



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	6710/1
Duration of Permit:	30 July 2016 to 30 July 2026
Permit Holder:	Fortescue Metals Group 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

Exploration Licence 47/1390
Exploration Licence 47/1763
Prospecting Licence 47/1257
Prospecting Licence 47/1306
Prospecting Licence 47/1633
Prospecting Licence 47/1469
Prospecting Licence 47/1470

2. Purpose for which clearing may be done

Clearing for the purpose of mineral exploration.

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 13 hectares of native vegetation. All clearing must be within the areas crossed-hatched yellow or shaded red on attached Plan 6710/1.

4. Type of Clearing Authorised

The Permit Holder shall not clear native vegetation unless the purpose for which the clearing is authorised is enacted within 3 months of the authorised clearing being undertaken.

5. Period in which the clearing is authorised

The Permit Holder shall not clear any native vegetation after 30 July 2021.

6. Restricted Clearing – Threatened Ecological Community management

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 4.5 hectares of native vegetation within any financial year within the areas shaded red on attached Plan 6710/1, unless first approved by the *CEO*.

7. 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

8. 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*:

- (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.

9. Vegetation Management

- (a) Where practicable the Permit Holder shall avoid clearing *riparian vegetation*; and
- (b) Where a *watercourse* is to be impacted by clearing, the Permit Holder shall maintain the existing surface flow.

10. Flora Management

- (a) Where *priority flora* have been identified and their written locations provided to the *CEO* and retained on the Department of Mines and Petroleum file "A1621/201501" as "Doc ID 4353756" the Permit Holder shall ensure that:
 - (i) no clearing of the *priority flora* species identified under Condition 10(a) occurs unless first approved by the *CEO*; and
 - (ii) no clearing occurs within 10 metres of the *priority flora* species identified under Condition 10(a) unless first approved by the *CEO*.

11. Threatened Ecological Community management - Rehabilitation, revegetation and monitoring

The Permit Holder must implement and adhere to the document "Themeda Grasslands TEC Procedure - Exploration" (EX-WI-EN-002, June 2016), as retained on Department of Mines and Petroleum records file "A1621/201501", within the areas shaded red on attached Plan 6710/1.

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

12. Records to be kept

The Permit Holder must maintain the following records for activities done pursuant to this Permit:

- (a) In relation to the clearing of native vegetation authorised under this Permit,
 - (i) 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 or decimal degrees;
 - (ii) the date that the area was cleared;
 - (iii) the size of the area cleared (in hectares); and
 - (iv) purpose for which clearing was undertaken.
- (b) In relation to the *rehabilitation*, *revegetation* and monitoring of areas pursuant to Condition 11 of this Permit:
 - (i) the location of any areas *revegetated*, *rehabilitated* and monitored recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;
 - (ii) a description of the *revegetation*, *rehabilitation* and monitoring activities undertaken; and
 - (iii) the size of the area *revegetated*, *rehabilitated* and monitored (in hectares).

13. Reporting

- (a) The Permit Holder shall provide a report to the Director Operations, Environment, Department of Mines and Petroleum by 31 July each year for the life of this permit, demonstrating adherence to all conditions of this permit, and setting out the records required under Condition 12 of this permit in relation to clearing carried out between 1 July and 30 June of the previous financial year.
- (b) Prior to 30 July 2026, the Permit Holder must provide to the Director Operations, Environment, Department of Mines and Petroleum a written report of records required under Condition 12 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under Condition 13(a) of this Permit.

DEFINITIONS

The following meanings are given to terms used in this Permit:

CEO means the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Environment Regulation or an Officer with delegated authority under Section 20 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*;

critical habitat: means any part of the Permit Area or surrounding area comprising of the habitat of flora or fauna species and its population, that is critical for the health and long term survival of the flora or fauna species and its population;

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;

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 *CEO* as a suitable environmental specialist;

fill means material used to increase the ground level, or fill a hollow;

local provenance means native vegetation seeds and propagating material from natural sources within 200 kilometres and 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;

planting means the re-establishment of vegetation by creating favourable soil conditions and planting seedlings of the desired species;

priority flora means those plant taxa described as priority flora classes 1,2,3 or 4 in the *Department of Parks and Wildlife's Threatened and Priority Flora List for Western Australia* (as amended);

regenerate/ed/ion means re-establishment of vegetation from in situ seed banks and propagating material (such as lignotubers, bulbs, rhizomes) contained either within the topsoil or seed-bearing *mulch*;

rehabilitate/ed/ion means actively managing an area containing native vegetation in order to improve the ecological function of that area;

revegetate/ed/ion means the re-establishment of a cover of *local provenance* native vegetation in an area using methods such as *regeneration*, *direct seeding* and/or *planting*, so that the species composition, structure and density is similar to pre-clearing vegetation types in that area;

riparian vegetation has the meaning given to it in Regulation 3 of the Environmental Protection (*Clearing of Native Vegetation*) Regulations 2004;

watercourse has the meaning given to it in section 3 of the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*;

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 Summary, regardless of ranking; or
- (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.



Marnie Leybourne
DIRECTOR OPERATIONS
ENVIRONMENT
DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND PETROLEUM

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

7 July 2016