



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 5887/1
Permit Holder:	Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd
Duration of Permit:	28 June 2014 – 28 June 2019

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 transmission line maintenance, access track maintenance, safety and fire hazard reduction.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Unallocated Crown Land (FORTESCUE 6716)
Roebourne-Wittenoom Road reserve PIN 11733933 (MILLSTREAM 6716)
Lot 13 on Deposited Plan 47815 (FORTESCUE 6716)
Lot 24 on Deposited Plan 242287 (MILLSTREAM 6716)
Lot 33 on Deposited Plan 240249 (FORTESCUE 6716)
Lot 150 on Deposited Plan 242287 (MILLSTREAM 6716)
Lot 182 on Deposited Plan 241670 (MILLSTREAM 6716)
Lot 502 on Deposited Plan 61847 (MILLSTREAM 6716)
Lot 503 on Deposited Plan 61847 (MILLSTREAM 6716)
Lot 504 on Deposited Plan 61847 (MILLSTREAM 6716)
Lot 505 on Deposited Plan 61847 (MILLSTREAM 6716)
Lot 510 on Deposited Plan 61847 (MILLSTREAM 6716)
Lot 511 on Deposited Plan 61847 (MILLSTREAM 6716)

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 26 hectares of native vegetation within the combined areas hatched yellow on attached Plan 5887/1 (a), Plan 5887/1 (b), Plan 5887/1 (c), Plan 5887/1 (d), Plan 5887/1 (e), Plan 5887/1 (f), Plan 5887/1 (g), Plan 5887/1 (h) and Plan 5887/1 (i).


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.

PART II – MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

5. Management plan

The Permit Holder must implement and adhere to the document 'Rio Tinto Iron Ore, Environmental Management Plan, Native Vegetation Clearing Permit CPS 5887/1, Dampier to Paraburdoo Transmission Line (RTIO-HSE-0221249)', May 2014.

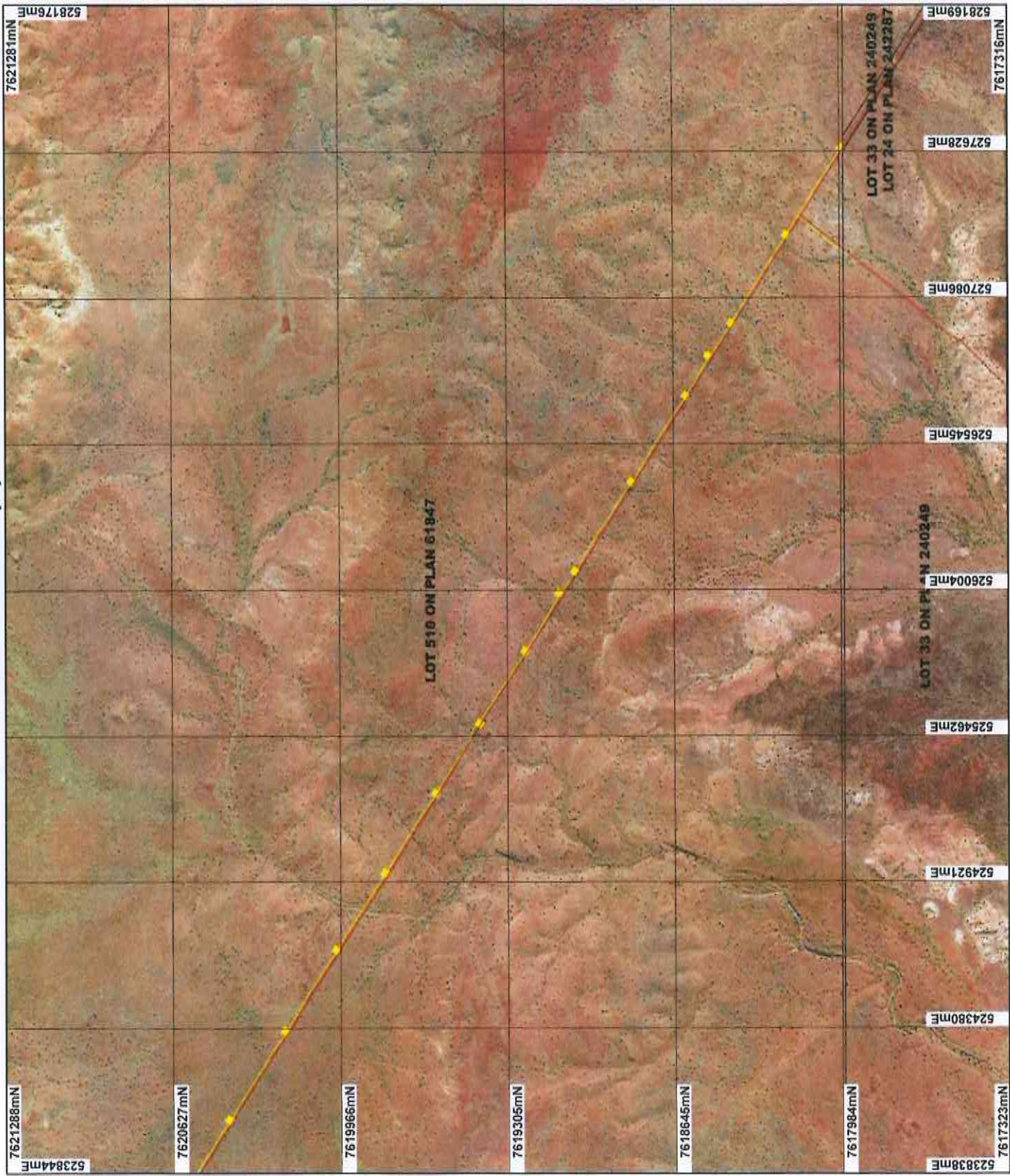


M Warnock
SENIOR MANAGER
CLEARING REGULATION

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

29 May 2014

Plan 5887/1 (a)



LEGEND

- Clearing Instruments
- Areas Approved to Clear
- Road Centrelines
- Cadastral
- Coopers Pooya 1.4m Orthomosaic - Landgate 1998
- Millstream 80cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2007

Scale 1:20000
 (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.

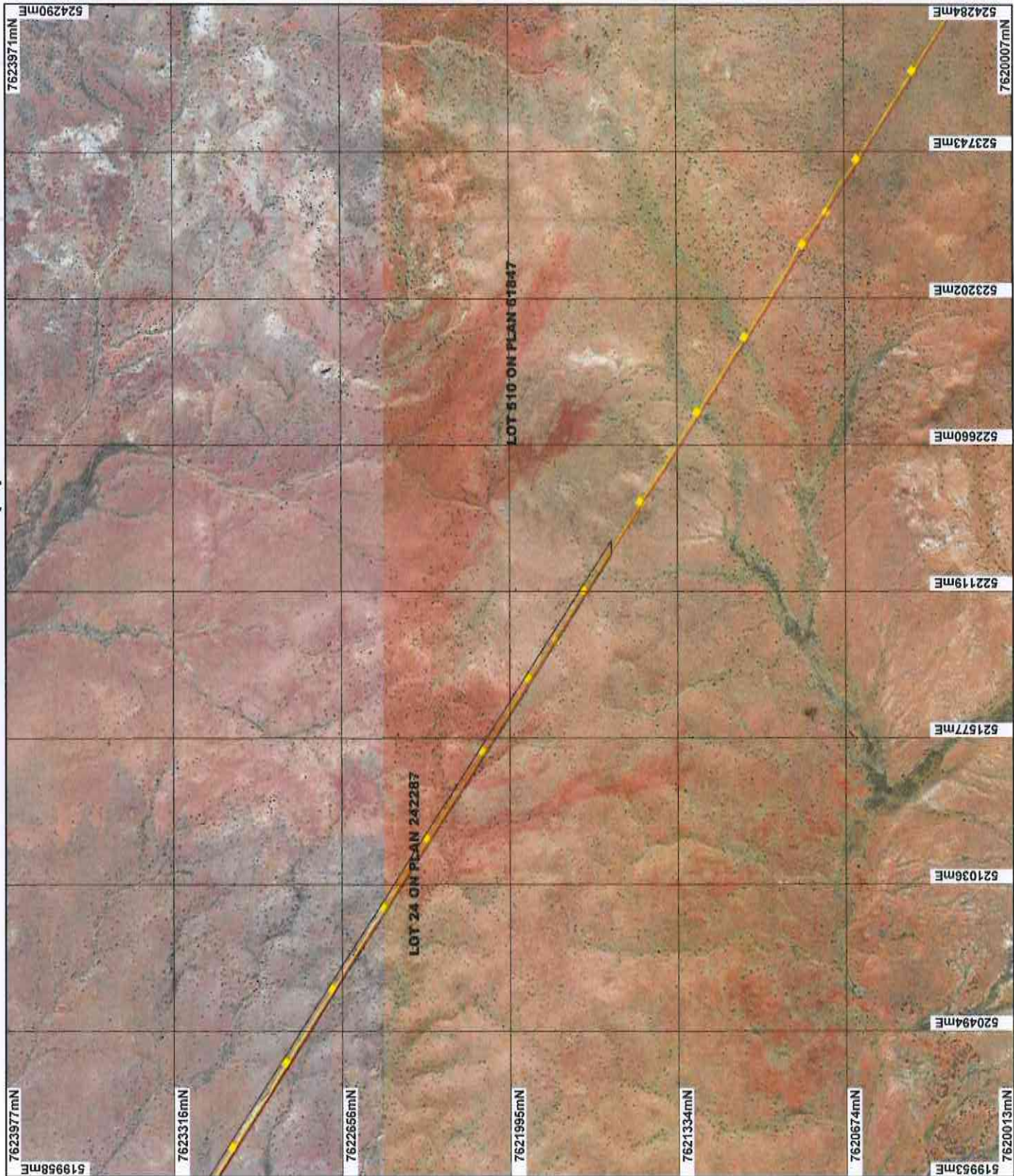
M Warnock Date 29/5/14

Office 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.

Government of Western Australia
 Department of Environmental Regulation
 WA Crown Copyright 2012

Plan 5887/1 (b)



LEGEND

- Clearing Instruments
- Areas Approved to Clear
- Road Centrelines
- Cadastral
- Cooya Pooya 1.4m Orthomosaic - Landgate 1998
- Millstream 60cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2007

Scale 1:200000
(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

Geocentric Datum Australia: 1994

Note: the data in this map has not been projected. This map relies on geocentric location or measurement in local bases.

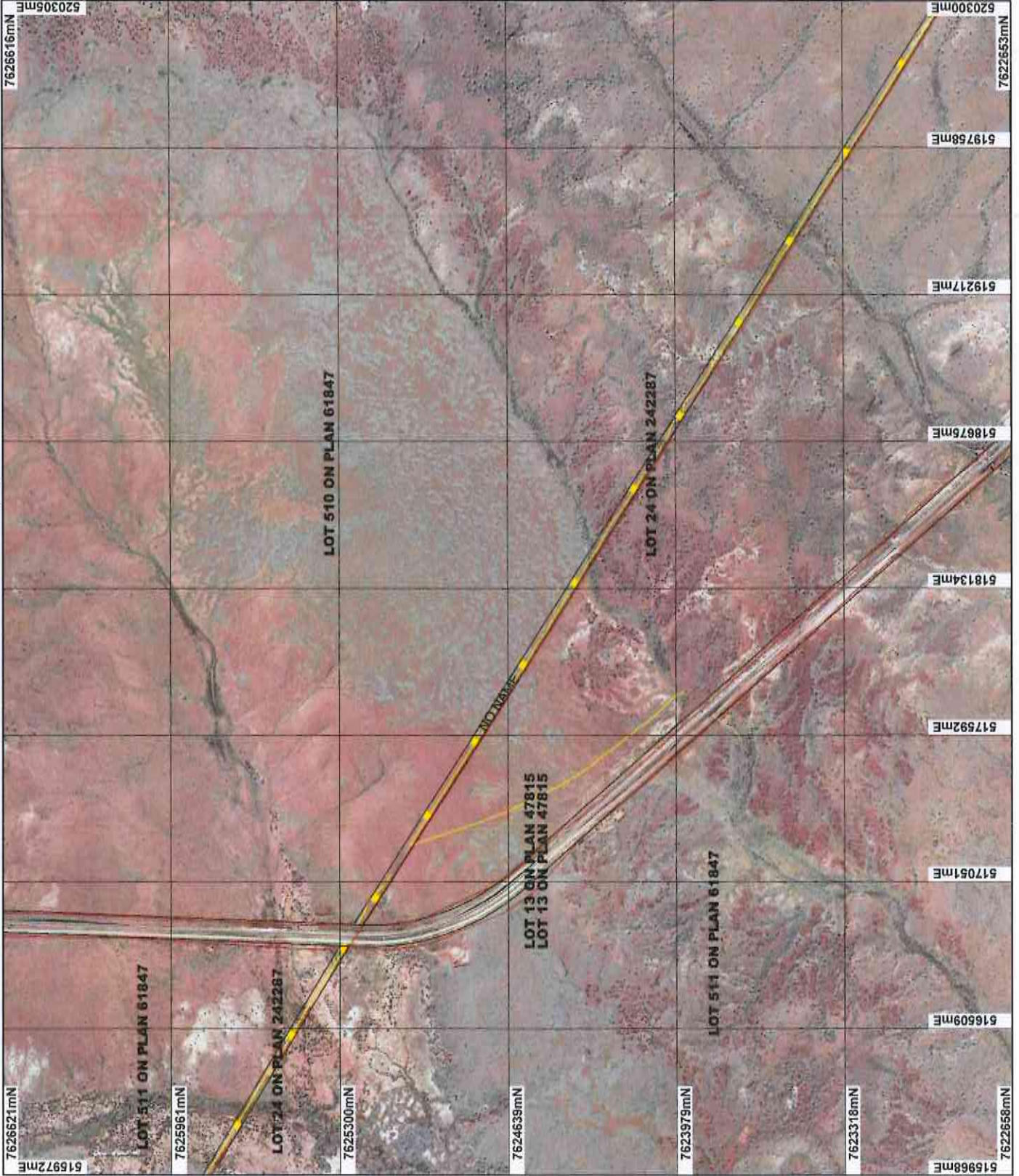
W. Warlock
Date 29/5/14

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.

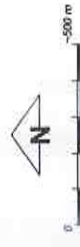
Government of Western Australia
Department of Environment Regulation
WA Crown Copyright 2002

Plan 5887/1 (c)



LEGEND

- Road Centrelines
- Clearing Instruments
- Areas Approved to Clear
- Cadastre
- Cooya Pooya 1.4m Orthomosaic - Landgate 1988
- Millstream 80cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2007



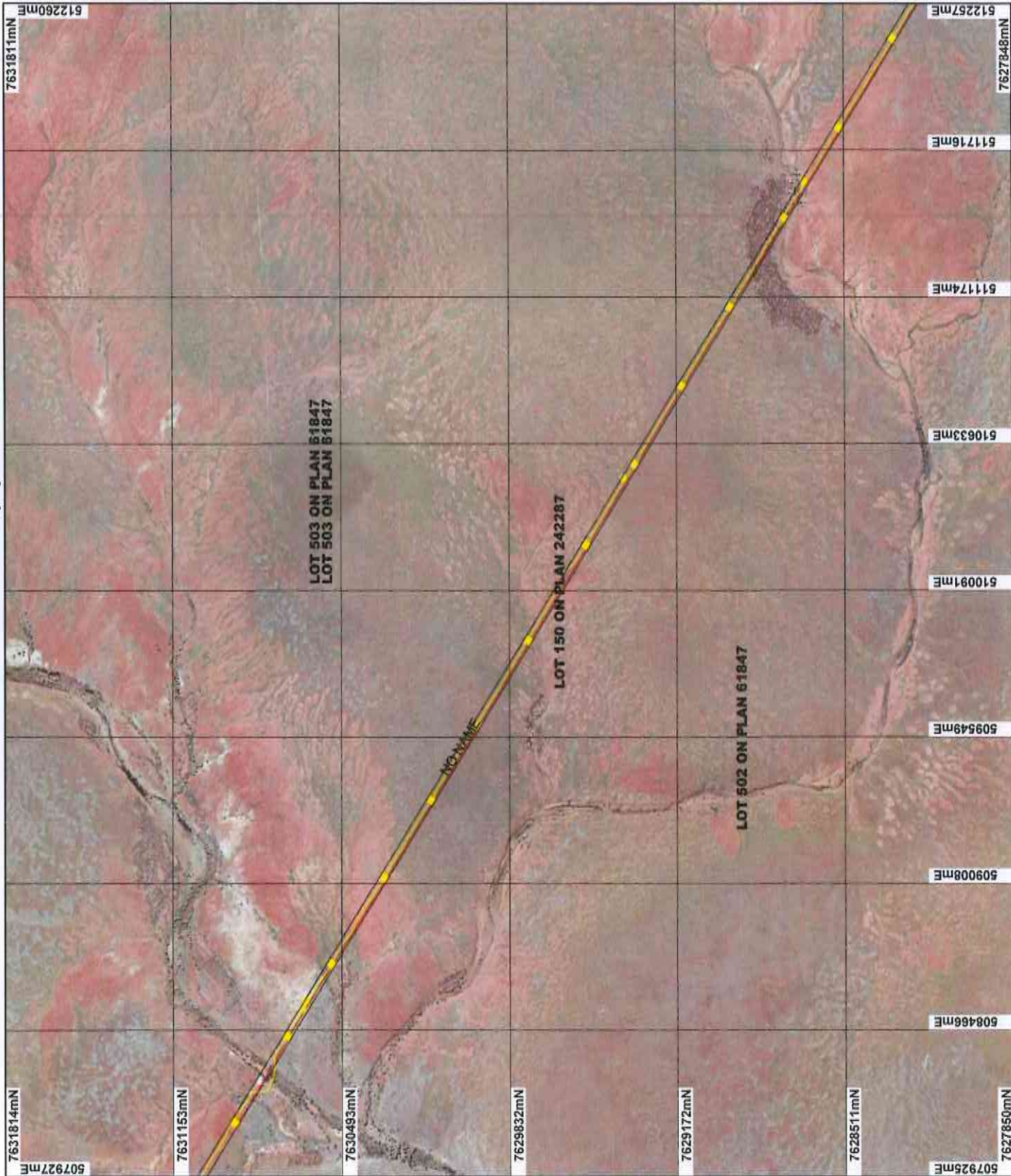
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 (Approximate when reproduced at A4)
 Geocentric Datum Australia 1994
 Note: the data in this map have not been
 audited. This may result in geometric
 distortions or measurement inaccuracies.

M. Wainwright
 M. Wainwright
 Date 20/5/14

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.



Plan 5887/1 (e)



LEGEND

- Road Centrelines
- Clearing Instruments
- Areas Approved to Clear
- Cadastre
- Cooyal Poooya 1.4m Orthomosaic - Landgate 1998
- Millstream 80cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2007



0 500 m

Scale 1:20002

(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

Geocentric Datum Australia 1994

Note: the data in this map have not been processed. This may result in geometric distortion or measurement inaccuracies.

M Waincock Date 29/5/19

M Waincock

Officer with delegated authority under Section 20 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

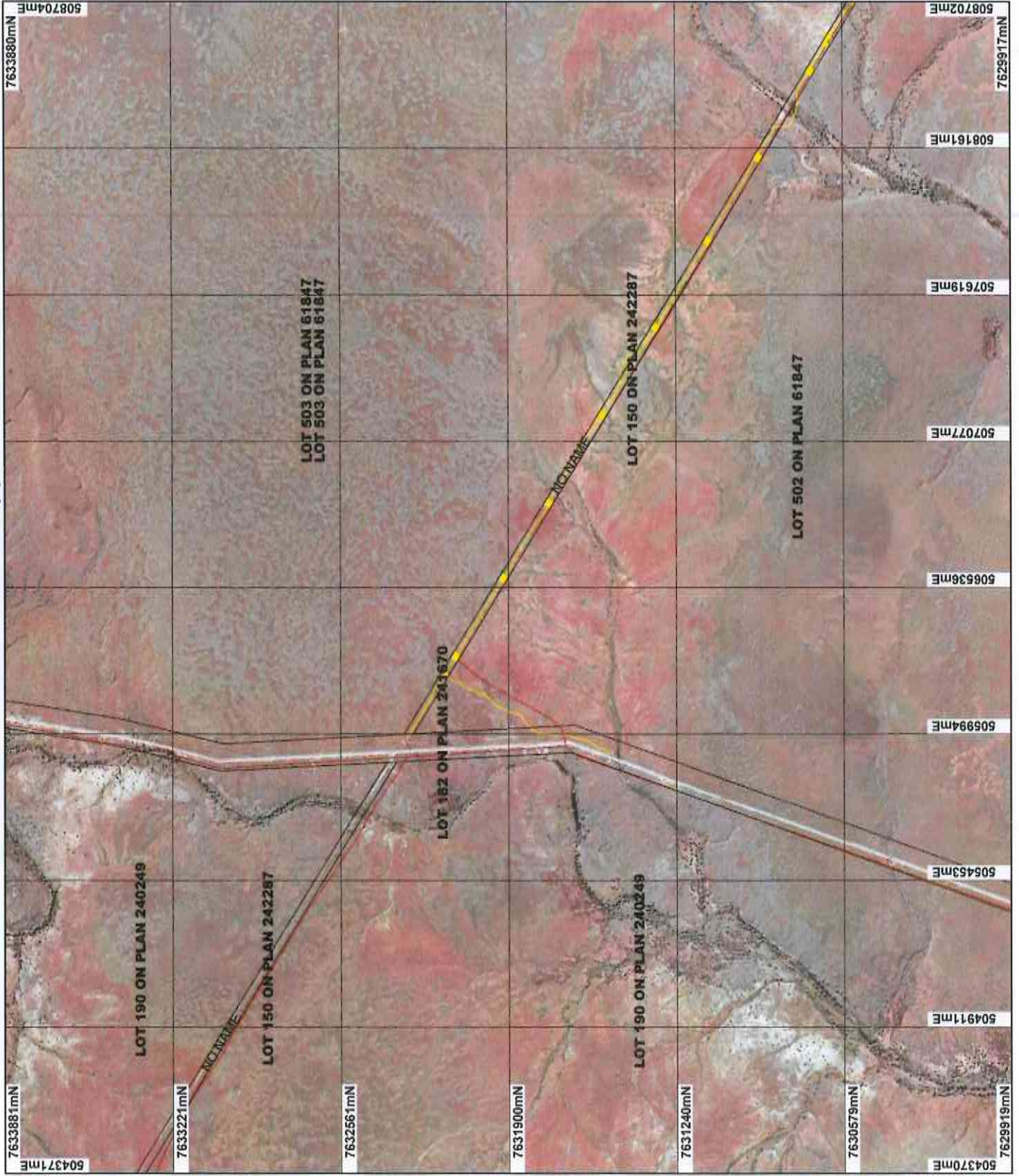
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Government of Western Australia
Department of Environment Regulation

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Plan 5887/1 (f)



LEGEND

- Road Centrelines
- Clearing Instruments
- Areas Approved to Clear
- Cadastral
- Cooysa Pooysa 1.4m Orthomosaic - Landgate 1988
- Millstream 80cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2007

Scale 1:20000
 (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.

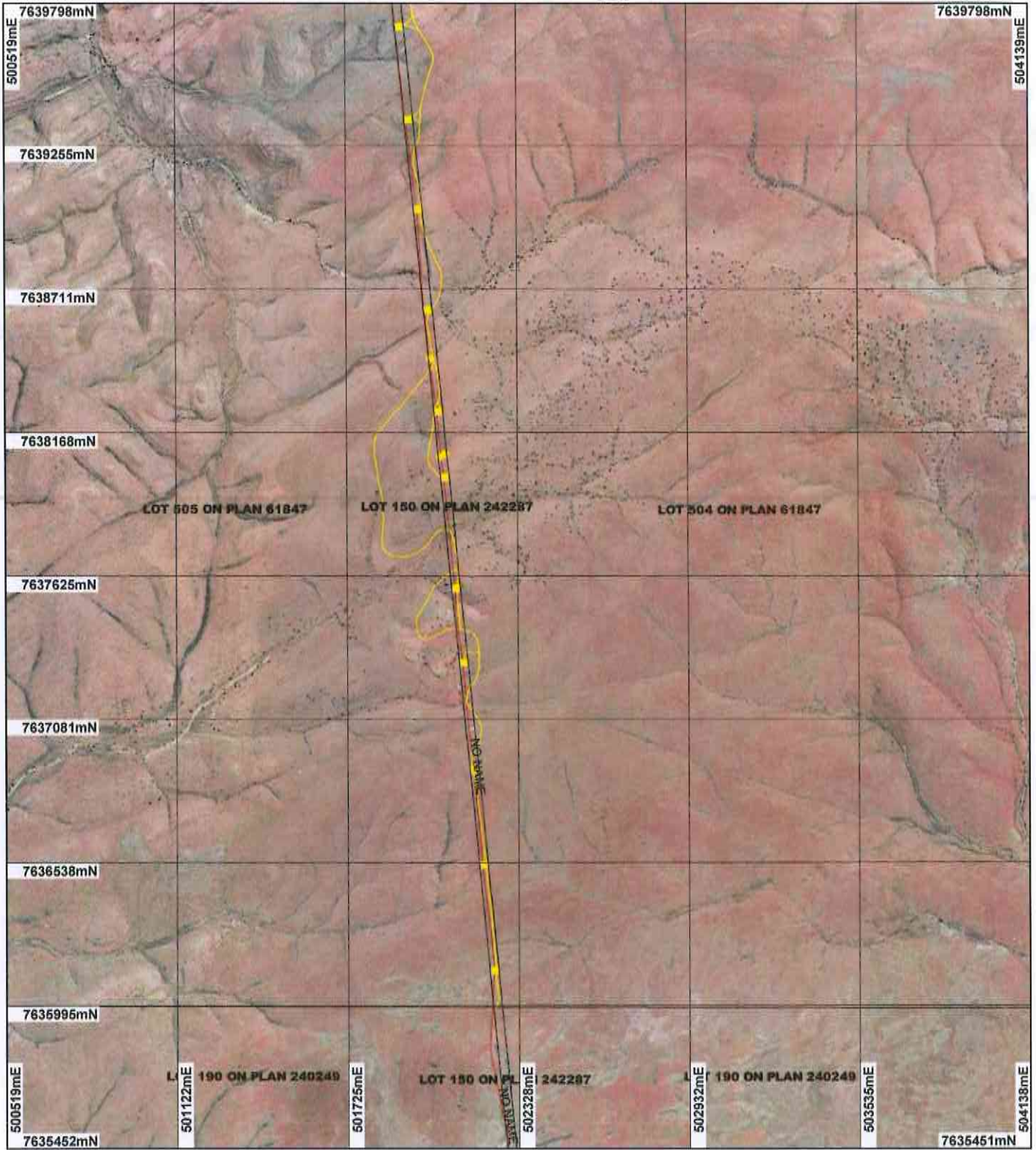
M Warnock
 Date 29/5/16

Office 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.

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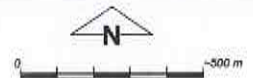
Plan 5887/1 (g)



LEGEND

- Road Centrelines
- Clearing Instruments
- Areas Approved to Clear
- Cadastre
- Cooya Pooya 1.4m Orthomosaic - Landgate 2007

Millstream 80cm Orthomosaic
- Landgate 2007



Scale 1:19999
(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.

M Wamock Date: 29/5/14

M Wamock

Officer with delegated authority under Section 20 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

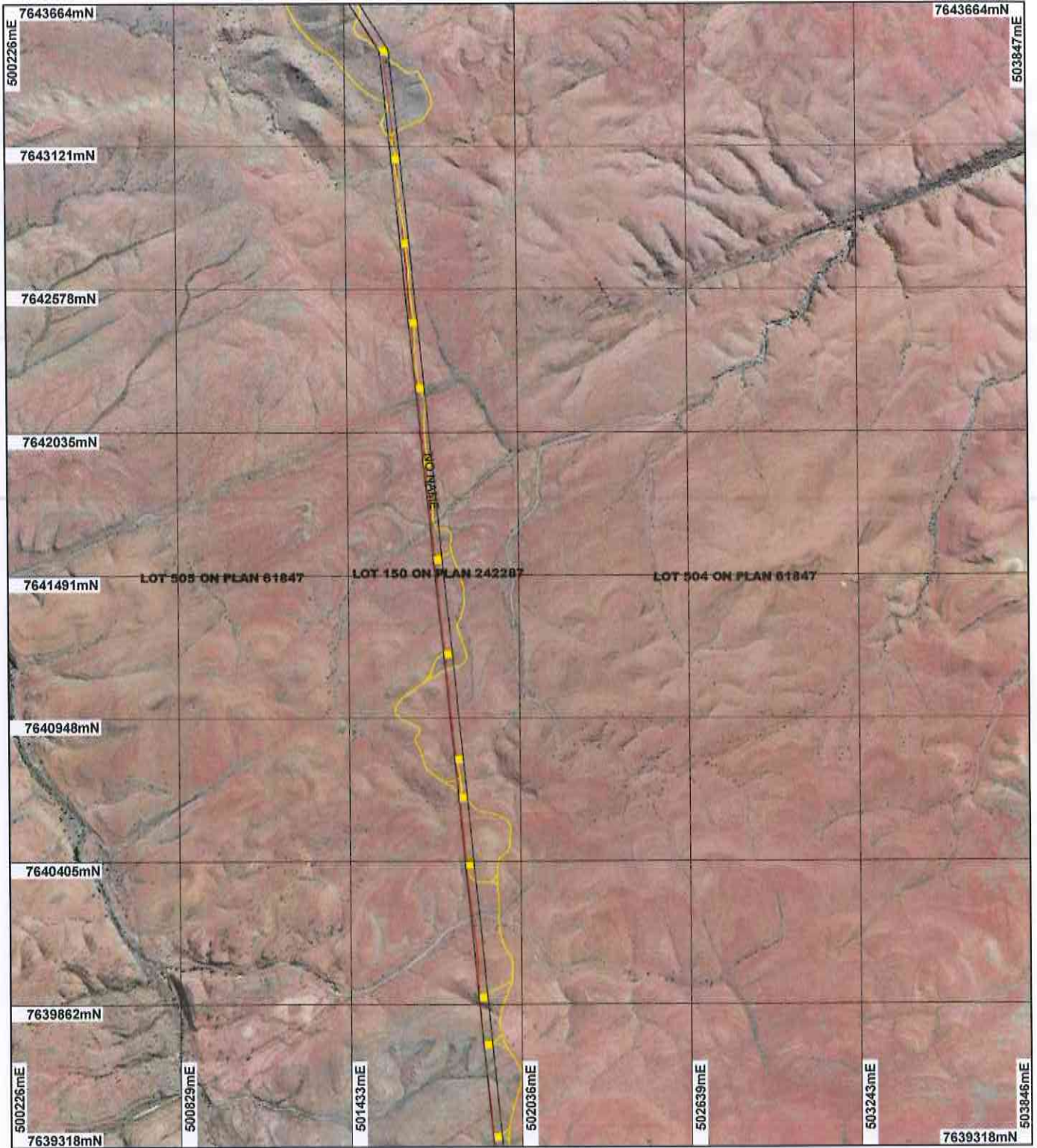
Information derived from this map should be confirmed with the data custodian acknowledged by the agency acronym in the legend.



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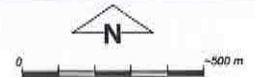
Plan 5887/1 (h)



LEGEND

- Road Centrelines
- Clearing Instruments
- Areas Approved to Clear
- Cadastre
- Cooya Pooya 1.4m Orthomosaic - Landgate

Milstream 80cm Orthomosaic
- Landgate 2007



Scale 1:20000
(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.

M Warnock Date 29/5/14

M Warnock

Officer with delegated authority under Section 20 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

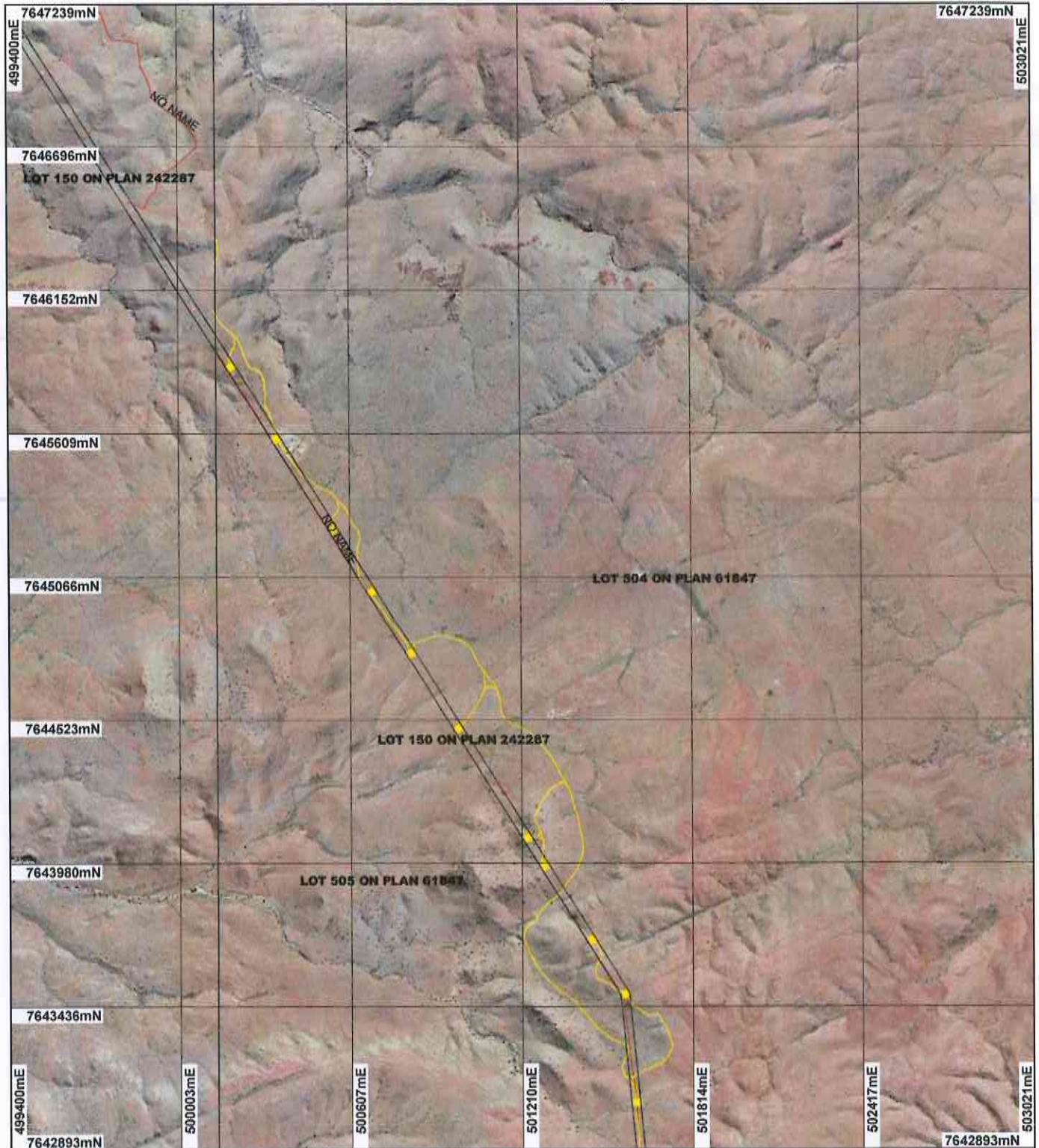
Information derived from this map should be confirmed with the data custodian acknowledged by the agency acronym in the legend.



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Department of Environment Regulation

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Plan 5887/1 (i)



LEGEND

- Road Centrelines
- Clearing Instruments
- Areas Approved to Clear
- Cadastre
- Cooya Pooya 1.4m Orthomosaic - Landgate 2007

Millstream 80cm Orthomosaic
- Landgate 2007



Scale 1:20000
(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.

M Warnock 29/5/14
Date

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.



Government of Western Australia
Department of Environment Regulation

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Clearing Permit Decision Report

Government of Western Australia
Department of Environment Regulation

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 5887/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 504 ON PLAN 61847 (MILLSTREAM 6716)
UNALLOCATED CROWN LAND (FORTESCUE 6716)
LOT 150 ON PLAN 242287 (MILLSTREAM 6716)
LOT 505 ON PLAN 61847 (MILLSTREAM 6716)
LOT 182 ON PLAN 241670 (MILLSTREAM 6716)
LOT 502 ON PLAN 61847 (MILLSTREAM 6716)
LOT 503 ON PLAN 61847 (MILLSTREAM 6716)
LOT 24 ON PLAN 242287 (MILLSTREAM 6716)
ROEBOURNE-WITTENOOM ROAD RESERVE (MILLSTREAM 6716)
LOT 511 ON PLAN 61847 (MILLSTREAM 6716)
LOT 13 ON PLAN 47815 (FORTESCUE 6716)
LOT 510 ON PLAN 61847 (MILLSTREAM 6716)
LOT 33 ON PLAN 240249 (FORTESCUE 6716)

Local Government Area: Shire of Ashburton

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
26		Mechanical Removal	Hazard reduction or fire control

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 29 May 2014

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 173 is described as hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; kanji over soft spinifex & Triodia wiseana on basalt (Shepherd et al 2001).	To clear up to 26 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 13 on Plan 47815, Lot 33 on Plan 240249, unallocated Crown land, Fortescue, Lot 182 on Plan 241670, Lots 502, 503, 504, 505, 510 and 511 on Plan 61847, Roebourne-Wittenoom Road reserve (PIN 11733933), Millstream, Lots 24 and 150 on Plan 242287, Millstream and Fortescue, Shire of Ashburton, for the purposes of transmission line maintenance including access track maintenance and safety and fire hazard reduction.	Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery 1994) To Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994).	The application is to clear up to 26 hectares of regrowth vegetation along a transmission line access track and transmission tower service pads, for ease of access and fire hazard reduction. The vegetation under application has been previously cleared and consists of regrowth in a completely degraded to good (Keighery 1994) condition. The description and condition of the vegetation was determined using a biological survey provided by the applicant (Astron Environmental Services 2013).
Mapped Beard vegetation association 175 is described as short bunch grassland - savanna/grass plain (Pilbara) (Shepherd et al 2001).			
Mapped Beard vegetation association 587 is described as mosaic: Hummock grasslands, open low tree-steppe; snappy gum over Triodia wiseana / Hummock grasslands, shrub-steppe; kanji over Triodia pungens (Shepherd et al 2001).			
Mapped Beard vegetation association 607 is described as hummock grasslands, low tree steppe; snappy gum & bloodwood over soft spinifex & Triodia wiseana (Shepherd et al 2001).			

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments The application is to clear up to 26 hectares of native vegetation along a transmission line access track and transmission tower service pads, for ease of access and fire hazard reduction.

The vegetation under application has been previously cleared and consists of regrowth in a completely degraded to good (Keighery 1994) condition.

The application area is adjacent to native vegetation in equal or better condition and is unlikely to contain high biodiversity values in comparison to surrounding vegetation remnants. No threatened ecological communities or rare flora are mapped within the local area (20 kilometre radius). The application area is mapped within the buffer of a priority ecological community (PEC) and may comprise vegetation representative of the PEC, however due to the relatively small size of the application area and previous disturbance, the proposed clearing is unlikely to have a significant impact upon the PEC (Astron Environmental Services 2013). Numerous species of priority flora and fauna have been recorded within the local area, however no priority flora was identified within the application area during a flora survey (Astron Environmental Services 2013). Most of the fauna species in the area are highly mobile and there is an abundance of fauna habitat in surrounding areas. As the application area consists of regrowth that has been previously cleared, the proposed clearing is unlikely to have a significant impact on any flora or fauna of conservation significance.

The Shire of Ashburton and the local area are well vegetated, retaining more than 99 per cent of the original vegetation extent (Government of Western Australia 2013). Mapped Beard Vegetation Associations 173, 175, 587 and 607 (Shepherd et al 2001) also retain more than 99 per cent of the original extent within the Pilbara IBRA Bioregion (Government of Western Australia 2013). The area under application is not significant as a remnant in an extensively cleared area.

Numerous minor non-perennial watercourses intersect the application area. The proposed clearing may include some riparian vegetation, although the impact to watercourses is likely to be minimal. Due to the surrounding area being well vegetated and the linear nature of the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to cause or exacerbate land degradation or flooding or impact on water quality.

The application area is within the Millstream Chichester National Park. The application area is linear, with some areas being weed infested and some areas having minimal weeds. There is a risk that movement along the application area during clearing activities will spread weeds from infested areas into non-infested areas, and into the surrounding national park (Parks and Wildlife 2013). A vegetation management plan has been developed in order to address the potential impacts to the reserve.

Considering the above, the impacts of the proposed clearing are likely to be minimal. The application may be at variance to clearing principles (f) and (h), is not at variance to principle (e) and is not likely to be at variance to the remaining principles.

Methodology

References:

- Astron Environmental Services (2013)
- Government of Western Australia (2013)
- Keighery (1994)
- Parks and Wildlife (2013)

GIS Databases:

- DEC tenure
- Hydrography, linear DOW
- NWLRA, Extent of Native Vegetation
- Pre-European vegetation
- SAC Biodatasets - accessed January 2014

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

Comments The application is to clear up to 26 hectares of native vegetation along a transmission line access track and transmission tower service pads, for ease of access and fire hazard reduction.

Department of Parks and Wildlife (Parks and Wildlife) advised that it is satisfied with the applicant's Environmental Management Plan for the works in order to mitigate any potential impacts to the Millstream Chichester National Park (Parks and Wildlife, 2014).

The application area is within the Harding Dam Catchment Area and the Millstream Water Reserve, gazetted under the Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947 (CAWS Act) and assigned as Priority 1 under the Water Source Protection Classification System. Drinking Water Source Protection Plans and Water Quality Protection Notices have been developed in relation to the protection of both catchment areas and are available from the Department of Water (DoW). It is Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd's responsibility to ensure compliance with all guidelines and obligations under the CAWS Act.

The application area is within the Pilbara Surface Water Area and Pilbara Ground Water Area as proclaimed under the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914 (RIWI Act). DoW advise that where the proposed clearing intersects a waterway not within the proponent's tenement, the normal regulatory instruments under the RIWI Act apply, and any interference with the bed or banks of a water course in this proclaimed area will require a permit (DoW 2013).

No public submissions have been received.

The grant of a clearing permit may constitute a future act under the Native Title Act 1993 (NT Act). Accordingly, by a letter dated 2 December 2013, the Department of Environment Regulation has notified the Ngarluma/Yindjibarndi native title claimants and the Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation, pursuant to Section 24KA s8 of the NT Act, of this application to clear native vegetation. Additionally, numerous Aboriginal Sites of Significance are mapped within and in close proximity to the proposed clearing. It is Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd's responsibility to ensure compliance with any obligations under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972.

The area under application is zoned as "conservation, recreation and nature landscape" and "local road" under the Town Planning Scheme Zones.

Methodology

References:

- DoW (2013)
- Parks and Wildlife (2014)

GIS Databases:

- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
- Town Planning Scheme Zones

4. References

- Astron Environmental Services (2013) Millstream Transmission Corridor Level 1 Vegetation, Flora and Fauna Survey, prepared for Rio Tinto Iron Ore Ltd, September 2013 (DER Ref: A711863).
- DoW (2013) Advice regarding Clearing Permit Application CPS 5887/1, Department of Water, provided on 13 December 2013 (DER Ref: A706980).
- Government of Western Australia (2013) 2012 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of October 2012. 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.
- Parks and Wildlife (2014) Approval of Management Plan for Clearing Permit Application CPS 5887/1, provided by Department of Parks and Wildlife Pilbara Region, 26 May 2014 (DER Ref: A763116).
- 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.