

16 September 2024 Allen Qin Environmental and Approvals Advisor HanRoy Iron Ore Projects Pty Ltd

Hi Allen,

As discussed, a brief outline of the survey results is included below.

## BACKGROUND AND SCOPE

HanRoy Iron Ore Projects Pty Ltd (HanRoy) is seeking to undertake ground disturbing activities under the Mining Act 1978 (Mining Act), at the Mulga Downs Iron Ore Project (MDIOP), situated approximately 230 kilometres (km) south of Port Hedland and 100 km north-east of Tom Price. The activities proposed include exploration and resource development drilling, hydrogeological drilling, geotechnical investigations (drilling, test-pits and costeans) and exploration site establishment (laydowns, camp, tracks).

HanRoy engaged Spectrum Ecology & Spatial (Spectrum) to conduct a targeted flora and vegetation survey across as much of the 55 km length of the proposed works (Survey Area) as could be covered in three days. The survey will support a Programme of Works (POW) application. A dry season survey was requested targeting conservation significant flora and ecological communities. The survey was conducted in accordance with the relevant State and Commonwealth legislative, regulatory and survey guidance.

# METHODS

Two ecologists carried out the survey between August 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The ecologists walked traverses within the supplied footprint polygons between 10 m and 25 m wide depending on the width of the polygon. Known priority and novel species were targeted and when found, a GPS coordinate and count were recorded and where possible, alternative routes were searched.

#### Table 1: Project personnel

Staff	Qualification	Role	Project Tasks	Years of Experience	Flora Licence
Scott Hitchcock	BSc	Principal Botanist	Project management, field survey, reporting, quality control	19	FB62000561
Kimberley Clifton	BSc	Ecologist	Field survey	1	-
Raimond Orifici	BSc (Hons)	Taxonomist	Plant identifications	22	-

# RESULTS

Two priority flora species and one priority ecological community were recorded during the survey.

### Flora

Two priority 1 (P1) taxa were recorded during the survey, and they are described and shown below and on Map 1.

*Hibiscus* sp. Mulga Downs (S. Hitchcock SH 638) is a short live perennial growing to 20 cm tall with purple flowers. It grows in mulga, often at the base of Acacia species and generally following good summer rainfall. *Hibiscus* sp. Mulga Downs (S. Hitchcock SH 638) has only been recorded from Mulga Downs Station to date and a single plant was recorded during the survey.





Plate 1: close up of the flower (photo courtesy of Scott Hitchcock).

Plate 2: plant growing at the base of an *Acacia aptaneura* tree (photo courtesy of Scott Hitchcock).

*Triodia veniciae* is a highly resinous *Triodia* with "soft" leaf blades. It occurs on shale slopes and on the tops of low hills and is only known from a few populations in the eastern Chichester Range on the northern side of the Fortescue Valley. *Triodia veniciae* is relatively widespread in the northern section of the MDIOP, occurring on the extensive rolling shale hills of the area. Six hundred and sixteen (616) plants were recorded from the Survey Area.



Plate 3: *Triodia veniciae* shown growing on a shale hill (photo courtesy of Spectrum Ecology).

### Ecological Communities

One state list Priority Ecological Community was recorded during the survey. One of the "Four plant assemblages of the Wona Land System" vegetation types was recorded from the Survey Area during the survey; "Mitchell grass and Roebourne Plain grass (*Eragrostis xerophila*) plain on gilgai. *Astrebla pectinata*, *A. elymoides*, *E. xerophila*, *Aristida latifolia*, Eriachne and *Sida fibulifera*. Typical type, heavily grazed." Which is listed as a Priority 3 ecological community. The Wona Land system and the Survey Area are shown on Map 1.

### Significant Lands

No significant lands (Environmentally Sensitive Areas, significant wetlands or conservation estates) were recorded from the Survey Area.

## CONCLUSIONS

Due to the relatively high numbers and the extent of *Triodia veniciae* individuals adjacent to the Survey Area, clearing activities should be confined to the polygons surveyed by Spectrum. If additional clearing is required in these northern areas, it is recommended that a *Triodia veniciae* targeted survey and census be conducted and an impacts assessment be carried out prior to clearing. In most cases, small scale clearing of individuals would not adversely affect the local populations.

*Hibiscus* sp. Mulga Downs is known only from a relatively small area on Mulga Downs Station and any known records should be avoided.

Please feel free to contact me if you require any further information in relation to the above.

Yours sincerely, Scot Hitchcock Principal Botanist

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#### Legend

Great Northern Highway
Completed
Not completed
Tenement
*Hibiscus* sp. Mulga Downs
*Triodia veniciae* Wona Land System



## Location of the Survey Area and Priority Flora

HanRoy Iron Ore Projects Pty Ltd

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Prepared for HanRoy iron Ore Projects Pty Ltd