



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 5049/1
Permit Holder:	BHP Billiton Iron ore Pty Ltd
Duration of Permit:	6 July 2012 – 6 July 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 the construction and maintenance of rail roads, access roads and laydown areas.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Special Lease J998591 (Goldsworthy Rail Lease), being;
Lot 86 on Deposited Plan 213620, Pippingarra.

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 5 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 5049/1.

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 right to access land 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*:

- (a) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared
- (b) ensure that no *weed*-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill* or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and
- (c) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

9. Records must be kept

The Permit Holder must maintain the following records 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).

10. 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 9 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 6 April 2017, the Permit Holder must provide to the CEO a written report of records required under condition 9 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under condition 10(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*.

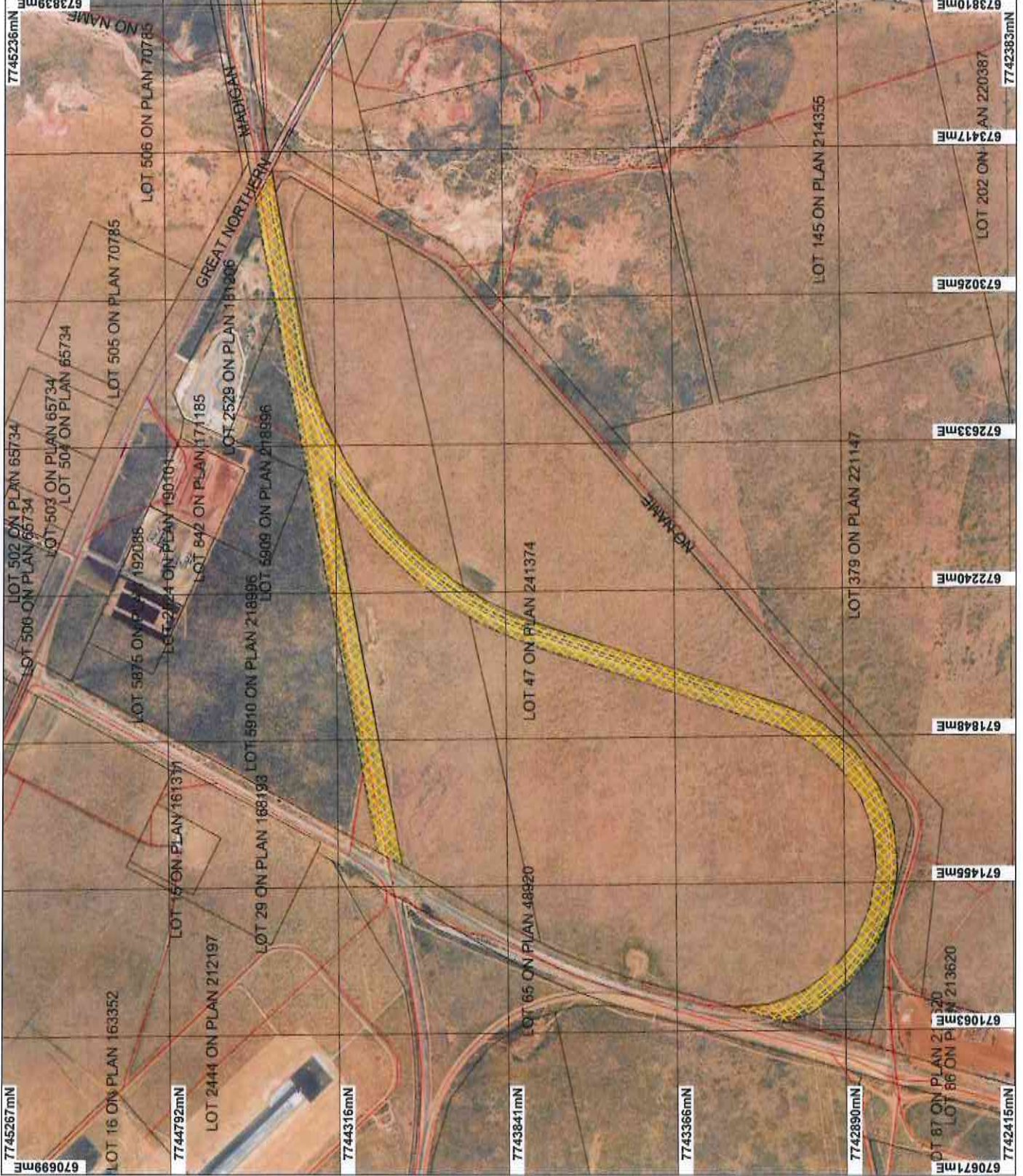


Kelly Faulkner
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

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

14 June 2012

Plan 5049/1



LEGEND

- Cadastre
- Freehold
- Crown Reserve
- State Forest / Timber Rise
- Marine Park
- Crown Lease
- Lease / Reserve
- Lease on State Forest / Timber Rise
- Public Roads
- Unincorporated Crown Land
- Water
- Road Centrelines
- Clearing Instrument
- Areas Approved to Clear
- Port Hedland 50cm Landgate 2004

* Project Data. This data has not been quality assured. Please contact map author for details.



Scale 1:14449
(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

Geospatial Datum Australia 1994

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

Kelly Faulkner
Date 14/6/12

Kelly Faulkner

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





1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 5049/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 47 ON PLAN 241374 (PIPPINGARRA 6722)
Local Government Area: Town of Port Hedland
Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
5		Mechanical Removal	Railway construction or maintenance

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 14 June 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 647 is described as Hummock grasslands, dwarf - shrub steppe, <i>Acacia translucens</i> over soft spinifex	The proposed clearing of 5 ha is for the construction and maintenance of rail roads, access roads and laydown areas.	Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery 1994)	The condition of the application was established through a survey carried out February 2011 of the application area by ENV Australia (2011a).
	The application area consists of an open <i>Acacia colei</i> var. <i>colei</i> shrublands over low <i>Acacia stellaticeps</i> shrublands over <i>Triodia epactia</i> and <i>Triodia epactia</i> and <i>Triodia secunda</i> hummock grassland mosaic	Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994)	

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

The proposed clearing of 5ha (within a 27.1ha footprint area) of native vegetation is for the construction and maintenance of rail roads, access roads and laydown areas. The clearing is to occur within Lot 47 on Deposited Plan 241374, Pippingarra. The majority of the application area is in a completely degraded condition as it falls within the footprint of the Goldsworthy Rail Line and is surrounded by areas of disturbance (BHP, 2012).

The area under application is within an extensively vegetated landscape with approximately 98 per cent of Beard Vegetation Association 647 remaining within the Pilbara IBRA Bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2011).

There are four conservation significant fauna species with the potential to occur within the application area including the Rainbow Bee-Eater (Schedule 3 under the Wildlife Conservation (WC) Act), Woma (Schedule 4 under the WC Act), Australia Bustard (Priority 4) and Bush Stone Curlew (Priority 4). The fauna habitats within the area proposed to be cleared are well represented elsewhere within the local and regional area, therefore no significant loss of habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia is expected.

A flora survey of the Port Hedland region conducted in February 2011 did not record any rare or priority flora species within the application area (ENV Australia, 2011a).

No Threatened Ecological Communities were recorded within the application area (ENV Australia 2011a).

Given the relatively small area proposed to be cleared and that no wetlands or watercourses occur within the application area, it is not likely the proposed clearing will cause appreciable land degradation, impact water quality, consist of riparian vegetation or cause or exacerbate flooding.

The disturbance resulting from the proposed clearing will increase the risk of weeds spreading into adjacent land. Weed management practices will assist in mitigating this risk.

Given the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to any of the clearing principles.

Methodology

References

- BHP (2012)
- ENV Australia (2011a)
- ENV Australia (2011b)
- Keighery (1994)

GIS Databases

- SAC Bio datasets (2 March 2012)
- Government of Western Australia (2011)
- Naturebase
- DEC Managed Lands
- Pre-European Vegetation
- Hydrography, linear
- Port Hedland 50cm Orthomosaic-Landgate 2008

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

Comments

The application area falls within the Karriyarra Native Title Claim area. BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd have advised that before any clearing is undertaken a Project Environmental and Aboriginal Heritage Review will be undertaken to ensure that all heritage sites are avoided where possible.

The area under application falls within Special Lease J998591 (Goldsworthy Rail Lease). The three interest holders are:

- BHP Billiton Minerals Pty Ltd
- Mitsui Iron Ore Corporation Pty Ltd and;
- Itochu Minerals & Energy of Australia Pty Ltd

The purpose of the clearing is consistent with the uses permitted under this lease

The Town of Port Hedland has no objections to the proposed clearing (Town of Port Hedland, 2012).

No submissions from the public have been received.

Methodology

Reference:

Town of Port Hedland (2012).

4. References

- ENV Australia (2011a) Port Hedland regional Fauna Assessment. Additional information for CPS 5049/1 - BHP Billiton Iron ore Pty Ltd. Lot 47 on Plan 241374, Pippingarra.
- ENV Australia (2011b) Port Hedland regional Fauna Assessment. Additional information for CPS 5049/1 - BHP Billiton Iron ore Pty Ltd. Lot 47 on Plan 241374, Pippingarra.
- Government of Western Australia (2011); 2011 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). WA Department of Environment and Conservation, Perth.
- 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.
- Town of Port Hedland (2012). Response to Application 5049/1 to clear native vegetation DEC Ref A511718.

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)