAM 6720)  
LOT 706 ON PLAN 31274 (WICKHAM 6720)  
LOT 771 ON PLAN 35754 (WICKHAM 6720)

Local Government Area: Shire of Roebourne  
Colloquial name:

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
1		Mechanical Removal	Water/gas/cable/pipeline/power installation

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant  
Decision Date: 29 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 157: Hummock grasslands, grass steppe; hard spinifex, <i>Triodia wiseana</i> (Shepherd 2009).	The application is to clear 1 hectare of native vegetation for the purpose of installing an underground power line.  The vegetation under application consists of three vegetation types, with the condition ranging from good to very good (Keighery, 1994) condition (RioTinto, 2011). The application area has been subjected historical disturbances from tracks and associated activities.	Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994)  To  Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994)	The condition of the vegetation was obtained from a site inspection of the area under application by Rio Tinto in December 2011

## 3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

### Comments

The application is to clear 1 hectare of native vegetation within a 7 hectare footprint for the purpose of installing a power line. The vegetation under application is considered to be in good to very good (Keighery, 1994) condition (Rio Tinto, 2011) and consists of three vegetation types.

Priority flora species *Helichrysum oligochaetum* (P1) and *Eragrostis lanicaulis* (P3) have been mapped as

occurring within a 10km radius of the application area. Both priority species have been mapped as occurring within a different vegetation type to the application area. Considering that both priority flora species have been mapped in a different vegetation type to the application area it is unlikely that the mapped priority species would be impacted upon from the clearing, as proposed.

A site visit of the application area was undertaken by Rio Tinto botanist in December 2011 who identified a total of 51 vascular plant taxa within the application area (Rio Tinto, 2011). Of the identified flora none were rare or priority flora. It is considered that the timing of the survey was undertaken in non-optimal conditions as very little rain fall had been recorded prior to the weeks leading up to the survey (Rio Tinto, 2011). Therefore, the recorded taxa identified within the application area is deemed as a representative rather than a comprehensive list of flora within the application area (Rio Tinto, 2011).

A priority ecological community (PEC) referred to as the horse flat land system (P3) has been mapped approximately 4.5 km south of the proposed clearing. The PEC has been mapped as covering a total area of approximately 5819 hectares with approximately 10 per cent of the PEC being mapped within similar vegetation and soil type as the application. Considering the distance from the application to the mapped PEC along with the past disturbances to the application areas it is unlikely the mapped PEC in will be impacted upon from the proposed clearing.

There are two known non-perennial watercourses that intersect the area under application. The proposed clearing may impact on watercourse dependent vegetation. Therefore the application may be at variance to principle (f). However, this impact is likely to be minimal given the small area proposed to be cleared and the linear shape of the proposed clearing.

The application has been assessed against the ten clearing principles and it is unlikely that that the vegetation holds a high level of biodiversity, nor is it likely to impact upon flora and fauna of conservation significance in the local area. Additionally, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on ground water, surface water quality or cause appreciable land degradation in the local area.

The application may be at variance to principle (f) and not likely to be at variance to the remaining clearing principles.

**Methodology**    References  
Keighery (1994)  
Rio Tinto (2011)  
GIS DATABASE  
-SAC Bio Datasets (As of February 2012)  
-Hydrography Linear

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

##### **Comments**

The Shire of Roebourne (2012) advises that they have no objections to the clearing, as proposed.

The area under applications falls within the native title boundaries registered to the Ngarluma People. A notice was sent to the Ngarluma People and their representing organisation of the application. To date no response has been received.

**Methodology**    References  
Shire of Roebourne (2012)

#### **4. References**

- 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) Additional information within Clearing Permit Application CPS 4863/1 Robe River Mining Company Pty Ltd (DEC Ref:A476829)
- 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.
- Shire of Roebourne (2012) Advice received in relation to Clearing Permit Application CPS 4863/1 (DEC Ref: A478703)

#### **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)