GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	5657/1
Duration of Permit:	17 August 2013 – 31 July 2023
Permit Holder:	Hamersley Iron 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 (Hamersley Range) Agreement Act 1963, Mineral Lease 4SA (AML70/4)

2. **Purpose for which clearing may be done**
   Clearing for the purposes of mineral exploration.

3. **Area of Clearing**
   The Permit Holder must not clear more than 3.2 hectares of native vegetation. All clearing must be within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 5657/1.

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 – ASSESSMENT SEQUENCE AND MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

5. Avoid, minimise etc 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:

(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.

6. 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.

7. Vegetation 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.

8. Retain and spread vegetative material and topsoil

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 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) re-shaping the surface of the land so that it is consistent with the surrounding 5 metres of uncleared land; and
(ii) laying the vegetative material and topsoil retained under Condition 8(a).

(c) within 4 years of laying the vegetative material and topsoil on the cleared area in accordance with Condition 8(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 8(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

9. 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 the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* of areas pursuant to Condition 8 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).

10. Reporting

(a) The Permit Holder shall provide a report to the Director Operations, Environment, 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 9 of this permit in relation to clearing carried out between 1 July and 30 June of the previous financial year.

(b) Prior to 31 July 2023, the Permit Holder must provide to the Director Operations, Environment, Department of Mines and Petroleum a written report of records required under Condition 9 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under Condition 10(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 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;

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

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

regenerate/ed/ion means re-establishment of vegetation from in situ seed banks and propagating material (such as lignotubers, bulbs, rhizomes) contained either within the topsoil or seed-bearing *mulch*;

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;

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 the Department of Environment and Conservation Regional Weed Assessments, regardless of ranking; or
(c) not indigenous to the area concerned.



Steve Tantala
DIRECTOR OPERATIONS
ENVIRONMENT
DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND PETROLEUM

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

25 July 2013