



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	8834/1
Duration of Permit:	From 30 May 2020 to 29 May 2025
Permit Holder:	Fortescue Metals Group 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

Miscellaneous Licence 45/459
Miscellaneous Licence 45/461
Miscellaneous Licence 45/463
Miscellaneous Licence 45/464
Miscellaneous Licence 45/465
Miscellaneous Licence 45/469
Miscellaneous Licence 47/847
Miscellaneous Licence 47/914

2. Purpose for which clearing may be done

Clearing for the purpose of a powerline and associated infrastructure.

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 90.3 hectares of native vegetation. All clearing must be within the areas shaded yellow and red on attached Plans 8834/1A, 8834/1B, 8834/1C, 8834/1D, 8834/1E, 8834/1F, 8834/1G.

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 3 months of the authorised clearing being undertaken.

5. 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

6. 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:

- avoid the clearing of native vegetation;
- minimise the amount of native vegetation to be cleared; and
- reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.

7. 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.

8. Fauna management

When undertaking any clearing within the areas shaded red on attached Plans 8834/1F and 8834/1G, the Permit Holder shall:

- (a) Within two weeks prior to undertaking any clearing activities involving *ground disturbance*, engage a *fauna specialist* to undertake *clearance surveys* for the greater bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*) and brush-tailed mulgara (*Dasyercus blythi*).
- (b) Where greater bilby and brush-tailed mulgara burrows are identified under Condition 8(a), engage a *fauna specialist* to determine if the burrow is occupied.
- (c) Within two weeks prior to undertaking any clearing activities involving *ground disturbance*, engage a *fauna specialist* to relocate any greater bilby and brush-tailed mulgara found under Condition 8(a) and 8(b) of this permit.
- (d) Where any greater bilby or brush-tailed mulgara are identified and relocated under Condition 8(a), 8(b) and 8(c) of this Permit, include the following in a report submitted to the *CEO*:
 - (i) the location of any evidence of greater bilby and brush-tailed mulgara 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 type of evidence recorded under Condition 8(d)(i) e.g. fauna individuals, burrows, scats, tracks;
 - (iii) the location and date where any greater bilby and brush-tailed mulgara was relocated 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;
 - (iv) the name of the *fauna specialist* that relocated the greater bilby and brush-tailed mulgara under Condition 8(c); and
 - (v) a copy of the fauna licence authorising the relocation of the greater bilby and brush-tailed mulgara under Condition 8(c).

9. Vegetation management - watercourse

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

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

10. 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) actions taken to avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and the extent of clearing in accordance with Condition 6 of this Permit; and
- (c) actions taken to minimise the introduction and spread of *weeds* in accordance with Condition 7 of this Permit.

11. Reporting

- (a) The Permit Holder shall provide a report to the *CEO* by 31 July each year for the life of this Permit, demonstrating adherence to all conditions of this Permit, and setting out the records required under Condition 10 of this Permit in relation to clearing carried out between 1 July and 30 June of the previous financial year.
- (b) Prior to 29 May 2025, the Permit Holder must provide to the *CEO* a written report of records required under Condition 10 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under Condition 11(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 responsible for administering the clearing provisions contained within the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* or an Officer with delegated authority under Section 20 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*;

clearance survey/s means a search of immediate impact areas prior to clearing to locate fauna. The clearance survey should focus on locating burrows, recent foraging signs, fresh tracks and scats.

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, and who holds a valid fauna licence issued under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*;

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

ground disturbance means clearing with the use of machinery, but does not include clearing by hand felling or pruning;

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;

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*;

wetland/s means an area of seasonally, intermittently or permanently waterlogged or inundated land, whether natural or otherwise, and includes a lake, swamp, marsh, spring, dampland, tidal flat or estuary

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.



Dan Endacott
General Manager Environmental Compliance
Resource and Environmental Compliance Division
07 May 2020

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