



## CLEARING PERMIT

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

<b>Purpose Permit number:</b>	CPS 5072/1
<b>Permit Holder:</b>	Robe River Mining Co Pty Ltd
<b>Duration of Permit:</b>	27 July 2012 – 27 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 water infrastructure and associated works

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

Lot 209 on Deposited Plan 216688, Wickham  
Lot 265 on Deposited Plan 220920, Mount Anketell  
Unallocated Crown Land (PIN 11261384), Wickham

**3. Area of Clearing**

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 1 hectare of native vegetation within the area shaded yellow on attached Plan 5072/1.

**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

- (a) 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.
- (b) At least once in each 12 month period for the term of this Permit, the Permit Holder must remove or kill any *weeds* growing within areas cleared under this Permit.

## PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

### 9. 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;
- (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
- (b) Prior to 27 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;

*weeds* 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*;



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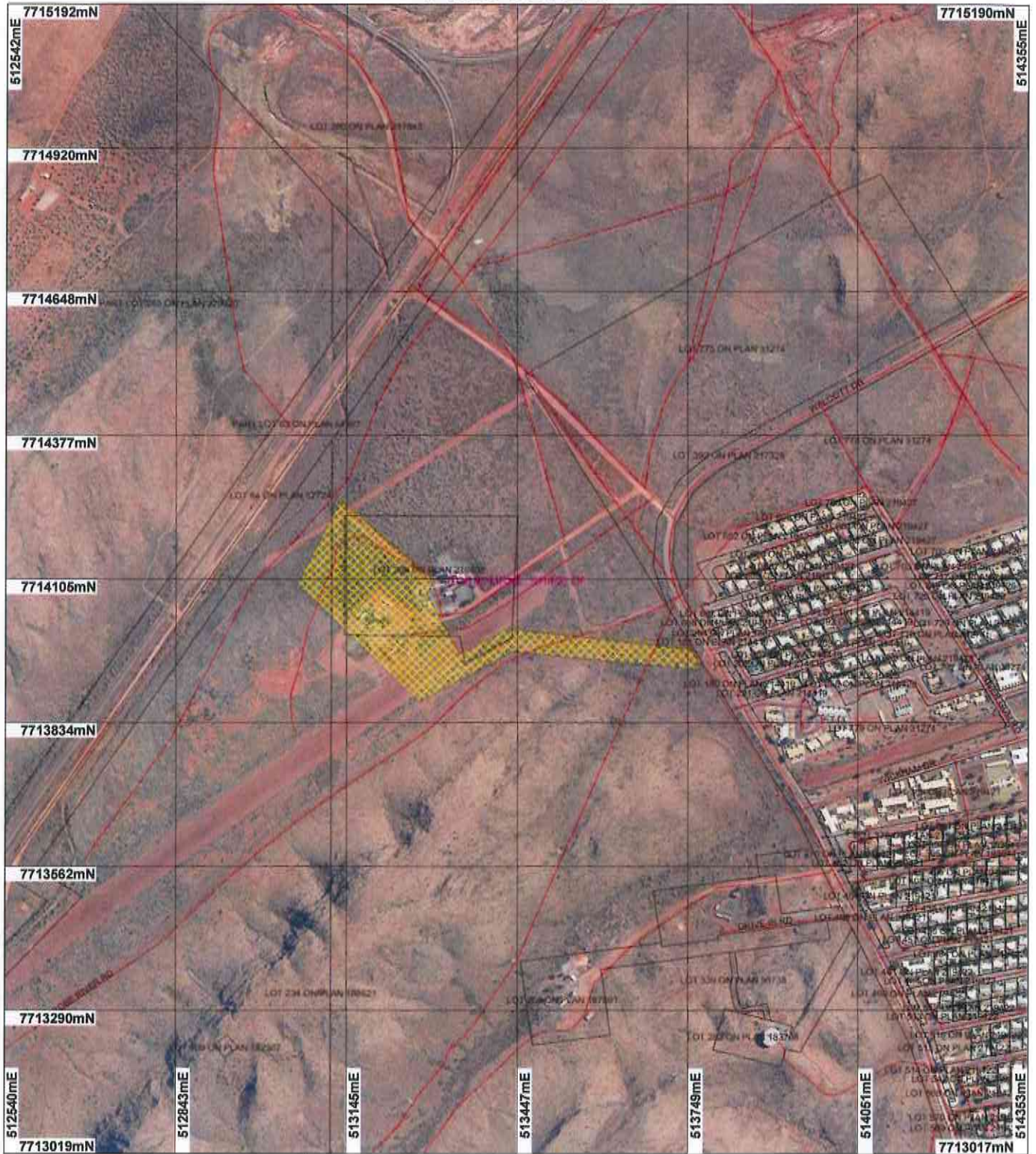
Kelly Faulkner  
MANAGER  
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

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

5 July 2012



# Plan 5072/1



## LEGEND

### Clearing Instruments

- Areas Approved to Clear
- Road Centrelines

### Local Government Authorities

Roebourne 50cm Orthomosaic



Scale 1:9990

(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 5/7/12

K. Faulkner

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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## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 5072/1  
Permit type: Purpose Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Robe River Mining Co Pty Ltd

### 1.3. Property details

Property: UNALLOCATED CROWN LAND ( WICKHAM 6720)  
 LOT 209 ON PLAN 216688 (Lot No. 209 ROBE RIVER WICKHAM 6720)  
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 LOT 209 ON PLAN 216688 (Lot No. 209 ROBE RIVER WICKHAM 6720)  
 LOT 209 ON PLAN 216688 (Lot No. 209 ROBE RIVER WICKHAM 6720)  
 PART LOT 265 ON PLAN 220920 ( MOUNT ANKETELL 6714)  
 PART LOT 265 ON PLAN 220920 ( MOUNT ANKETELL 6714)  
 LOT 209 ON PLAN 216688 (Lot No. 209 ROBE RIVER WICKHAM 6720)  
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 PART LOT 265 ON PLAN 220920 (MOUNT ANKETELL 6714)  
 PART LOT 265 ON PLAN 220920 (MOUNT ANKETELL 6714)

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	Infrastructure Maintenance

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant  
Decision Date: 5 July 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 is described as Hummock grasslands, grass steppe; hard spinifex <i>Triodia wiseana</i> (Shepherd et al, 2001).	This application is for the purpose of water infrastructure and associated works.  The vegetation under application is in a degraded to very good (Keighery, 1994) condition due to the presence of invasive weeds and grasses.	Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994)  Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)	The vegetation condition and description was determined from aerial photography (Roebourne 50cm Orthomosaic Landgate 2007) and from supporting documentation provided by the applicant (Rio Tinto, 2012).



### 3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

#### Comments

The proposed clearing of 1 hectare (within a 7.2ha footprint area) of native vegetation is for the purpose of water infrastructure and associated works. The clearing is to occur within Lot 209 on Deposited Plan 216688, Lot 265 on Deposited Plan 220920 and Unallocated Crown Land (PIN 11261384), Wickham.

The area under application is within an extensively vegetated landscape with approximately 99 per cent of Beard Vegetation Association 157 remaining within the Pilbara Bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2011).

A minor non-perennial watercourse is mapped within the application area. There are no known declared rare flora species, threatened or priority ecological communities in the vicinity of the project.

Given the relatively small clearing area, it is not likely the proposed clearing will impact upon fauna or their habitat, nor will it cause appreciable land degradation, impact water quality, 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.

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

#### Methodology

##### References

- Government of Western Australia (2011)
- Keighery (1994)
- Shepherd et al (2001)

##### GIS Databases

- SAC Bio datasets (6 June 2012)
- Hydrography, linear
- DEC Managed Lands
- Cape Lambert 20cm Orthomosaic-Landgate 2005
- Pre-European Vegetation

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

#### Comments

The area under application occurs within a proclaimed surface water area under the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914. Interference with the bed or banks of a watercourse in proclaimed areas require a permit from the Department of Water. The applicant has advised that a Permit to Interfere with Bed and Banks in this instance is not required.

The application area is also located within the Pilbara Groundwater under the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914 (RIWI Act). Any groundwater abstraction in this proclaimed area is subject to licensing by the Department of Water (DOW, 2012).

The applicant has submitted an application with the Department of Regional Development and Lands for a water pipeline easement.

The applicant has a Section 91 Licence (Licence No: Lic 00424-2010\_2\_285) which covers the majority of the area under application. This Licence is for the purpose of (a) geotechnical, heritage and environmental investigations; (b) construction; and (c) operation of Marshalling Yards. The applicant has advised that the proposed water connection is to facilitate the Marshalling Yards and therefore this tenure is considered appropriate.

One Aboriginal site of significance is mapped within the application area.

The subject land is zoned as 'Infrastructure' in the Shire of Roebourne Town Planning Scheme No. 8.

The Shire of Roebourne (2012) has no objection to the proposal, however it is noted that:

1. Any development will require planning approval from the Shire of Roebourne unless exempt under any other legislation or State Agreement.
2. Matters relating to development and clearing of Unallocated Crown Land including matters under the Land Administration Act 1997 and Native Title Act(s) unless exempt under any other Legislation or State Agreement.

#### Methodology

##### References

- Shire of Roebourne (2012)
- DOW (2012)

##### GIS Databases:

- RIWI Act Areas
- Aboriginal sites of significance

#### 4. References

- DOW (2012), Advice for Clearing Permit Application CPS 5072/1. Received 27 June 2012. Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (DEC ref. A518297)
- 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.
- Rio Tinto (2012) Statement Addressing the 10 Clearing Principles. Cape Lambert Infrastructure 4 Water Connection. February 2012 (DEC Ref: A506715).
- 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 for Clearing Permit Application CPS 5072/1. Received on 13 June 2012 .Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (DEC REF. A514934).

#### 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)