

4 December 2023

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
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To Whom it May Concern,

RE –Lot 62 (1098) Ludlow-Hithergreen Road, Abba River - Clearing Permit Application

Please find herein information pertaining to a clearing permit (area) application on behalf of Mr Jamie Oates (herein referred to as the applicant).

Background

The applicant is proposing to extract gravel from a 13.8 hectare (ha) area within Lot 62 Ludlow-Hithergreen Road, Abba River (herein referred to as the subject site) (refer to **Figure 1** and **2**). The subject site is located in the municipality of the City of Busselton, approximately 15 km east of the Busselton town centre.

The proposed extraction works will require the removal of seven individual *Eucalyptus rudis* (flooded gum) trees. Accordingly, to enable the progression of the project, a clearing referral pursuant to the *Environmental Protection Act 1987* is required. A photograph of the trees subject to clearing are provided below in **Plates 1 – 7**. The trees are isolated paddock trees and given the absence of any other native vegetation, are not associated with any vegetation communities.



Plate 1: *Eucalyptus rudis* tree 1 subject to clearing.



Plate 2: *Eucalyptus rudis* tree 2 subject to clearing.



Plate 3: *Eucalyptus rudis* tree 3 subject to clearing.



Plate 4: *Eucalyptus rudis* tree 4 subject to clearing.



Plate 5: *Eucalyptus rudis* tree 5 subject to clearing.



Plate 6: *Eucalyptus rudis* tree 6 subject to clearing.



Plate 7: *Eucalyptus rudis* tree 7 subject to clearing.

Avoidance and Mitigation Measures

The applicant undertook an assessment of the subject site prior to determining a suitable location for haulage road and proposed extraction area. The haulage road has been designed to avoid clearing of any vegetation (refer to **Figure 2**). The proposed extraction area has been situated to avoid clearing as far as practicable while still providing suitable product. It is considered that no other reasonable and practicable avoidance measures can be implemented within the clearing footprint.

It is noted that *Eucalyptus rudis* is not a known foraging resource for the three threatened species of black cockatoo and based on available data, does not appear to be preferable breeding habitat (DCCEEW 2022).

In order to reduce the impacts from the proposed action, the following management measures will be implemented as described below:

Fauna Management

The proposed management actions to mitigate potential impacts to fauna include:

- Peg/flag areas to be cleared to avoid any unnecessary disturbance to adjacent vegetation;
- Restrict all vehicle use to designated roads and access tracks;
- Enforce compliance with onsite speed limits at all times;
- During clearing, a qualified fauna expert will be present to direct clearing operators, particularly when clearing trees that are occupied by fauna, to ensure that these are cleared in a way that allows the animals to safely mobilise to adjacent areas. In addition, they will supervise any animal handling and the rescue of injured animals should this be required;
- No stockpiling of topsoil or other material is to occur outside of the clearing boundary;
- If clearing during black cockatoo breeding season (i.e. August to May), check potential habitat trees (i.e. DBH in excess of 50 cm) for nesting hollows; and

- If active black cockatoo nests are located in the clearing footprint, do not clear until fledglings have left the nest.

Weed and Pathogen Management

The proposed management actions to mitigate potential impacts associated with weeds and pathogens include:

- All earthmoving and ground engaging equipment will be inspected and cleaned of vegetation, mud and soil prior to entry and exit of the impact area.

Vegetation Retention and Infill Planting

It is proposed to undertake infill planting in 0.91 ha area located between the haulage route and drainage reserve to the north (refer to **Figure 2**) to provide improved habitat quality for black cockatoos and enhanced ecological linkages. This area will be fenced and planting will be undertaken at a density of 1 tree per 5 m². Infill planting will be undertaken with the following species:

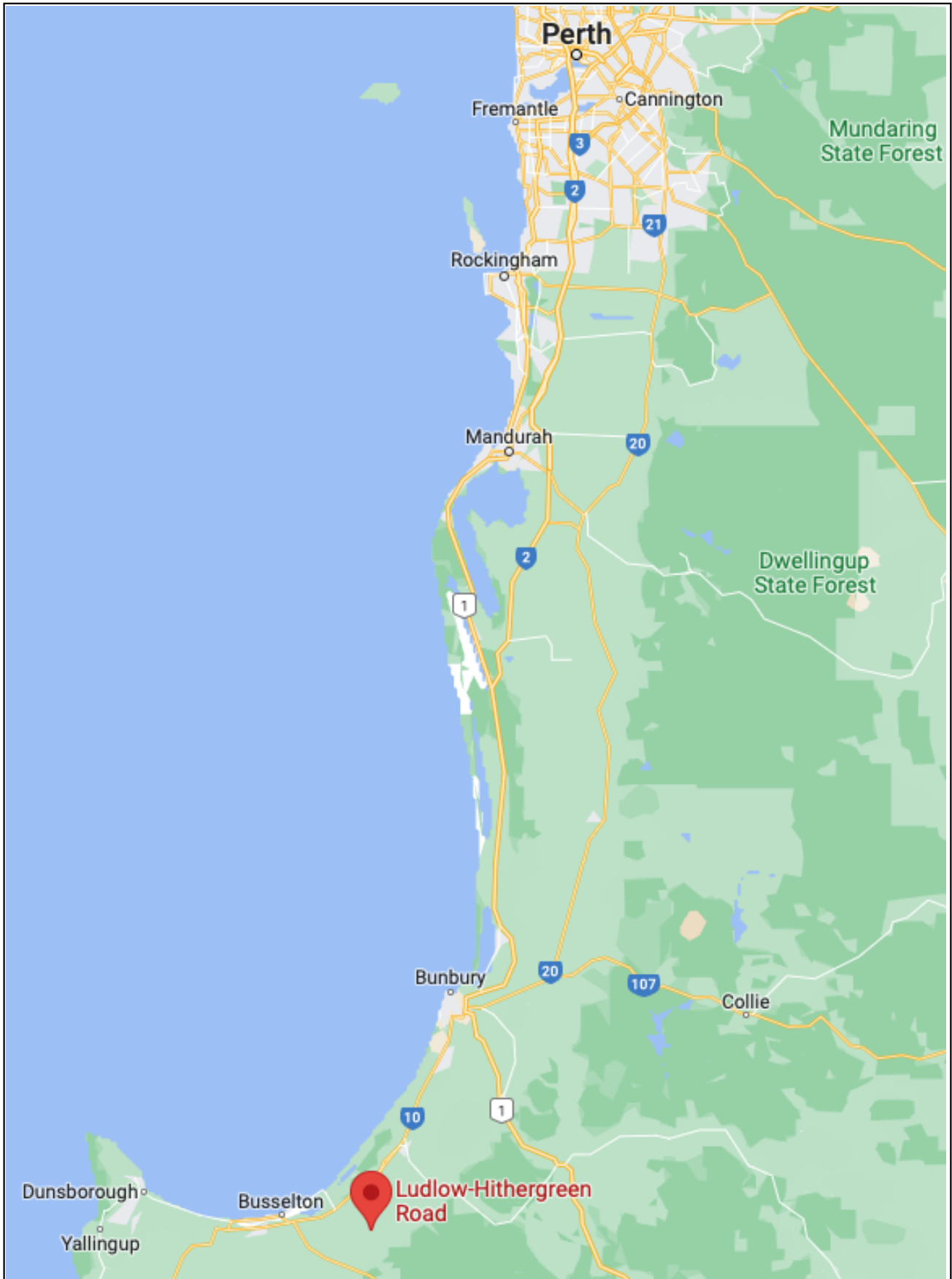
- *Corymbia calophylla*;
- *Eucalyptus marginata*;
- *Eucalyptus rudis*; and
- *Agonis flexuosa*.

Summary

Given the completely degraded condition of the vegetation within the subject site, limited amount of clearing and the history of anthropogenic disturbances, it is anticipated that there will be no residual impacts that will require the implementation of offsets.

I trust this information is sufficient for your purposes. Should you have any queries or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

FIGURES



PROJECT Lot 62 Ludlow-Hithergreen Rd, Ruabon

Project Number 2383

Drawing Number Figure 1

Revision A

DRAWING TITLE Figure 1 – Site Locality



Designed PN
Drawn PN

Checked
Approved

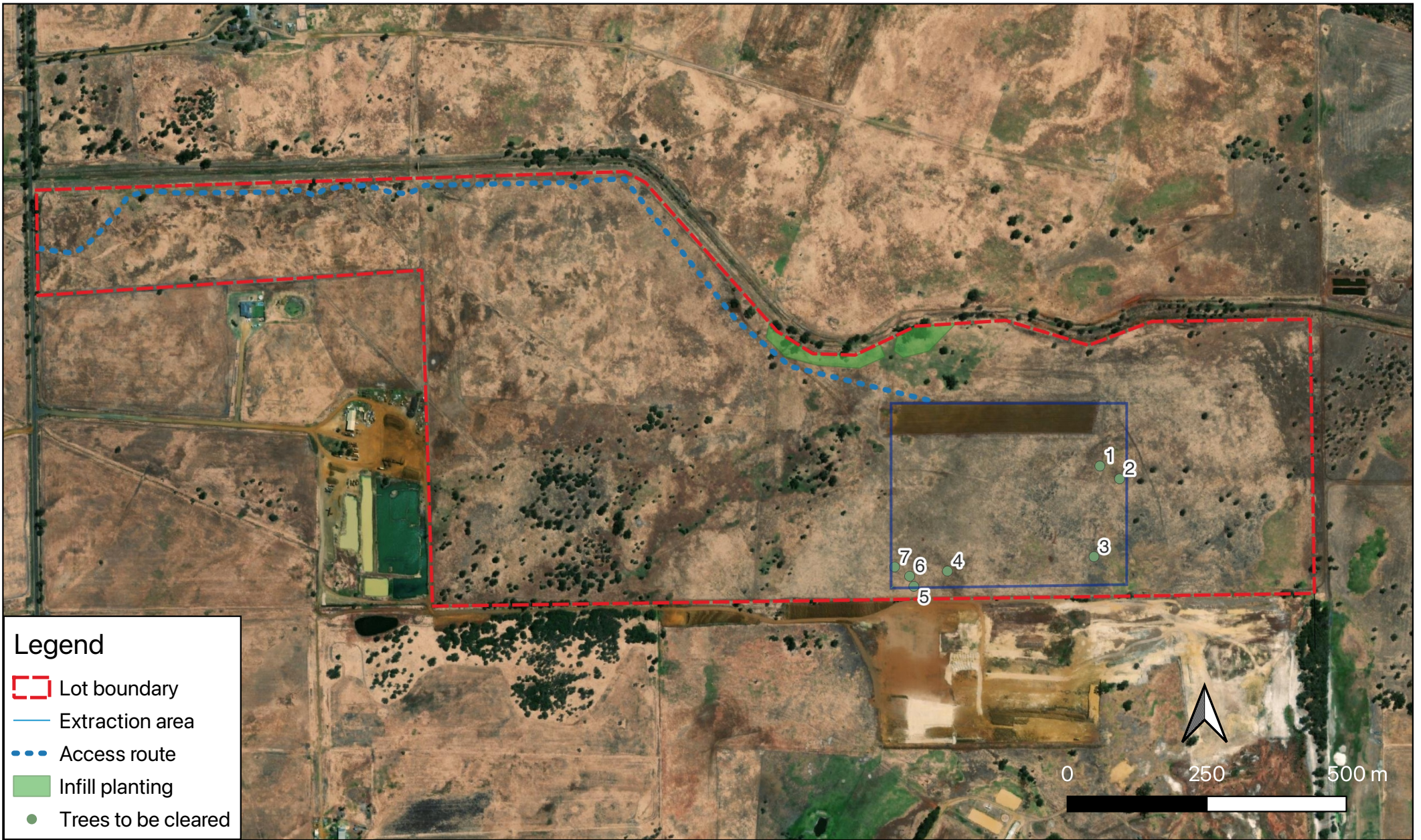
CLIENT Carters Farm Pty Ltd

Date
Local Authority
Sheet 1 of 1

30/11/2023
City of Busselton

PO Box 5178
West Busselton
Western Australia 6280
Mobile 0418 950 852

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Legend

- Lot boundary
- Extraction area
- Access route
- Infill planting
- Trees to be cleared

PROJECT Lot 62 Ludlow-Hithergreen Road,Ruabon

DRAWING TITLE Figure 2 - Site Extent

CLIENT Carters Farm Pty Ltd



PO Box 5178
West Busselton
Western Australia 6280
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Project Number 2383
Drawing Number Figure 2
Revision A
Date 30/11/2023
Sheet 1 of 1

Designed	PN
Drawn	PN
Checked	
Approved	
Local Authority	City of Busselton

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