



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 10786/1
Permit Holder:	Oasis Newman Operations Pty Ltd
Duration of Permit:	From 17 May 2025 to 17 May 2030

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 intersection upgrades.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Lot 300 on Deposited Plan 44340, Newman

3. Clearing authorised

The permit holder must not clear more than 0.21 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. Weed 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*:

- (a) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
- (b) ensure that no known *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.

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

6. 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 clearing activities generally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the species composition, structure, and density of the cleared area; (b) the location where the clearing occurred, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to GDA2020, expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings; (c) the date that the area was cleared; (d) the direction of the clearing; (e) the size of the area cleared (in hectares); (f) actions taken to avoid, minimise, and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing in accordance with condition 4; and (g) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of <i>weeds</i> in accordance with condition 5.

7. 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 department responsible for the administration of the clearing provisions under the <i>Environmental</i>

Term	Definition
	<i>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.
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 – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) that is a declared pest under section 22 of the <i>Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007</i>; or (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.

END OF CONDITIONS


C. Robertson
23.04.2025
9.26AM

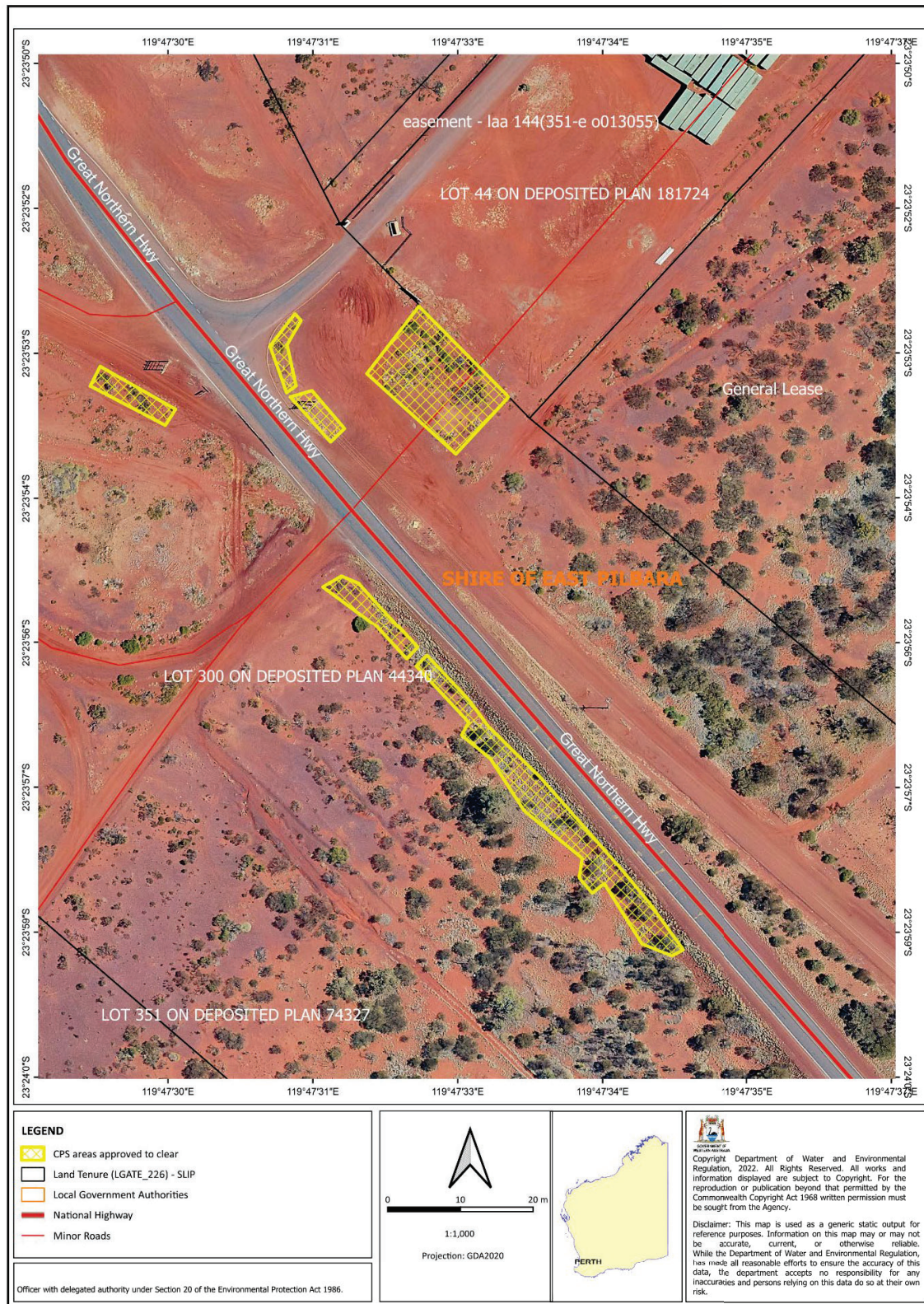
Caron Robertson
A/MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

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

23 April 2025

Schedule 1

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



C:\Users\jathnat\OneDrive - Department of Water and Environmental Regulation\Desktop\QGIS NVR ASSESSMENTS SLIP - GDA2020 new map layout.qgz

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

Permit number:	CPS 10786/1
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	Oasis Newman Operations Pty Ltd
Application received:	2 October 2024
Application area:	0.21 hectares of native vegetation
Purpose of clearing:	Intersection upgrades
Method of clearing:	Mechanical
Property:	Lot 300 on Deposited Plan 44340
Location (LGA area/s):	Shire of East Pilbara
Localities (suburb/s):	Newman

1.2. Description of clearing activities

The vegetation proposed to be cleared is distributed across six (6) separate areas at the Oasis Newman access road intersection with Great Northern Highway, Newman (see Figure 1, Section 1.5).

The application is to clear trees and shrubs that are impacting sightlines around a bend in the road when turning left into the Great Northern Highway and also to create a new right turn in pocket. Some areas of the application area appear to be previously cleared. The proposed work will lengthen the left turn in pocket from 60 metres to 150 metres (Oasis, 2024a).

1.3. Decision on application

Decision:	Granted
Decision date:	23 April 2025
Decision area:	0.21 hectares 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 (department) 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), and photographs provided by the applicant (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 purpose of the clearing is to improve sightlines around the bend when heading south on Great Northern Highway and to create a new right turn in pocket, improving safety for the general public.

The assessment identified that the proposed clearing will result in:

- 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 minimisation and mitigation measures (see Section 3.1), the Delegated Officer determined the proposed clearing is unlikely to have long-term adverse impacts to the environment and clearing activities can be minimised and managed to unlikely lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values. The applicant has suitably demonstrated avoidance and minimisation measures.

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

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing; and
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds.

1.5. Site map

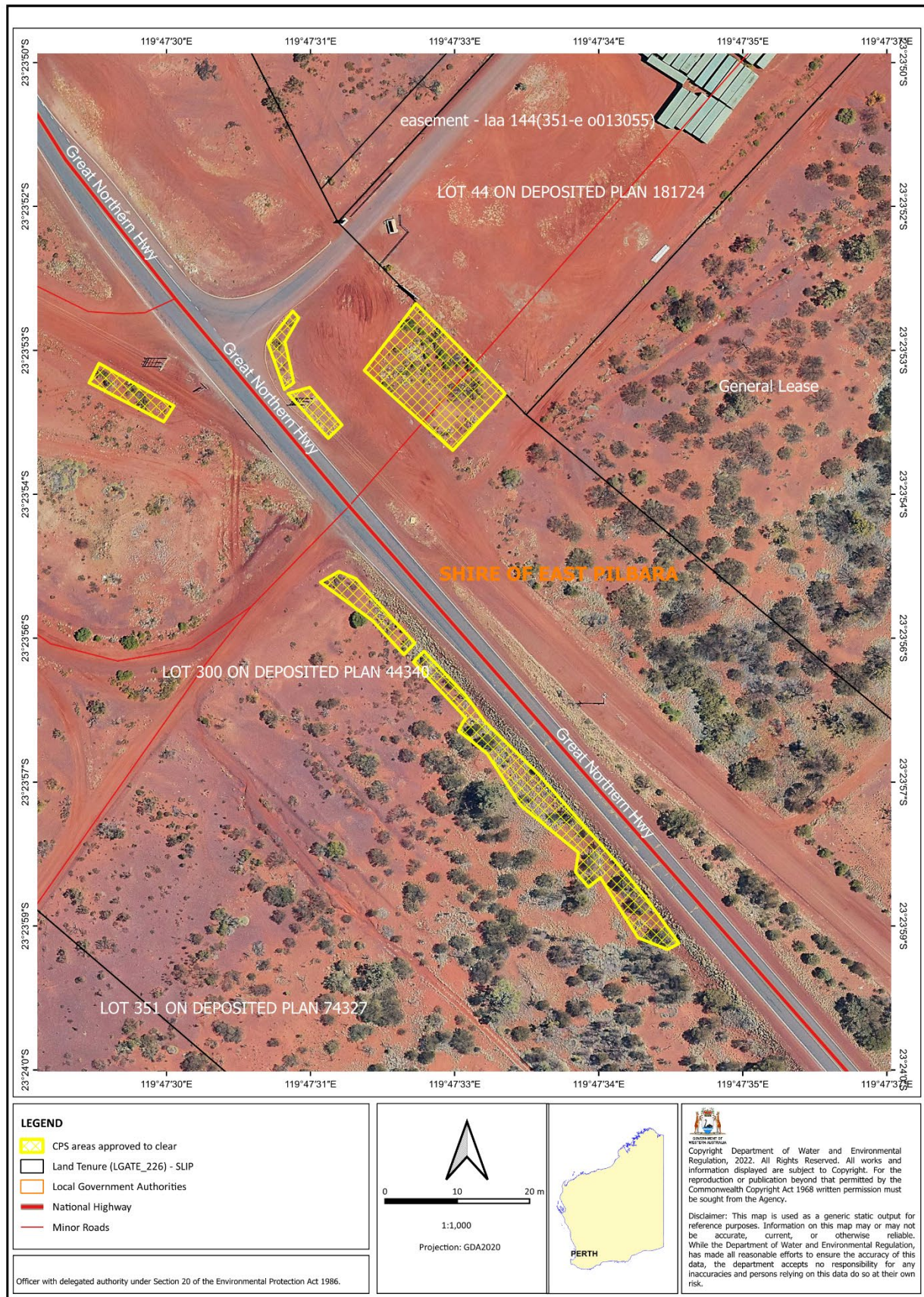


Figure 1 Map of the application area

The areas crosshatched yellow indicate the areas 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)
- *Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947* (WA) (CAWS 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)

3 Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

Evidence was submitted by the applicant, demonstrating that applicant has taken necessary steps to minimise the required clearing by limiting the clearing as specified by the Main Roads of Western Australia (MRWA). The required clearing will be minimised to the north of Oasis entrance on Great Northern Highway. The proposed clearing is limited to few small areas of trees excluding surrounding shrubs for the clear line of sight in the intersection area (Oasis, 2024a).

The extent of clearing is required for road widening of Great Northern Highway to the South of Oasis entrance. The applicant noted that equipment used for road widening will be parked within cleared areas at the Oasis Newman entrance (Oasis, 2024a).

The applicant has informed the department that spread of weeds will be minimised during the proposed works by ensuring that machinery will be cleared of soil and vegetation prior to entering into the clearing area with restricted movement outside these areas (Oasis, 2024a).

There is no reintroduction of soil, mulch or fill in to any areas except the southern side of Great Northern Highway where the road widening will take place. All filling will be MRWA approved, and Oasis Newman will ensure that no known dieback or weed-affected soil will be brought into the area (Oasis, 2024a).

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) and the extent to which the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological, conservation, or land and water resource values. The consideration of 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. Biological values (flora) - Clearing Principles (a)

Assessment

The vegetation within the application area has been broadly mapped by Shepherd et al (2001) as vegetation association 29 which is described as low woodland, open low woodland or sparse woodland of Mulga *Acacia aneura* and associated species. This association extends a significant distance to the south and north outside the application area.

The application area is sparse to open mixed *Acacia aneura* low trees and tall shrubs occasionally with *A. paraneura* tall trees, over sparse *Eremophila forrestii* subsp. *forrestii* and *E. latrobei* subsp. *filiformis* with mixed *Senna* spp. including *Senna glutinosa*, *S. artemisioides* subsp. *helmsii* and *S. glaucifolia* medium shrubs over sparse *Maireana*

planifolia low shrubs over sparse **Bidens bipinnata* and *Portulaca pilosa* herbs over open soft grasses consisting of *Aristida latifolia*, *Aristida holathera* var. *holathera* and **Cenchrus ciliaris*, occasionally with *Triodia epactia* and *T. wiseana* hummock grasses (Oasis, 2024b; Appendix E photographs). One priority flora is known from local records (*Themeda* sp. Hamersley Station). The preferred habitat of this species is not found within the application area.

Based on photographs provided by the applicant (Oasis, 2024b), the condition of the vegetation within the application area appears to range from poor to very poor (Trudgen, 1991).

According to the desktop assessment, no species of threatened flora was identified from the local area. There were 36 records of Priority flora species identified from the local area with the closest record identified approximately 6.04 kilometres from the application area. 23 of those 36 records were identified more than 20 kilometres from the application area. No conservation significant flora records are located within the application area.

The application area is surrounded by cleared areas and is located adjacent to the existing road with signs of disturbance throughout. Based on the location, and the condition of the application area (Trudgen, 1991), it is unlikely that the application area would provide suitable habitat for conservation significant flora identified from the local area.

Conclusion

The native vegetation proposed to be cleared comprise of vegetation types and flora taxa typical to the region. Noting the size and context of the proposed clearing, potential impacts are unlikely to affect priority flora.

It is noted that weeds have the potential to out-compete native flora and vegetation and reduce the biodiversity of an area. Potential impacts to biodiversity as a result of the introduction and spread of weeds may be minimised by the implementation of a weed management condition.

Conditions

To address the above impacts, the following management measures will be required as conditions on the clearing permit:

- Implement weed management measures to mitigate impacts to adjacent vegetation.

3.2.2. Biological values (fauna) - Clearing Principles (b)

Assessment

According to the available databases, 29 conservation significant fauna species have been recorded within the 50-kilometre radius of the application area, including eight threatened species, 14 species protected under international agreements, one specially protected fauna and six priority species. The conservation significant fauna species include 18 birds, eight mammals and three reptiles. Majority of the birds identified from the local area are avian migratory birds associated with aquatic habitats and breed in northern latitudes. Noting the absence of wetlands or major watercourses within the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to have a significant impact on the identified migratory birds or any other aquatic species identified from the local area.

Database searches indicate that two fauna species have been recorded less than one kilometre from the application area. That is, the Greater Bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*) (VU) and the Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) (Mi). There is only one Bilby record from the local area recorded from 1979 with 12 records of the Glossy Ibis. In consideration of the primary habitats present, and the age of the one proximal record, it is unlikely that the Greater Bilby occurs within the application area. Given the Glossy Ibis is a migratory bird, and is associated with freshwater marshes, the application area will not provide suitable habitat for this species.

The ghost bat (*Macroderma gigas*), western pebble-mound mouse, ngadji (*Pseudomys chapmani*) and the Pilbara leaf-nosed bat (*Rhinonictis aurantia* (Pilbara form)) were recorded in high numbers (see Appendix B; table B.2.) within the local area. In consideration of the habitats present and the distance to known records (12.13 kilometres) it is unlikely that caves providing permanent or semi-permanent day roosts or maternity roosts for the Pilbara leaf-nosed Bat (or the Ghost Bat - *Macroderma gigas*) are likely to be located in the application area.

The Western pebble-mound mouse (*Pseudomys chapmani*) is associated with arid hummock and tussock grassland and Acacia woodland, with eroding sands and exposed pebbles (Start.A.N, 2000). The closest recorded Pebble mouse was 6.96 kilometres from the application area. In consideration of the habitats present, age and the distance to previous records, the Western Pebble-mound Mouse is unlikely to occur within the application area.

In consideration of the likelihood of fauna species of conservation significance occurring, and the scale and nature of the proposed clearing, the fauna habitat that occurs within the application area are well represented throughout the surrounding region. Given the isolated nature of the application area from other remnant vegetation, it is unlikely that fauna will utilise the application area to disperse throughout the landscape.

Conclusion

For the reasons set out above and considering the small, isolated and linear nature of the proposed clearing, the department considers that the proposed clearing will not have an impact on conservation significant fauna species and associated habitats.

Condition

No management conditions relating to fauna are required.

3.2.3. Land and water resources - Clearing Principles (g)

Assessment

The application area is located predominately within the Spearhole land system with a small area (approximately 0.03 hectares) falling within the River Land system. Land Systems have been mapped and described in technical bulletins produced by the former Department of Agriculture (now the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development) (van Vreeswyk et al. 2004).

The Spearhole Land System consists of gently undulating hardpan plains supporting groved mulga shrublands and hard spinifex. This land system is not prone to erosion (Van Vreeswyk et al. 2004).

The River Land System consists of flood plains and major rivers supporting eucalypt woodlands, tussock grasslands and soft spinifex grasslands. This land system is susceptible to erosion if vegetation is removed (Van Vreeswyk et al. 2004).

Parts of the application area which transverse the River land system which maybe susceptible to erosion. However, there are no drainage lines that occur within the application area. Proposed clearing is linear in nature and predominantly adjacent to existing roads and tracks. Standard construction methodologies measures will be implemented that will address erosion and other land degradation processes including strategies for wind and water erosion. With these standard construction methodologies in place, the proposed clearing is not expected to result in an increased risk of changes to pH, waterlogging or eutrophication (Phosphorus export), particularly in consideration of the final land use.

Conclusion

Given the scale, linear shape and location of the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to contribute to rising salinity. It is not anticipated that the removal of vegetation will contribute to long term increased amounts of wind or water erosion in adjacent areas.

Condition

No management conditions relating to land degradation is required.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

In accordance with section 51E(4A) of the EP Act, the department considered that the Shire of East Pilbara may have a direct interest in the subject matter of application CPS 10786/1 and was invited to comment. No comments were received from the Shire of East Pilbara by the department.

The proposed clearing area is within the same spatial area as permit CPS 2814/3. While both permits will be active over the same area, it is unlikely Mineral Production activities authorised under CPS 2814/3 will occur in close proximity to the road way and therefore, the risk of both applicants wanting to clear and access the same area is low.

The application area is located within the Newman Water Reserve PDWSA protected under the CAWS Act 1947 in both Priority 1 and Priority 3 areas. Activities conducted within the PDWSA should be in accordance with the department's Water Quality Protection Notes (WQPN) and the Land Use Compatibility Tables available at WQPN 25 Land use compatibility tables for PDWSAs (August 2021).

According to the Land Use Compatibility Table, roadworks are considered compatible with conditions in Priority 1 (P) areas and an acceptable land use within the Priority 3 PDWSA. The intersection upgrade works are only compatible in compliance with condition 37 that states that works needs to be undertaken in accordance with Roads to reuse: Product specification – recycled road base and recycled drainage rock:

- Do not use recycled drainage rock in PDWSAs.
- Do not use recycled road base in P1 areas, WHPZs and RPZs.

The application area is located within the Pilbara Surface Water Area (UFI 54) and the Pilbara Groundwater Area (UFI 44) proclaimed under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act* (1914) (RIWI Act). Given the works does not involve abstraction of groundwater or surface water nor is there clearing proposed along a waterway, the works are unlikely to be regulated by the RIWI Act.

No Aboriginal sites of significance have been mapped within the application 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 the applicant

Information	Description
Photographs of the application area (Oasis, 2024b)	As part of supporting information, photographs of the application area were submitted to the department.

Appendix B. Site characteristics

B.1. Site characteristics

The information provided below describes the key characteristics of the area proposed to be cleared and is based on the best information available to department at the time of this assessment. This information was used to inform the assessment of the clearing against the Clearing Principles, contained in Appendix B.

Characteristic	Details
Local context	<p>The application area is located in the Gascoyne (GAS) IBRA Bioregion as defined by Thackway and Cresswell (1995). The area proposed to be cleared is a 0.21 hectares of land area which is a part of an expansive tract of native vegetation in the extensive land use zone of Western Australia. It is within Great Northern Highway Road reserve at the intersection of Oasis Newman operations Pty Ltd.</p> <p>Spatial data indicates the local area (50-kilometre radius from the centre of the area proposed to be cleared) retains approximately 99.12 per cent of the original native vegetation cover.</p>
Ecological linkage	No formal ecological linkages are mapped within the application area.
Conservation areas	The application area does not intersect a conservation area. There are no conservation areas within the local area.
Vegetation description	<p>Photographs supplied by the applicant (Oasis, 2024b) show vegetation within the clearing area consist of mulga shrublands and spinifex/tussock grassland.</p> <p>This is consistent with the mapped Beard vegetation association 29 (Kumarina Hills System), which is described as sparse low woodland; mulga, discontinuous in scattered groups (Shepherd et al, 2001).</p> <p>Representative photos are available in Appendix E.</p> <p>The mapped vegetation type retains approximately 99.94 per cent of the original extent (Government of Western Australia, 2019)</p>
Vegetation condition	<p>Photographs supplied by the applicant (Oasis, 2024b) show vegetation within the application area ranges from poor to very poor condition (Trudgen, 1991).</p> <p>The full Trudgen (1991) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix D.</p> <p>Representative photos are available in Appendix E.</p>
Climate and landform	<p>The climate of the Gascoyne is semi-desert tropical with the region experiencing two distinct seasons; a hot summer from October to April, and a mild winter from May to September with the majority of rainfall received during the hot summer months (Sudemeyer 2016). The annual rainfall for the closest town of Newman is approximately 324 millimetres (BOM 2020).</p> <p>Approximately 0.18 hectares of the application area is within the Spearhole (290Sp) land system which is described as gently undulating gravelly hardpan plains and dissected slopes supporting groved mulga shrublands and hard spinifex (DIPRD, 2019). 0.03 hectares falls within the River system that is described as narrow, seasonally active flood plains and major river channels supporting moderately close, tall shrublands or</p>

Characteristic	Details
	woodlands of acacias and fringing communities of eucalypts sometimes with tussock grasses or spinifex (DPIRD, 2019).
Soil description	The soils of the majority of the Spearhole system are described as red-brown hardpan shallow loams, red loamy earths and some red sandy earths.
Land degradation risk	The mapped soil type has a low risk of the various forms of land degradation risks. The Spearhole soil land system is generally not susceptible to erosion or significant vegetation degradation (van Vreeswyk et al, 2004).
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that no waterbodies transect the application area. There are several mapped non-perennial watercourses on the northwest, southwest, and southeast of the application area including the Fortescue River, which is a non-perennial water body which flows 210 metres from the application area.
Hydrogeography	The application area is within the Fortescue River Upper hydrographic catchment area. The application area is within the priority 1 and priority 3 areas of Newman Water Reserve Public Drinking Water Source Areas and is also located within the proclaimed Pilbara surface and Groundwater area under the RIWI Act. Groundwater salinity: 500-1000 TDS/Mg/L.
Flora	The desktop assessment identified that a total of 36 conservation significant flora species have been recorded within the local area. These records comprise, 5 Priority one (P1), 4 Priority two (P2), 21 Priority three (P3) and 6 Priority four (P4) flora species (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). None of these existing records occur within the application area. The closest record in spatial databases is an occurrence of <i>Goodenia</i> sp. East Pilbara (A.A. Mitchell PRP 727) (P3) located approximately 6.04 kilometres from the application area, which is separated by existing cleared areas, and road infrastructure.
Ecological communities	A Threatened Ecological Community, the Ethel Gorge stygobiont community is at 600 metres of the application area. No conservation significant ecological communities are mapped within the application area.
Fauna	According to the available databases, 29 conservation significant fauna species have been recorded within the local area, including eight threatened species, 14 species protected under international agreements, one specially protected fauna and six priority species.

B.2. Fauna analysis table

Species scientific name	Species common name	Conservation status	Year of the most recent record	Number of known records (total)	Distance of closest record to application area (km)
<i>Anilius ganei</i>	Gane's blind snake (Pilbara)	P1	2010	10	10.47
<i>Dasycercus blythi</i>	brush-tailed mulgara	P4	2020	3	19.67
<i>Dasyurus hallucatus</i>	northern quoll	EN	2022	7	13.42
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	peregrine falcon	OS	2020	9	6.65
<i>Liasis olivaceus barroni</i>	Pilbara olive python	VU	2023	40	11.80
<i>Macroderma gigas</i>	ghost bat	VU	2023	554	8.62
<i>Macrotis lagotis</i>	bilby, dalgyte, ninu	VU	1979	1	0.72
<i>Petrogale lateralis lateralis</i>	black-flanked rock-wallaby, black-footed rock-wallaby, moororong	EN	1975	4	19.46
<i>Pseudomys chapmani</i>	western pebble-mound mouse, ngadji	P4	2023	167	6.96
<i>Rhinonictis aurantia</i> (Pilbara form)	Pilbara leaf-nosed bat	VU	2023	487	12.13

Appendix C. Assessment against the clearing principles

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Environmental value: biological values		
<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>Relevant database records indicate that no threatened flora is recorded from the local area and 29 Priority flora were recorded from the local area. Considering the habitat of the application area, it is unlikely that the application area contains habitat suitable to support locally or regionally significant flora, fauna, habitats and assemblages of plants.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.</i>
<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>Based on the habitat present, the area proposed to be cleared does contain habitat significant for conservation significant fauna species.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.2, above.</i>
<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>The area proposed to be cleared is unlikely to contain habitat for flora species listed under the BC Act. No threatened flora was identified from the local area during the desktop assessment.</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 area proposed to be cleared does not contain species that can indicate a threatened ecological community.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas		
<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>According to the available databases, the remnant vegetation within the local area was calculated to be over 90 per cent.</p> <p>The extent of native vegetation in the local area is consistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia. The vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered to be part of a significant ecological linkage in the local area.</p>	Not at variance	No
<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> Given the absence of conservation areas within the local buffer area, the proposed clearing may not have an impact on the environmental values of conservation areas.</p>	Not at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Environmental value: land and water resources		
<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 water courses or wetlands are recorded within the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact on- or off-site hydrology and water quality.</p> <p>The proposed clearing does not include removing riparian vegetation.</p>	Not likely to be 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 application area falls predominately within the Spearhole land system, which is not prone to erosion. Noting the extent and the location of the application area and the condition of the vegetation (Trudgen, 1991), the proposed clearing is not likely to have an appreciable impact on land degradation.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	Yes Refer to Section 3.2.3, above.
<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>The application area is located within a Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA). All activities conducted within the PDWSA, should be in accordance with the department's Land Use Compatibility Tables (DWER 2022) and the proponent is advised to follow the Water Quality Protection Guidelines, produced by the department to minimise any risk that the proposed clearing and associated activities may pose to the PDWSA (DWER 2022).</p> <p>The proposed clearing may cause some short-term surface water sedimentation during construction and maintenance works. However, proposed clearing is not likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water</p>	Not likely to be 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 the proposed clearing is likely to contribute to increased incidence or intensity of flooding.</p> <p>Given no water courses are recorded within the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to contribute to waterlogging.</p>	Not likely to be 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 Trudgen, M.E. (1991) *Vegetation condition scale* in National Trust (WA) 1993

Urban Bushland Policy. National Trust of Australia (WA), Wildflower Society of WA (Inc.), and the Tree Society (Inc.), Perth.

Measuring vegetation condition for the Eremaean and Northern Botanical Provinces (Trudgen, 1991)

Condition	Description
Excellent	Pristine or nearly so, no obvious signs of damage caused by human activities since European settlement.
Very good	Some relatively slight signs of damage caused by human activities since European settlement. For example, some signs of damage to tree trunks caused by repeated fire, the presence of some relatively non-aggressive weeds, or occasional vehicle tracks.
Good	More obvious signs of damage caused by human activity since European settlement, including some obvious impact on the vegetation structure such as that caused by low levels of grazing or slightly aggressive weeds.
Poor	Still retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate it after very obvious impacts of human activities since European settlement, such as grazing, partial clearing, frequent fires or aggressive weeds.
Very poor	Severely impacted by grazing, very frequent fires, clearing or a combination of these activities. Scope for some regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management. Usually with a number of weed species present including very aggressive species.
Completely degraded	Areas that are completely or almost completely without native species in the structure of their vegetation; i.e. areas that are cleared or 'parkland cleared' with their flora comprising weed or crop species with isolated native trees or shrubs.

Appendix E. photographs of the vegetation (Oasis, 2024b)

Photographs provided by the applicant to support the clearing permit application.







Appendix F. Sources of information

F.1. GIS databases

Publicly available GIS Databases used (sourced from 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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