



02 June 2022

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Dear Damien,

BHP IRON ORE MINING OPERATIONS: Application to Amend Native Vegetation Clearing Permit CPS 4875/3 – Wheelarra Hill North Exploration

BHP Iron Ore Pty Ltd (BHP) currently holds Native Vegetation Clearing Permit (NVCP) CPS 4875/3 for the purposes of mineral exploration, haul roads, hydrological and geotechnical investigations and associated activities. (Figure 1). The clearing period of this permit expires on 30 November 2022.

The full extent of these works is yet to be undertaken and therefore BHP therefore seeking to:

- Extend the permit duration to 30 November 2037; and
- Extend the clearing period to 30 November 2032
- Extend the final reporting date to 30 November 2037.

BHP is also seeking to update the Permit Holder to BHP Iron Ore Pty Ltd.

No other changes to the permit are required.

Records kept under the existing clearing permit's conditions

BHP reports on each NVCP in accordance with the permit reporting conditions. For a majority of NVCPs this is incorporated into BHP Iron Ore's Annual Environmental Report (AER) which is submitted to government prior to the 01 October each year.

Clearing commenced in 2012 with a total of 34.78 ha cleared to date with 9.22 ha rehabilitated (BHP, 2021). The remaining locations cleared are still required for the purpose for which they were cleared. No further clearing or rehabilitation has occurred since the reporting in BHP Iron Ore's FY21 AER.

Clearing has been minimised by restricting activities to the minimal required for safety and equipment access. Populations of significant flora have been avoided using the BHP Project Environmental and Heritage Review (PEAHR) procedure. This internal BHP procedure authorises ground disturbing activities and locations of priority flora have been clipped from the PEAHR boundary to prevent disturbance within 10 m of these populations.

No environmental offsets are required for this NVCP.

If you have any queries or require further information regarding this application, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0417 093 070.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Hopkins

Principal Environmental Approvals

Enclosed:

- Attachment 1: Clearing Permit Amendment Application Form (C4).
Attachment 2: Figure 1: NVCP CPS 4875/3 Renewal – Regional Overview.
Attachment 3: Shapefile: *Proposed Boundary for NVCP CPS 4875_4 (GDA94 MGA Z51)*.