



## CLEARING PERMIT

*Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986*

**Purpose Permit number:** CPS 6893/1  
**Permit Holder:** BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd  
**Duration of Permit:** 16 April 2016 – 16 April 2021

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 powerline construction and maintenance and associated activities.

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

Lot 348 on Deposited Plan 71871, Newman  
Lot 301 on Deposited Plan 47460, Newman  
Newman Drive road reserve (PIN: 11435336), Newman

**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 6893/1.

**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*:

- (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.

### DEFINITIONS

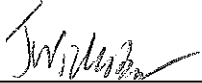
The following meanings are given to terms used in this Permit:

*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;

*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.



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James Widenbar  
MANAGER  
CLEARING REGULATION

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

17 March 2016



# Plan 6893/1



## Legend

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



1:7,500

(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

GDA 94 (Lat/Long)

Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

*James Widenbar* Date *17/3/2016*  
 James Widenbar

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



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## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 6893/1  
Permit type: Purpose Permit

### 1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd

### 1.3. Property details

Property: Lot 348 on Deposited Plan 71871, Newman  
Lot 301 on Deposited Plan 47460, Newman  
Newman Drive road reserve (PIN: 11435336), Newman

Colloquial name: Newman Shopping Centre Power Line  
Local Government Authority: Shire of East Pilbara

DER Region: North West  
DPaW District: no district  
LCDC:  
Localities: NEWMAN

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
10		Mechanical Removal	Powerline construction and maintenance and associated activities

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Grant

#### Application:

Decision Date: 17 March 2016

Reasons for Decision: The clearing application has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with s51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, and has concluded that the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to any of the clearing principles.

Through assessment it has been determined that the proposed clearing may impact the environmental values of neighbouring vegetation through the introduction or spread of weed and dieback. Weed and dieback management measures will minimise impacts to adjacent remnant vegetation in good condition.

## 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 82 is described as hummock grasslands, low tree steppe; snappy gum over <i>Triodia wiseana</i> (Shepherd et al., 2001).	The applicant proposes to clear up to 10 hectares of native vegetation within a footprint of 16.8 hectares for the purpose of powerline construction and maintenance and associated activities.	Very Good; Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery, 1994);  To:  Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994).	The vegetation condition was determined by a Level 1 flora, vegetation and fauna survey conducted by Onshore Environmental (2015).  The application area includes areas cleared for access tracks and adjacent infrastructure.
A total of four vegetation associations within two broad floristic communities were recorded during a Level 1 flora, vegetation and fauna survey conducted by Onshore Environmental in December 2015 (Onshore Environmental, 2015):			

*Triodia* Hummock Grassland:

1a: Hummock Grassland of *Triodia wiseana*, *Triodia pungens* and

*Triodia angusta* with Low Open Woodland of *Acacia pruinocarpa*, *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* and *Acacia aptaneura* and High Open Shrubland of *Acacia tetragonophylla*, *Acacia kempeana* and *Acacia synchronicia* on footslopes;

**1b:** Hummock Grassland of *Triodia wiseana*, *Triodia angusta* and *Triodia* sp. Shovelanna Hill (S. van Leeuwen 3835) with Scattered Low Trees of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* and Scattered Low Shrubs of *Lepidium pedicellosum*. *Triodia*;

Open Hummock Grassland:

**2a:** Open Hummock Grassland of *Triodia* sp. Shovelanna Hill (S. van Leeuwen 3835), *Triodia wiseana* and *Triodia pungens* over Open Tussock Grassland of *Cenchrus ciliaris*, *Paraneurachne muelleri* and *Aristida holathera* var. *holathera* with High Open Shrubland of *Acacia bivenosa*, *Acacia ancistrocarpa* and *Acacia synchronicia* on footslopes; and

**2b:** Open Hummock Grassland of *Triodia wiseana* and *Triodia angusta* with Low Open Shrubland of *Ptilotus auricifolius*, *Corchorus lasiocarpus* subsp. *lasiocarpus* and *Ptilotus nobilis* and Scattered Tall Shrubs of *Acacia inaequiglumis* and *Acacia pachyacra* on scree slopes.

### 3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

#### Comments

The clearing of 10 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 301 on Deposited Plan 47460, Lot 348 on Deposited Plan 71871 and Newman Drive road reserve, Newman, is for the purpose of powerline construction and maintenance and associated activities. The application area is situated within the Newman town site.

A Level 1 flora, vegetation and fauna survey conducted by Onshore Environmental (2015) recorded a total of 136 plant taxa from 31 families and 74 genera within the application area. A total of three priority flora species have been recorded within 20 kilometres of the application area, however no rare or priority flora were recorded within the application area (Onshore Environmental, 2015). No threatened ecological communities (TECs) or priority ecological communities (PECs) were recorded within the application area (Onshore Environmental, 2015).

Seven weed species were recorded within the application area (Onshore Environmental, 2015). The proposed clearing has the potential to facilitate the spread of weeds into adjacent native vegetation. Weed species can decrease the biodiversity value of an area, as they out-compete native vegetation for available resources, contribute to land degradation and increase the frequency and intensity of fires (DEC, 2011). Potential impacts to biodiversity within and nearby the application area as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of weed management practices.

Onshore Environmental (2015) recorded one fauna habitat type (lower crest/ slope habitat) within the application area. This habitat type is reported to be in poor condition as a result of historic clearing and proximity to urban areas. The rainbow bee-eater (*Merops ornatus*; listed as migratory under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*) was the only conservation significant fauna species recorded within the application area, however no nesting habitat for this species was recorded (Onshore Environmental, 2015) and the proposed clearing is not likely to have a significant impact on this species. Based on the availability of suitable habitat and nearby records, the western pebble-mound mouse (*Pseudomys chapmani*; priority 4) may also occur within the application area (Onshore Environmental, 2015). However, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact the conservation of this species on a local or regional scale given the historic clearing, proximity to urban areas and the highly vegetated local and regional landscape.

The application area falls within the Pilbara Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) bioregion in which approximately 99.6% of the pre-European vegetation remains (Government of Western Australia, 2014). The vegetation within the application area has been mapped as Beard vegetation association 82. This vegetation association has not been extensively cleared as over 99% remains at both a State and bioregional level (Government of Western Australia, 2014). The vegetation within the application area is not a remnant nor does it form part of any remnants within the local area.

The application area contains stony soils that are unlikely to be susceptible to land degradation via wind erosion, water erosion, salinity or waterlogging following the proposed clearing. There are no wetlands or watercourses within the application area, and there are no nearby conservation areas.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to any of the clearing Principles.

#### Methodology

##### References:

DEC (2011)  
Government of Western Australia (2014)  
Onshore Environmental (2015)

##### GIS Databases:

- SAC bio datasets (Accessed March 2016)  
- Soils, statewide

#### Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

##### Comments

The applicant proposes to clear up to 10 hectares of native vegetation within a 16.8 hectare footprint within Lot 301 on Deposited Plan 47460, Lot 348 on Deposited Plan 71871 and Newman Drive road reserve, Newman, for the purpose of powerline construction and maintenance and associated activities

The Shire of East Pilbara provided consent on 13 October 2015 for the applicant to conduct the proposed works (BHP, 2015).

There are no registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance located in the area applied to clear.

The clearing permit application was advertised on 1 February 2016 by the Department of Environment Regulation inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received.

##### Methodology

##### References:

BHP (2015)

##### GIS Database:

- Aboriginal sites register system

#### 4. References

- BHP (2015) Clearing Permit Application CPS 6893/1. BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd. DER REF: A1026455.  
DEC (2011) Invasive Plant Prioritisation, Department of Environment and Conversation, Perth.  
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.  
Onshore Environmental (2015) Newman Shopping Centre Powerline Extension Level 1 Flora, Vegetation and Vertebrate Fauna Survey. Unpublished report prepared by Onshore Environmental Consultants Pty Ltd on behalf of BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd. DER REF: A1026455.  
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.