



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number: CPS 6687/1
Permit Holder: IB Operations Pty Ltd
Duration of Permit: 26 December 2015 – 26 December 2020

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 upgrading roads.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Lot 228 on Deposited Plan 238638 (Marble Bar)

Crown Reserve 12805 (Marble Bar)

Wodgina Road reserve, Marble Bar (PIN 11734389 and PIN 11734385)

Pippingarra Road reserve, Marble Bar (PIN 11734398 and PIN 11734394)

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 20 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 6687/1a and Plan 6687/1b.

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. 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:

- (a) avoid the clearing of native vegetation;
- (b) minimise the amount of native vegetation to be cleared; and
- (c) reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.

6. 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 *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.

Plan 6687/1a



Legend

-  Localities
-  Roads
-  Imagery
-  Clearing Instruments Activities
-  Local Government Authority



1:52,066

(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

GDA 94 (Lat/Long)

Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

J Clarkson Date *26/11/15*
 J Clarkson

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



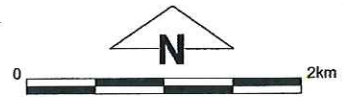
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 WESTERN AUSTRALIA
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Plan 6687/1b



Legend

-  Localities
-  Roads
-  Imagery
-  Clearing Instruments Activities
-  Local Government Authority



1:52,032

(Approximate when reproduced at A4)
GDA 94 (Lat/Long)

Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

J Clarkson Date *26/11/15*
J Clarkson

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



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 6687/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: IB Operations Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 228 ON PLAN 238638, MARBLE BAR
CROWN RESERVE 12805, MARBLE BAR
WODGINA ROAD RESERVE, MARBLE BAR (PIN 11734389 AND PIN 11734385)
PIPPINGARRA ROAD RESERVE, MARBLE BAR (PIN 11734398 AND PIN 11734394)

Colloquial name:

Local Government Authority: EAST PILBARA, SHIRE OF and PORT HEDLAND, TOWN OF

1.4. Application

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

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted
Decision Date: 26 November 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
Beard vegetation association 619 is described as medium woodland; river gum (Eucalyptus camaldulensis) (Shepherd et al, 2001),	The application is to clear 20 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 228 on Deposited Plan 238638, Crown Reserve 12805, Wodgina Road and Pippingarra Road reserves, Marble Bar, Town of Port Headland and the Shire of East Pilbara for the purpose of upgrading roads.	Degraded; Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery, 1994).	The vegetation condition was assessed using Trudgen (1991) vegetation scale (Fortescue 2015).and converted to the Keighery (1994) vegetation scale.
Beard vegetation association 93 is described as hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; kanji over soft spinifex (Shepherd et al, 2001)		To Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery 1994)	The condition and structure of the vegetation under application was obtained from supporting information provided by the applicant and a Level 2 flora and vegetation survey undertaken by ecologia Environment 2012 (FMG, 2015; ecologia Environment, 2012a) and aerial imagery.

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

(a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.

Comments **Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
The applicant proposes to clear 20 hectares of native vegetation within a clearing footprint of approximately 55 hectares over a linear distance of approximately 13 kilometres. The proposed clearing will be undertaken within Lot 228 on Deposited Plan 238638, Crown Reserve 12805, Wodgina Road and Pippingarra Road reserves, Marble Bar, for the purpose of upgrading roads.

A Level 2 flora and vegetation survey undertaken in 2012 by ecologia Environment identified five vegetation communities within the application footprint. It should be noted that approximately one kilometre of Pippingarra Road and approximately 3.6 kilometres of Wodgina Road were not surveyed and the vegetation communities in these areas were mapped based on aerial imagery. The vegetation condition within the clearing footprint has been previously disturbed from the original road construction and is in a degraded to completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition (FMG, 2015).

(d) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a threatened ecological community.

Comments **Proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle**
 There are no threatened ecological communities mapped within 20 kilometres of the area under application.
 Given the above the clearing as proposed is not at variance to this principle.

Methodology GIS Database:
 - SAC Bio Datasets October 2015

(e) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.

Comments **Proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle**
 The application area has been mapped as occurring within Beard vegetation associations 93 and 619. The national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia has a target to prevent clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30 per cent of that present pre-1750, below which species loss appears to accelerate exponentially at an ecosystem level (Commonwealth of Australia 2001). Both mapped vegetation associations retain vegetation above the 30 per cent threshold level.

The application and surrounding areas are extensively vegetated with approximately 95 percent of their pre-European vegetation remaining. The Town of Port Headland and the Shire of East Pilbara contain a large amount of vegetation within their boundaries, with approximately 99 percent of their pre-European vegetation extent remaining (Government of Western Australia, 2014).

The application area does not occur within an extensively cleared landscape and the vegetation under application is not significant as a remnant.

The proposed clearing is not at variance to this principle.

	Pre-European (ha)	Current (ha)	Extent Remaining (%)	Extent in Parks and Wildlife Managed Lands (%)
IBRA Bioregion*				
Pilbara	17,808,657	17,733,583	99	8.5
Shire*				
East Pilbara, Shire of	37,183,060	37,155,264	99	4
Port Hedland, Town of	1,847,393	1,818,661	99	0
Beard Vegetation Association in Bioregion*				
93	3,042,114	3,038,471	99	2
619	118,920	118,116	99	0.2

Methodology References:
 Commonwealth of Australia (2001)
 *Government of Western Australia (2014)
 GIS Databases:
 - Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia
 -pre-European Vegetation

(f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.

Comments **Proposed clearing is at variance to this Principle**
 The application footprint intersects the Turner River and numerous minor, non-perennial watercourses. The proposed clearing will remove vegetation that is associated with the watercourses. Therefore the proposed clearing is at variance to this principle.

Giving consideration to the relatively small amount of vegetation to be removed within the larger footprint, it is unlikely that the impacts from the removal of native vegetation will significantly impact upon the known watercourses within the application footprint.

Methodology GIS Databases:

Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

Comments The area under application is subject to Native Title claims. Both the claimants and their representing body have been notified of the application.

There is a Native Title claim over part of the applied area by the Karlyarra people (GIS Database). The Kariyarra's representative, the Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation has asked that a survey be conducted to ensure heritage is protected (Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation 2015). The applied area crosses Turner River tributaries which are Aboriginal Sites of Significance. It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process, and to liaise with Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation to ensure that heritage values are protected.

The Town of Port Hedland (2014) has given conditional approval to upgrade Pippingarra Road. The conditions relate upgrading the road to Main Roads Western Australia's requirements and allowing the road to be open to public use.

The Shire of East Pilbara (2014) has given conditional approval for the use of heavy vehicles on Wodgina road. The conditions relate to safety, and ongoing improvements and maintenance of the road, and that the road is to be upgraded to meet Main Roads Western Australia's requirements. However, further advice from the Shire (2015) indicates that their council is not in a position to support the proposal until the cumulative impacts of the clearing can be determined.

The application area falls within the Pilbara Surface Water Area covered by the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914. The Department of Water (2015) has advised that as there is no new infrastructure to be built that may disturb these waterways and the proposed clearing is for the management of re-growth, there is no requirements for a bed and banks permit (DoW, 2015).

Methodology References:
Department of Water (2015)
Shire of East Pilbara (2014)
Shire of East Pilbara (2015)
Town of Port Hedland (2014)
Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (2015)

GIS Databases:
- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
- Native Title Claims
- RIWI Act, Surface water Areas
- Town Planning Scheme Zones

4. References

- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.
- Department of Water (2015) Information provided in relation to Clearing Permit Application CPS 6687/1- IB Operations Pty Ltd (DER Ref:A1002995).
- ecologia Environment (2012a) Fortescue Metals Group. North Star Project. Vegetation and Flora Assessment (DER Ref A945938).
- ecologia Environment (2012b) Fortescue Metals Group. North Star Project. Level 2 Terrestrial Vertebrate Fauna Assessment (DER Ref A945938).
- ecologia Environment (2015) Field Summary Report. Iron Bridge & Fortescue Metals Group. North Star Conservation Significant Flora and Vegetation Survey. 30 June – 11 July 2015 (DER Ref A945938).
- Fortescue Metals Group (2015) Supporting Information. Application to Clear Native Vegetation (Purpose Permit) – Pippingarra Road. Fortescue Metals Group (DER Ref A945938).
- Government of Western Australia (2014) 2014 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of June 2014. WA Department of Parks and Wildlife, 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.
- Northcote, K. H. with Beckmann G G, Bettenay E., Churchward H. M., van Dijk D. C., Dimmock G. M., Hubble G. D., Isbell R. F., McArthur W. M., Murtha G. G., Nicolls K. D., Paton T. R., Thompson C. H., Webb A. A. and Wright M. J. (1960-68): 'Atlas of Australian Soils, Sheets 1 to 10, with explanatory data'. CSIRO and Melbourne University Press: Melbourne.
- Parks and Wildlife (2007-) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Parks and Wildlife. URL: <http://naturemap.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>. Accessed October 2015
- 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.
- Shire of East Pilbara (2014) Information provided in relation to Clearing Permit Application CPS 6687/1- IB Operations Pty Ltd - Wodgina Road Access DER Ref A945938
- Shire of East Pilbara (2015) Information provided in relation to Clearing Permit Application CPS 6687/1- IB Operations Pty Ltd - Wodgina Road Access DER Ref A982847
- Town of Port Hedland (2014) Information provided in relation to Clearing Permit Application CPS 6687/1- IB Operations Pty Ltd - Pippingarra Road Access DER Ref A945938
- Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (2015) Information provided in relation to Clearing Permit Application CPS 6687/1- IB Operations Pty Ltd - Native Title advice. DER ref A990861