



## CLEARING PERMIT

*Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986*

<b>Purpose Permit number:</b>	CPS 10703/1
<b>Permit Holder:</b>	Department of Planning Lands and Heritage
<b>Duration of Permit:</b>	From 13 December 2024 to 13 December 2029

The permit holder is authorised to clear *native vegetation* subject to the following conditions of this permit.

### **PART I – CLEARING AUTHORISED**

#### **1. Clearing authorised (purpose)**

The permit holder is authorised to clear *native vegetation* for the purpose of remediation of asbestos containing material.

#### **2. Land on which clearing is to be done**

Lot 1 on Diagram 23805, Jackitup

#### **3. Clearing authorised**

The permit holder must not *clear* more than 0.464 hectares of *native vegetation* within the area cross-hatched yellow in Figure 1 of Schedule 1.

### **PART II – MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS**

#### **4. Avoid, minimise, and reduce impacts and extent of clearing**

In determining the *native vegetation* authorised to be *cleared* under this permit, the permit holder must apply the following principles, set out in descending order of preference:

- (a) avoid the *clearing* of *native vegetation*;
- (b) minimise the amount of *native vegetation* to be *cleared*; and
- (c) reduce the impact of *clearing* on any environmental value.

## 5. Trees not authorised to clear

- (a) Prior to undertaking any *clearing* authorised under this permit, the permit holder must identify, record, and photograph all York gum (*Eucalyptus loxophleba* subsp. *loxophleba*) trees with a diameter at breast height of 30 centimetres or greater within the area cross-hatched yellow in Figure 1 of Schedule 1.
- (b) The permit holder must retain all York gum (*Eucalyptus loxophleba* subsp. *loxophleba*) trees with a diameter at breast height of 30 centimetres or greater as identified in *condition 5(a)*.
- (c) On completion of *clearing* authorised under this permit, the permit holder must identify, record, and photograph all York gum (*Eucalyptus loxophleba* subsp. *loxophleba*) trees retained in accordance with *condition 5(b)*.

## 6. Weed and dieback management

When undertaking any *clearing* authorised under this permit, the permit holder must take the following measures to minimise the risk of introduction and spread of *weeds* and *dieback*:

- (a) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
- (b) ensure that no known *dieback* or *weed*-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill*, or other material is brought into the area to be *cleared*; and
- (c) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be *cleared*, where practicable.

## PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

### 7. Records that must be kept

The permit holder must maintain records relating to the listed relevant matters in accordance with the specifications detailed in Table 1.

**Table 1: Records that must be kept**

No.	Relevant matter	Specifications
1.	In relation to the authorised <i>clearing</i> activities generally	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the species composition, structure, and density of the <i>cleared</i> area;</li> <li>(b) the location where the <i>clearing</i> occurred, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to GDA2020, expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings;</li> <li>(c) the date that the area was cleared;</li> <li>(d) the size of the area <i>cleared</i> (in hectares);</li> <li>(e) actions taken to avoid, minimise, and reduce the impacts and extent of <i>clearing</i> in accordance with <i>condition 4</i>; and</li> <li>(f) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of <i>weeds</i> and <i>dieback</i> in accordance with <i>condition 6</i>.</li> </ol>

No.	Relevant matter	Specifications
2.	In relation to condition 5	<p>(a) the location of all York gum (<i>Eucalyptus loxophleba</i> subsp. <i>loxophleba</i>) trees with a diameter at breast height of 30 centimetres or greater identified and retained, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 2020 (GDA2020), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings;</p> <p>(b) photographs of all York gum (<i>Eucalyptus loxophleba</i> subsp. <i>loxophleba</i>) trees identified, taken prior to <i>clearing</i>; and</p> <p>(c) photographs of all York gum (<i>Eucalyptus loxophleba</i> subsp. <i>loxophleba</i>) trees retained, taken after <i>clearing</i>.</p>

## 8. Reporting

The permit holder must provide to the *CEO* the records required under condition 7 of this permit when requested by the *CEO*.

## DEFINITIONS

In this permit, the terms in Table 2 have the meanings defined.

**Table 2: Definitions**

Term	Definition
CEO	Chief Executive Officer of the <i>department</i> responsible for the administration of the clearing provisions under the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> .
clearing	has the meaning given under section 3(1) of the EP Act.
condition	a condition to which this clearing permit is subject under section 51H of the EP Act.
fill	means material used to increase the ground level, or to fill a depression.
dieback	means the effect of <i>Phytophthora</i> species on native vegetation.
department	means the department established under section 35 of the <i>Public Sector Management Act 1994</i> (WA) and designated as responsible for the administration of the EP Act, which includes Part V Division 3.
EP Act	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> (WA)
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.
native vegetation	has the meaning given under section 3(1) and section 51A of the EP Act.
weeds	means any plant – <p>(a) that is a declared pest under section 22 of the <i>Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007</i>; or</p>

Term	Definition
	(b) published in a Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions species-led ecological impact and invasiveness ranking summary, regardless of ranking; or (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.

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**END OF CONDITIONS**



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**Meenu Vitarana**

**Manager**

**NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION**

*Officer delegated under Section 20  
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986*

19 November 2024

# Schedule 1

The boundary of the area authorised to be cleared is shown in the map below (Figure 1).

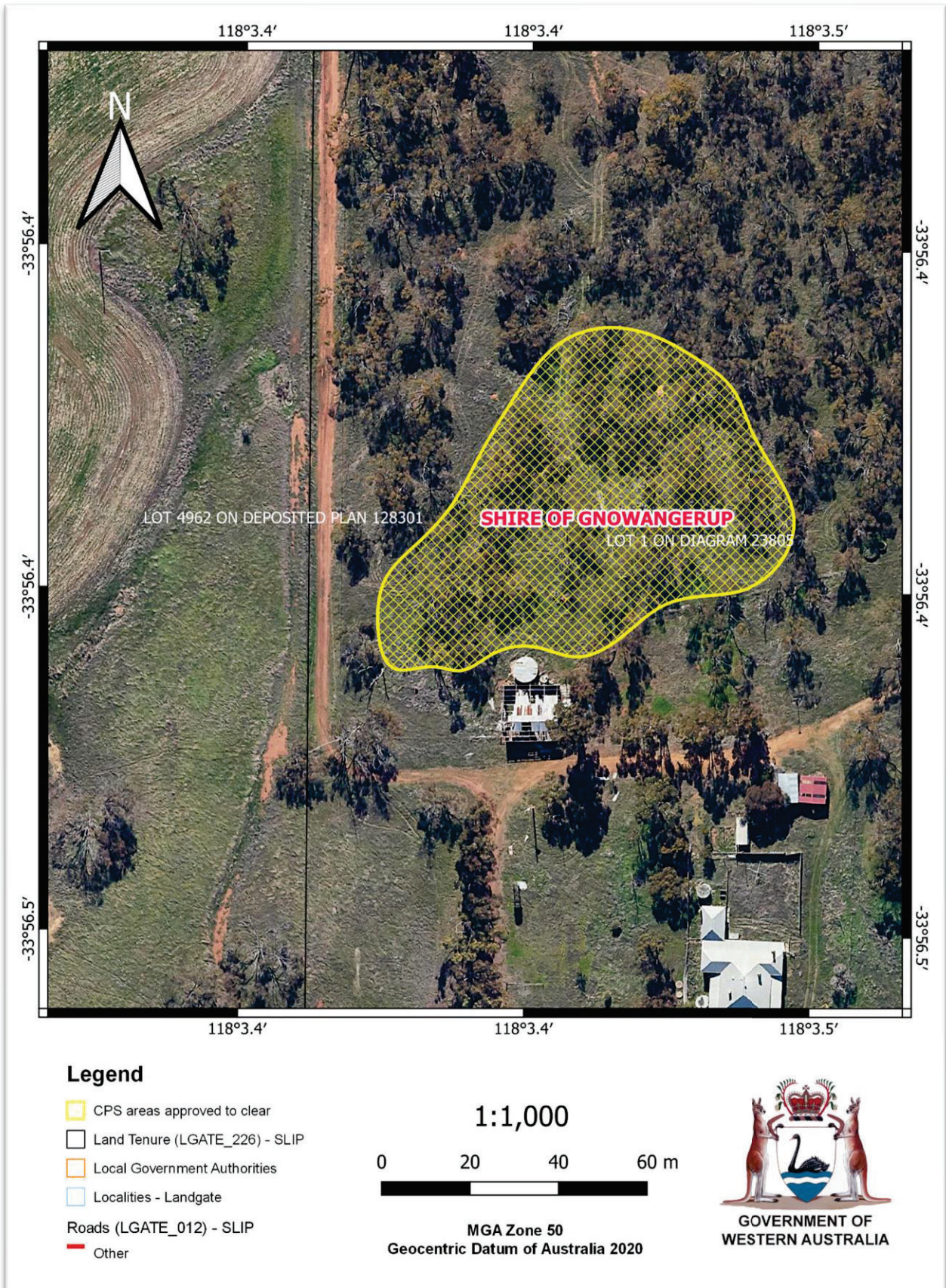


Figure 1: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur



## Clearing Permit Decision Report

### 1 Application details and outcome

#### 1.1. Permit application details

<b>Permit number:</b>	CPS 10703/1
<b>Permit type:</b>	Purpose permit
<b>Applicant name:</b>	Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH)
<b>Application received:</b>	31 July 2024
<b>Application area:</b>	0.464 hectares of native vegetation
<b>Purpose of clearing:</b>	Remediation of asbestos containing material
<b>Method of clearing:</b>	Mechanical Clearing
<b>Property:</b>	Lot 1 on Diagram 23805
<b>Location (LGA area/s):</b>	Shire of Gnowangerup
<b>Localities (suburb/s):</b>	Jackitup

#### 1.2. Description of clearing activities

The vegetation proposed to be cleared comprises scattered native understorey within a 0.464 hectare area on the former Gnowangerup Agricultural College site at Jackitup (see Figure 1, Section 1.5). The purpose of the clearing is to remediate the site of asbestos containing material (ACM). The vegetation proposed to be cleared comprises understorey of two species of native vegetation and *Eucalyptus loxophleba* (York gum) saplings requiring removal. The applicant has committed to avoiding mature York gum trees that occur within the application area.

While ACM remediation will occur over a larger area, the application area has been restricted to the area within which native vegetation (understorey species and York gum saplings) is required to be cleared for the remediation works to be undertaken (Figure 4, Appendix E). The applicant has advised no native vegetation will be cleared over the remainder of the project area.

#### 1.3. Decision on application

<b>Decision:</b>	Granted
<b>Decision date:</b>	19 November 2024
<b>Decision area:</b>	0.464 hectare area of native vegetation, as depicted in Section 1.5, below.

#### 1.4. Reasons for decision

This clearing permit application was submitted, accepted, assessed and determined in accordance with sections 51E and 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) advertised the application for 21 days and no submissions were received.

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics (see Appendix B), relevant datasets (see Appendix F.1), the findings of a vegetation assessment (see Appendix E), the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (see Appendix C), relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (see Section 3). The Delegated Officer also took into consideration the necessity of

clearing noting that the application area has been identified as requiring remediation for ACM on the former Gnowangerup Agricultural College and to complete these works successfully, some native understorey will require removal.

The assessment identified that the proposed clearing will result in:

- the loss of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared; and
- the potential introduction and spread of weeds into adjacent vegetation, which could impact on the quality of the adjacent vegetation and its habitat values.

After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant's avoidance and mitigation measures (Section 3.1), the Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing will not result in an unacceptable risk to identified environmental values, subject to required conditions. The applicant has suitably demonstrated avoidance and minimisation measures, including the avoidance of all mature York gum trees within the application area.

The Delegated Officer decided to grant a clearing permit subject to conditions to:

- avoid and minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- demarcate and avoid all mature York gum trees within the application area; and
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds and dieback.

1.5. Site map

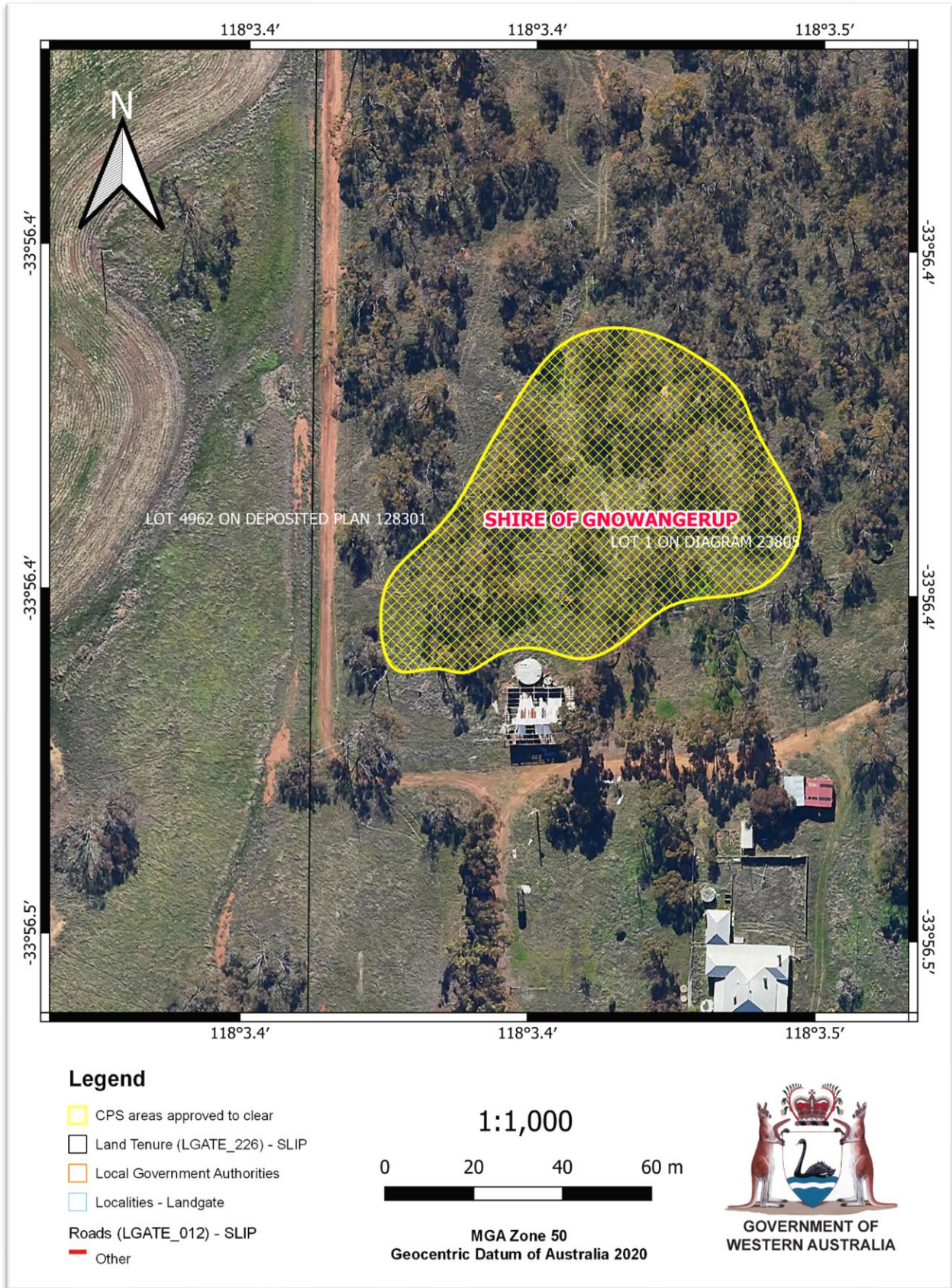


Figure 1: Map of the application area. The area cross-hatched yellow indicates the area authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.



## 2 Legislative context

The clearing of native vegetation in Western Australia is regulated under the EP Act and the *Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004* (Clearing Regulations).

In addition to the matters considered in accordance with section 51O of the EP Act (see Section 1.4), the Delegated Officer has also had regard to the objects and principles under section 4A of the EP Act, particularly:

- the precautionary principle
- the principle of intergenerational equity
- the principle of the conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity.

Other legislation of relevance for this assessment include:

- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (WA) (BC Act)
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act)
- *Contaminated Sites Act 2003* (CS Act)

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

- *A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation* (DER, December 2013)
- *Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits* (DWER, October 2019)
- Technical guidance – *Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment* (EPA, 2016)

## 3 Detailed assessment of application

### 3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

Evidence was submitted by the applicant, demonstrating that measures of avoidance and mitigation have been taken.

#### Avoidance

The applicant has committed to avoid clearing all mature York gum trees within the application area (DPLH, 2024b).

#### Mitigation

The applicant has committed to undertake revegetation actions within the area cleared, to reinstate vegetation equivalent to what is proposed for clearing, being two native understorey species, and any York gum saplings requiring removal during works (DPLH, 2024b).

The Delegated Officer was satisfied that the applicant has made a reasonable effort to avoid and minimise potential impacts of the proposed clearing on environmental values.

### 3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

In assessing the application, the Delegated Officer has had regard for the site characteristics (see Appendix B.1.) and the extent to which the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological, conservation, and land and water resource values.

The assessment against the clearing principles (see Appendix C) identified that the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to significant remnant vegetation. The consideration of these impacts, and the extent to which they can be managed through conditions applied in line with sections 51H and 51I of the EP Act, is set out below.

#### 3.2.1. Environmental Value: significant remnant vegetation - Clearing Principles (e)

##### Assessment

The National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation in Australia has a target to prevent clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30 per cent of that present pre-1750 (i.e. pre-European settlement) (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001). This is the threshold level below which species loss appears to accelerate exponentially at an ecosystem level.

According to available databases, the area proposed to be cleared consists of Beard vegetation association 1200 (Shepherd, 2001) (*Pallinup\_1200*), described as Mallee – Woodland / Mallee (Government of Western Australia, 2019). Based on a vegetation assessment of the application area undertaken by PGV Environmental (PGV, 2024), the application area is a 'Completely Degraded' representation (broadly, with consideration of overstorey species) of the *Pallinup\_1200* association (Appendix E).

The *Pallinup\_1200* association retains only 8.39 percent of its original extent statewide and only 7.21 percent of its original extent within the Mallee IBRA Bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2019). The extent of vegetation remaining in the local area and mapped vegetation association is inconsistent with the national targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia.

Whilst the proposed clearing is located within an extensively cleared landscape, the application area does not contain any conservation significant flora or ecological communities and does not contain a high level of biodiversity. This is noting it comprises York gum trees over a completely degraded understorey comprising two native (not conservation listed) species that provide around 2 to 5 per cent vegetative cover (PGV, 2024). In addition, the applicant has committed to retaining all the mature York gum trees, which may provide habitat for conservation listed fauna. Given the above, it is considered that the vegetation proposed for clearing is not likely to comprise significant remnant vegetation.

#### Conclusion

Given the Completely Degraded condition of the vegetation within the application area and the proposed retention of the mature York gum trees, the vegetation proposed for clearing is not considered a significant remnant, and is not likely to significantly impact the coverage of vegetation representative of the *Pallinup\_1200* vegetation association.

#### Conditions

To manage the risk of loss of vegetation within an extensively cleared area, the following management measures will be required as a condition on the clearing permit:

- demarcate and avoid all mature York gum trees within the application area.

### **3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters**

The application area forms part of a larger area that was reported under the *Contaminated Sites Act 2003* in August 2022 for the presence of ACM. The site was subsequently classified as *possibly contaminated – investigation required* in November 2022.

DWERs Contaminated Sites branch notes that any approved, unavoidable clearing associated with the investigation/remediation works is required to be managed in accordance with an appropriate works management plan, in accordance with the DWER's contaminated sites guidelines, the Department of Health's 2021 'Guidelines for the Assessment, Remediation and Management of Asbestos Contaminated Sites in Western Australia' (Department of Health, 2021) and the National Environment Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination) Measure 1999 (DWER, 2024).

The Shire of Gnowangerup advised DWER that it has no objections to the proposed clearing (Shire of Gnowangerup, 2024).

The application area lies within the Certified Wagyl Kaip & Southern Noongar Indigenous Land Use Agreement (WI2017/014) area.

No Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sites have been mapped within the application area, however, there are several within the local area. It is the permit holder's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* (WA) and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

**End**

## Appendix A. Additional information provided by applicant

Summary of comments	Consideration of comment
Confirmation of composition of vegetation proposed to be cleared and mitigation planting (DPLH, 2024b)	The additional information provided by the applicant was considered when assessing the necessity of the clearing and conditioning the clearing permit CPS 10703/1.

## Appendix B. Site characteristics

### B.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details
Local context	<p>The area proposed to be cleared comprises 0.464 hectares of native vegetation in the extensive land use zone of Western Australia's South Coast Region and within the Mallee IBRA region. The application area is surrounded by cleared paddocks used for agricultural purposes within a highly cleared landscape.</p> <p>Aerial imagery indicates the local area (20 kilometre radius from the centre of the area proposed to be cleared) retains approximately 10.58 per cent of the original native vegetation cover.</p>
Ecological linkage	<p>The application area and surrounding area is mapped as a Zone C - South Coast Macro Corridor (RecNo. 6123). The Western Australian South Coast Macro Corridor Network is a bioregional strategy aimed at conserving nature along the south coast of Western Australia. This initiative focuses on creating and maintaining ecological corridors that connect various protected areas, ensuring the preservation of biodiversity and the protection of threatened species (Wilkins, et al., 2006). The vegetation within Zone C potentially provides habitat value for wildlife at the local scale but requires closer assessment to determine its value for a regional scale Macro Corridor Network (Wilkins, et al., 2006).</p> <p>The proposed clearing will not sever this linkage, noting clearing is specific to the understorey and York gum saplings trees, with mature York gum trees being retained.</p>
Conservation areas	There are no conservation areas mapped within the application area. There are several reserves mapped within the local area, however, none in close proximity.
Vegetation description	<p>The PGV vegetation assessment indicated the vegetation within the application area consists of York gum over a mostly weedy understorey with grassy weeds (such as <i>Ehrharta calycina</i> (Veldtgrass) and <i>Avena fatua</i> (wild oats)), as well as two native understorey species being <i>Enchylaena tomentosa</i> (barrier saltbush) and <i>Maireana brevifolia</i> (small leaf bluebush). The applicant is avoiding all mature York gum trees.</p> <p>Representative photos are available in Appendix E Appendix E.</p> <p>There is one vegetation association mapped within the proposed areas to be cleared. This consists of (Shepherd, 2001):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Pallinup_1200</i> - Woodland / Mallee (Government of Western Australia, 2019).</li> </ul> <p>The mapped vegetation association retains approximately 8.39 percent of the original extent statewide and approximately 7.21 percent of the original extent within the Mallee IBRA Bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2019).</p> <p>The application area is in a Completely Degraded condition approximately two percent native cover with overstorey species broadly representative of the mapped vegetation association.</p>
Vegetation condition	Photographs supplied by the applicant and a vegetation assessment indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in Completely Degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition.

Characteristic	Details
	The full Keighery (1994) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix D. Representative photos are available in Appendix E.
Climate and landform	The application area is within a location that receives a mean annual maximum temperature of 22.5°C and a mean annual minimum temperature of 9.6°C. The mean annual rainfall is 360 millimetres (BoM, 2024).
Soil description	The soil is mapped as Upper Pallinup 3 Subsystem (241Up_3) - Lower to upper slopes and crests associated with shallow granite and dolerite. Soils are mainly grey sandy duplex soils (generally shallow) and minor areas of red duplex soils.
Land degradation risk	According to the mapped soil system, there is a low risk of water erosion, waterlogging, nutrient export, salinity and flooding, and a medium risk of wind erosion, water repellence and sub-surface acidification.
Waterbodies and Hydrogeography	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicate that an unnamed natural, minor non-perennial river is approximately 50 metres from the application area flowing into an earthdam located in the property immediately west of the application area.  Groundwater salinity within the application area is mapped at 14,000-35,000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids.
Flora	There are 18 records of conservation significant flora species within the local area (20 km radius from the application area) with the closest being Priority 3 species including <i>Calectasia obtusa</i> , <i>Lasiopetalum fitzgibbonii</i> , and <i>Verticordia coronata</i> , which were all recorded approximately 4.66 kilometres away.
Ecological communities	The application area is mapped within the Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt ecological community (Eucalypt Woodland) which is listed as a Priority 3, Priority Ecological Community (PEC) at State level and is listed as a Critically Endangered Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) under the Commonwealth EPBC Act.  According to a vegetation assessment undertaken within the application area, it was found that the area meets the initial key diagnostic criteria to be classified as the Eucalypt Woodlands, however, the size of the patch of woodland and the low number of mature trees (<5/0.5ha) means the patch of woodland does not make the size and condition requirements to be an occurrence of the TEC (PGV Environmental, 2024: DoE, 2015).
Fauna	There are records of 11 fauna of conservation significance within the local area (20 km radius from the application area), with the closest being the <i>Psophodes nigrogularis</i> (western whipbird) listed as Endangered under the BC Act, recorded approximately 2.4 kilometres away.  The application area is mapped within the area where <i>Zanda latirostris</i> (Carnaby's cockatoo) area likely to be distributed and breed. In the Wheatbelt, Carnaby's cockatoo are known to utilise suitability sized York gum trees for breeding (DAWE, 2022).

## Appendix C. Assessment against the clearing principles

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
<b>Environmental value: biological values</b>		
<p><u>Principle (a):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The vegetation proposed to be cleared is not likely to contain local or regionally significant flora, fauna, habitats or assemblages of plants. Noting that, and the ‘Completely Degraded’ condition of the vegetation, the application area is not considered to comprise a high level of biodiversity.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (b):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Noting the applicant has committed to retain all mature York gum trees on site, the vegetation proposed for clearing (understorey species and York gum saplings) is unlikely to contain significant habitat for fauna.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (c):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Due to the ‘Completely Degraded’ condition of the vegetation with a dominance of grassy weeds in the understorey, the application area does not contain, or include habitat for, threatened flora.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (d):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a threatened ecological community.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The application area is mapped within the Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt ecological community which is listed as a Critically Endangered TEC under the Commonwealth EPBC Act. The vegetation assessment identified that the vegetation within the application area did not represent this TEC given the low number of mature trees present, combined with the low patch size of the woodland vegetation (PGV, 2024). Therefore, the proposed clearing will not impact on an occurrence of this TEC.</p> <p>Further, the applicant has committed to retaining all mature York gum trees within the application area.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
<b>Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas</b>		
<p><u>Principle (e):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The extent of the mapped vegetation association within the application area and local area is inconsistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia. However, the vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered to be representative of significant remnant</p>	Not likely to be at variance	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.</i>

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
<p>vegetation noting the applicant is retaining all mature York gum trees, and the clearing will be restricted to two understorey species which provide 2 to 5 per cent cover within an area dominated by grassy weeds.</p>		
<p><u>Principle (h):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Given the distance to the nearest conservation area, the proposed clearing will not impact on the environmental values of any nearby conservation areas.</p>	Not at variance	No
<p><b>Environmental value: land and water resources</b></p>		
<p><u>Principle (f):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Given no watercourses or wetlands are recorded within the application area and the extent of proposed clearing, the proposed clearing will not impact on riparian vegetation.</p>	Not at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (g):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The mapped soils are moderately susceptible to wind erosion, water repellence and sub-surface acidification. Noting the extent of the application area, the condition of the vegetation, and that clearing will be restricted to understorey species, the proposed clearing is not likely to cause appreciable land degradation.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (i):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Given no watercourses or wetlands are recorded within the application area, the proposed clearing will not impact surface or ground water quality.</p>	Not at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (j):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The mapped soils and topographic contours in the surrounding area do not indicate that the proposed clearing is susceptible to flooding.</p> <p>Given no watercourses or wetlands are recorded within the application area, the proposed clearing will not contribute to flooding or waterlogging.</p>	Not at variance	No

## Appendix D. Vegetation condition rating scale

Vegetation condition is a rating given to a defined area of vegetation to categorise and rank disturbance related to human activities. The rating refers to the degree of change in the vegetation structure, density and species present in relation to undisturbed vegetation of the same type. The degree of disturbance impacts upon the vegetation's ability to regenerate. Disturbance at a site can be a cumulative effect from a number of interacting disturbance types.

Considering its location, the scale below was used to measure the condition of the vegetation proposed to be cleared. This scale has been extracted from Keighery, B.J. (1994) *Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community*. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

### Measuring vegetation condition for the South West and Interzone Botanical Province (Keighery, 1994)

Condition	Description
Pristine	Pristine or nearly so, no obvious signs of disturbance.
Excellent	Vegetation structure intact, with disturbance affecting individual species; weeds are non-aggressive species.
Very good	Vegetation structure altered, with obvious signs of disturbance. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by repeated fires, the presence of some more aggressive weeds, dieback, logging and/or grazing.
Good	Vegetation structure significantly altered by very obvious signs of multiple disturbances. Retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate it. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of some very aggressive weeds at high density, partial clearing, dieback and/or grazing.
Degraded	Basic vegetation structure severely impacted by disturbance. Scope for regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of very aggressive weeds, partial clearing, dieback and/or grazing.
Completely degraded	The structure of the vegetation is no longer intact and the area is completely or almost completely without native species. These areas are often described as 'parkland cleared' with the flora comprising weed or crop species with isolated native trees or shrubs.

**Appendix E. Biological survey information excerpts / photographs of the vegetation**



Figure 2: Photos of vegetation within the application area (PGV Environmental, 2024)





Figure 3: Small stand of *Maireana brevifolia* proposed for clearing (PGV Environmental, 2024)



Figure 4: Project area, locations where asbestos was detected, locations where native vegetation was recorded and requires clearing to enable works to occur (PGV Environmental, 2024).

## Appendix F. Sources of information

### F.1. GIS databases

Publicly available GIS Databases used (sourced from [www.data.wa.gov.au](http://www.data.wa.gov.au)):

- 10 Metre Contours (DPIRD-073)
- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- Cadastre (LGATE-218)
- Cadastre Address (LGATE-002)
- Contours (DPIRD-073)
- DBCA – Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia – Western Australia (DBCA-045)
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Flood Risk (DPIRD-007)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- Hydrography – Inland Waters – Waterlines
- Hydrological Zones of Western Australia (DPIRD-069)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Imagery
- Local Planning Scheme – Zones and Reserves (DPLH-071)
- Native Title (ILUA) (LGATE-067)
- Offsets Register – Offsets (DWER-078)
- Pre-European Vegetation Statistics
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- Ramsar Sites (DBCA-010)
- Regional Parks (DBCA-026)
- Remnant Vegetation, All Areas
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Flood Risk (DPIRD-007)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Phosphorus Export Risk (DPIRD-010)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Subsurface Acidification Risk (DPIRD-011)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Water Erosion Risk (DPIRD-013)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Water Repellence Risk (DPIRD-014)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Waterlogging Risk (DPIRD-015)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Wind Erosion Risk (DPIRD-016)
- Soil Landscape Mapping – Best Available
- Soil Landscape Mapping – Systems
- Wheatbelt Wetlands Stage 1 (DBCA-021)

Restricted GIS Databases used:

- ICMS (Incident Complaints Management System) – Points and Polygons
- Threatened Flora (TPFL)
- Threatened Flora (WAHerb)
- Threatened Fauna
- Threatened Ecological Communities and Priority Ecological Communities
- Threatened Ecological Communities and Priority Ecological Communities (Buffers)

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