



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 8009/1
Permit Holder:	BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd
Duration of Permit:	8 June 2018 – 8 June 2023

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 constructing and maintaining communications infrastructure and associated activities.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Great Northern Highway Road Reserve 11431984, Port Hedland
Lot 580 on Deposited Plan 409062, Port Hedland, and
Lot 9008 on Deposited Plan 404824, Port Hedland

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 0.5 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 8009/1.

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

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

6. Weed control

- (a) 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.

7. Records must be kept

The Permit Holder must maintain the following records for activities done pursuant to this Permit, in relation to the clearing of native vegetation authorised under this Permit:

- (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 or decimal degrees;
- (b) the date that the area was cleared;
- (c) the size of the area cleared (in hectares);
- (d) the purpose for which clearing was undertaken;
- (e) actions taken to avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing in accordance with condition 5 of this Permit; and
- (f) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *weeds* in accordance with condition 6 of this Permit.

8. Reporting

The Permit Holder must provide to the *CEO* the records required under condition 7 of this Permit, when requested by the *CEO* or *Delegated Officer*.

DEFINITIONS

CEO: means the Chief Executive Officer of the Department responsible for the administration of the clearing provisions under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*;

Delegated Officer: means the person appointed by the CEO to administer the clearing provisions under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*;

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 Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions Regional Weed Rankings Summary, regardless of ranking; or
- (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.

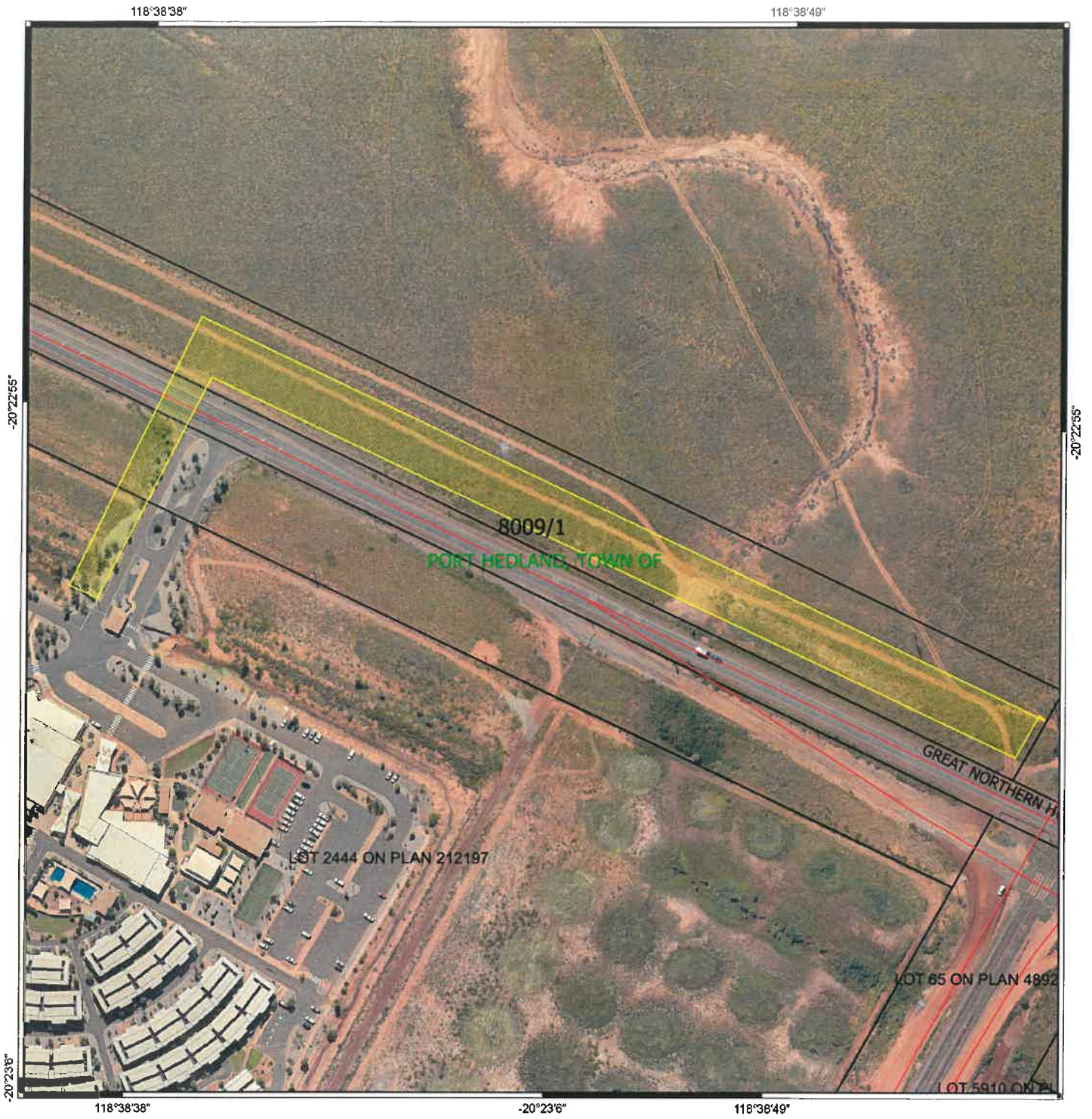


Mathew Gannaway
MANAGER
CLEARING REGULATION

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

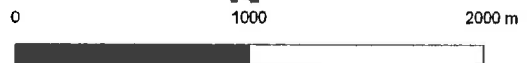
9 May 2018

Plan 8009/1



Legend

-  Areas approved to clear
-  Roads
-  Local Government Authority cadastre
-  Cadastre
- WANow_Imagery



MGA 94
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

Mathew Gemsway Date: 29/05/2018
Officer with delegated authority under Section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 8009/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Applicant's name: BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: Lot 580 on Deposited Plan 409062
Great Northern Highway Road Reserve (PIN 11431984)
Lot 9008 on Deposited Plan 404824
Local Government Authority: Town of Port Hedland
Localities: Port Hedland

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
0.5	0	Mechanical Removal	constructing and maintaining communications infrastructure and associated activities

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 09 May 2018
Application Received Date: 28 February 2018
Reasons for Decision: The clearing permit application has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with section 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. It has been concluded that the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to any of the clearing principles.

The proposed clearing may result in the spread of weeds into adjacent areas of remnant native vegetation. A weed management condition has been placed on the clearing permit to minimise this risk.

In determining to grant a clearing permit subject to conditions, the Delegated Officer found that the proposed clearing is unlikely to lead to an unacceptable risk to the environment.

2. Background

Existing environment and information

Clearing Description

The application is to clear 0.5 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 580 on Deposited Plan 409062, Great Northern Highway Road Reserve (PIN 11431984) and Lot 9008 on Deposited Plan 404824, Port Hedland, for the purpose of constructing and maintaining communications infrastructure and associated activities.

Vegetation Description

The application area is mapped as Beard vegetation association 647 which is described as Hummock grasslands and dwarf-shrub steppe including *Acacia translucens* over soft spinifex (Shepherd et al., 2001).

A vegetation assessment undertaken by ENV Australia (2011a) encompassing the application area mapped the vegetation type as Sandplain A. This vegetation type is described as being Low *Acacia stellaticeps* shrublands over *Triodia epactia* and *Triodia secunda* hummock grasslands/ *Triodia epactia* and *Triodia secunda* hummock grasslands mosaic.

Vegetation Condition

The vegetation is considered to be in excellent to completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition.

Comment

The condition and description of the vegetation was determined by a single season Level 2 flora and vegetation survey undertaken by ENV Australia (2011a) and GIS aerial imagery accessed 2018.

Soil Description

Soils within the application area are mapped as Uaroo Land System which is described as broad sandy plains, pebbly plains and drainage tracts. The soils of the Uaroo Land System are generally not susceptible to erosion (Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, 2017).

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

As discussed under Section 2, the vegetation within the application area consists predominantly of low *Acacia stellaticeps* shrublands over *Triodia epactia* and *Triodia secunda* hummock grasslands/ *Triodia epactia* and *Triodia secunda* hummock grasslands mosaic and is considered to be in excellent (Keighery, 1994) condition to completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition. The vegetation of the application area was assessed as being of a similar type and condition as the surrounding area (ENV, 2011a).

The vegetation assessment did not identify any flora listed as threatened or rare within the application area (ENV 2011a). Additionally, no Threatened Ecological Communities' or Priority Ecological Communities' were recorded within the application area or are located within the local area (ENV, 2011a). The proposed clearing is not likely to impact any TEC's or PEC's or conservation significant flora.

No conservation significant fauna species were recorded within the application area (ENV, 2011b). The Sand Plain habitat of the application area (ENV, 2011b) is found in similar or better condition within the local area and the application area is not considered to comprise of significant fauna habitat.

The local area (described as a 10 kilometre radius surrounding the application area) retains approximately 98% and Beard vegetation association 647 retains approximately 97% of their pre-European vegetation extent (Government of Western Australia, 2018). The vegetation within the application area is not considered to be a significant remnant of native vegetation nor does the clearing occur in an extensively cleared landscape. The vegetation assessment did not identify any conservation areas within the local area (ENV, 2011a). The proposed clearing may increase the risk of weeds spreading into adjacent remnant native vegetation. Weed management practices will assist in mitigating this risk. The applicant has committed to controlling established weed populations according to the BHP Billiton Iron Ore Weed Control and Management Procedure (BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd, 2018).

Given the above and the relatively small size of the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on threatened or rare flora, a priority or threatened ecological community, conservation reserves or significant fauna habitat within the local area.

No conservation category wetlands or watercourses have been mapped within the application area (DWER, 2018). The proposed clearing area intersects with one minor non-perennial watercourse, which runs in a northerly direction and is perpendicular to the proposed clearing area (DWER, 2018). However, the vegetation that grows in association with this watercourse was not identified within or adjacent to the application area during the vegetation assessment (ENV 2011a). Therefore, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to principle (f).

Taking into account the relatively small size of the application area and given the land system is mapped as sandy and pebbly plains with drainage tracts that are generally not susceptible to erosion (Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, 2017), the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on riparian vegetation, contribute to or cause land degradation, deteriorate the quality of ground water or surface water and is not likely to cause or exacerbate flooding.

Given the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to any of the clearing principles.

Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

No Aboriginal sites of significance have been mapped within the application area. The applicant will be advised of their responsibilities under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*. The applicant has committed to undertaking all activities in accordance with the BHP Billiton Iron Ore Project Environmental Aboriginal Heritage Review Procedure (BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd, 2018).

The application area is zoned state and regional road, and other public use under the Town of Port Hedland town planning scheme. The Town of Port Hedland has no objection to this clearing permit application (Town of Port Hedland, 2018).

The application area falls within the Pilbara Surface Water Area and the Pilbara Groundwater Area proclaimed under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (RIWI Act). Any taking or use of surface water or groundwater in this proclaimed area, for the purposes other than domestic and/or stock watering, is subject to a licence by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) Regulatory Services (Water). If any disturbance to the bed and banks of the waterway within the application area is proposed (other than clearing), then a bed and banks permit may be required (DWER, 2018).

The clearing permit application was advertised on 22 March 2018 with a 14 day submission period. No public submissions have been received in relation to this application.

4. References

BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd (2018). Port Haven FOC NVCP Application Cover Letter. DWER Ref A1670227.

- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (2018). NatureMap - Fauna Species Report: Accessed at <http://www.naturemap.dpaw.wa.gov.au> . Accessed April 2018. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia.
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (2017). NRInfo Digital Mapping. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Government of Western Australia. URL: <https://maps.agric.wa.gov.au/nrm-info/> (accessed April 2018).
- Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (2018). Regulatory Services (Water) – North West Region. Advice provided in relation to clearing permit application CPS 8009/1. DWER Ref. A1651036.
- ENV Australia (2011a). Port Hedland Regional Flora and Vegetation Assessment. Unpublished report prepared for BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd. DWER Ref. A1666393.
- ENV Australia (2011b). Port Hedland Regional Fauna Assessment. Unpublished report prepared for BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd. DWER Ref. A1666395.
- Government of Western Australia (2018). 2017 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of December 2017. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.
- Keighery, B.J. (1994). Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- 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.
- Town of Port Hedland (2018). Town of Port Hedland - Advice provided in relation to clearing permit application CPS 8009/1. DWER Ref. A1639397.