



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	7139/4
Duration of Permit:	From 10 September 2016 to 30 November 2031
Permit Holder:	BHP Iron Ore Pty 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

Iron Ore (Mount Goldsworthy) Agreement Act 1964, Mineral Lease 249SA
Iron Ore (Goldsworthy-Nimingarra) Agreement Act 1972, Mineral Lease 251SA
Iron Ore (Mount Goldsworthy) Agreement Act 1964, Mineral Lease 281SA
Exploration Licence 47/13-I
Exploration Licence 47/14-I
Exploration Licence 47/15-I
Exploration Licence 47/17-I
Exploration Licence 47/1540-I
Prospecting Licence 47/1611-I

2. Clearing authorised (purpose)

The Permit Holder is authorised to clear native vegetation for the purpose of rehabilitation, geotechnical investigations, access tracks, mineral exploration, monitoring facilities, hydrogeological drilling, water bores and associated activities.

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 1,000 hectares of native vegetation. All clearing must be within the areas cross-hatched yellow or shaded red on attached Figure 1, Figure 2 and Figure 3 of Schedule 1.

4. Clearing Restricted – Fauna Habitat Management

The Permit Holder shall only clear native vegetation within the areas shaded red on attached Figure 1, Figure 2 and Figure 3 of Schedule 1 for the purpose of *rehabilitation*.

5. Type of Clearing Authorised

The Permit Holder shall not clear native vegetation unless the purpose of which the clearing is authorised is enacted within 6 months of the authorised clearing being undertaken.

6. Period in which clearing is Authorised

The Permit Holder shall not clear any native vegetation after 30 November 2026.

PART II - MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

7. Avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing

In determining the amount of native vegetation to be cleared under this Permit, the Permit Holder must apply the following principles, set out in descending 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.

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*:

- (a) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
- (b) ensure that no known *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.

9. Flora Management

Where *priority flora* species have been identified and their written location(s), provided to the *CEO*, within the document 'BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd (2016) Central Pilbara West Strategic Exploration NVCP, Native Vegetation Clearing Permit Application Supporting Document for Exploration Drilling, June 2016', as retained on Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety File No. A1292/201601 as DOC ID 4377115, the Permit Holder shall ensure that:

- (a) no clearing of identified *priority flora* occurs unless first approved by the *CEO*; and
- (b) no clearing occurs within 10 metres of identified *priority flora* unless first approved by the *CEO*.

10. Vegetation Management

- (a) where practicable the Permit Holder shall avoid *clearing riparian vegetation*; and
- (b) where a *watercourse* or *drainage line* is to be impacted by clearing, the Permit Holder shall ensure that the existing surface flow is maintained, or is reinstated downstream into existing natural drainage lines.

11. Environmental management plan

- (a) By 31 December 2016 the Permit Holder must submit a Management Plan to the *CEO*.
- (b) The Management Plan must include:
 - (i) a plan for managing the impacts to Northern Quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*);
 - (ii) a table setting out the Permit Holder's commitments to the Management Plan requirements; and
 - (iii) a program for monitoring compliance with the Permit Holder's commitments.
- (c) The Management Plan must be approved by the *CEO* prior to being implemented.
- (d) The approved Management Plan must be implemented by the Permit Holder.
- (e) If it is necessary to modify the Management Plan, the Permit Holder must submit the modified plan to the *CEO*.
- (f) A modified Management Plan must not be implemented until approved by the *CEO*.
- (g) An approved modified Management Plan supersedes any previous Management Plans.

12. Retain vegetative material and topsoil, revegetation and rehabilitation

The Permit Holder shall:

- (a) retain the vegetative material and topsoil removed by clearing authorised under this Permit and stockpile the vegetative material and topsoil in an area that has already been cleared;
- (b) within 12 months following completion of clearing authorised under this Permit, *revegetate* and *rehabilitate* the areas that are no longer required for the purpose for which they were cleared under this Permit by:
 - (i) ripping the ground on the contour to remove soil compaction;
 - (ii) laying the vegetative material and topsoil retained under Condition 12(a) on the cleared area;
 - (iii) re-shaping the surface of the land so that it is consistent with the surrounding 5 metres of uncleared land;
- (c) within 4 years of undertaking *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* in accordance with Condition 12(b) of this Permit:
 - (i) engage an *environmental specialist* to determine the species composition, structure and density of the area *revegetated* and *rehabilitated*; and
 - (ii) where, in the opinion of an *environmental specialist*, the composition structure and density determined under Condition 12(c)(i) of this Permit will not result in a similar species composition, structure and density to that of pre-clearing vegetation types in that area, *revegetate* the area by deliberately *planting* and/or *direct seeding* native vegetation that will result in a similar species composition, structure and density of native vegetation to pre-clearing vegetation types in that area and ensuring only *local provenance* seeds and propagating material are used.
- (d) where additional *planting* or *direct seeding* of native vegetation is undertaken in accordance with Condition 12(c)(ii) of this Permit, the Permit Holder shall repeat Condition 12(c)(i) and 12(c)(ii) within 24 months of undertaking the additional *planting* or *direct seeding* of native vegetation.
- (e) where a determination by an *environmental specialist* that the composition, structure and density within areas *revegetated* and *rehabilitated* will result in a similar species composition, structure and density to that of pre-clearing vegetation types in that area, as determined in Condition 12(c)(i) and (ii) of this Permit, that determination shall be submitted for the *CEO's* consideration. If the *CEO* does not agree with the determination made under Condition 12(c)(ii), the *CEO* may require the Permit Holder to undertake additional *planting* and *direct seeding* in accordance with the requirements under Condition 12(c)(ii).

13. Retain vegetative material and topsoil, revegetation and rehabilitation

The Permit Holder shall:

- (a) Prior to 30 November 2026, *revegetate* and *rehabilitate* 74.78 hectares of *temporary disturbance* previously cleared within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Figure 1 of schedule 1 by:
 - (i) laying vegetative material and topsoil previously retained within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Figure 1 of schedule 1 on the cleared areas;
 - (ii) ripping the ground on the contour to remove soil compaction; and
 - (iii) re-shaping the surface of the land so that it is consistent with the surrounding 5 metres of uncleared land;
- (b) Within 4 years of undertaking *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* in accordance with Condition 14(a) of this Permit:
 - (i) engage an *environmental specialist* to determine the species composition, structure and density of the area *revegetated* and *rehabilitated*; and
 - (ii) where, in the opinion of an *environmental specialist*, the composition structure and density determined under Condition 13(b)(i) of this Permit will not result in a similar species composition, structure and density to that of pre-clearing vegetation types in that area, *revegetate* the area by deliberately *planting* and/or *direct seeding* native vegetation that will result in a similar species composition, structure and density of native vegetation to pre-clearing vegetation types in that area and ensuring only *local provenance* seeds and propagating material are used.
- (c) Where additional *planting* or *direct seeding* of native vegetation is undertaken in accordance with Condition

13(b)(ii) of this permit, the Permit Holder shall repeat Condition 13(b)(i) and 13(b)(ii) within 24 months of undertaking the additional *planting* or *direct seeding* of native vegetation.

- (d) Where a determination by an *environmental specialist* that the composition, structure and density within areas *revegetated* and *rehabilitated* will result in a similar species composition, structure and density to that of pre-clearing vegetation types in that area, as determined in Condition 13(b)(i) and (ii) of this permit, that determination shall be submitted for the *CEO's* consideration. If the *CEO* does not agree with the determination made under Condition 13(b)(ii), the *CEO* may require the Permit Holder to undertake additional *planting* and *direct seeding* in accordance with the requirements under Condition 13(b)(ii).

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

14. Records to be kept

The Permit Holder must maintain records relating to the listed relevant matters in accordance with the specifications detailed in Table 1.

Table 1: Records that must be kept

No.	Relevant matter	Specifications
1.	In relation to the authorised clearing activities generally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) 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; (b) the date that the area was cleared; (c) the size of the area cleared (in hectares); (d) purpose for which clearing was undertaken; (e) actions taken to avoid, minimise, and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing in accordance with Condition 7; and (f) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of <i>weeds</i> and <i>dieback</i> in accordance with Condition 8; and (g) actions taken in accordance with Conditions 4, 5, 10 and 11.
2.	In relation to flora management pursuant to Condition 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the name, location and number of each priority flora species, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings; (b) actions taken to demarcate each <i>priority flora</i> species recorded and their relevant buffers; and (c) actions taken to avoid the clearing of <i>priority flora</i> species. (d) The species name of each <i>priority flora</i> species cleared; and (e) The number of individuals of each <i>priority flora</i> species cleared.
3.	In relation to the <i>revegetation</i> and <i>rehabilitation</i> management pursuant to Condition 12 and 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The location of any areas <i>revegetated</i> and <i>rehabilitated</i>, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings; (b) a description of the <i>revegetation</i> and <i>rehabilitation</i> activities undertaken; and (c) the size of the area <i>revegetated</i> and <i>rehabilitated</i> (in hectares).

15. Reporting

- (a) The Permit Holder shall provide a report to the *CEO* by 1 October each year for the life of this Permit, demonstrating adherence to all conditions of this Permit, and setting out the records required under Condition 15 of this Permit in relation to clearing carried out between 1 July and 30 June of the previous financial year.
- (b) If no clearing authorised under this Permit was undertaken between 1 July and 30 June of the previous financial year, a written report confirming that no clearing under this permit has been carried out, must be provided to the *CEO* by 1 October of each year.
- (c) Prior to 30 November 2031, the Permit Holder must provide to the *CEO* a written report of records required under Condition 15 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under Condition 16(a) or 16(b) of this Permit.

DEFINITIONS

In this permit, the terms in Table 2 have the meanings defined.

Table 2: Definitions

Term	Definition
CEO	the Chief Executive Officer of the Department responsible for administering the clearing provisions contained within the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> or an Officer with delegated authority under Section 20 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> .
clearing	has the meaning given under section 3(1) of the EP Act.
condition/s	a condition to which this clearing permit is subject under section 51H of the EP Act.
drainage line	Means a natural depression that carries surface water runoff.
department	means the department established under section 35 of the <i>Public Sector Management Act 1994 (WA)</i> and designated as responsible for the administration of the EP Act, which includes Part V Division 3.
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 <i>CEO</i> as a suitable environmental specialist.
EP Act	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986 (WA)</i>
fill	means material used to increase the ground level, or to fill a depression.
local provenance	means native vegetation seeds and propagating material from natural sources within 200 kilometres in 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.
native vegetation	has the meaning given under section 3(1) and section 51A of the EP Act.
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 Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' <i>Threatened and Priority Flora List for Western Australia</i> (as amended).
regeneration	means <i>revegetation</i> that can be established from in situ seed banks contained either within the topsoil or seed-bearing <i>mulch</i> .

Term	Definition
rehabilitate / rehabilitated / rehabilitation	means actively managing an area containing native vegetation in order to improve the ecological function of that area.
revegetate / revegetated / revegetation	means the re-establishment of a cover of <i>local provenance</i> native vegetation in an area using methods such as natural <i>regeneration</i> , <i>direct seeding</i> and/or <i>planting</i> , 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) Regulation 2004.
temporary disturbance	means areas cleared for the purpose of mineral exploration; construction and maintenance of access roads; fibre optic cables; maintenance activities; geotechnical investigations; borrow pits; laydown areas; assembly areas; water bores; turkey nests; culverts; and ancillary infrastructure.
watercourse	has the meaning given to it in section 3 of the <i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> .
weed/s	means any plant – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) that is a declared pest under section 22 of the <i>Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007</i>; or (b) published in a Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions species-led ecological impact and invasiveness ranking summary, regardless of ranking; or (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.

END OF CONDITIONS



Travis Inman
General Manager Mine Closure and Environmental Services
Resource and Environmental Compliance Division
17 August 2023

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

SCHEDULE 1

The boundary of the area authorised to be cleared is shown in the map below (Figure 1, Figure 2 and Figure 3)

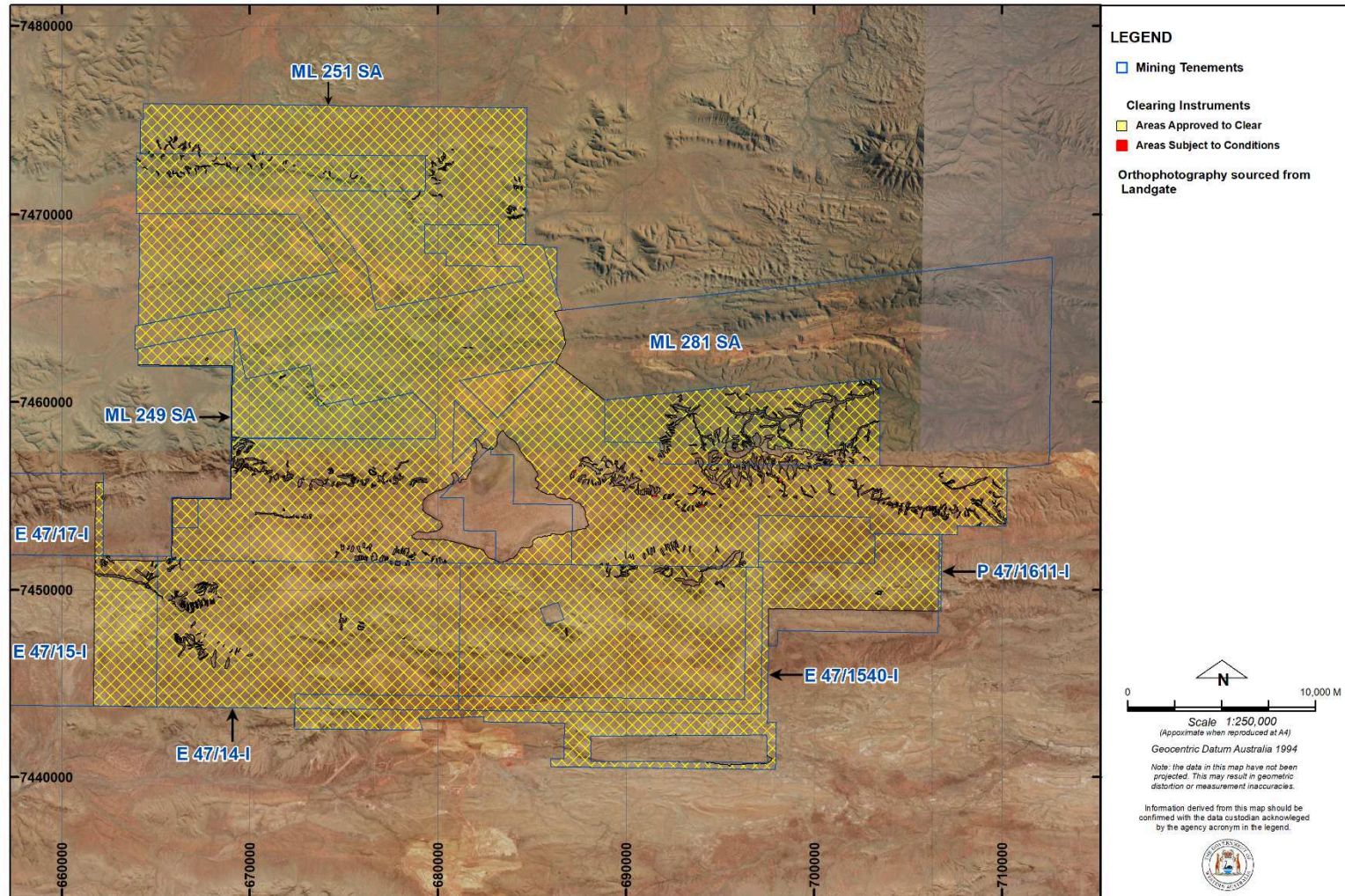


Figure 1: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur and areas subject to conditions

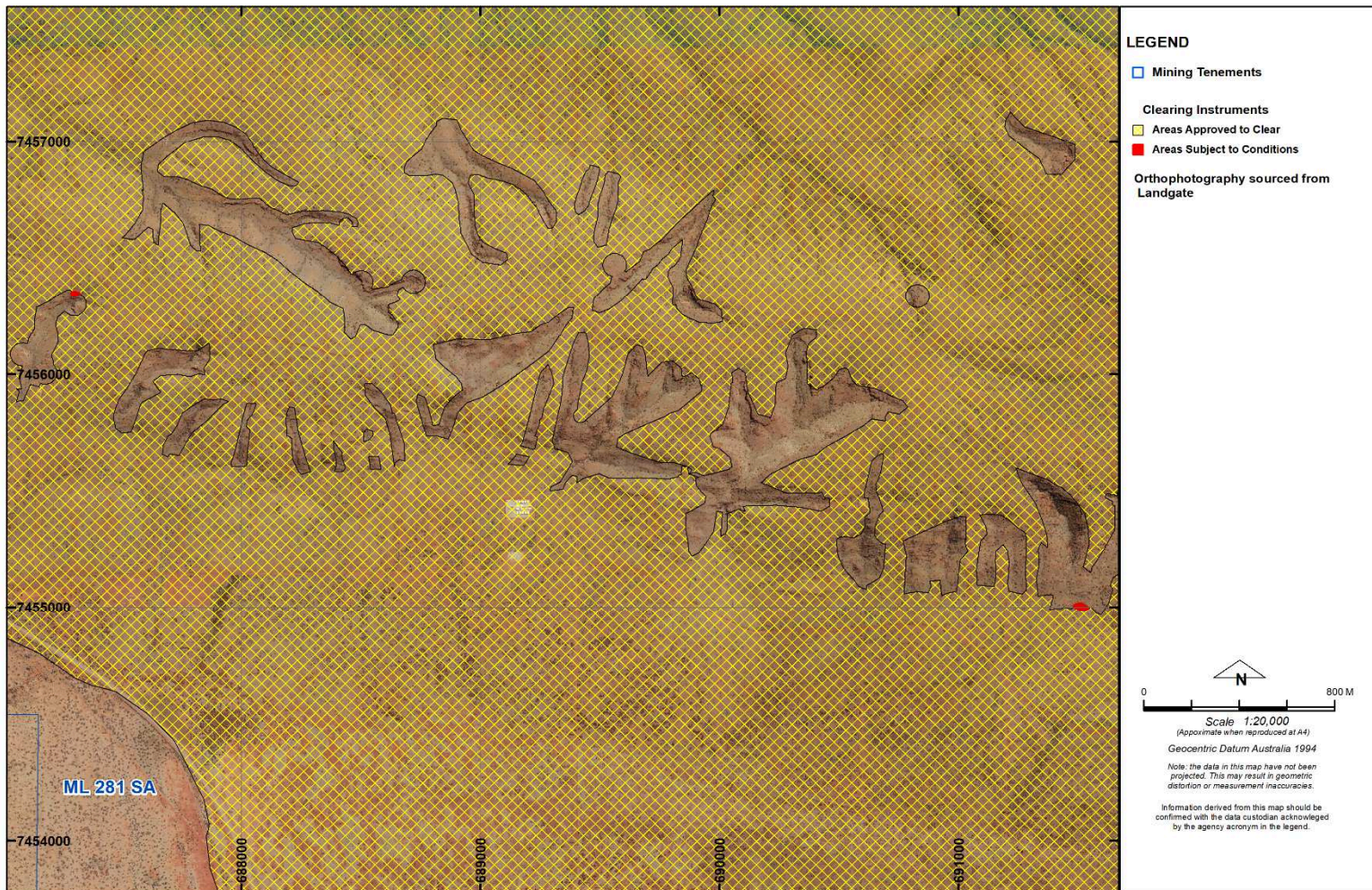


Figure 2: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur and areas subject to conditions

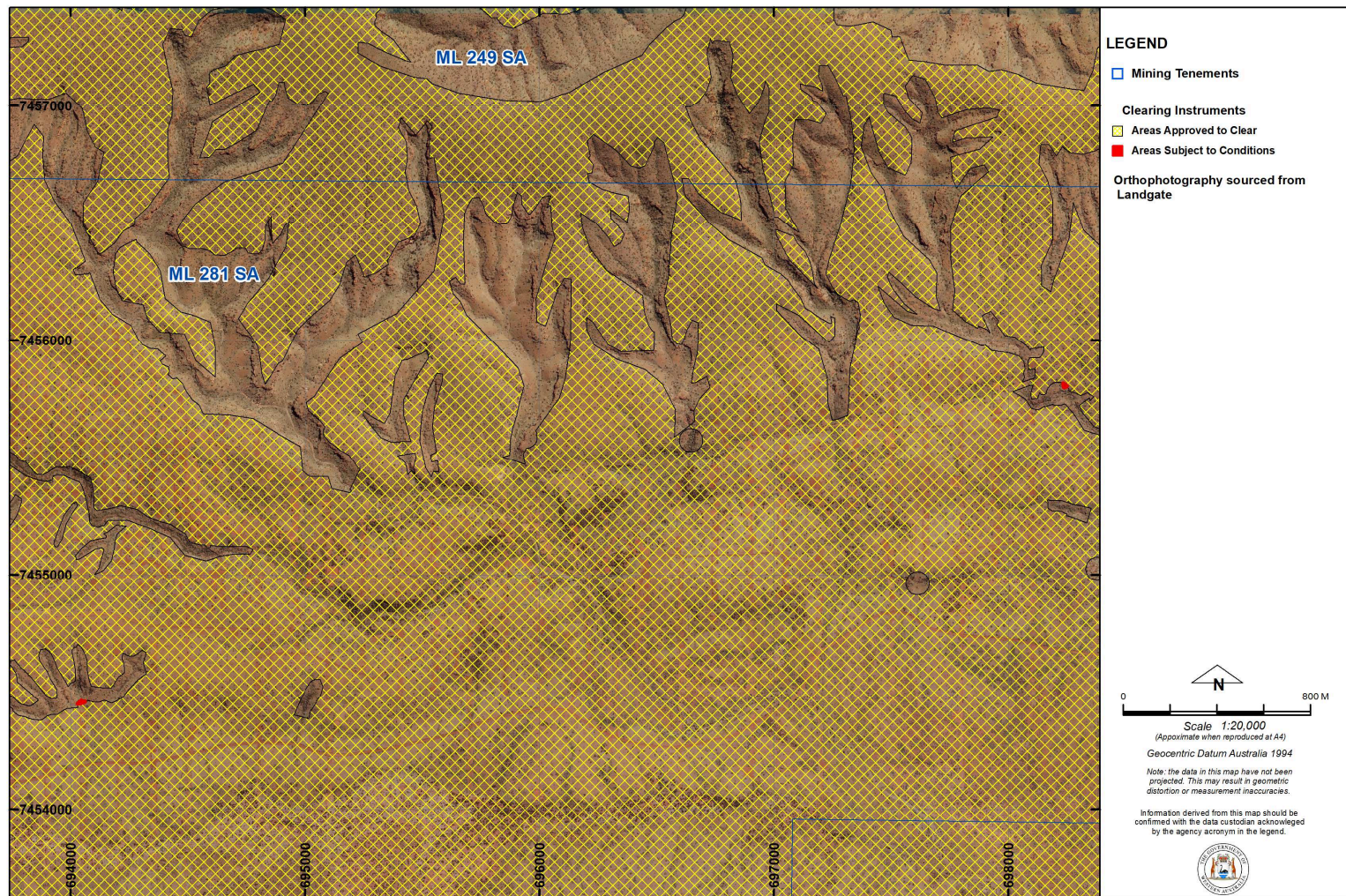


Figure 3. Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur and areas subject to conditions