



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 6420/1
Permit Holder:	Robe River Mining Co Pty Ltd
Duration of Permit:	11 April 2015 – 30 June 2015

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 constructing a fence.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Lot 307 on Deposited Plan 63519, Fortescue.

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 10 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross hatched yellow on attached Plan 6420/1.

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.

PART II – MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

5. 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*:

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

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 any plant -

- (a) that is a declared pest under section 22 of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*; or
- (b) published in a Department of Parks and Wildlife Regional Weed Rankings Summary, regardless of ranking; or
- (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.

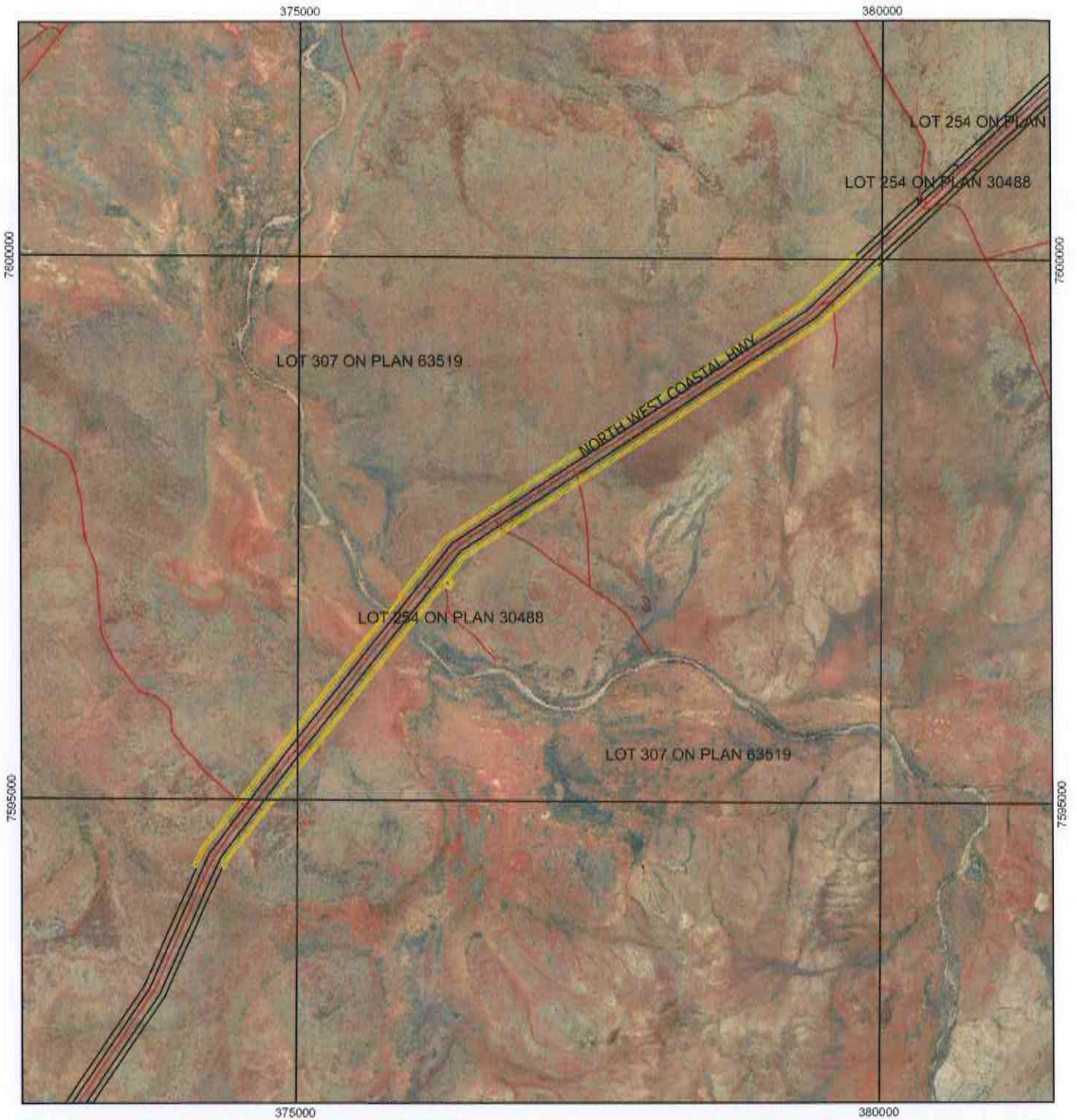


M Warnock
SENIOR MANAGER
CLEARING REGULATION

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

12 March 2015

Plan 6420/1



Legend

-  Areas approved to clear
-  Roads
-  Cadastre
-  Virtual Mosaic
- 



1:39.010

MGA 94
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

Matt Warnock Date 12/3/15
Matt Warnock

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



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 6420/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Robe River Mining Co Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 307 ON PLAN 63519, FORTESCUE
Local Government Area:: Shire of Ashburton

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
10		Mechanical Removal	Fence line

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit: Grant
Decision Date: 12 March 2015

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 583: Hummock grasslands, sparse shrub steppe; kanji & Acacia bivenosa over hard spinifex Triodia basedowii & T. wiseana (Shepherd et al, 2001)	Clearing 10 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 307 on Deposited Plan 63519, Fortescue, Shire of Ashburton, to construct a fence.	Excellent; Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery, 1994). To Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery 1994)	A biological assessment of the area under application recorded four vegetation units comprising of 129 native taxa (Biota, 2014). The vegetation under application is in a completely degraded to excellent (Keighery, 1994) condition (Biota, 2014) with the majority of the vegetation being in an excellent (Keighery, 1994) condition (Biota, 2014). The area is subject historical disturbances from vehicle tracks (Biota, 2014). The condition and structure of the vegetation under application was determined by a biological assessment of the application area undertaken by Biota Environmental Sciences in November 2014.

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments The application is to clear 10 hectares of native vegetation within a 41.8 hectare footprint within Lot 307 on Deposited Plan 63519, Fortescue for the purpose of constructing a fence to prevent cattle entering onto North West Coastal Highway. The proposed clearing will be undertaken over a linear length of approximately 8.1 kilometres.

The vegetation under application is in a completely degraded to excellent (Keighery, 1994) condition (Biota, 2014).

One priority flora species has been recorded within 10 kilometres of the area under application, the species is mapped as occurring within different soil and vegetation type as the application area. No rare flora have been recorded within 10 kilometres of the application area. A biological assessment of the clearing footprint did not record any priority or rare flora however considered the vegetation may be suitable for a priority 4 flora species (Biota, 2014). The species has a wide distribution with records of the species occurring over five local government areas. Given the broad distribution of the species and that a large amount of suitable habitat for the species remains outside of the clearing footprint, it is unlikely that the impact of the proposed clearing would be significant to the conservation of the taxon.

The clearing footprint falls within the buffer of a priority 1 ecological community referred to as a subterranean invertebrate community of the pisolitic hills in the Pilbara. There was no suitable habitat for this community recorded within the clearing footprint therefore it is considered unlikely to occur within the footprint (Biota, 2014). No threatened ecological communities have been recorded within 10 kilometres of the proposed clearing footprint.

Two fauna species of conservation significance have been recorded within 10 kilometres of the area under application (DPaW, 2007-). A biological assessment considered that 14 fauna species of conservation significance could potentially occur in the proposed clearing footprint (Biota, 2014). The clearing footprint comprises of two types of fauna habitat. The fauna habitat and associated vegetation are widespread and well represented in the Pilbara bioregion.

The vegetation under application is represented by Beard Vegetation Association 583 which has approximately 100 per cent of its pre-European vegetation extent remaining within the Pilbara IBRA Bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2013).

The National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation include a target that prevents the clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30 per cent of that present pre-European settlement, below which species loss appears to accelerate exponentially at an ecosystem level (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001). The vegetation within the area under application is above the 30 per cent threshold.

Approximately 95 per cent of pre-European vegetation remains within 10 kilometres of the area under application. The vegetation under application is not likely to comprise a high level of biological diversity and therefore is not likely to be a significant remnant.

The area under application intersects Warrambo Creek and drainage lines associated with the Creek. It is likely vegetation growing in association with the Creek and drainage lines will be impacted upon by the clearing, however the watercourses are seasonally inundated and given the linear nature of the proposed clearing it is unlikely to have significant impacts on the identified watercourses.

No conservation areas have been recorded within 10 kilometres of the proposed clearing. The nearest conservation area to the proposed clearing is the Cane River Conservation Park approximately 25 kilometres south.

Given the linear nature of the proposed clearing, it is unlikely that the proposed clearing will cause or exacerbate land degradation, flooding or impact upon water quality.

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

Methodology References
- Biota (2014)
- Commonwealth of Australia (2001)
- DPaW (2007-)
- Government of Western Australia (2013)
- Keighery (1994)

- GIS Database:
- DPaW Tenure
 - Hydrography, linear
 - Pre-European Vegetation
 - SAC Bio datasets accessed February 2015

Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

Comments No submissions have been received for this application.

The proposed clearing is to be undertaken within the applicant's pastoral lease area issued under Section 143 of the Land Administration Act 1997 which expires on 30 June 2015.

Methodology

4. References

- DPaW (2007 -) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Environment and Conservation. URL: <http://naturemap.dec.wa.gov.au/>. Accessed February 2015
- Biota Environmental Sciences (2014) Yaraloola Native Vegetation Clearing Permit Report. Prepared for Rio Tinto Pty Ltd, November 2014 (DER Ref:A851783)
- Shepherd, D.P., Beeston, G.R. and Hopkins, A.J.M. (2001) Native Vegetation in Western Australia, Extent, Type and Status. Resource Management Technical Report 249. Department of Agriculture, Western Australia.
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- 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.
- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.