



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	8123/1
Duration of Permit:	From 10 November 2018 to 30 November 2033
Permit Holder:	BHP Billiton 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 (McCamey's Monster) Agreement Authorisation Act 1972, Mineral Lease 266SA (AM 70/266).
- 2. Purpose for which clearing may be done**
Clearing for the purposes of exploration, geological and hydrological investigations, construction and maintenance of access roads, pipelines, water bores, monitoring equipment and associated activities.
- 3. Area of Clearing**
The Permit Holder must not clear more than 200 hectares of native vegetation. All clearing must be within the areas cross-hatched yellow, shaded green or shaded red on attached Plan 8123/1.
- 4. Type of clearing authorised**
The Permit Holder shall not clear native vegetation unless the purpose for which the clearing is authorised is enacted within 6 months of the authorised clearing being undertaken.
- 5. Period in which clearing is authorised**
The Permit Holder shall not clear any native vegetation after 30 November 2028.
- 6. Restricted Clearing**
The Permit Holder shall only clear native vegetation within the areas shaded red on attached Plan 8123/1 for the purpose of access tracks and/or pipelines.
- 7. 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

- 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*:
 - (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.

9. Flora Management

Where *Eremophila capricornica* and *Ipomoea racemigera* have been identified and their written locations provided to the CEO within report 'Reconnaissance Flora and Vegetation Survey Caramulla, June 2018' as retained on Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety file A1339/201801, the Permit Holder shall ensure that:

- (i) no clearing of identified *Eremophila capricornica* and *Ipomoea racemigera* occurs, unless first approved by the CEO; and
- (ii) no clearing occurs within 10 metres of identified *Eremophila capricornica* and *Ipomoea racemigera*, unless first approved by the CEO.

10. Fauna management

(a) Within one month prior to undertaking any clearing within the areas shaded green on attached Plan 8123/1, the Permit Holder shall engage a *fauna specialist* to inspect the areas to be cleared to identify the following critical habitat for fauna:

- (i) *Macrotis lagotis* (Bilby) burrows; and
- (ii) *Dasyercus blythi* (Brush-tailed Mulgara) burrows.

(b) Where active burrows are identified in relation to Condition 10(a) of the Permit, the Permit Holder shall ensure that:

- (i) no clearing occurs within 50 metres of the identified active *Macrotis lagotis* (Bilby) burrows, unless first approved by the CEO; and
- (ii) no clearing occurs within 10 metres of the identified active *Dasyercus blythi* (Brush-tailed Mulgara) burrows, unless first approved by the CEO.

11. Watercourse Management

- (a) Where practicable the Permit Holder shall avoid clearing *riparian vegetation*; and
- (b) Where a *watercourse* is to be impacted by clearing, the Permit Holder shall maintain the existing surface flow.

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; and
 - (ii) laying the vegetative material and topsoil retained under Condition 12(a) on the cleared area.
- (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.

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

13. Records to be kept

The Permit Holder must maintain the following records for activities done pursuant to this Permit:

- (a) In relation to the clearing of native vegetation authorised under this Permit:
 - (i) 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;
 - (ii) the date that the area was cleared;
 - (iii) the size of the area cleared (in hectares); and
 - (iv) purpose for which clearing was undertaken.

- (b) In relation to fauna management pursuant to Condition 10 of this Permit:
 - (i) the location of any fauna habitat, as listed in Condition 10(a) identified, 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; and
 - (ii) the species name of each fauna habitat identified; and
 - (iii) the methodology used to survey the Permit Area; and
 - (iv) a description of the fauna habitat identified.

- (c) In relation to the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* of areas pursuant to Condition 12 of this Permit:
 - (i) the location of any areas *revegetated* and *rehabilitated*, 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;
 - (ii) a description of the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* activities undertaken; and
 - (iii) the size of the area *revegetated* and *rehabilitated* (in hectares).

14. Reporting

- (a) The Permit Holder shall provide a report to the General Manager Environmental Compliance, Resource and Environmental Compliance Division, Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety 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 13 of this permit in relation to clearing carried out between 1 July and 30 June of the previous financial year.

- (b) Prior to 30 November 2033, the Permit Holder must provide to the General Manager Environmental Compliance, Resource and Environmental Compliance Division, Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety a written report of records required under Condition 13 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under Condition 14(a) of this Permit.

DEFINITIONS

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

CEO means the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation or an officer with delegated authority under Section 20 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*;

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 *CEO* as a suitable environmental specialist;

fauna specialist means a person who holds a tertiary qualification specialising in environmental science or equivalent, and has a minimum of 2 years work experience in fauna identification and surveys of fauna native to the region being inspected or surveyed, or who is approved by the *CEO* as a suitable fauna specialist for the bioregion;

fill means material used to increase the ground level, or fill a hollow;

local provenance means native vegetation seeds and propagating material from natural sources within 200 kilometres and 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;

priority flora means those plant taxa described as priority flora classes 1, 2, 3, or 4 in the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' *Threatened and Priority Flora list for Western Australia* (as amended);

planting means the re-establishment of vegetation by creating favourable soil conditions and planting seedlings of the desired species;

regeneration means *revegetation* that can be established from in situ seed banks contained either within the topsoil or seed-bearing *mulch*;

rehabilitate/ed/ion means actively managing an area containing native vegetation in order to improve the ecological function of that area;

revegetate/ed/ion means the re-establishment of a cover of *local provenance* native vegetation in an area using methods such as natural *regeneration*, *direct seeding* and/or *planting*, 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) Regulations 2004;

watercourse has the meaning given to it in section 3 of the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*;

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.

Laura Burns

Laura Burns
Acting General Manager Environmental Compliance
Resource and Environmental Compliance Division
18 October 2018

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