GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Purpose Permit Number: 3601 / 1
File Number: A0307/201001
Duration of Permit: From 15 May 2010 to 30 April 2015

PERMIT HOLDER

Robe River Ltd

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Iron Ore (Cleveland-Cliffs) Agreement Act 1964, Mineral Lease 248SA (AML 70/248)

PURPOSE FOR WHICH THE CLEARING MAY BE DONE

1. Clearing for the purpose of flood prevention.

CONDITIONS

Type of clearing authorised

1. The Permit Holder must not clear more than 0.5 hectares of native vegetation. All clearing must be within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 3601/1.

2. The Permit Holder shall not clear any native vegetation during the period 1 November to 30 April each year.

Avoid, minimise etc clearing

3. In determining the amount of native vegetation to be cleared pursuant to this Permit, the Permit Holder must have regard to the following principles, set out in order of preference:

   (i) avoid the clearing of native vegetation;
   (ii) minimise the amount of native vegetation to be cleared; and
   (iii) reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.

Weed control

4. 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.

Retain and spread vegetative material and topsoil

5. 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 cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 3601/1.

   (b) Within 2 months following clearing authorised under this permit, *revegetate* and *rehabilitate* the area(s) that are no longer required for the purpose for which they were cleared under this Permit by:

      (i) laying the vegetative material and topsoil retained under Condition 5(a).

(c) Within 4 years of laying the vegetative material and topsoil on the cleared area in accordance with Condition 5(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 5(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.

Records to be kept

6. 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;
(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 the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* of areas pursuant to Condition 5 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;
(ii) a description of the revegetation and rehabilitation activities undertaken;
(iii) the size of the area revegetated and rehabilitated (in hectares); and
(iv) the species composition, structure and density of *revegetation* and *rehabilitation*.

Reporting

7. (a) The Permit Holder shall provide a report to the Director, Environment Division, Department of Mines and Petroleum 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 6 of this Permit in relation to clearing carried out between 1 July and 30 June of the previous financial year.

(b) Prior to 30 April 2015, the Permit Holder must provide to the Director, Environment Division, Department of Mines and Petroleum a written report of records required under Condition 6 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under Condition 7(a) of this Permit.

Definitions

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

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 is engaged by the Permit Holder for the purpose of providing environmental advice, 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;

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 100 kilometres 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;

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

regenerate/ed/ion 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 *regeneration*, *direct seeding* and/or *planting*, so that the species composition, structure and density is similar to pre-clearing vegetation types in that area;

weed/s means a species listed in Appendix 3 of the "Environmental Weed Strategy" published by the Department of Conservation and Land Management (1999), and plants declared under section 37 of the *Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act 1976*.

Phil Gorey
DIRECTOR
ENVIRONMENT DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND PETROLEUM

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

15 April 2010