



## CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

<b>Purpose Permit number:</b>	6141/2
<b>Duration of Permit:</b>	From 23 August 2014 to 30 November 2034
<b>Permit Holder:</b>	BHP Iron Ore Pty Ltd

The Permit Holder is authorised to clear native vegetation subject to the following conditions of this Permit.

### **PART I - CLEARING AUTHORISED**

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

*Iron Ore (Goldsworthy-Nimingarra) Agreement Act 1972, Mining Lease 263SA (AM 70/263)*

**2. Clearing authorised (purpose)**

The Permit Holder is authorised to clear native vegetation for the purposes of mineral exploration, geotechnical and hydrogeological investigations and associated activities.

**3. Area of Clearing**

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 200 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross-hatched yellow in Figure 1 of Schedule 1.

**4. Directional clearing**

The Permit Holder shall must:

- conduct all clearing authorised under this permit in one direction towards adjacent vegetation; and
- allow a reasonable time for fauna present within the area being cleared to move into that adjacent native vegetation ahead of the clearing activity.

**5. Period in which clearing is Authorised**

The Permit Holder must not clear any native vegetation after 30 November 2029.

### **PART II - MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS**

**6. Avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing**

In determining the amount of native vegetation to be cleared under this Permit, the Permit Holder must apply the following principles, set out in descending 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

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 known *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.

## 8. Flora Management

Where *priority flora* have been identified and their written locations, provided to the *CEO*, within report 'Ophthalmia Flora, Vegetation and Fauna Assessment, October 2010' as retained on DEMIRS file A1161/201401, Object ID A73452125, the Permit Holder shall ensure that:

- (i) no clearing of the identified *priority flora* occurs, unless first approved by the *CEO*; and
- (ii) no clearing within 10 metres of the identified *priority flora* occurs, unless first approved by the *CEO*.

## 9. Flora management

- (a) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder shall engage a *botanist* to conduct a *targeted flora survey* of the area to be cleared for the presence of *threatened flora* listed in the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice* and *priority flora*.
- (b) Where *threatened flora* and *priority flora* are identified under Condition 9(a) of this Permit, the Permit Holder shall ensure that:
  - (i) no clearing occurs within 50 metres of identified *threatened flora* unless first approved by the *CEO*;
  - (ii) no clearing of identified *priority flora* occurs unless first approved by the *CEO*; and
  - (iii) no clearing occurs within 10 metres of identified *priority flora* unless first approved by the *CEO*.
- (c) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder shall provide the results of the *targeted flora survey* in a report to the *CEO*.
- (d) If *threatened flora* or *priority flora* are identified within the Permit Area, the *targeted flora survey* report must include the following:
  - (i) the location of each *threatened flora* or *priority flora*, either as the location of individual plants, or where this is not practical, the areal extent of the population and an estimate of the number of plants, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 2020 (GDA20), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;
  - (ii) the species name of each *threatened flora* or *priority flora* identified; and
  - (iii) the methodology, used to survey the Permit Area.
- (e) For the purpose of this Permit, a *targeted flora survey* conducted within five years preceding the clearing will satisfy Condition 9(a).

## 10. Watercourse Management

- (a) where practicable the Permit Holder shall avoid *clearing riparian vegetation*; and
- (b) where a *watercourse* or *drainage line* is to be impacted by clearing, the Permit Holder shall ensure that the existing surface flow is maintained, or reinstated downstream into existing natural drainage lines.

## 11. Staged Clearing

The Permit Holder shall not clear native vegetation unless the purpose for which the clearing is authorised begins within 6 months of the clearing being undertaken.

## 12. Retain vegetative material and topsoil, revegetation and rehabilitation

The Permit Holder shall:

- (a) retain the vegetative material and topsoil removed by clearing authorised under this Permit and stockpile the vegetative material and topsoil in an area that has already been cleared;
- (b) within 12 months following completion of clearing authorised under this Permit, *revegetate* and *rehabilitate* the areas that are no longer required for the purpose for which they were cleared under this Permit by:
  - (i) ripping the ground on the contour to remove soil compaction;
  - (ii) laying the vegetative material and topsoil retained under Condition 12(a) on the cleared area; and
  - (iii) re-shaping the surface of the land so that it is consistent with the surrounding 5 metres of uncleared land.
- (c) within 4 years of undertaking *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* in accordance with Condition 12(b) of this Permit:
  - (i) engage an *environmental specialist* to determine the species composition, structure and density of the area *revegetated* and *rehabilitated*; and
  - (ii) where, in the opinion of an *environmental specialist*, the composition structure and density determined under Condition 12(c)(i) of this Permit will not result in a similar species composition, structure and density to that of *pre-clearing* vegetation types in that area, *revegetate* the area by deliberately *planting* and/or *direct seeding* native vegetation that will result in a similar species composition, structure and density of native vegetation to *pre-clearing* vegetation types in that area and ensuring only *local provenance* seeds and propagating material are used.

## **PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING**

### 13. Records to be kept

The Permit Holder must maintain records relating to the listed relevant matters in accordance with the specifications detailed in Table 1.

**Table 1: Records that must be kept**

No.	Relevant matter	Specifications
1.	In relation to the authorised clearing activities generally	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>(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;</li><li>(b) the date that the area was cleared;</li><li>(c) the size of the area cleared (in hectares);</li><li>(d) actions taken to conduct slow directional in accordance with Condition 4;</li><li>(e) actions taken in accordance with Condition 5;</li><li>(f) actions taken to avoid, minimise, and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing in accordance with Condition 6;</li><li>(g) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of <i>weeds</i> in accordance with Condition 7;</li><li>(h) actions taken to avoid identified <i>priority flora</i> in accordance with Condition 8;</li><li>(i) actions taken in accordance with Condition 9;</li><li>(j) actions taken to avoid riparian vegetation and maintain existing surface water flow in accordance with Condition 10; and</li><li>(k) actions taken in accordance with Condition 11.</li></ol>
2.	In relation to the <i>revegetation</i> and <i>rehabilitation</i> management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) The location of any areas <i>revegetated</i> and <i>rehabilitated</i>, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set</li></ol>

No.	Relevant matter	Specifications
	pursuant to Condition 12	<p>to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings;</p> <p>(b) a description of the <i>revegetation</i> and <i>rehabilitation</i> activities undertaken; and</p> <p>(c) the size of the area <i>revegetated</i> and <i>rehabilitated</i> (in hectares).</p>

#### 14. Reporting

- (a) The Permit Holder shall provide a report to the *CEO* by 1 October each year for the life of this Permit, demonstrating adherence to all conditions of this Permit, and setting out the records required under Condition 13 of this Permit in relation to clearing carried out between 1 July and 30 June of the previous financial year.
- (b) If no clearing authorised under this Permit was undertaken between 1 July and 30 June of the previous financial year, a written report confirming that no clearing under this permit has been carried out, must be provided to the *CEO* by 1 October of each year.
- (c) Prior to 30 November 2034, the Permit Holder must provide to the *CEO* a written report of records required under Condition 13 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under Condition 14(a) or 14(b) of this Permit.

#### DEFINITIONS

In this permit, the terms in Table 2 have the meanings defined.

**Table 2: Definitions**

Term	Definition
botanist	means a person who holds a tertiary qualification in environmental science or equivalent, and has a minimum of 2 years work experience in identification and surveys of flora native to the bioregion being inspected or surveyed, or who is approved by the <i>CEO</i> as a suitable <i>botanist</i> for the bioregion.
CEO	the Chief Executive Officer of the Department responsible for administering the clearing provisions contained within the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> or an Officer with delegated authority under Section 20 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> .
clearing	has the meaning given under section 3(1) of the EP Act.
condition/s	a condition to which this clearing permit is subject under section 51H of the EP Act.
department	means the department established under section 35 of the <i>Public Sector Management Act 1994</i> (WA) and designated as responsible for the administration of the EP Act, which includes Part V Division 3.
direct seeding	Means a method of re-establishing vegetation through the establishment of a seed bed and the introduction of seeds of the desired plant species.
drainage line/s	means a natural depression that carries surface water runoff.
environmental specialist	means a person who holds a tertiary qualification in environmental science or equivalent, and has experience relevant to the type of environmental advice that an environmental specialist is required to provide under this Permit, or who is approved by the <i>CEO</i> as a suitable environmental specialist.
EP Act	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> (WA)

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
fill	means material used to increase the ground level, or to fill a depression.
local provenance	means native vegetation seeds and propagating material from natural sources within <200 kilometres in the same Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) subregion of the area cleared.
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.
native vegetation	has the meaning given under section 3(1) and section 51A of the EP Act.
planting	means the re-establishment of vegetation by creating favourable soil conditions and planting seedlings of the desired species.
regeneration	means <i>revegetation</i> that can be established from in situ seed banks contained either within the topsoil or seed-bearing <i>mulch</i> .
rehabilitate / rehabilitated / rehabilitation	means actively managing an area containing native vegetation in order to improve the ecological function of that area.
revegetate / revegetated / revegetation	means the re-establishment of a cover of <i>local provenance</i> native vegetation in an area using methods such as natural <i>regeneration</i> , <i>direct seeding</i> and/or <i>planting</i> , so that the species composition, structure and density is similar to pre-clearing vegetation types in that area.
priority flora	means those plant taxa described as priority flora classes 1, 2, 3, or 4 in the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' <i>Threatened and Priority Flora List for Western Australia</i> (as amended).
riparian vegetation	has the meaning given to it in Regulation 3 of the Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulation 2004.
targeted flora survey	means a field-based investigation, including a review of established literature, of the biodiversity of flora and vegetation of the Permit Area, focusing on habitat suitable for flora species that are being targeted and carried out during the optimal time to identify those species. Where target flora are identified in the Permit Area, the survey should also include sufficient surrounding areas to place the Permit Area into local context.
threatened flora	means those plant taxa listed as threatened flora under the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> .
watercourse	has the meaning given to it in section 3 of the <i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> .
Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice	means those plant taxa gazetted as a threatened flora pursuant to section 19(1) of the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> (as amended).
weed/s	means any plant – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) that is a declared pest under section 22 of the <i>Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007</i>; or</li> <li>(b) published in a Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions species-led ecological impact and invasiveness ranking summary, regardless of ranking; or</li> <li>(c) not indigenous to the area concerned.</li> </ul>

---

END OF CONDITIONS

*Danielle Risbey*

---

**Danielle Risbey** | Acting General Manager Mine Closure and Environmental Services  
Resource and Environmental Compliance Division  
22 August 2024

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

# SCHEDULE 1

The boundary of the area authorised to be cleared is shown in the map below (Figure 1).

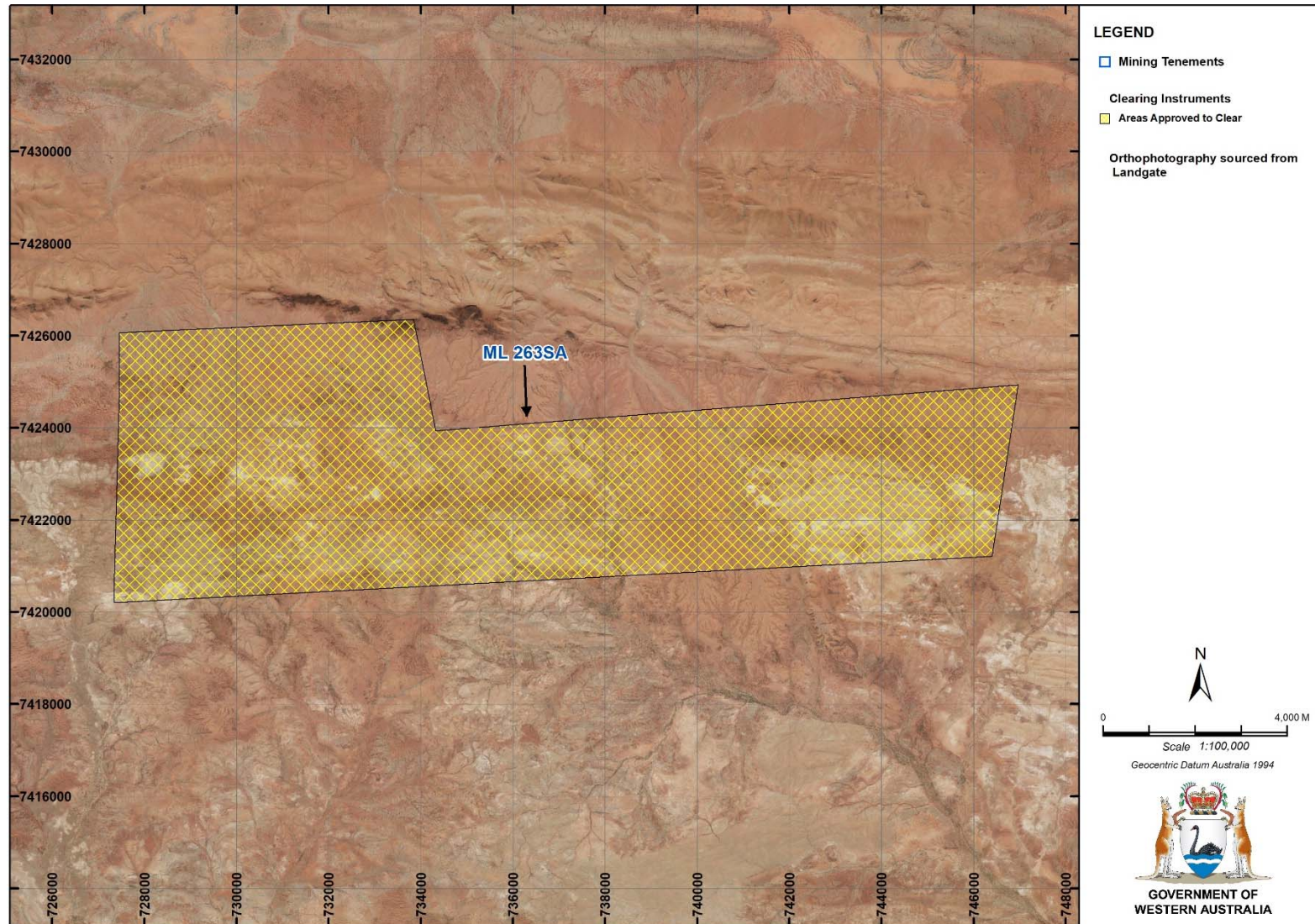


Figure 1: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur