



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 5176/1
Permit Holder:	Atlas Iron Limited
Duration of Permit:	28 September 2012 – 28 September 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 widening Marble Bar Road to construct dedicated turning and acceleration lanes.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

LOT 300 ON DEPOSITED PLAN 58181 (MARBLE BAR ROAD, MARBLE BAR 6760)
LOT 304 ON DEPOSITED PLAN 58185 (MARBLE BAR ROAD, MARBLE BAR 6760)

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 10.55 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 5176/1.

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. 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

6. 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.

7. 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.


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; and

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*.

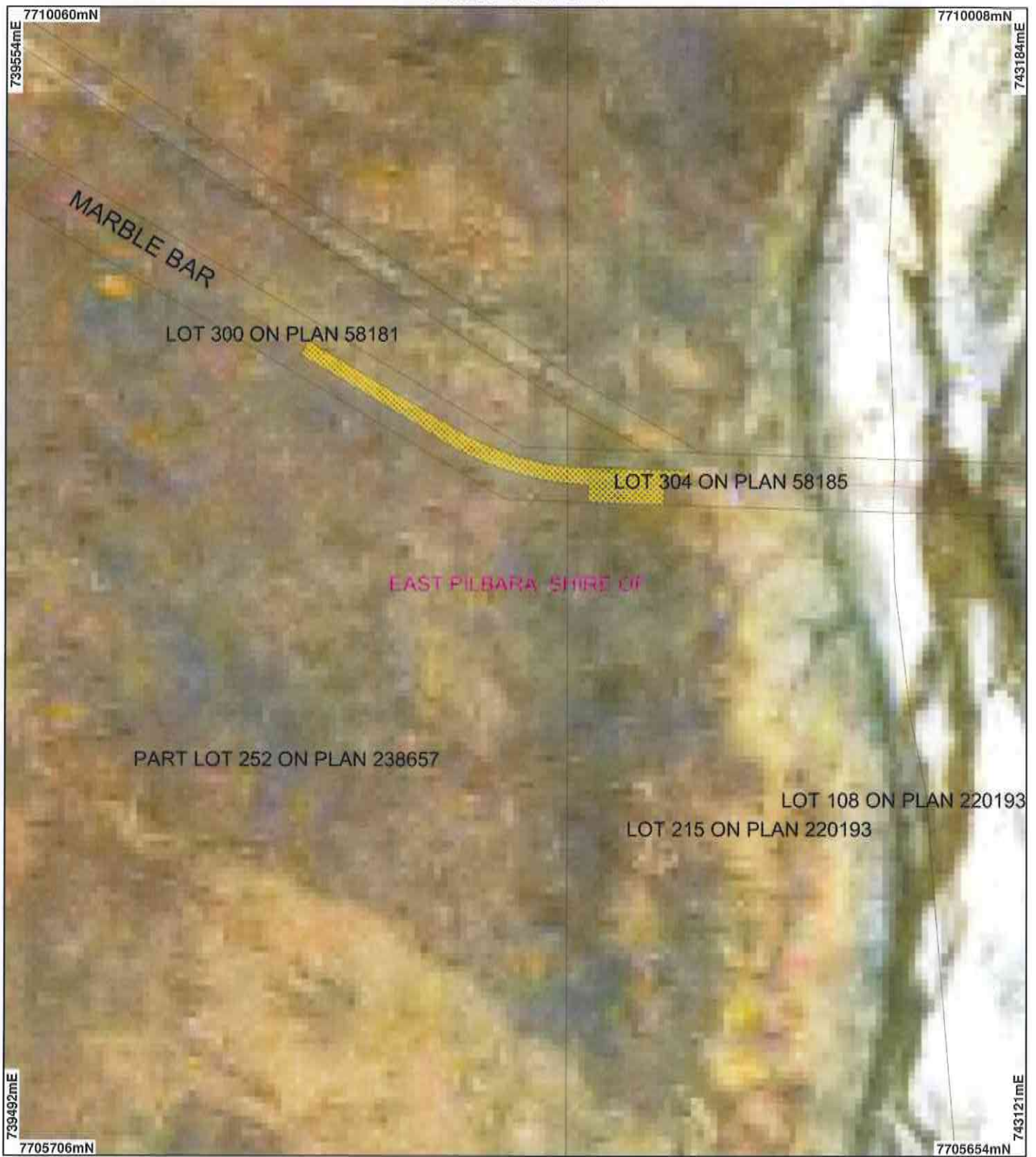


M Warnock
MANAGER, COMPLIANCE AND AUDIT SECTION
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH






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

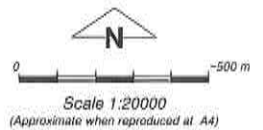
6 September 2012

Plan 5176/1



LEGEND

-  Road Centrelines
-  Cadastral Clearing Instruments
-  Areas Approved to Clear
-  Local Government Authorities
-  Western Australia Landsat Mosaic 25m - AGO 2006



Geocentric Datum Australia 1994
 Note: the data in this map have not been projected. This may result in geometric distortion or measurement inaccuracies.

M Warnock Date *6/9/12*
 M Warnock

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.: 5176/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Atlas Iron Limited

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 300 ON PLAN 58181 (MARBLE BAR 6760)
LOT 304 ON PLAN 58185 (MARBLE BAR 6760)
Colloquial name: Marble Bar Road - Abydos Mine Junction

1.4. Application

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

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 6 September 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
Beard Vegetation Association: 589 - Mosaic: Short bunch grassland - savanna / grass plain (Pilbara) / Hummock grasslands, grass steppe; soft spinifex soft spinifex (Shepherd et al., 2001)	The application is to clear up to 10.55 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 300 on Deposited Plan 58181 and Lot 304 on Deposited Plan 58185, Marble Bar, for the purpose of widening Marble Bar Road to construct a north-bound acceleration lane and a dedicated south- bound turning lane at the intersection of a haul road to the proposed Atlas Abydos Direct Shipping Ore and Venturex Sulphur Springs Hub projects. The application area is adjacent to the existing Marble Bar Road and is likely to experience some disturbance and edge effects associated with this feature.	Excellent: Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery, 1994) To Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery, 1994)	Vegetation condition was determined through aerial imagery and imagery provided with the supporting information for the application (Atlas Iron Limited, 2012).

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

The application is to clear up to 10.55 hectares of native vegetation for the purpose of widening an approximately 1.5 kilometre section of Marble Bar Road.

The application is within the Pilbara IBRA bioregion which retains approximately 99 per cent of its pre-European vegetation extent (Government of Western Australia, 2011) and the local area (20 kilometre radius) supports approximately 95 per cent vegetation cover.

There are no records of flora or ecological communities of conservation significance within the local area.

The application area is adjacent to an area of existing disturbance and is not likely to be significant habitat for indigenous fauna, or support high biological diversity values on a local or regional scale.

There are no watercourses or wetlands mapped within the application area.

Considering the relatively small amount of clearing proposed (10.55 hectares) within this highly vegetated area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to cause appreciable land degradation, deterioration in the quality of surface or ground water, or increase the incidence or intensity of flooding.

Considering the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to the clearing principles.

Methodology **References:**
 Government of Western Australia, 2011
 GIS databases:
 - Hydrography, linear - DoW 02/04
 - Pre-European Vegetation - DA 01/01
 - SAC Bio datasets - Accessed 08/12
 - Western Australia Landsat Mosaic 25m - AGO 2006

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

Comments

The application area is within the Marble Bar Road reserve, which is managed by Main Roads Western Australia (MRWA). MRWA (2012) advised it has no objection to the proponent seeking a clearing permit application for the purpose of the Marble Bar Road/Abydos intersection improvement works.

The proponent's proposed Abydos Direct Shipping Ore Project mine is located approximately 50 kilometres south-southeast of the application area. The proponent advised this project has not been referred to the Environmental Protection Authority and an application has been made under the Mining Act 1978. A clearing permit application for this mine was granted by the Department of Mines and Petroleum (CPS 4984/1) on 30 August 2012. A clearing permit for the haul road will be addressed in a subsequent application for a clearing permit to be submitted to the Department of Mines and Petroleum.

There are no Aboriginal Sites of Significance mapped within the application area.

Methodology **References:**
 MRWA, 2012
 GIS Databases:
 - Aboriginal Sites of Significance - DIA 02/12
 - Cadastre - Landgate 03/12

4. References

Atlas Iron Limited (2012) Application for Clearing Permit CPS 5176/1 and Supporting Information. DEC Ref: A527138

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.

MRWA (2012) Letter of Support for Clearing Permit Application CPS 5176/1 - Marble Bar Road Abydos Mine Junction. Main Roads Western Australia 22/06/2012. DEC Ref: A527138

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.

Woodman Environmental Consulting (2012) Flora and Vegetation Assessment Submitted in Support of Clearing Permit Application CPS 5176/1. Woodman Environmental Consulting Pty Ltd, 10/07/2012. DEC Ref: A527138

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)