

# **Clearing Permit Decision Report**

# 1. Application details

1.1. Permit applica	tion details				
Permit application No.:	6961/2	6961/2			
Permit type:	Purpo	se Permit			
1.2. Proponent det	ails				
Proponent's name:	Hame	Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd			
1.3. Property detai	ls				
Property:	Iron O	Iron Ore (Hamersley Range) Agreement Act 1963, Mineral Lease 4SA (AML 70/4)			
Local Government Area:	Shire	Shire of Ashburton Brockman Project			
Colloquial name:	Brock				
1.4. Application					
Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:		
500		Mechanical Removal	Mineral Exploration, Hydrogeological and Geotechnical Investigation and Associated Activities		

# 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application:GrantDecision Date:4 August 2016

#### 2. Site Information

# 2.1. Existing environment and information

2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

**Vegetation Description** Beard vegetation associations have been mapped for the whole of Western Australia. Four Beard vegetation association have been mapped within the application area (GIS Database):

18: Low woodland; mulga (Acacia aneura)

82: Hummock grasslands, low tree steppe; snappy gum over Triodia wiseana;

175: Short bunch grassland – savannah/grass plain (Pilbara); and

567: Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; mulga & kanji over soft spinifex & Triodia basedowii.

The application area consists of several separate areas covering a total area of approximately 9,035 hectares. Numerous vegetation surveys have been undertaken within the application area and surrounding areas (Hamersley Iron, 2016a; Rio Tinto, 2016). These surveys have been consolidated into one report, and have identified a total of 128 vegetation associations occurring within the application area (Hamersley Iron, 2016a; 2016b).

Aa-hp	Acacia aneura and Eucalyptus leucophloia scattered low trees / low open woodland, over Acacia aneura var. pilbarana, tall shrubland, over Acacia aneura and Acacia hamersleyensis open shrubland, over Triodia wiseana open hummock grassland.
AapAciTeTw	Acacia aptaneura, A. citrinoviridis tall shrubland over Triodia epactia, T. wiseana open hummock grassland
AbAexAaTw	Acacia bivenosa, A. exigua, A. ancistrocarpa tall open shrubland over Triodia wiseana hummock grassland
AbTw	Acacia bivenosa, Senna glutinosa subsp. glutinosa and Maireana georgei low open shrubland over Triodia wiseana scattered hummock grasses.
AfAxTw	Scattered low trees of Acacia fuscaneura over tall open shrubland of Acacia xiphophylla over scattered shrubs of Senna glutinosa subsp. glutinosa and Senna glutinosa subsp. x luerssenii over very open hummock grassland of Triodia wiseana
AmDp-rs	Isolated Eucalyptus leucophloia low trees, over Scattered Astrotricha hamptonii and Acacia aneura tall shrubs, over open shrubland / low shrubland of Acacia marramamba, Dodonaea pachyneura, and Astrotricha hamptonii, over Triodia wiseana very open hummock grassland
AmoApyCAgTw	Acacia monticola, A. pyrifolia tall shrubland to tall open shrubland over Cassia glutinosa open shrubland over Triodia wiseana hummock grassland
ApDpTw	Tall open shrubland of Acacia pteraneura, Acacia aptaneura and Acacia pruinocarpa over scattered shrubs of Dodonaea pachyneura and Senna glutinosa subsp. glutinosa over very open hummock grassland of Triodia wiseana over scattered tussock grasses of Cymbopogon ambiguus over very open bunch grassland of Eriachne mucronata, Paspalidium basicladum and Paraneurachne muelleri over scattered herbs of Dysphania rhadinostachya
AxAapTspp	Acacia xiphophylla, (A. aptaneura) tall shrubland over Triodia spp. very open hummock grassland

AxSITpTw	Acacia xiphophylla tall open shrubland over Triodia pungens and Triodia wiseana open hummock grassland occurring on flat plains.	
BR01	Eucalyptus leucophloia scattered trees to low open woodland over Senna glutinosa subsp. glutinosa, Acacia bivenosa and/ or A. synchronicia scattered shrubs over Triodia epactia open hummock grassland.	
CD	Completely Degraded	
CD1	Eucalyptus camaldulensis, E. victrix open woodland over Acacia citrinoviridis tall	
	shrubland over mixed open tussock grassland	
CD12	<i>Eucalyptus xerothermica, Corymbia hamersleyana</i> scattered low trees over <i>Acacia bivenosa, A. cowleana, A. elachantha, A. exilis</i> tall shrubland over <i>Triodia epactia hummock</i> grassland and <i>Eulalia aurea</i> open tussock grassland	
CD16	Eucalyptus xerothermica low woodland over Acacia bivenosa, A. atkinsiana, A. maitlandii shrubland to closed heath over Triodia epactia hummock grassland	
CD19	Eucalyptus leucophloia low woodland over Acacia citrinoviridis, Acacia monticola, Dodonaea pachyneura tall shrubland over Triodia epactia hummock grassland	
CD24	Corymbia hamersleyana, Eucalyptus leucophloia low woodland over Grevillea wickhamii tall shrubland over Gossypium robinsonii open shrubland over Themeda sp. Mt. Barricade, Eulalia aurea, Paraneurachne muelleri open tussock grassland or Triodia epactia	
CD28	Corymbia hamersleyana scattered low trees over Acacia bivenosa, Petalostylis labicheoides shrubland over Triodia epactia hummock grassland	
CD31	Acacia monticola, A. maitlandii, A. atkinsiana, A. exilis, A. ancistrocarpa tall shrubland over Triodia epactia, T. wiseana open hummock grassland	
CD32	Petalostylis labicheoides shrubland over Triodia epactia hummock grassland	
CD33	Stylobasium spathulatum shrubland over Triodia epactia hummock grassland	
CD35 CD4		
	Eucalyptus victrix scattered low trees to open woodland over Goodenia lamprosperma, Pluchea dentex very open herbland	
CD5	Eucalyptus victrix, E. xerothermica open woodland over Acacia citrinoviridis tall open scrub over mixed tussock grassland	
CD6	Eucalyptus xerothermica low open woodland over Acacia citrinoviridis tall open scrub over Triodia epactia open hummock grassland and/or mixed tussock grassland	
CD7	Acacia citrinoviridis tall shrubland over mixed tussock grassland or Triodia epactia hummock grassland	
CD9	Acacia citrinoviridis, A. aneura tall open shrubland over mixed open hummock grassland	
CdTw	Corymbia deserticola subsp. deserticola scattered low trees over Triodia wiseana and Triodia schinzii very open hummock grassland.	
CD	Completely Degraded	
CD1	Eucalyptus camaldulensis, E. victrix open woodland over Acacia citrinoviridis tall shrubland over mixed open tussock grassland	
CD12	Eucalyptus xerothermica, Corymbia hamersleyana scattered low trees over Acacia bivenosa, A. cowleana, A. elachantha, A. exilis tall shrubland over Triodia epactia hummock grassland and Eulalia aurea open tussock grassland	
CD16	Eucalyptus xerothermica low woodland over Acacia bivenosa, A. atkinsiana, A. maitlandii shrubland to closed heath over Triodia epactia hummock grassland	
CD19	Eucalyptus leucophloia low woodland over Acacia citrinoviridis, Acacia monticola, Dodonaea pachyneura tall shrubland over Triodia epactia hummock grassland	
CD24	Corymbia hamersleyana, Eucalyptus leucophloia low woodland over Grevillea wickhamii tall shrubland over Gossypium robinsonii open shrubland over Themeda sp. Mt. Barricade, Eulalia aurea, Paraneurachne muelleri open tussock grassland or Triodia epactia	
CD28	Corymbia hamersleyana scattered low trees over Acacia bivenosa, Petalostylis labicheoides shrubland over Triodia epactia hummock grassland	
CD31	Acacia monticola, A. maitlandii, A. atkinsiana, A. exilis, A. ancistrocarpa tall shrubland over Triodia epactia, T. wiseana open hummock grassland	
CD32	Petalostylis labicheoides shrubland over Triodia epactia hummock grassland	
CD32 CD33	Stylobasium spathulatum shrubland over Triodia epactia hummock grassland	
CD35 CD4	Eucalyptus victrix scattered low trees to open woodland over Goodenia lamprosperma, Pluchea dentex very open herbland	
CD5	Eucalyptus victrix, E. xerothermica open woodland over Acacia citrinoviridis tall open scrub over mixed tussock grassland	
CD6	Eucalyptus xerothermica low open woodland over Acacia citrinoviridis tall open scrub over Triodia epactia open hummock grassland and/or mixed tussock grassland	
CD7	Acacia citrinoviridis tall shrubland over mixed tussock grassland or <i>Triodia epactia</i> hummock grassland	
CD9	Acacia citrinoviridis, A. aneura tall open shrubland over mixed open hummock grassland	
CdTw	Corymbia deserticola subsp. deserticola scattered low trees over Triodia wiseana and Triodia schinzii very open hummock grassland.	
CfDpTw	Scattered low trees of Corymbia ferriticola and Acacia aptaneura over open shrubland of Dodonaea pachyneura, Astrotricha hamptonii, Senna glutinosa subsp. glutinosa and Acacia marramamba over open hummock grassland of Triodia wiseana and Triodia epactia over very open tussock grassland of Cymbopogon ambiguus and Eriachne mucronata	
ChAaAmAp	Corymbia hamersleyana scattered low trees over Acacia ancistrocarpa, Acacia monticola, Acacia pruinocarpa tall open shrubland over Triodia pungens mid-dense hummock grassland	
ChAaTe	Scattered low trees of Corymbia hamersleyana and Eucalyptus leucophloia subsp. leucophloia over scattered tall shrubs of Acacia aptaneura and Acacia atkinsiana over open shrubland of Acacia ancistrocarpa, Acacia bivenosa and Acacia	

	synchronicia over scattered low shrubs of Senna glutinosa subsp. ×luerssenii over open hummock grassland of Triodia epactia over scattered herbs of Ptilotus calostachyus and Ptilotus nobilis over scattered bunch grasses of Eriachne pulchella	
ChAiGsTw	Scattered low trees of Corymbia hamersleyana, and Eucalyptus leucophloia and Hakea chordophylla over tall open shrubland of Acacia inaequilatera, Acacia atkinsiana, Acacia pruinocarpa and Acacia trudgeniana over scattered low shrubs of Goodenia stobbsiana and Ptilotus calostachyus over open hummock grassland of Triodia wiseana and Triodia epactia over scattered bunch grasses of Amphipogon sericeus and Eriachne pulchella	
ChEgAiSg	Corymbia hamersleyana and Eucalyptus gamophylla scattered low trees (or mallee) over Acacia inaequilatera and Senna glutinosa subsp. pruinosa tall scattered shrubs over Triodia pungens hummock grassland occurring on plains.	
ChElAcPlGr	Corymbia hamersleyana and Eucalyptus leucophloia subsp. leucophloia scattered trees over Acacia citrinoviridis, Petalostylis labicheoides and Gossypium robinsonii open shrubland over Triodia pungens open hummock grassland	
ChElAhAbAprTe	Corymbia hamersleyana, Eucalyptus leucophloia subsp. leucophloia scattered low trees to low open woodland over Acacia hamersleyensis, A. bivenosa, A. pruinocarpa scattered shrubs to open shrubland over Triodia epactia hummock grassland	
ChElAhAbAprTp	Corymbia hamersleyana, Eucalyptus leucophloia scattered low trees over Acacia hamersleyensis, A. bivenosa, A. pruinocarpa scattered shrubs over Triodia pungens hummock grassland	
CfDpTw	Scattered low trees of Corymbia ferriticola and Acacia aptaneura over open shrubland of Dodonaea pachyneura, Astrotricha hamptonii, Senna glutinosa subsp. glutinosa and Acacia marramamba over open hummock grassland of Triodia wiseana and Triodia epactia over very open tussock grassland of Cymbopogon ambiguus and Eriachne mucronata	
ChAaAmAp	Corymbia hamersleyana scattered low trees over Acacia ancistrocarpa, Acacia monticola, Acacia pruinocarpa tall open shrubland over Triodia pungens mid-dense hummock grassland	
ChAaTe	Scattered low trees of Corymbia hamersleyana and Eucalyptus leucophloia subsp. leucophloia over scattered tall shrubs of Acacia aptaneura and Acacia atkinsiana over open shrubland of Acacia ancistrocarpa, Acacia bivenosa and Acacia synchronicia over scattered low shrubs of Senna glutinosa subsp. ×luerssenii over open hummock grassland of Triodia epactia over scattered herbs of Ptilotus calostachyus and Ptilotus nobilis over scattered bunch grasses of Eriachne pulchella	
ChAiGsTw	Scattered low trees of Corymbia hamersleyana, and Eucalyptus leucophloia and Hakea chordophylla over tall open shrubland of Acacia inaequilatera, Acacia atkinsiana, Acacia pruinocarpa and Acacia trudgeniana over scattered low shrubs of Goodenia stobbsiana and Ptilotus calostachyus over open hummock grassland of Triodia wiseana and Triodia epactia over scattered bunch grasses of Amphipogon sericeus and Eriachne pulchella	
ChEgAiSg	Corymbia hamersleyana and Eucalyptus gamophylla scattered low trees (or mallee) over Acacia inaequilatera and Senna glutinosa subsp. pruinosa tall scattered shrubs over Triodia pungens hummock grassland occurring on plains.	
ChElAcPlGr	Corymbia hamersleyana and Eucalyptus leucophloia subsp. leucophloia scattered trees over Acacia citrinoviridis, Petalostylis labicheoides and Gossypium robinsonii open shrubland over Triodia pungens open hummock grassland	
ChElAhAbAprTe	Corymbia hamersleyana, Eucalyptus leucophloia subsp. leucophloia scattered low trees to low open woodland over Acacia hamersleyensis, A. bivenosa, A. pruinocarpa scattered shrubs to open shrubland over Triodia epactia hummock grassland	
ChElAhAbAprTp	Corymbia hamersleyana, Eucalyptus leucophloia scattered low trees over Acacia hamersleyensis, A. bivenosa, A. pruinocarpa scattered shrubs over Triodia pungens hummock grassland	
CfDpTw	Scattered low trees of Corymbia ferriticola and Acacia aptaneura over open shrubland of Dodonaea pachyneura, Astrotricha hamptonii, Senna glutinosa subsp. glutinosa and Acacia marramamba over open hummock grassland of Triodia wiseana and Triodia epactia over very open tussock grassland of Cymbopogon ambiguus and Eriachne mucronata	
ChAaAmAp	Corymbia hamersleyana scattered low trees over Acacia ancistrocarpa, Acacia monticola, Acacia pruinocarpa tall open shrubland over Triodia pungens mid-dense hummock grassland	
ChAaTe	Scattered low trees of Corymbia hamersleyana and Eucalyptus leucophloia subsp. leucophloia over scattered tall shrubs of Acacia aptaneura and Acacia atkinsiana over open shrubland of Acacia ancistrocarpa, Acacia bivenosa and Acacia synchronicia over scattered low shrubs of Senna glutinosa subsp. ×luerssenii over open hummock grassland of Triodia epactia over scattered herbs of Ptilotus calostachyus and Ptilotus nobilis over scattered bunch grasses of Eriachne pulchella	
ElAciAprTe	<i>Eucalyptus leucophloia</i> subsp. <i>leucophloia</i> scattered low trees over <i>Acacia pruinocarpa</i> , <i>A. citrinoviridis</i> tall open shrubland over <i>Triodia epactia</i> open hummock grassland	
ElAcTe	Scattered Eucalyptus leucophloia subsp. leucophloia over tall shrubland of Acacia citrinoviridis and Acacia pruinocarpa over open shrubland of Acacia marramamba, Acacia atkinsiana and Senna glutinosa subsp. glutinosa over open hummock grassland of Triodia epactia and Triodia wiseana	
EIAcTe	Scattered low trees of Eucalyptus leucophloia over tall open shrubland of Acacia citrinoviridis and Acacia pruinocarpa over open shrubland of Acacia marramamba, Acacia atkinsiana and Senna glutinosa subsp. glutinosa over open hummock grassland of Triodia epactia and Triodia wiseana	
ElAiTw	Eucalyptus leucophloia subsp. leucophloia scattered low trees over Acacia inaequilatera scattered tall shrubs over Triodia wiseana hummock grassland	

ElAmAatAexTw	Eucalyptus leucophloia subsp. leucophloia scattered low trees over Acacia maitlandii,
	A. atkinsiana, A. exigua open shrubland over Triodia wiseana hummock grassland
ElAmoAmAatTe	Eucalyptus leucophloia subsp. leucophloia scattered low trees over Acacia monticola, A. maitlandii, A. atkinsiana tall open scrub over Triodia epactia, T.
	wiseana open hummock grassland
ElAmTw	Eucalyptus leucophloia subsp. leucophloia scattered low trees over Acacia maitlandii
	shrubland over Triodia wiseana open hummock grassland
ElAsAbSENspp	Eucalyptus leucophloia subsp. leucophloia scattered low trees over Acacia
	synchronicia, A. bivenosa, Senna spp. scattered shrubs over Triodia brizoides open hummock grassland
ElCdEgAatAex	Eucalyptus leucophloia subsp. leucophloia, Corymbia deserticola subsp. deserticola
	scattered low trees over E. gamophylla scattered low mallees over Acacia atkinsiana,
	A. exigua open shrubland over Triodia wiseana open hummock grassland
EICdTpTw	Eucalyptus leucophloia subsp. leucophloia and occasionally Corymbia deserticola
	subsp. <i>deserticola</i> scattered low trees over <i>Triodia pungens</i> and <i>Triodia wiseana</i> hummock grassland
ElCfAciAapGb	Eucalyptus leucophloia subsp. leucophloia, Corymbia ferriticola, Acacia citrinoviridis,
	A. aptaneura, (Grevillea berryana) low woodland over Dodonaea pachyneura tall
	open shrubland over <i>Triodia epactia</i> very open hummock grassland
ElCfAprAapDp	Eucalyptus leucophloia subsp. leucophloia, Corymbia ferriticola, Acacia pruinocarpa,
	A. aptaneura low open woodland over Dodonaea pachyneura scattered tall shrubs over Triodia epactia very open hummock grassland with Eriachne mucronata open
	tussock grassland
ElCfAprApyHcTeTHt	Eucalyptus leucophloia subsp. leucophloia, Corymbia ferriticola low open woodland
	over Acacia pruinocarpa, A. pyrifolia, Hakea chordophylla tall open shrubland over
	Triodia epactia hummock grassland and Themeda triandra open tussock grassland
ElChAaTp	Eucalyptus leucophloia subsp. leucophloia and Corymbia hamersleyana scattered low trees over Acacia aptaneura open shrubland over Triodia pungens hummock
	grassland occurring on flat plains and low rises.
ElChApyAinAmTeTw	Eucalyptus leucophloia subsp. leucophloia, Corymbia hamersleyana low open
	woodland over Acacia pyrifolia, A. inaequilatera, A. maitlandii tall open shrubland
FIChTu	over Triodia epactia, T. wiseana hummock grassland
EIChTw	Eucalyptus leucophloia subsp. leucophloia, Corymbia hamersleyana low open woodland over Triodia wiseana hummock grassland
EIChTw	Eucalyptus leucophloia, Corymbia hamersleyana low open woodland over scattered
	mixed tall shrubs over Triodia wiseana hummock grassland
El-ck/Rg	Eucalyptus leucophloia low open woodland, over Hakea chordophylla, Gossypium
	robinsonii, and Acacia pruinocarpa scattered tall shrubs (to tall open shrubland), over
	Gossypium robinsonii, Acacia bivenosa, Jasminum didymum, and Acacia maitlandii open shrubland
ElEgAaTw	Scattered low trees of <i>Eucalyptus leucophloia</i> over tall open (mallee) shrubland of
	Eucalyptus gamophylla over scattered shrubs of Acacia atkinsiana and Senna
	glutinosa subsp. glutinosa over low open shrubland of Goodenia stobbsiana over
	open hummock grassland of <i>Triodia wiseana</i> over scattered herbs of <i>Ptilotus</i> spp.
EIEgAmTw	Eucalyptus leucophloia subsp. leucophloia low open woodland over E. gamophylla low open mallee woodland over Acacia maitlandii open shrubland over Triodia
	wiseana hummock grassland
ElGrTe	Scattered low trees of Eucalyptus leucophloia and Corymbia hamersleyana over tall
	open shrubland of Gossypium robinsonii and Petalostylis labicheoides over open
	shrubland of Acacia bivenosa, Acacia maitlandii, Acacia monticola, Acacia pyrifolia var. pyrifolia, Senna glutinosa subsp. glutinosa, Indigofera sp. Bungaroo Creek (S.
	van Leeuwen) over open hummock grassland of <i>Triodia epactia</i> and <i>Triodia wiseana</i>
	over very open tussock grassland of <i>Themeda</i> sp. Mt Barricade (M.E. Trudgen
	2471), Themeda triandra and Cymbopogon ambiguus over very open bunch
	grassland of Eriachne mucronata and Paraneurache muelleri.
ElGwTp	Eucalyptus leucophloia subsp. leucophloia low open woodland over Acacia
	citrinoviridis, Grevillea wickhamii and Gossypium robinsonii shrubland over Triodia pungens hummock grassland.
EllAmTp	Eucalyptus leucophloia subsp. leucophloia and Corymbia ferriticola scattered low
	trees over Acacia monticola, Acacia hamersleyana and Dodoneae pachyneura open
	shrubland over Triodia pungens, Triodia brizoides and Triodia epactia open
	hummock grasslands
EllApTw	Eucalyptus leucophloia subsp. leucophloia scattered low trees over Eucalyptus gamophylla open mallees over Acacia pruinocarpa scattered shrubs over Triodia
	wiseana and Triodia brizoides hummock grassland over Eriachne mucronata
	scattered tussock grass
EllEgTw	Eucalyptus leucophloia subsp. leucophloia scattered low trees over Eucalyptus
	gamophylla open mallees over Acacia maitlandii and Acacia monticola scattered
	shrubs over <i>Triodia wiseana</i> open hummock grassland over <i>Eriachne mucronata</i> and <i>Cymbopogon ambiguus</i>
EllHcTw	Eucalyptus leucophloia subsp. leucophloia and Corymbia hamersleyana low open
EIIHcTw	woodland over Hakea chordophylla scattered tall shrubs over Acacia maitlandii and
EllHcTw	woodland over <i>Hakea chordophylla</i> scattered tall shrubs over <i>Acacia maitlandii</i> and <i>Senna glutinosa</i> subsp. <i>glutinosa</i> shrubland over <i>Triodia wiseana</i> open hummock
	woodland over <i>Hakea chordophylla</i> scattered tall shrubs over <i>Acacia maitlandii</i> and <i>Senna glutinosa</i> subsp. <i>glutinosa</i> shrubland over <i>Triodia wiseana</i> open hummock grassland.
EIIHcTw EI-low	woodland over <i>Hakea chordophylla</i> scattered tall shrubs over <i>Acacia maitlandii</i> and <i>Senna glutinosa</i> subsp. <i>glutinosa</i> shrubland over <i>Triodia wiseana</i> open hummock grassland. <i>Eucalyptus leucophloia</i> low open woodland, over <i>Acacia pruinocarpa</i> , <i>Acacia</i>
	woodland over <i>Hakea chordophylla</i> scattered tall shrubs over <i>Acacia maitlandii</i> and <i>Senna glutinosa</i> subsp. <i>glutinosa</i> shrubland over <i>Triodia wiseana</i> open hummock grassland. <i>Eucalyptus leucophloia</i> low open woodland, over <i>Acacia pruinocarpa</i> , <i>Acacia bivenosa</i> , and <i>Acacia ancistrocarpa</i> scattered shrubs, over <i>Triodia wiseana</i>
	woodland over <i>Hakea chordophylla</i> scattered tall shrubs over <i>Acacia maitlandii</i> and <i>Senna glutinosa</i> subsp. <i>glutinosa</i> shrubland over <i>Triodia wiseana</i> open hummock grassland. <i>Eucalyptus leucophloia</i> low open woodland, over <i>Acacia pruinocarpa</i> , <i>Acacia</i>
El-low	<ul> <li>woodland over Hakea chordophylla scattered tall shrubs over Acacia maitlandii and Senna glutinosa subsp. glutinosa shrubland over Triodia wiseana open hummock grassland.</li> <li>Eucalyptus leucophloia low open woodland, over Acacia pruinocarpa, Acacia bivenosa, and Acacia ancistrocarpa scattered shrubs, over Triodia wiseana hummock grassland.</li> <li>Eucalyptus leucophloia subsp. leucophloia scattered low trees over Senna glutinosa subsp. glutinosa, Acacia maitlandii and Acacia ancistrocarpa open shrubland over</li> </ul>
El-low	<ul> <li>woodland over Hakea chordophylla scattered tall shrubs over Acacia maitlandii and Senna glutinosa subsp. glutinosa shrubland over Triodia wiseana open hummock grassland.</li> <li>Eucalyptus leucophloia low open woodland, over Acacia pruinocarpa, Acacia bivenosa, and Acacia ancistrocarpa scattered shrubs, over Triodia wiseana hummock grassland.</li> <li>Eucalyptus leucophloia subsp. leucophloia scattered low trees over Senna glutinosa</li> </ul>

El-lsw	Eucalyptus leucophloia scattered low trees, over Acacia bivenosa, Acacia ancistrocarpa, and Acacia marramamba scattered shrubs, over Triodia wiseana hummock grassland.	
EllTwEm	Eucalyptus leucophloia subsp. leucophloia, Corymbia ferriticola and Corymbia hamersleyana scattered low trees over Triodia wiseana very open hummock grassland over Eriachne mucronata, Themeda triandra and Cymbopogon ambiguus	
EITaTlo	very open tussock grassland           Eucalyptus leucophloia subsp. leucophloia scattered low trees over Triodia angusta,	
EITbr	T. longiceps hummock grassland           Eucalyptus leucophloia subsp. leucophloia scattered low trees over Triodia brizoides	
EITbr/EITe	hummock grassland Eucalyptus leucophloia subsp. leucophloia scattered low trees over Triodia brizoides	
EIIDr/Eile	hummock grassland/ <i>Eucalyptus leucophloia</i> subsp. <i>leucophloia</i> low open woodland over <i>Triodia epactia</i> open hummock grassland	
EITe	Eucalyptus leucophloia subsp. leucophloia low open woodland over Triodia epactia open hummock grassland	
EITe/EITw	Eucalyptus leucophloia subsp. leucophloia low open woodland over Triodia epactia open hummock grassland/Eucalyptus leucophloia subsp. leucophloia scattered low trees over Triodia wiseana open hummock grassland	
EITw	Eucalyptus leucophloia subsp. leucophloia scattered low trees over Triodia wiseana	
EITwTspm	open hummock grassland <i>Eucalyptus leucophloia</i> subsp. <i>leucophloia</i> scattered low trees over <i>Triodia wiseana</i> , (T. sp. Millstream (A.A. Mitchell PRP 207)) open hummock grassland	
EvAcTt	Open woodland of Eucalyptus victrix with scattered Eucalyptus camaldulensis over scattered low trees of Eucalyptus xerothermica and Corymbia hamersleyana over tall open shrubland of Acacia citrinoviridis and Gossypium robinsonii over open tussock	
ExMeTI	grassland of *Cenchrus ciliaris and Themeda triandra Scattered low trees of Eucalyptus xerothermica and Eucalyptus leucophloia over scattered low shrubs of Melaleuca eleuterostachya over open hummock grassland of	
GG01	Triodia longiceps and Triodia wiseana     Corymbia ferriticola low open woodland over Acacia pruinocarpa scattered tall shrubs     to tall open shrubland over Triodia epactia very open hummock grassland and     Cymbopogon ambiguus, Aristida burbidgeae scattered tussock grasses.	
GG02	Eucalyptus leucophloia low open woodland over Indigofera monophylla scattered low shrubs over Triodia epactia very open hummock grassland and Cymbopogon ambiguus scattered tussock grasses.	
H1	Acacia aneura low open woodland over Triodia wiseana, T. epactia hummock grassland	
H12	Acacia bivenosa, A. exilis, A. synchronicia scattered shrubs to open shrubland over Triodia longiceps, T. wiseana open hummock grassland	
H14	Eucalyptus leucophloia scattered low trees over Triodia epactia and/or T. wiseana hummock grassland	
H2	Acacia aneura low woodland over Triodia epactia hummock grassland	
H3	Acacia aneura, Corymbia ferriticola low woodland over Triodia epactia hummock	
H5	grassland or Cymbopogon ambiguus, Themeda triandra open tussock grassland Eucalyptus leucophloia scattered low trees over Acacia maitlandii shrubland over	
H6	Triodia wiseana hummock grassland           Acacia hamersleyensis tall open shrubland over Triodia wiseana closed hummock	
H7	grassland Eucalyptus leucophloia scattered low trees over Acacia pruinocarpa open shrubland	
H8	over Triodia epactia or T. wiseana hummock grassland Eucalyptus leucophloia scattered low trees over Acacia atkinsiana, A. exilis, A. bivenosa, A. ancistrocarpa open shrubland over Triodia wiseana or T. epactia	
H9	hummock grassland Eucalyptus leucophloia scattered low trees over Acacia inaequilatera tall shrubland	
	over Triodia wiseana hummock grassland	
HD-BG	Scattered very low shrubs, tussock grasses and hummock grasses in some places. Essentially devoid of vegetation for the most part.	
HD-RG-Ash	Mixed acacia shrublands typically dominated by Acacia pruinocarpa, Acacia maitlandii, Acacia ancistrocarpa, Acacia bivenosa, Acacia monticola, and Acacia synchronicia, with isolated emergent Eucalyptus leucophloia and Corymbia hamersleyana low trees	
HG1	Corymbia ferriticola, Eucalyptus leucophloia low open woodland over Acacia hamersleyensis, A. pruinocarpa scattered tall shrubs over Dodonaea pachyneura open shrubland over Triodia epactia or T. wiseana open hummock grassland and	
HG2	mixed open tussock grassland <i>Eucalyptus leucophloia</i> low open woodland over <i>Acacia hamersleyensis</i> open shrubland over <i>Triodia brizoides</i> , <i>T. epactia</i> hummock grassland and <i>Themeda</i> <i>triandra</i> , <i>Eriachne mucronata</i> open tussock grassland	
HG3	Eucalyptus leucophloia low open woodland over Acacia bivenosa open shrubland over Triodia brizoides, T. epactia hummock grassland and Themeda sp. Mt.	
HG4	Barricade, Cymbopogon ambiguus open tussock grassland           Eucalyptus leucophloia scattered low trees to low open woodland over Astrotricha hamptonii, Ficus brachypoda scattered tall shrubs over Themeda sp. Mt Barricade, Eriachne mucronata open tussock grassland and Triodia brizoides, T. epactia open	
HS01	hummock <i>Eucalyptus leucophloia</i> and/ or <i>Corymbia deserticola</i> subsp. <i>deserticola</i> low open woodland over <i>Triodia wiseana</i> , <i>T. epactia</i> open hummock grassland.	
HS02	Eucalyptus gamophylla low open woodland over Acacia maitlandii scattered shrubs	

	I-IG-EFw	<i>Eucalyptus leucophloia</i> scattered trees, over <i>Corymbia ferriticola</i> low open woodland to open woodland, over <i>Acacia pruinocarpa</i> and <i>Gossypium robinsonii</i> and <i>Acacia monticola</i> tall open shrubland, over <i>Acacia monticola</i> , <i>Acacia pruinocarpa</i> , <i>Senna glutinosa</i>
	I-LS-EIAp	Eucalyptus leucophloia scattered trees, over Eucalyptus leucophloia and Corymbia ferriticola low open woodland, over Acacia pruinocarpa tall open shrubland, over Acacia pruinocarpa open shrubland / scattered low shrubs, over Eriachne mucronata
	I-MS-Eflow	Scattered Eucalyptus leucophloia trees, over and Corymbia ferriticola low open woodland (with scattered Eucalyptus leucophloia low trees), over Grevillea wickhamii and Hakea chordophylla, and Acacia pruinocarpa scattered tall shrubs
	I-SF-Ash	Scattered Eucalyphyla, and reacing promoting to be a mail and is and Acacia bivenosa scattered tall shrubs, over mixed acacia shrubland typically dominated by, Acacia maitlandii, Acacia ancistrocarpa, Acacia bivenosa, and Acacia monticola
	I-SF-Ch/Ash	Corymbia hamersleyana and Eucalyptus leucophloia scattered trees, over Corymbia hamersleyana and Hakea chordophylla low open woodland, over Hakea chordophylla and Acacia bivenosa scattered tall shrubs, over Senna glutinosa subsp. glutinosa
	МА-Те	<i>Eucalyptus leucophloia</i> scattered low trees, over <i>Hakea chordophylla</i> and <i>Grevillea</i> <i>wickhamii</i> scattered tall shrubs, over mixed <i>Acacia</i> spp. open shrubland (to low open shrubland) typically dominated by <i>Acacia bivenosa</i> , <i>Acacia ancistrocarpa</i>
	MCk-Aas	Eucalyptus leucophloia scattered low trees, over Acacia atkinsiana and Acacia pachyacra tall open shrubland, over Acacia atkinsiana shrubland, over Triodia
	mD01	epactia hummock grassland with scattered Themeda triandra tussock grasses. Corymbia hamersleyana and/ or Eucalyptus leucophloia scattered low trees to low open woodland over Acacia monticola (Grevillea wickhamii subsp. hispidula) tall abruhland autor Triadi wicecono. To apocia hummonly stranged
	PI01	shrubland over <i>Triodia wiseana</i> , <i>T. epactia</i> hummock grassland. <i>Eucalyptus leucophloia</i> low open woodland over <i>Acacia exilis</i> and <i>Acacia sibirica</i> scattered tall shrubs to tall open shrubland over <i>Triodia wiseana</i> hummock
	PL2	grassland. <i>Eucalyptus socialis</i> and/or <i>E. leucophloia</i> low open woodland over <i>Acacia bivenosa</i> , <i>A. exilis</i> scattered shrubs over <i>Triodia wiseana</i> , <i>T. angusta</i> hummock grassland
	PL3 PL5	Eucalyptus leucophloia scattered low trees over Acacia bivenosa scattered shrubs over Triodia longiceps, T. wiseana hummock grassland         Melaleuca eleuterostachya open shrubland over Triodia wiseana, (T. angusta)
	PL6	hummock grassland Acacia synchronicia scattered shrubs over Triodia angusta hummock grassland on calcareous plains
	PS1 PS1/PS6	Acacia aneura, A. ayersiana tall open shrubland over Triodia epactia, T. wiseana hummock grassland Acacia aneura, A. ayersiana tall open shrubland over Triodia epactia, T. wiseana
		hummock grassland/Acacia synchronicia scattered shrubs over Triodia angusta hummock grassland
	PS10 PS13	Acacia synchronicia, A. bivenosa, Senna spp. shrubland over Triodia brizoides hummock grassland Eucalyptus leucophloia scattered low trees over Acacia exilis open shrubland to
	PS16	shrubland over <i>Triodia brizoides</i> hummock grassland <i>Eucalyptus leucophloia</i> scattered low trees over <i>Triodia longiceps</i> , <i>T angusta</i>
	PS3	hummock grassland <i>Acacia xiphophylla, A. aneura</i> low woodland to tall open shrubland over <i>Triodia</i> <i>wiseana, (T. epactia)</i> open hummock grassland
	PS4 PS5	Acacia xiphophylla tall open shrubland over Triodia epactia, T. longiceps hummock grassland Acacia xiphophylla, A. aneura tall shrubland over Triodia brizoides, T. epactia open
	PS6	hummock grassland Eucalyptus leucophloia, (E. gamophylla, Corymbia deserticola, C. hamersleyana)
	PS7	scattered low trees over Acacia atkinsiana, A. exilis, A. bivenosa, A. ancistrocarpa, Senna spp. shrubland over Triodia epactia and/or T. wiseana hummock grassland Eucalyptus leucophloia, (Corymbia hamersleyana) scattered low trees over Acacia
		<i>inaequilatera</i> scattered shrubs to tall open shrubland over <i>Triodia wiseana</i> , ( <i>T. epactia</i> ) hummock grassland
Clearing Description	Brockman Project	
	boundary of approxin	td (Hamersley Iron) proposes to clear up to 500 hectares of native vegetation within a total nately 9,035 hectares for the purpose of mineral exploration, hydrogeological and geotechnica sociated activities. The project is located approximately 40-70 kilometres northwest of Tom Ashburton.
Vegetation Condition	Excellent: Vegetation 1994);	structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery,
	То	
	Completely Degraded	d: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994).
Comment	The vegetation condi	tion was based on the consolidation of several vegetation surveys by Hamersley Iron (2016a).

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Clearing permit CPS 6961/1 was granted by the Department of Mines and Petroleum on 19 May 2016 and authorised the clearing of up to 500 hectares of native vegetation within several separate areas totalling approximately 9,035 hectares. CPS 6961/1 combined the areas covered by several smaller permits previously granted for exploration activities over various parts of the Brockman project area.

On 10 June 2016 the Permit Holder applied to amend CPS 6961/1 to amend the wording of the Flora Management condition on the permit, to amend the annual reporting date from 31 July to 30 June each year, and amend the annual reporting period from financial year to calendar year. There is no change to the area approved to clear or the permit boundary.

#### 3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd has applied to amend the wording of the Flora Management condition (Condition 8 on CPS 6961/1), and to amend the annual permit reporting dates.

The amendment to the flora management condition will remove the requirement for additional targeted surveys to be undertaken for Priority flora, where adequate flora and vegetation surveys have already been undertaken and Priority flora populations have been identified. A targeted flora survey will still be required in areas which have not been adequately surveyed. The changes to the Flora Management condition will make the flora management requirements imposed on this permit consistent with other similar clearing permits for mineral exploration activities currently held by this proponent.

Numerous flora and vegetation surveys have been conducted over the application areas and surrounding areas, over many years (Rio Tinto, 2016). The vegetation, landforms, and fauna habitats occurring within the application areas are well represented in the region (Hamersley Iron, 2016a; GIS Database). No Threatened flora have been recorded within or in close proximity to the application areas, and all Priority flora species recorded within the application areas are considered to be well represented in surrounding areas (Hamersley Iron, 2016a; Rio Tinto, 2016). However, advice provided by the Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW, 2016) in relation to CPS 6961/1 identified nine Priority flora species as being particularly significant.

The revised Flora Management condition (Condition 10 on CPS 6961/2) requires avoidance of these nine significant Priority flora species. Given that 500 hectares of clearing is proposed within a total area of approx. 9,035 hectares, and considering the flexible nature of exploration activities, disturbance to Priority flora is likely to be able to be avoided in most cases.

The proposed changes to the Flora Management condition are considered unlikely to result in any significant additional environmental impacts from the proposed clearing.

The amendment application has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with s.510 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. Environmental information has been reviewed, and the assessment of the proposed clearing against the clearing principles remains consistent with the assessment contained in decision report CPS 6961/1.

# Methodology DPaW (2016)

Hamersley Iron (2016a) Rio Tinto (2016)

GIS Database:

- IBRA Australia
- Pre-European Vegetation
- Threatened and Priority Flora
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities (TECPEC)

#### Planning instrument, Native Title, Previous EPA decision or other matter.

#### Comments

There are two native title claims (WC 2001/005 and WC 1997/089) over the areas under application (DAA, 2016). These claims have been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on behalf of the claimant groups. However, the mining tenure has been granted in accordance with the future act regime of the *Native Title Act* 1993 and the nature of the act (i.e. the proposed clearing activity) has been provided for in that process, therefore the granting of a clearing permit is not a future act under the *Native Title Act* 1993.

There are multiple registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance within or in close proximity to the application areas (DAA, 2016). 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.

It is the proponent's responsibility to liaise with the Department of Environment Regulation, Department of Parks and Wildlife and the Department of Water to determine whether a Works Approval, Water Licence, Bed and Banks Permit, or any other licences or approvals are required for the proposed works.

The amendment application was advertised on 27 June 2016 by the Department of Mines and Petroleum

inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

# Methodology DAA (2016)

# 4. References

DAA (2016) Aboriginal Heritage Enquiry System. Department of Aboriginal Affairs. <u>http://maps.dia.wa.gov.au/AHIS2/</u> (Accessed 26 July 2016).

DPaW (2016) Advice received in relation to Clearing Permit Application CPS 6961/1. Species and Communities Branch, Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia, May 2016.

Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

Hamersley Iron (2016a) Desktop Flora, Vegetation and Fauna Habitat Assessment at Brockman. Native Vegetation Clearing Permit – Supporting Report. Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd, March 2016.

Hamersley Iron (2016b) Brockman Vegetation Complexes. Additional information received in relation to Clearing Permit Application CPS 6961/1. Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd, April 2016.

Rio Tinto (2016) Amendment Application for Purpose Permit CPS 6961/1 - Greater Brockman - Mineral Exploration. Rio Tinto Iron Ore, June 2016.

#### 5. Glossary

#### Acronyms:

BoM DAA	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government
DAA DAFWA	Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia
DEC	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (now DPaW and DER)
	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia
DMP	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia
DRF	Declared Rare Flora
DotE	Department of the Environment, Australian Government
DoW	Department of Water, Western Australia
DPaW	Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia
DSEWPaC	Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (now DotE)
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
EP Act	Environmental Protection Act 1986, Western Australia
EPBC Act	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Federal Act)
GIS	Geographical Information System
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – commonly known as the
	World Conservation Union
PEC	Priority Ecological Community, Western Australia
RIWI Act	Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914, Western Australia
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community

#### **Definitions:**

{DPaW (2015) Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora and Fauna. Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia}:-

#### T Threatened species:

Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, listed under Schedules 1 to 4 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora (which may also be referred to as Declared Rare Flora).

*Threatened fauna* is that subset of 'Specially Protected Fauna' declared to be 'likely to become extinct' pursuant to section 14(4) of the Wildlife Conservation Act.

*Threatened flora* is flora that has been declared to be 'likely to become extinct or is rare, or otherwise in need of special protection', pursuant to section 23F(2) of the Wildlife Conservation Act.

The assessment of the conservation status of these species is based on their national extent and ranked according to their level of threat using IUCN Red List categories and criteria as detailed below.

# CR Critically endangered species

Threatened species considered to be facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild. Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950,* in Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora.

# Endangered species

Threatened species considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild. Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, in Schedule 2 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora.

## VU Vulnerable species

EN

Threatened species considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild. Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, in Schedule 3 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora.

### EX Presumed extinct species

Species which have been adequately searched for and there is no reasonable doubt that the last individual has died. Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, in Schedule 4 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Presumed Extinct Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Presumed Extinct Flora.

#### IA Migratory birds protected under an international agreement

Birds that are subject to an agreement between the government of Australia and the governments of Japan (JAMBA), China (CAMBA) and The Republic of Korea (ROKAMBA), and the Bonn Convention, relating to the protection of migratory birds. Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, in Schedule 5 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice.

#### CD Conservation dependent fauna

Fauna of special conservation need being species dependent on ongoing conservation intervention to prevent it becoming eligible for listing as threatened. Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, in Schedule 6 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice.

# OS Other specially protected fauna

Fauna otherwise in need of special protection to ensure their conservation. Published as Specially Protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950,* in Schedule 7 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice.

# P Priority species

# Species which are poorly known; or

Species that are adequately known, are rare but not threatened, and require regular monitoring. Assessment of Priority codes is based on the Western Australian distribution of the species, unless the distribution in WA is part of a contiguous population extending into adjacent States, as defined by the known spread of locations.

#### P1 Priority One - Poorly-known species:

Species that are known from one or a few locations (generally five or less) which are potentially at risk. All occurrences are either: very small; or on lands not managed for conservation, e.g. agricultural or pastoral lands, urban areas, road and rail reserves, gravel reserves and active mineral leases; or otherwise under threat of habitat destruction or degradation. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and appear to be under immediate threat from known threatening processes. Such species are in urgent need of further survey.

#### P2 Priority Two - Poorly-known species:

Species that are known from one or a few locations (generally five or less), some of which are on lands managed primarily for nature conservation, e.g. national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves and other lands with secure tenure being managed for conservation. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and appear to be under threat from known threatening processes. Such species are in urgent need of further survey.

# P3 Priority Three - Poorly-known species:

Species that are known from several locations, and the species does not appear to be under imminent threat, or from few but widespread locations with either large population size or significant remaining areas of apparently suitable habitat, much of it not under imminent threat. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from several locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and known threatening processes exist that could affect them. Such species are in need of further survey.

# P4 Priority Four - Rare, Near Threatened and other species in need of monitoring:

(a) Rare. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed, or for which sufficient knowledge is available, and that are considered not currently threatened or in need of special protection, but could be if present circumstances change. These species are usually represented on conservation lands.

(b) Near Threatened. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed and that are close to qualifying for Vulnerable, but are not listed as Conservation Dependent.

(c) Species that have been removed from the list of threatened species during the past five years for reasons other than taxonomy.

#### Principles for clearing native vegetation:

- (a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.
- (b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.
- (c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora.
- (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.
- (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.
- (f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.
- (g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.
- (h) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.
- (i) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.
- (j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.