



# Clearing Permit Decision Report

## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 7304/1  
Permit type: Purpose Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd

### 1.3. Property details

Property: *Iron Ore (Channar Joint Venture) Agreement Act, 1987*, Special Lease for Mining Operations 3116/11553, Document I 163654 L, Lot 132 on Deposited Plan 243064  
Local Government Area: Shire of Ashburton  
Colloquial name: Parabadoo access Track Project

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
0.1		Mechanical Removal	A road and associated activities

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted  
Decision Date: 17 November 2016

## 2. Site Information

### 2.1. Existing environment and information

#### 2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

**Vegetation Description** The application area has been mapped as the following Beard vegetation association:  
181: Shrublands; mulga and snakewood scrub.

**Clearing Description** Paraburdoo Access Track Project  
Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd (Hamersley Iron) proposes to clear up to 0.1 hectares within an application area of approximately 0.155 hectares for the purposes of constructing a road and associated activities. The project is located approximately 10 kilometres south-south-east of Paraburdoo within the Shire of Ashburton.

**Vegetation Condition** Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994).

**Comment** The proposed clearing is required for the purpose of modifying the entrance of the 47E access track to enable heavy vehicle access. The majority of the application area (66.7%) is devoid of vegetation through historical clearing for vehicle access (Rio Tinto, 2016, GIS Database). A small portion of the application area (33.3%) contains native vegetation (Rio Tinto, 2016, GIS Database). The condition of the vegetation under application was determined via interpretation of aerial imagery and information provided in the Native Vegetation Clearing Permit, Supporting Report (Rio Tinto, 2016; GIS Database).

## 3. Assessment of application against Clearing Principles

**Comments** The application area occurs within the Pilbara Interim Biogeographical Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) bioregion (CALM, 2002; GIS Database). The Pilbara IBRA region comprises a diverse range of landform features and has not been extensively cleared as approximately 99% of the pre-European vegetation remains (Government of Western Australia, 2015; GIS Database). The vegetation of the application area has been mapped as Beard vegetation association 181; Shrublands; mulga and snakewood scrub (GIS Database). However, the majority of the application area has been previously cleared and is not representative of this vegetation association (Rio Tinto, 2016; GIS Database). The application area is neither a remnant nor does it form part of any remnants within the local area (GIS Database).

No on-ground flora or vegetation surveys have been undertaken over the application area. According to available databases, there are no Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC's) or Priority Ecological Communities (PEC's) occurring within or near the application area (GIS Database). There are also no records of Threatened or Priority flora recorded within the application area (GIS Database).

A search of DPaW's NatureMap database revealed records of 18 Priority flora species within a 20 kilometre radius of the application area (DPaW, 2016). Rio Tinto (2016) reported it was unlikely that Priority flora would occur within the application area as the area contained unsuitable habitat, the application area was largely disturbed and also contained minimal vegetation. Given the application area is small and has been previously cleared, it is unlikely that individuals of Priority flora would exist in the application area.

subregion) Department of Conservation and Land Management, Perth, Western Australia.

DAA (2016) Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Aboriginal Affairs. <http://maps.dia.wa.gov.au/AHIS2> (Accessed 27 October 2016).

DPaW (2016) NatureMap - Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity, Department of Parks and Wildlife. <https://naturemap.dpaw.wa.gov.au/> (Accessed 27 October 2016).

Government of Western Australia (2015) 2015 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Western Australian Department of Parks and Wildlife, Perth, Western Australia.

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

Rio Tinto (2016) Statement Addressing the 10 Clearing Principles at Paraburdoo, Native Vegetation Clearing Permit Supporting Report, September 2016. Rio Tinto Iron Ore, Perth, Western Australia.

## 5. Glossary

### Acronyms:

BoM	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government
DAA	Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (now DPaW and DER)
DER	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia
DMP	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia
DRF	Declared Rare Flora
DotEE	Department of the Environment and Energy, 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	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (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	<i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> , 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.

**EN**            **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**

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.