

Pannawonica Tenements

Preston Consulting (for Red Hill Iron)



CLIENT:

Preston Consulting on behalf of Red Hill Iron Limited

LOCATION:

Pannawonica, Western Pilbara

SERVICES:

- Desktop review
- Single phase Level 2 flora and vegetation survey
- Targeted searches for conservation significant species
- Taxonomic identification
- Technical reporting

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Comprehensive flora and vegetation baseline data and technical report to support project environmental approvals
- Potential impacts to flora and vegetation determined to be insignificant
- Confirmed absence of a potentially present Priority ecological community within the project area

A baseline Level 2 flora and vegetation survey was undertaken for Red Hill Iron near Pannawonica. Two botanists sampled a total of 44 quadrats and 24 relevés, and completed numerous targeted searches of the survey area over a period of 11 days.

The survey was undertaken as a single phase high intensity survey in order to quantify the botanical values and inform an environmental impact assessment for the project.

The survey area comprised four separate sites covering 1502 hectares. Colour aerial photography was used to select sampling sites and determine efficient access into the survey area. Adequate representation of the major vegetation types and flora present within the survey area was achieved by targeting different landforms and ground-truthing the area on foot.

A total of 204 plant taxa (including subspecies and varieties) representing 92 genera and 37 plant families were recorded in the study area during the field survey. Two Priority flora species were recorded.

A total of 18 distinct vegetation types were recorded and mapped across six land systems. Phoenix were able to demonstrate that the flora and vegetation of the project area was well represented at a local and regional scale.

Several vegetation types were considered analogous to the geographically restricted Priority 3 ecological community *Triodia* sp. Robe River assemblages of mesas of the west Pilbara. On behalf of the client Phoenix liaised with the Department of Parks and Wildlife, submitting floristic data sets to the Species and Communities Branch to determine whether this PEC occurred in the project area. It was determined that this community was unlikely to be present. This was a positive outcome for our client because it eliminated the need to complete additional survey work and reduced risk of potential delays to their project development timeline.



PHOENIX
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES