GOVERNMENT OF
Hi WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 10939/1
Permit Holder:	Vysarn Asset Management Pty Ltd
Duration of Permit:	From 11 June 2025 to 11 June 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 constructing drill pads and access tracks for aquifer testing and monitoring bores.

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

Lot 209 on Deposited Plan 238236, Marble Bar

3. *Clearing* authorised

The permit holder must not clear more than 7.6 hectares of *native vegetation* within the area cross-hatched yellow in Figures 1-17 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.

6. Fauna management – Greater Bilby

(a) Within fourteen (14) days prior to undertaking any *clearing* authorised under this permit, for the areas cross-hatched yellow in Figures 1-17 of Schedule 1, the permit holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to:

  (i) undertake surveys using transects spaced at 100 metres on average to identify evidence of use by the greater bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*); and

  (ii) where evidence of greater bilby use is identified under condition 6(a)(i), undertake surveys using transects spaced at 20 metres on average, to identify evidence of burrows that may be suitable for greater bilby use.

(b) Where potential greater bilby burrow/s are identified under condition 6(a), the permit holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to:

  (i) flag the location of the burrow/s; and

  (ii) inspect the burrow/s and determine whether the burrow/s are *occupied*.

(c) Where an *occupied* burrow is identified under condition 6(b), the permit holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to:

  (i) monitor the burrow with remote cameras for greater bilby use for a minimum of three (3) consecutive nights;

  (ii) where no evidence of greater bilby activity is identified under condition 6(c)(i), the burrow shall be deemed as un-*occupied* and the permit holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to:

    A. carefully excavate the burrow by hand, and remove and relocate any native vertebrate fauna found within the burrow; and

    B. collapse and *fill* the burrow immediately after the *fauna specialist* has confirmed that no native vertebrate fauna are present within the burrow.

  (iii) where evidence of greater bilby use is identified under condition 6(c)(i), the permit holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to:

    A. continue to monitor the burrow for greater bilby activity;

    B. implement displacement techniques such as deliberate disturbance of the burrow entrance, while ensuring the disturbance does not prevent greater bilby from exiting the burrow; and

    C. once greater bilby displacement from the burrow is confirmed, stop monitoring, and undertake the actions required under condition 6(c)(ii)A and condition 6(c)(ii)B.

(d) If the greater bilby has not moved on from an *occupied* burrow under condition 6(c)(iii), the permit holder must, no earlier than seven (7) days prior to *clearing*,

engage a *fauna specialist* to remove and relocate the identified greater bilby to an area of *greater bilby suitable habitat*, in accordance with a section 40 authorisation under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.

(e) Immediately after the greater bilby has been relocated under condition 6(d), the permit holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to undertake the actions required under condition 6(c)(ii)A and condition 6(c)(ii)B.

(f) Within 24 hours prior to undertaking *clearing* authorised under this permit, the permit holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to re-inspect the flagged burrow/s identified under condition 6(b)(i) for evidence of re-excavation by greater bilby.

(g) Where re-excavated greater bilby burrow/s are identified under condition 6(f), the permit holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to:

(i) flag the location of the burrow/s; and

(ii) inspect the burrow/s and determine whether the burrow/s are *occupied*.

(h) Where an *occupied* burrow is identified under condition 6(g)(ii), the permit holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to:

(i) remove and relocate any identified greater bilby from the burrow to an area of suitable habitat, in accordance with a section 40 authorisation under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*; and

(ii) immediately after the greater bilby has been relocated under condition 6(h)(i), undertake the actions required under condition 6(c)(ii)A and condition 6(c)(ii)B.

(i) Where an un-*occupied* burrow is identified under condition 6(g)(ii), the permit holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to undertake the actions required under condition 6(c)(ii)A and condition 6(c)(ii)B.

(j) Where any greater bilby burrows are identified under condition 6(a) or 6(f), and any greater bilby is relocated under condition 6(d) or 6(h), the permit holder must include the following in a report to be submitted to the *CEO* within two (2) months of undertaking any *clearing* authorised under this permit:

(i) the location of any burrow identified including a description of whether the burrow was *occupied*, using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 2020 (GDA2020), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;

(ii) a description of the remote camera monitoring actions undertaken under condition 6(c);

(iii) the date and time that burrows have been excavated and collapsed under conditions 6(c), 6(e), 6(h) and 6(i);

(iv) the date and time greater bilby are recorded as independently moving on from an *occupied* burrow under condition 6(c);

(v) the gender of each greater bilby captured and relocated under condition 6(d) or 6(h);

(vi) the location of any greater bilby captured under condition 6(d) or 6(h), using a GPS unit set to GDA2020, expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;

(vii) the date, time and vegetation type at each location where greater bilby are captured under condition 6(d) or 6(h);

(viii) the location of any greater bilby relocated under condition 6(d) or 6(h), using a GPS unit set to GDA2020, expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;

(ix) the date, time and vegetation type at each location where greater bilby are relocated under condition 6(d) or 6(h);

(x) the name of the *fauna specialist* that relocated greater bilby under condition 6(d) or 6(h); and

(xi) a copy of the fauna licence authorising the relocation of greater bilby under condition 6(d) or 6(h).

7. Fauna management – pre-clearance survey - western pebble-mound mouse and brush-tailed mulgara

(a) Within fourteen (14) days of undertaking any *clearing* authorised under this permit within the area cross-hatched yellow in Figures 1-17 of Schedule 1, the permit holder shall engage a *fauna specialist* to undertake a pre-clearance survey of the areas to be cleared for the:

(i) western pebble-mound mouse (*Pseudomys chapmani*), including the identification and inspection of mounds; and,

(ii) brush-tailed mulgara (*Dasycercus blythi*), including the identification and inspection of burrows.

(b) Where evidence of mounds and/or burrows is identified under condition 7(a) of this permit, the Permit holder shall:

(i) engage a *fauna specialist* to flag the location of the mounds and/or burrows; and

(ii) not clear within 50 metres of the flagged mounds and/or burrows unless first approved by the *CEO*.

(c) Where western pebble-mound mouse mounds or brush-tailed mulgara burrows are identified under condition 7(a) of this permit, the permit holder must include the following in a report submitted to the *CEO* within three months of undertaking any *clearing* authorised under this permit:

(i) the location of any western pebble-mound mouse mounds or bilby or brush-tailed mulgara burrows identified, using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 2020 (GDA2020), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;

(ii) the name of the *fauna specialist* that undertook clearance surveys under condition 7(a) of this permit; and

(iii) the methodology used to survey the permit area.

8. Fauna management – Fauna spotter

(a) The permit holder must:

(i) engage a fauna spotter to traverse the area cross-hatched yellow in Figures 1-17 of Schedule 1 ahead of *clearing* machinery immediately prior to, and for the duration of, *clearing* activities; and

(ii) conduct *clearing* activities in a slow, progressive manner in one direction, towards adjacent *native vegetation*, to allow fauna to move into adjacent *native vegetation* ahead of the *clearing* activity.

(b) *Clearing* activities must cease in any area where native fauna are identified under condition 8(a) until native fauna individual(s) have moved on from that area to adjoining vegetation.

(c) Where conservation significant fauna individual(s) are identified under condition 8(a) of this permit, the permit holder must include the following in a report submitted to the *CEO* within three months of undertaking any *clearing* authorised under this permit:

(i) the species of each conservation significant fauna individual(s) identified;

(ii) the number of individuals identified;

(iii) the date each individual was identified;

(iv) the location where each individual was identified recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 2020 (GDA2020), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;

(v) the relevant qualifications of the fauna spotter undertaking identification, under condition 8(b); and

(vi) details pertaining to the circumstances of any death of, or injury sustained by, a conservation significant fauna individual.

9. Fauna management – time of *clearing*

The permit holder must undertake all activities authorised under this permit during *daytime hours*.

10. Flora management

(a) prior to undertaking any *clearing* authorised under this permit, the boundaries of the areas authorised to be cleared under this permit must be identified and demarcated using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 2020 (GDA2020), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees.

(b) prior to undertaking any *clearing* authorised under this permit, the locations of *recorded priority flora* within 20 metres of the application area, must be demarcated and avoided with a minimum 10 metre buffer, unless otherwise approved by the *CEO*.

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

11. 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	(a) the species composition, structure, and density of the cleared area; (b) the location where the *clearing* occurred, recorded using a Global Positioning System

No.	Relevant matter	Specifications
		(GPS) unit set to GDA2020, expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings; (c) the date that the area was cleared; (d) the size of the area cleared (in hectares); and (e) actions taken to avoid, minimise, and reduce the impacts and extent of *clearing* in accordance with condition 4; d (f) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *weeds* in accordance with condition 5; and (g) actions taken in accordance with condition 9.
2.	In relation to fauna management for the greater bilby pursuant to *condition* 6	(a) results of the pre-clearance surveys undertaken in accordance with condition 6, including photographic records demonstrating the method and number of remote camera monitoring nights; and (b) a copy of the *fauna specialist*'s report in accordance with condition 6.
3.	In relation to fauna management pursuant to *condition* 7	(a) results of the pre-clearance surveys undertaken in accordance with condition 7 of this permit; and (b) a copy of the *fauna specialist*'s report
4.	In relation to fauna management pursuant to *condition 8*	(a) actions taken to avoid impacts to fauna in accordance with condition 8; and (b) a copy of the fauna spotter's report in accordance with condition 8(c).
5.	In relation to flora management pursuant to *condition* 10	(c) actions taken to demarcate and avoid *recorded priority flora* with a 20 metre buffer, (d) if *recorded priority flora* cannot be appropriately buffered: (i) identify the buffer approved by the *CEO.* (ii) location of *recorded priority flora*, recorded using GPS unit set to GDA2020, expressing the geographical coordinates in Easting and Northings. (e) if *recorded priority flora* cannot be avoided: (i) date *recorded priority flora* species were cleared if approved by the *CEO*; (ii) location of *recorded priority flora* cleared, recorded using a GPS unit set to GDA2020, expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings

No.	Relevant matter	Specifications
		and Northings; and (iii) the *recorded priority flora* taxa and number of individuals cleared.

12. Reporting

The permit holder must provide to the *CEO* the records required under condition 11 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 Environmental Protection Act 1986.
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*.
daytime hours	means the duration starting half an hour before sunrise and ending half an hour after sunset.
department	means the department established under section 35 of the Public Sector Management Act 1994 (WA) and designated as responsible for the administration of the EP Act, which includes Part V Division 3.
EP Act	Environmental Protection Act 1986 (WA)
fauna specialist	means a person who holds a tertiary qualification specialising in environmental science or equivalent, and has a minimum of 2 years work experience in fauna identification and surveys of fauna native to the region being inspected or surveyed, or who is approved by the *CEO* as a suitable fauna specialist for the bioregion, and who holds a valid fauna licence issued under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.
fill	means material used to increase the ground level, or to fill a depression.
greater bilby suitable habitat	means habitat known to support the Greater Bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*) within the known current distribution of the species.
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.
occupied	means currently in use by the greater bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*).
priority flora	means those plant taxa described as priority flora classes 1, 2, 3, or 4 in the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions Threatened and Priority flora List for Western Australia (as amended).
recorded priority flora	means individuals of those priority flora species found during the following survey: • Emerge (2024) Technical Memorandum. Detailed flora and

Term	Definition
	vegetation assessment – Kangan Station Bore Field
weeds	means any plant – (a) that is a declared pest under section 22 of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*; 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

Meenu Vitarana
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

Officer delegated under Section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

19 May 2025

Schedule 1

The boundary of the area authorised to be cleared is shown in the maps below (Figures 1-17).

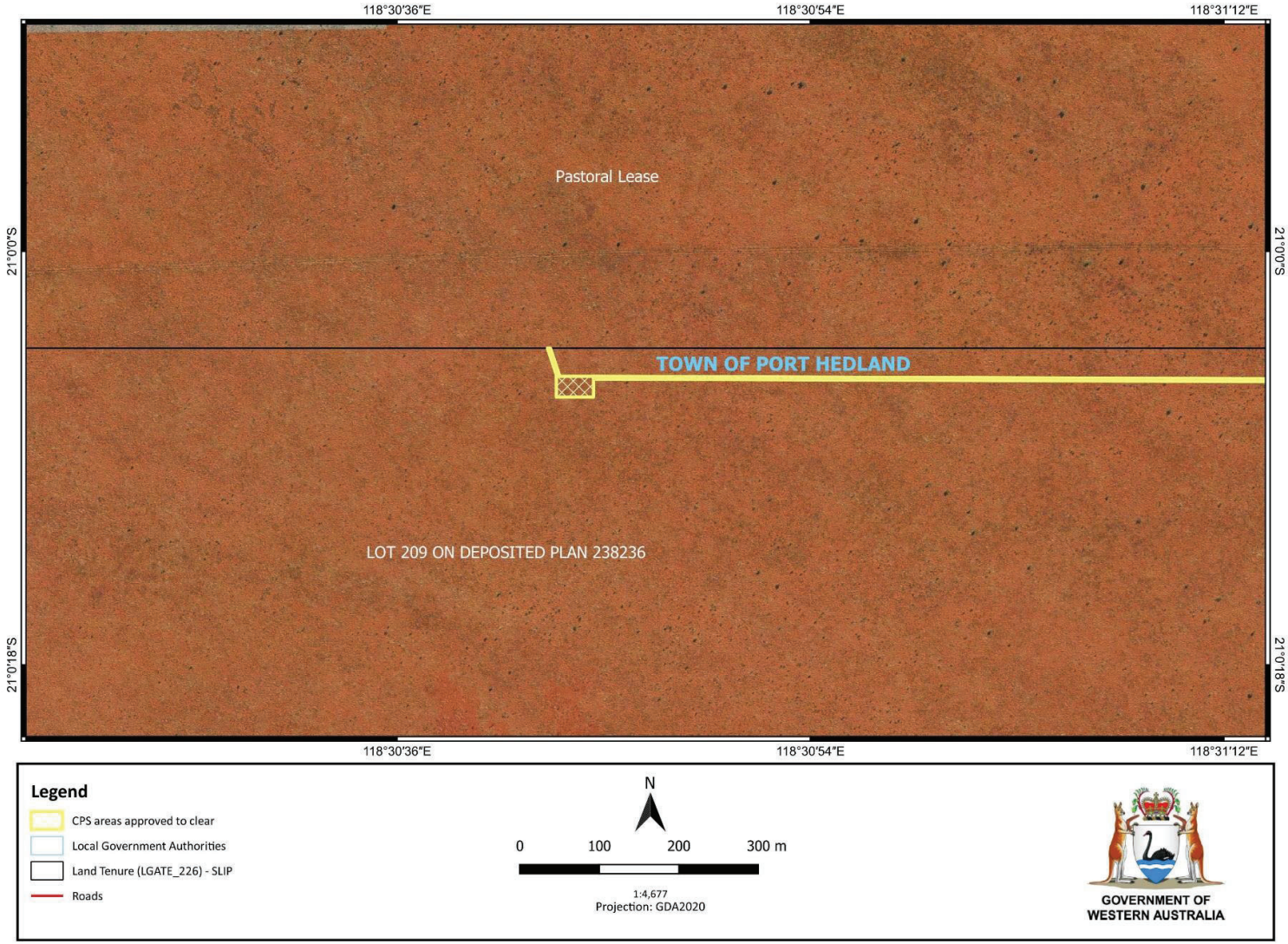

Figure 1: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur

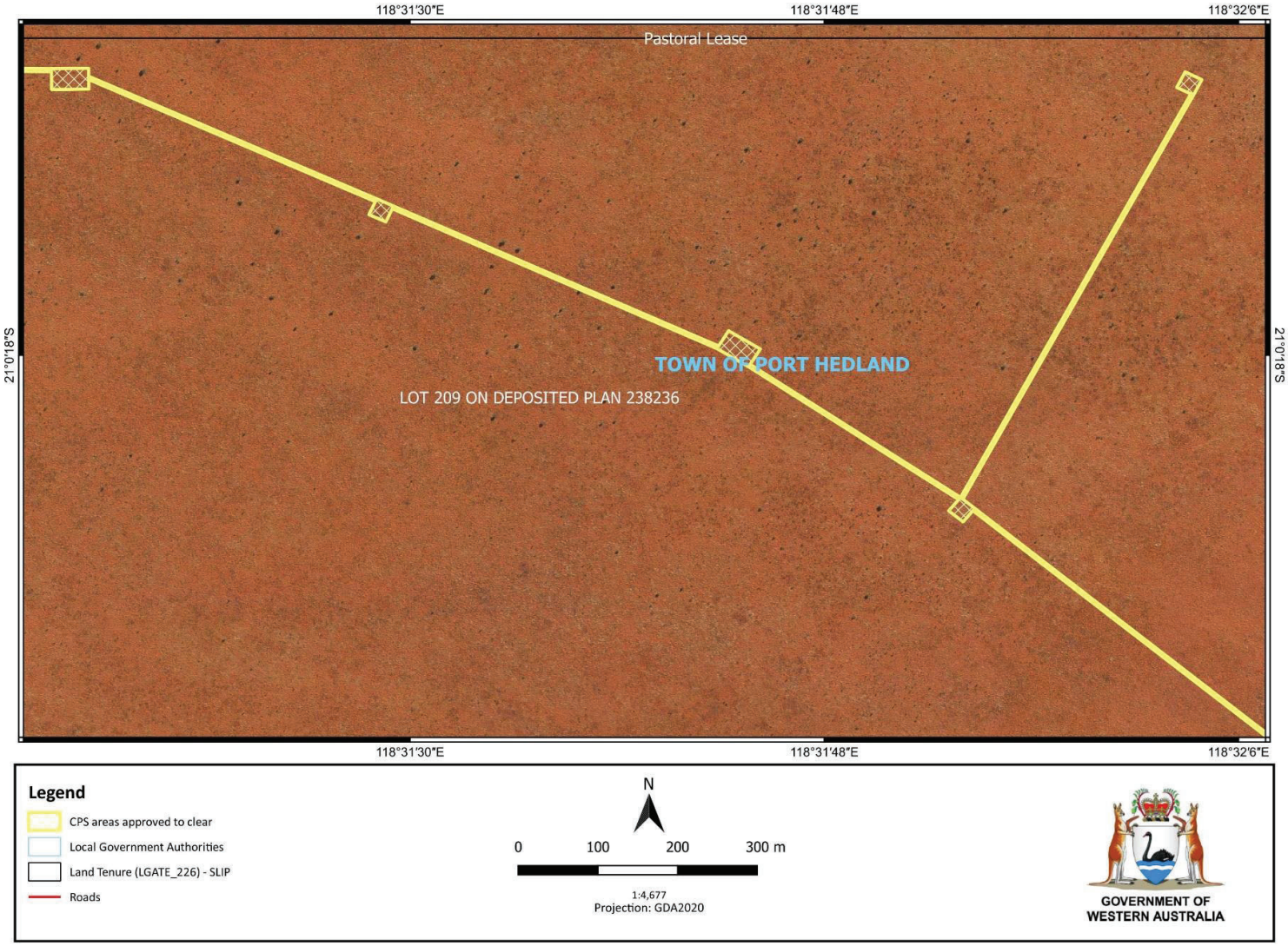

Figure 2: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur

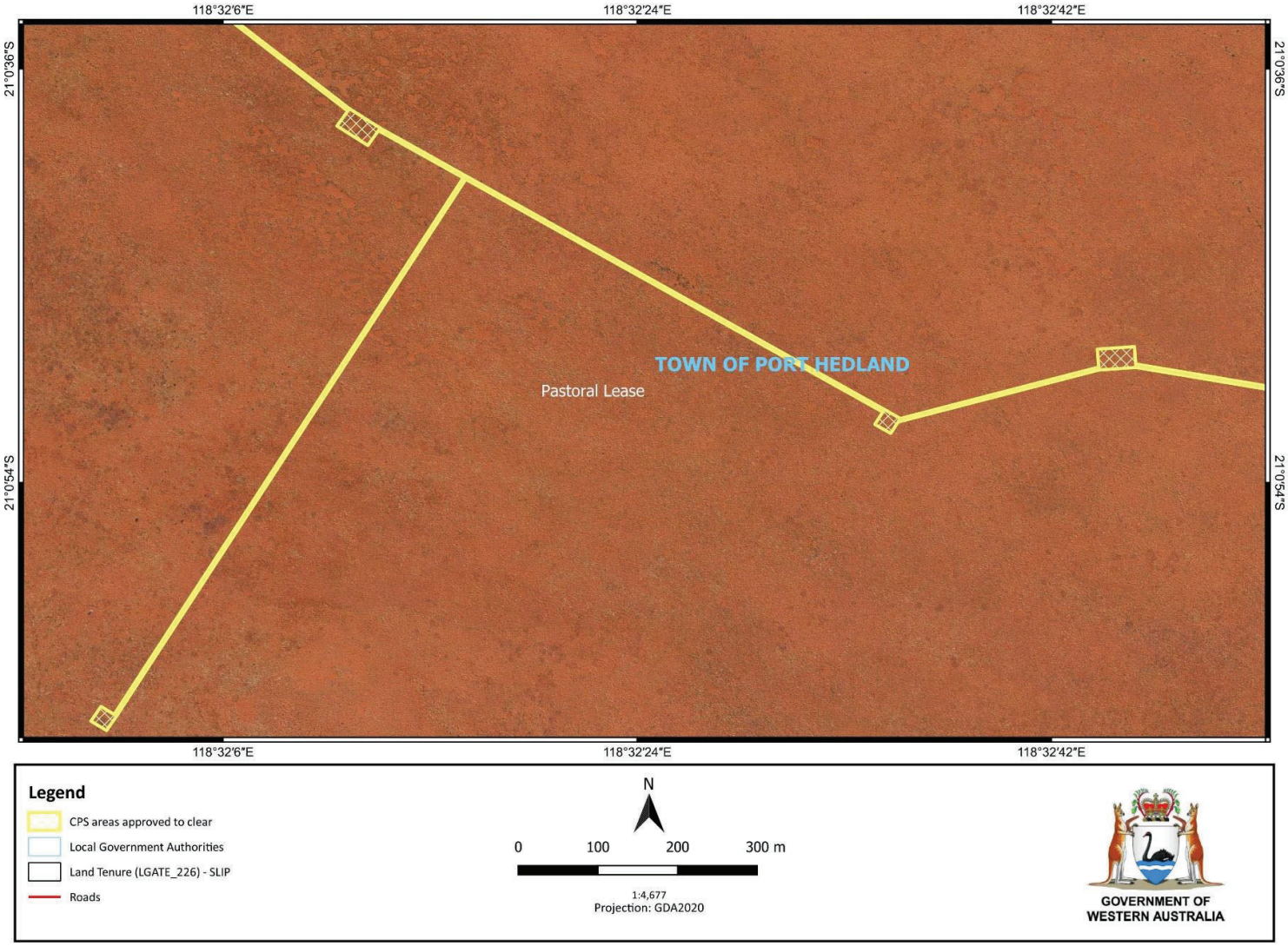

Figure 3: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur

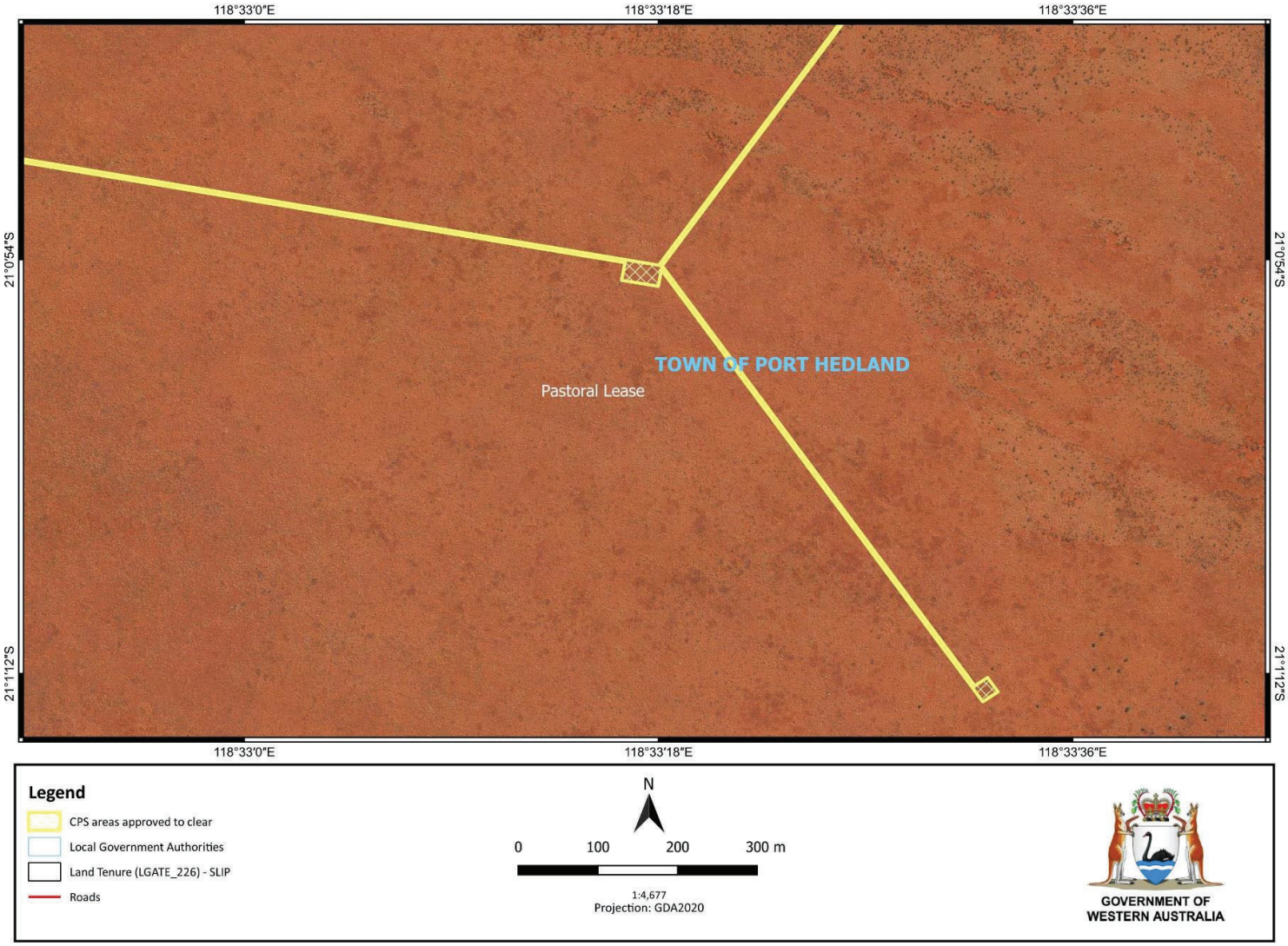

Figure 4: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur

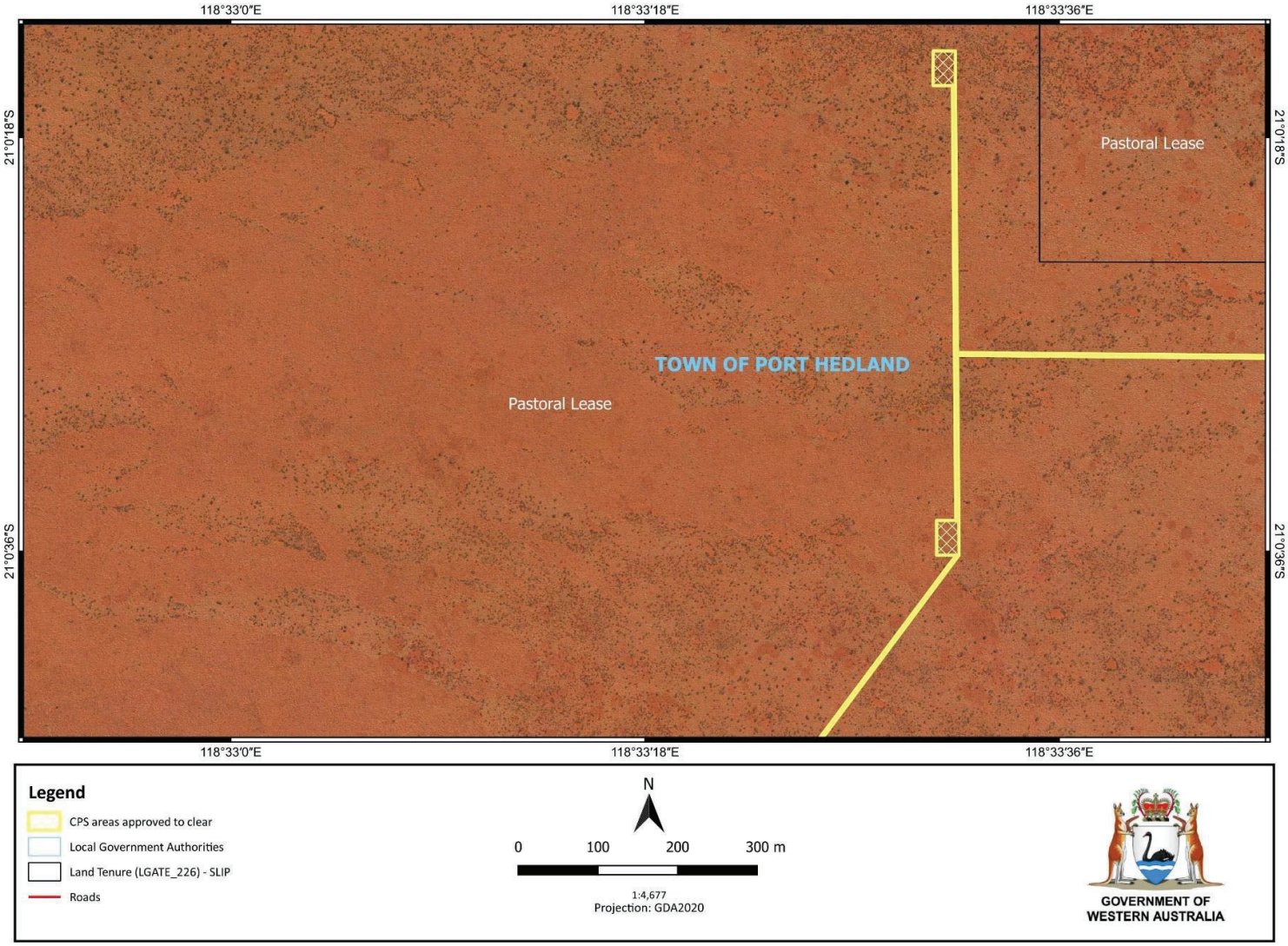

Figure 5: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur

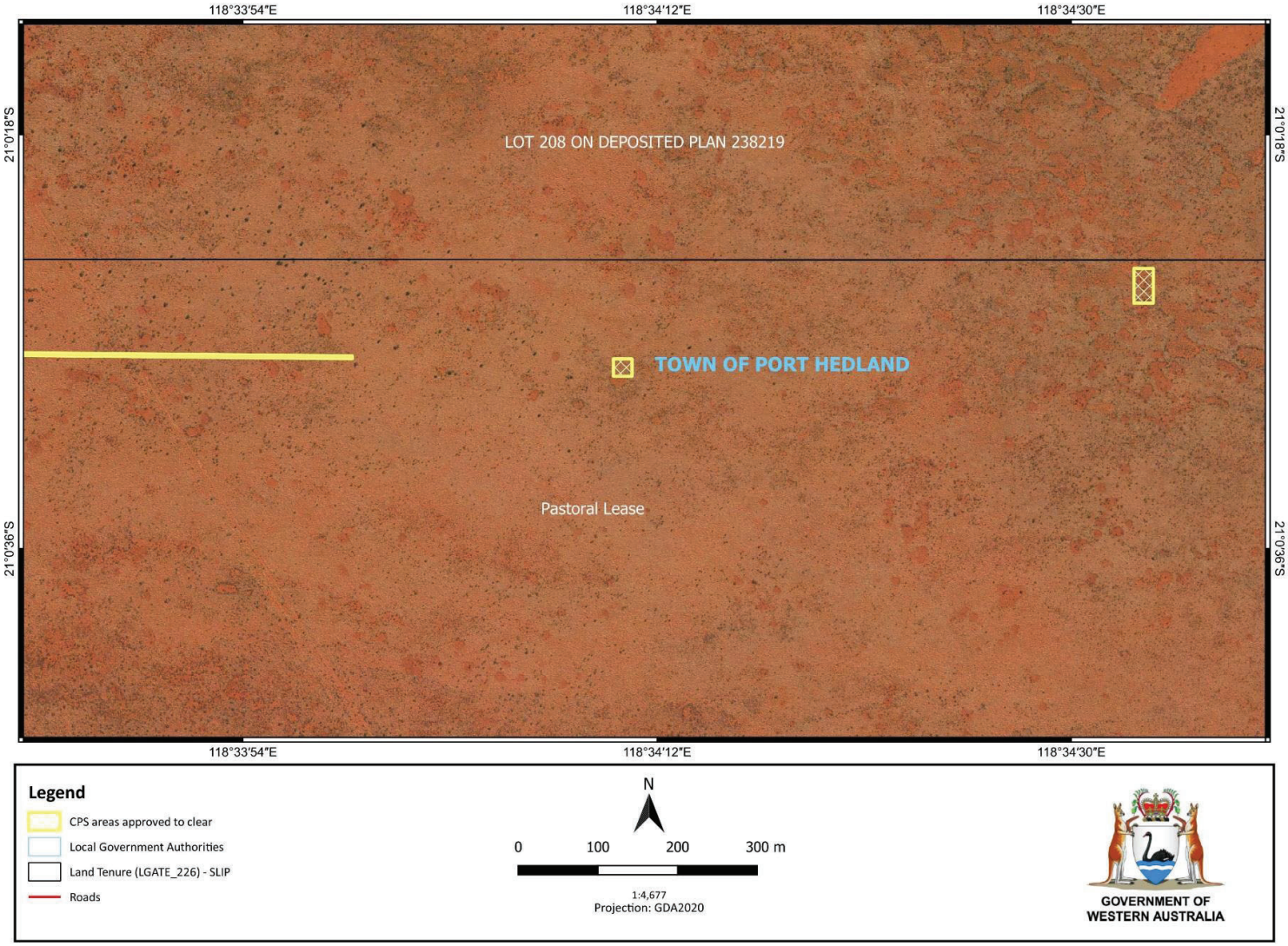

Figure 6: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur

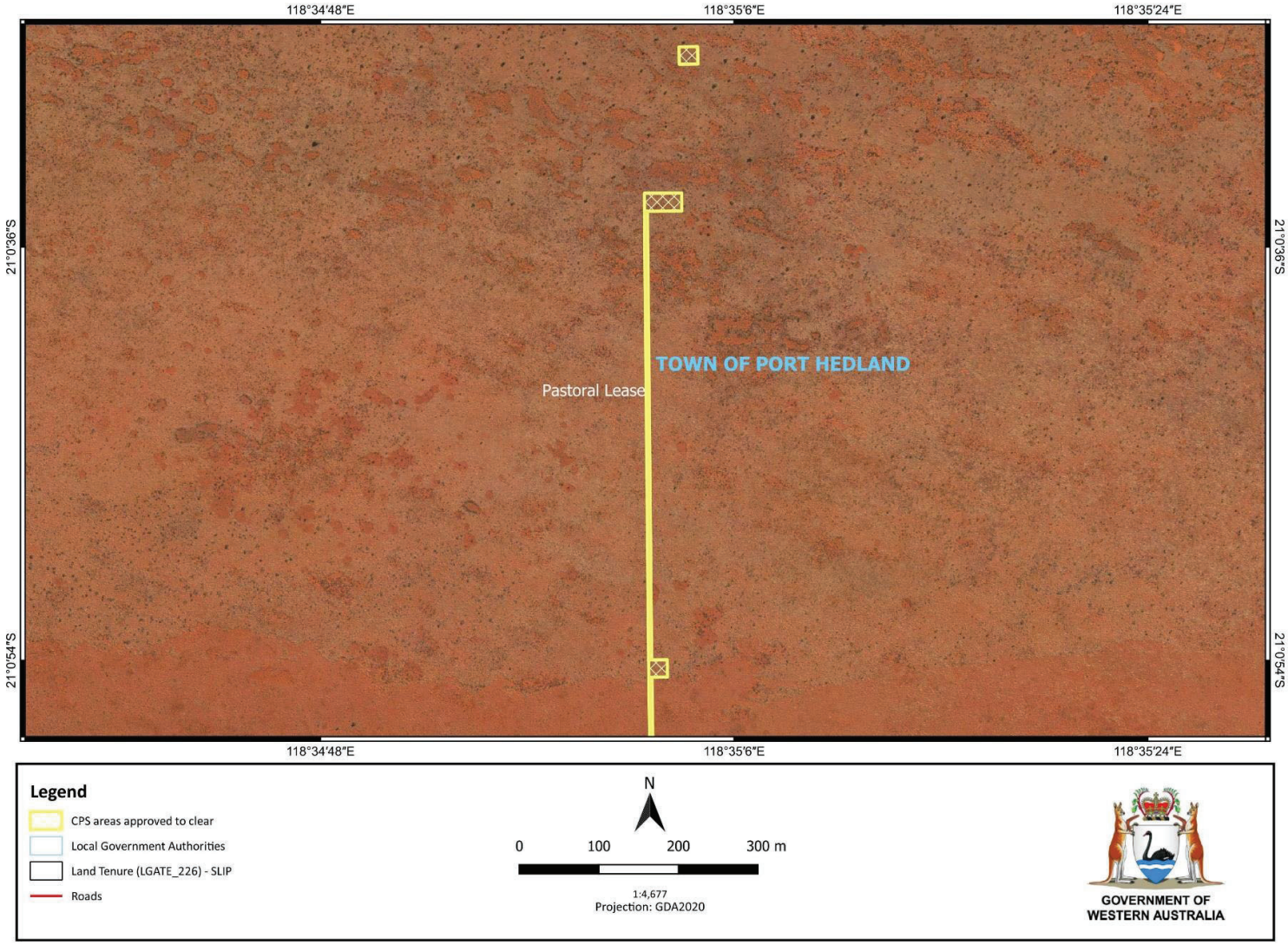

Figure 7: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur

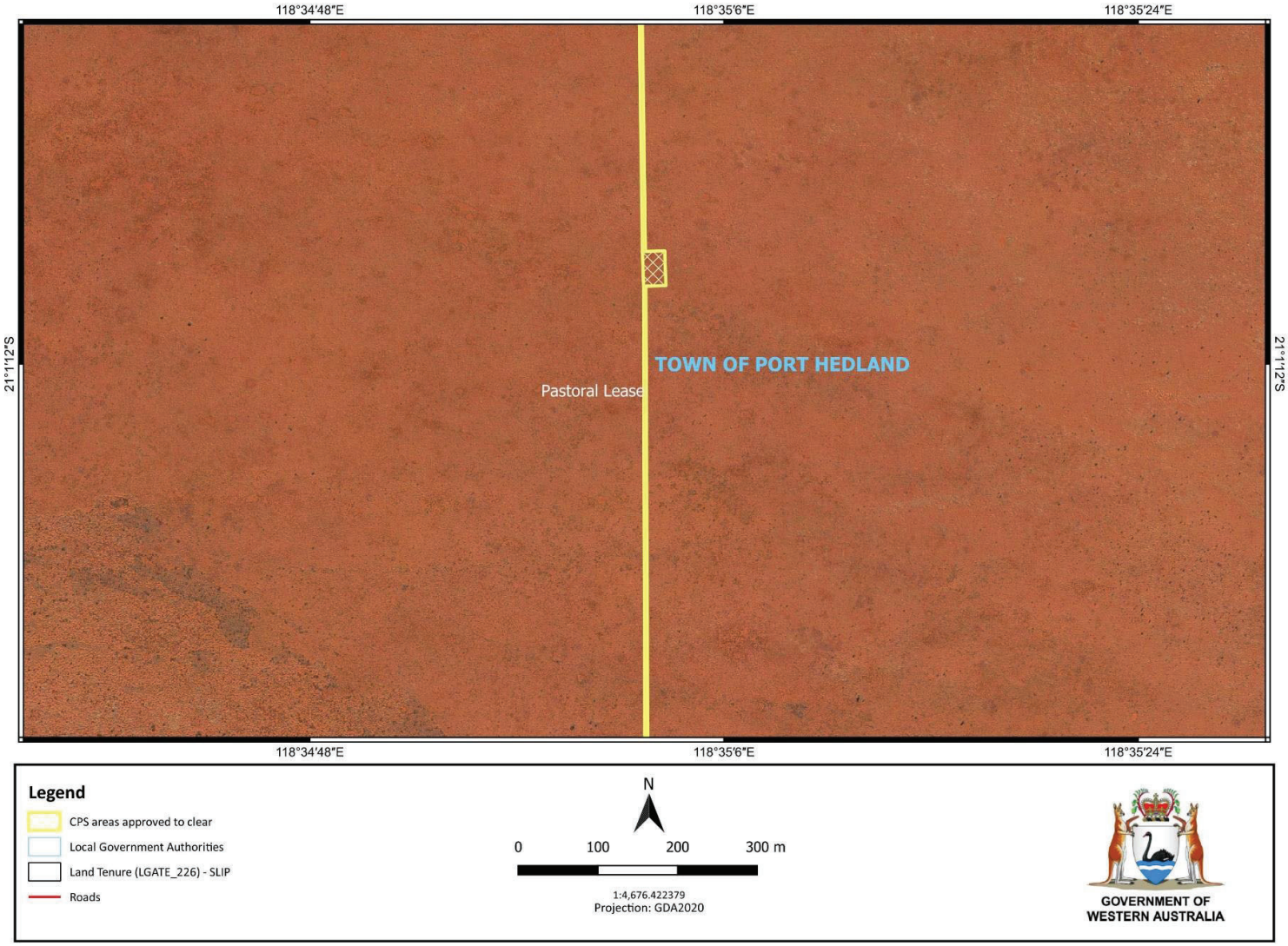

Figure 8: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur

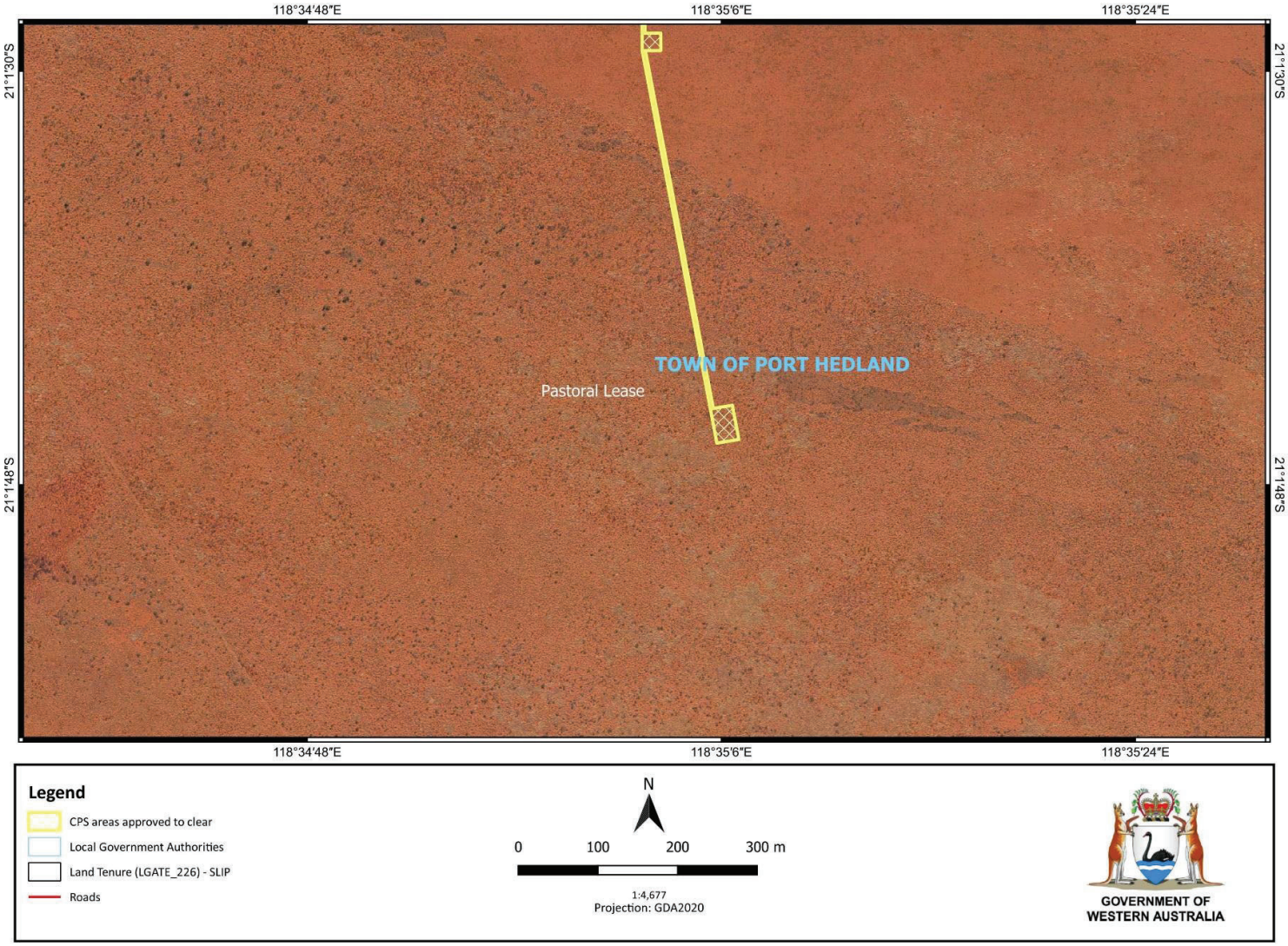

Figure 9: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur

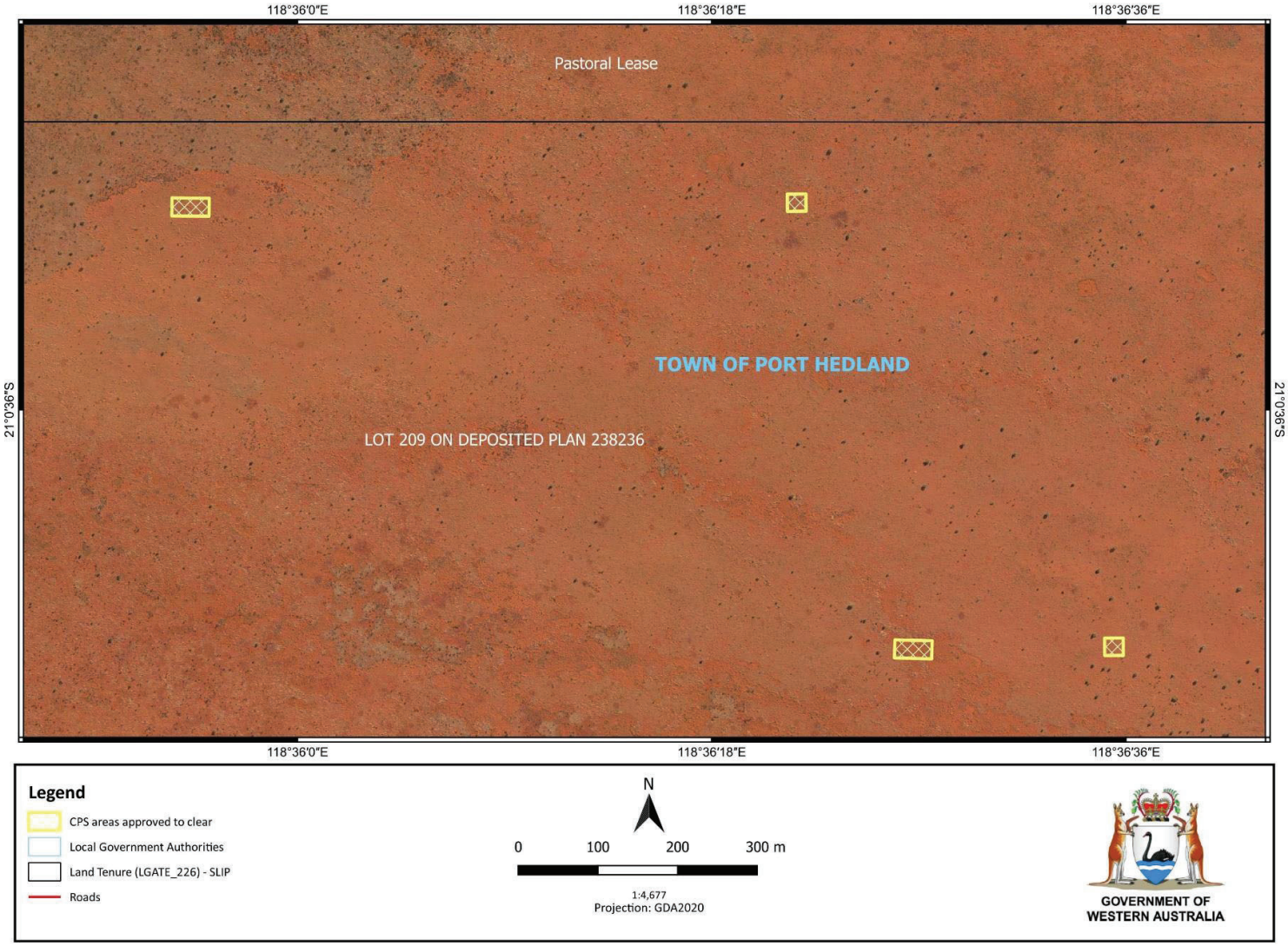

Figure 10: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur

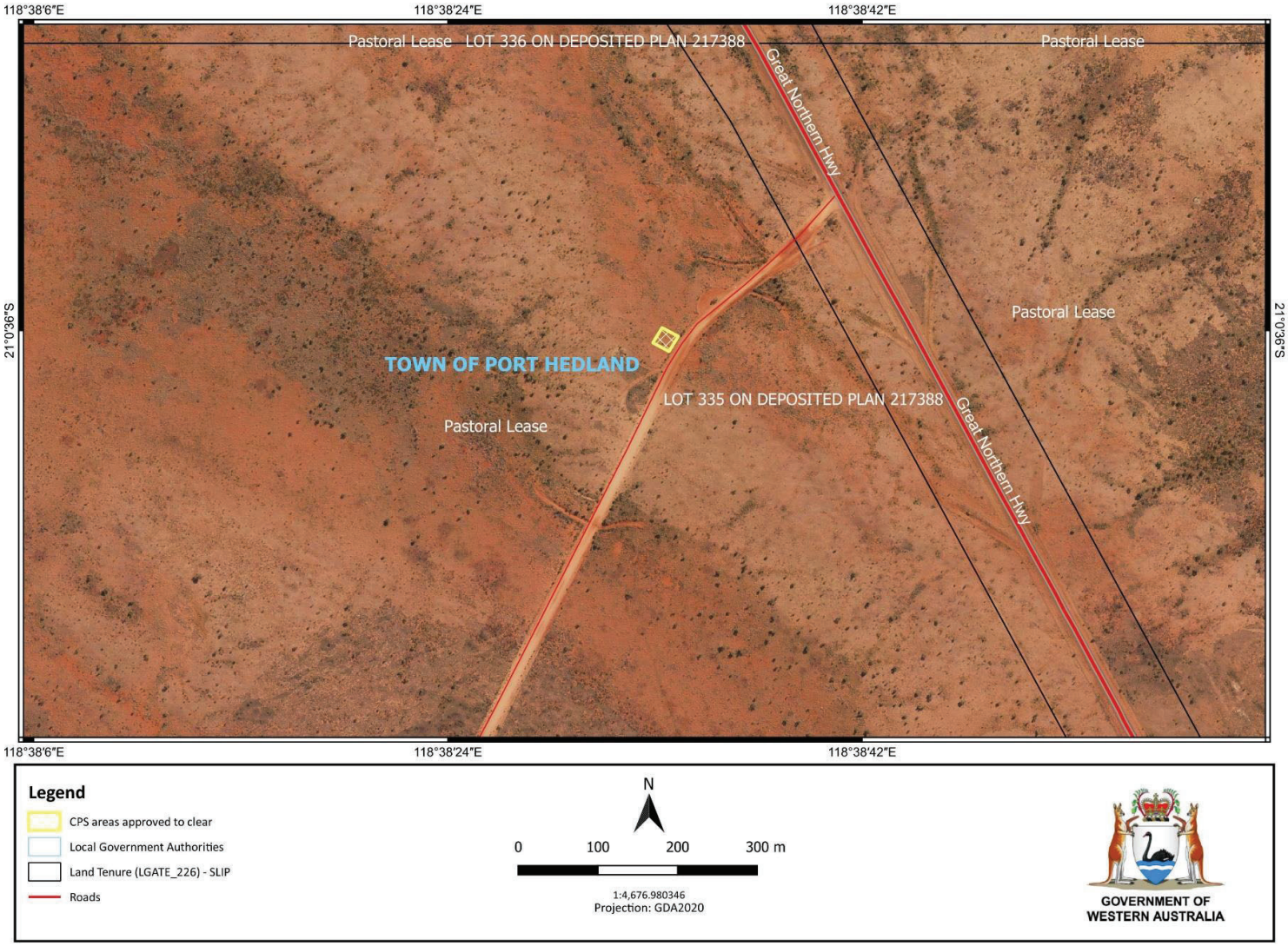

Figure 11: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur

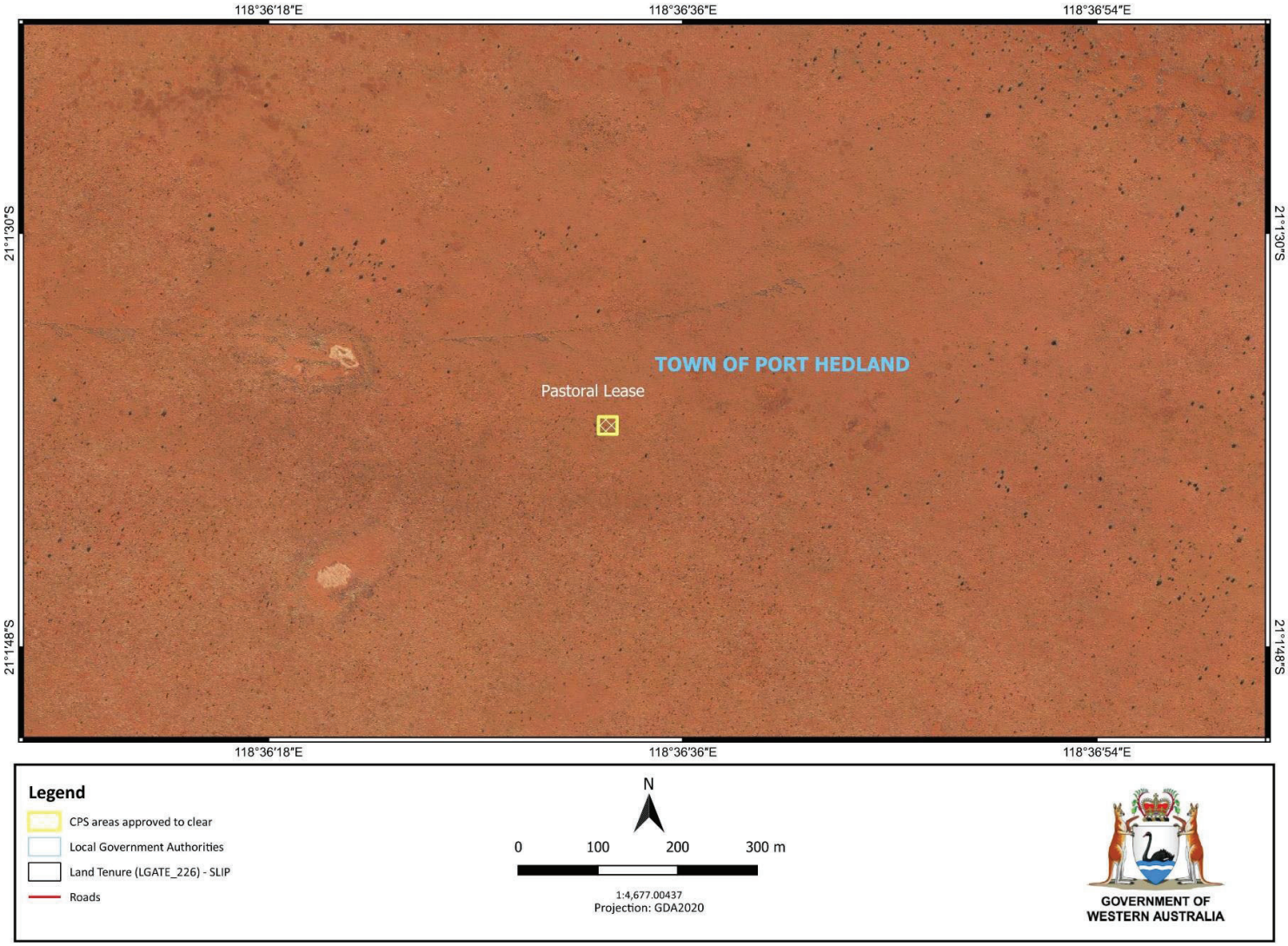

Figure 12: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur

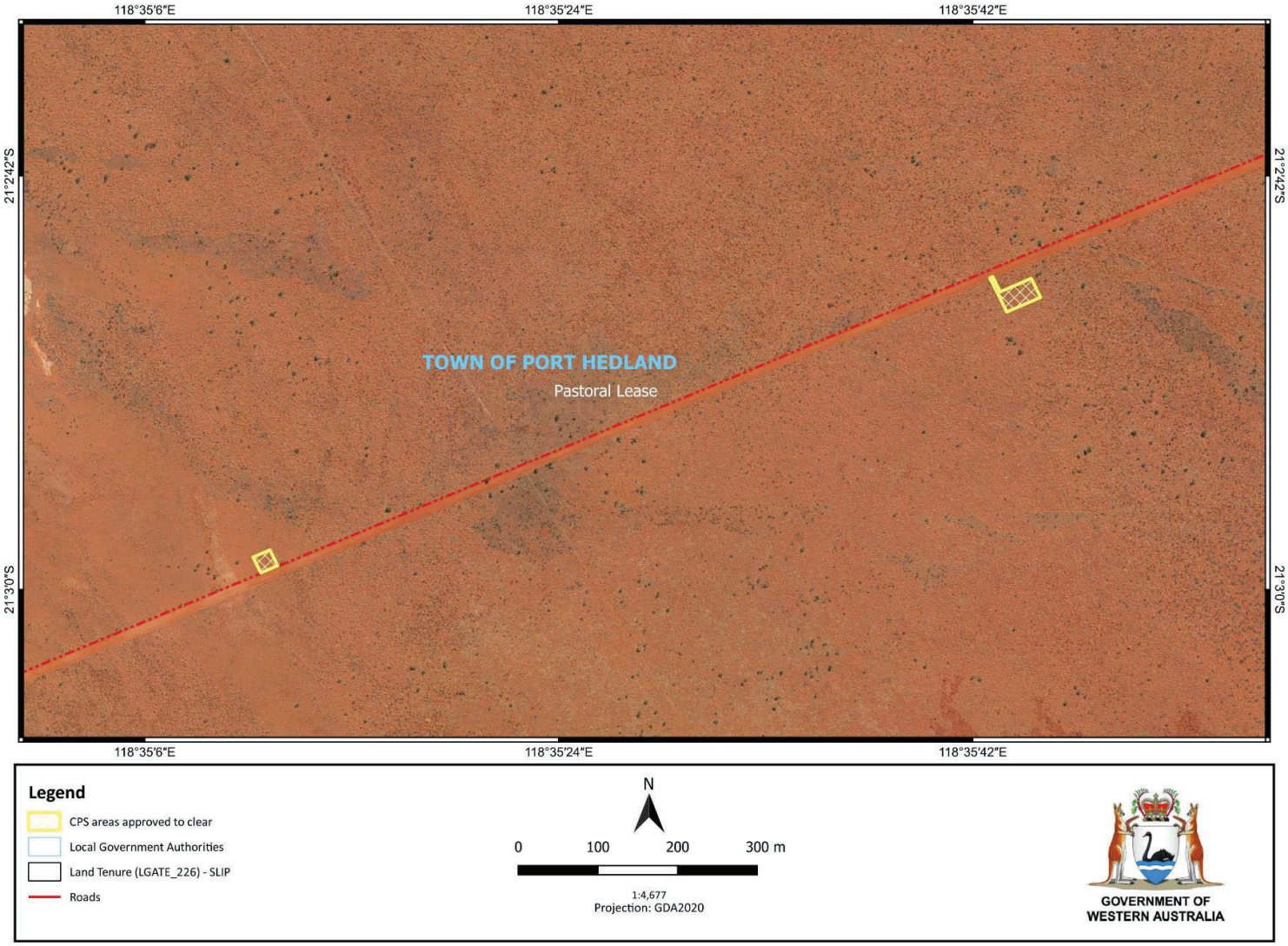

Figure 13: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur

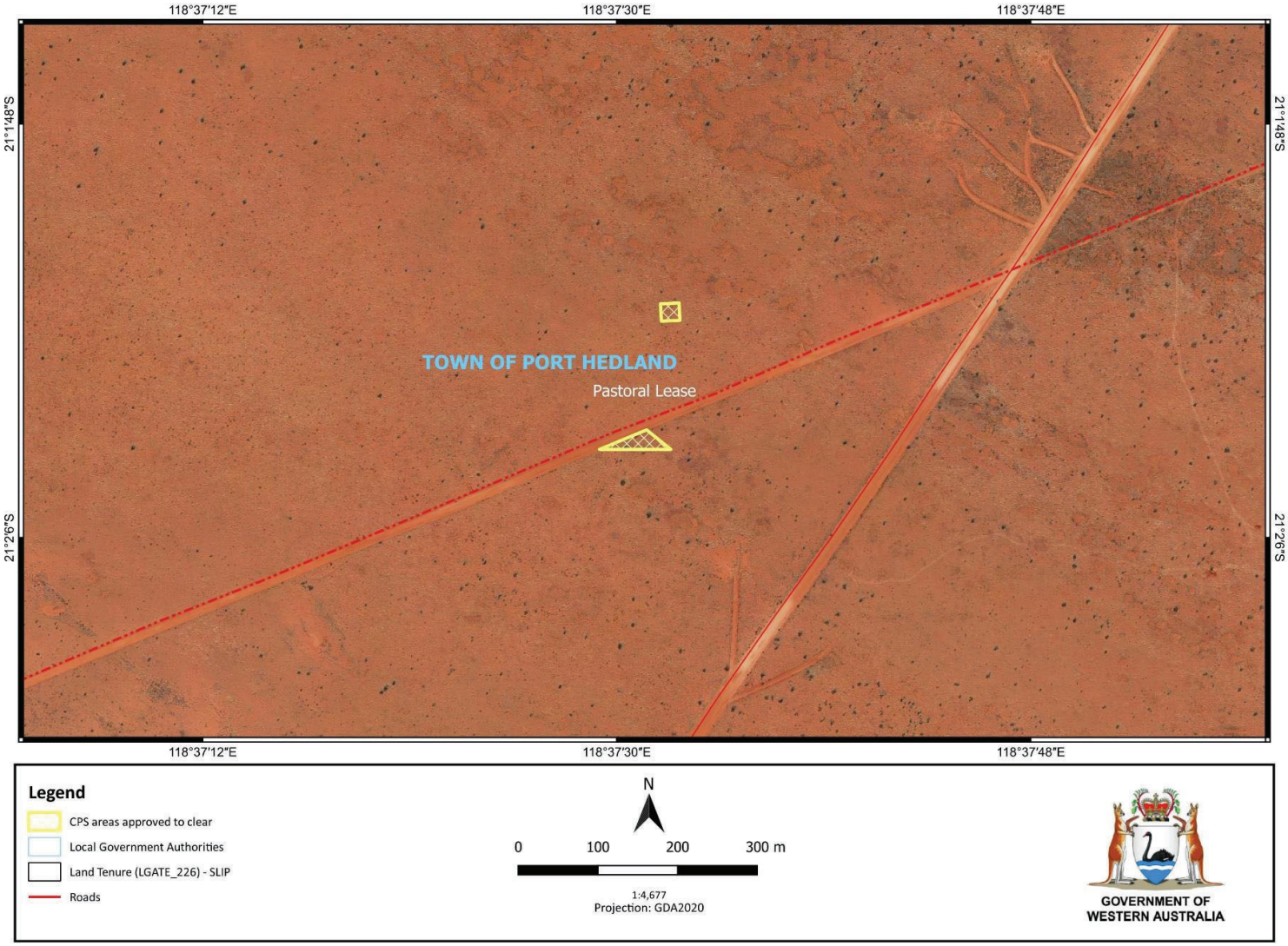

Figure 14: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur

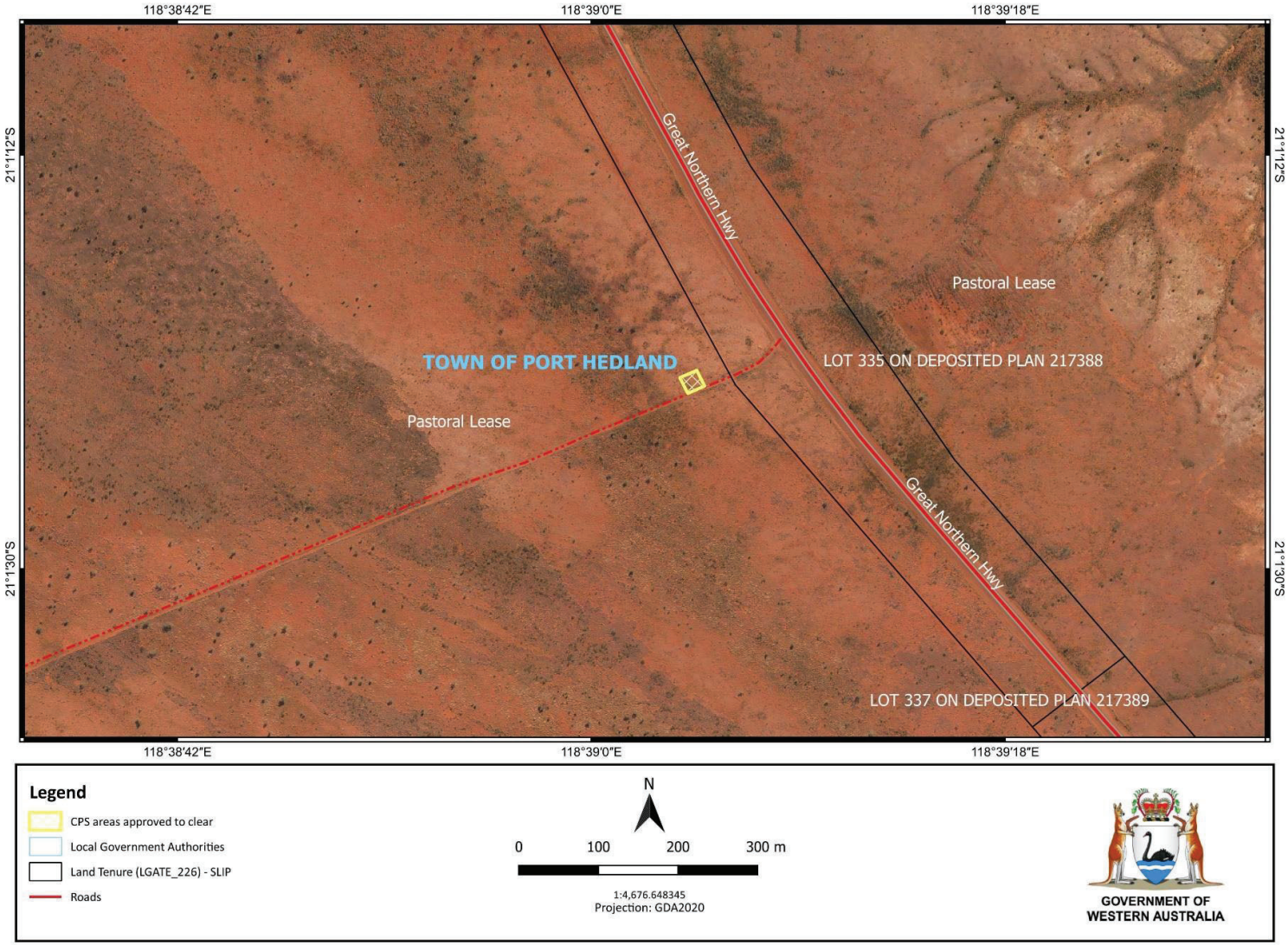

Figure 15: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur

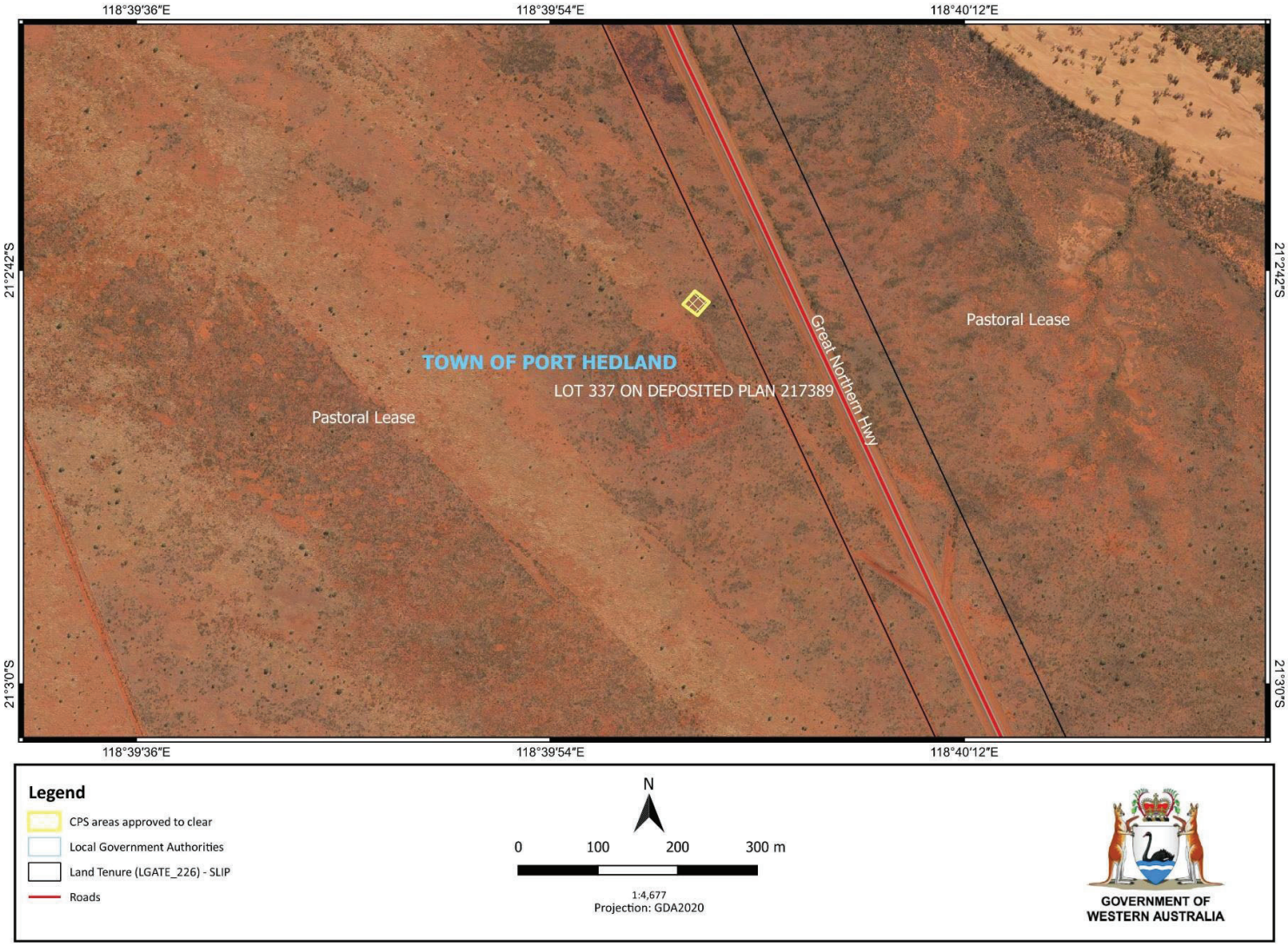

Figure 16: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur

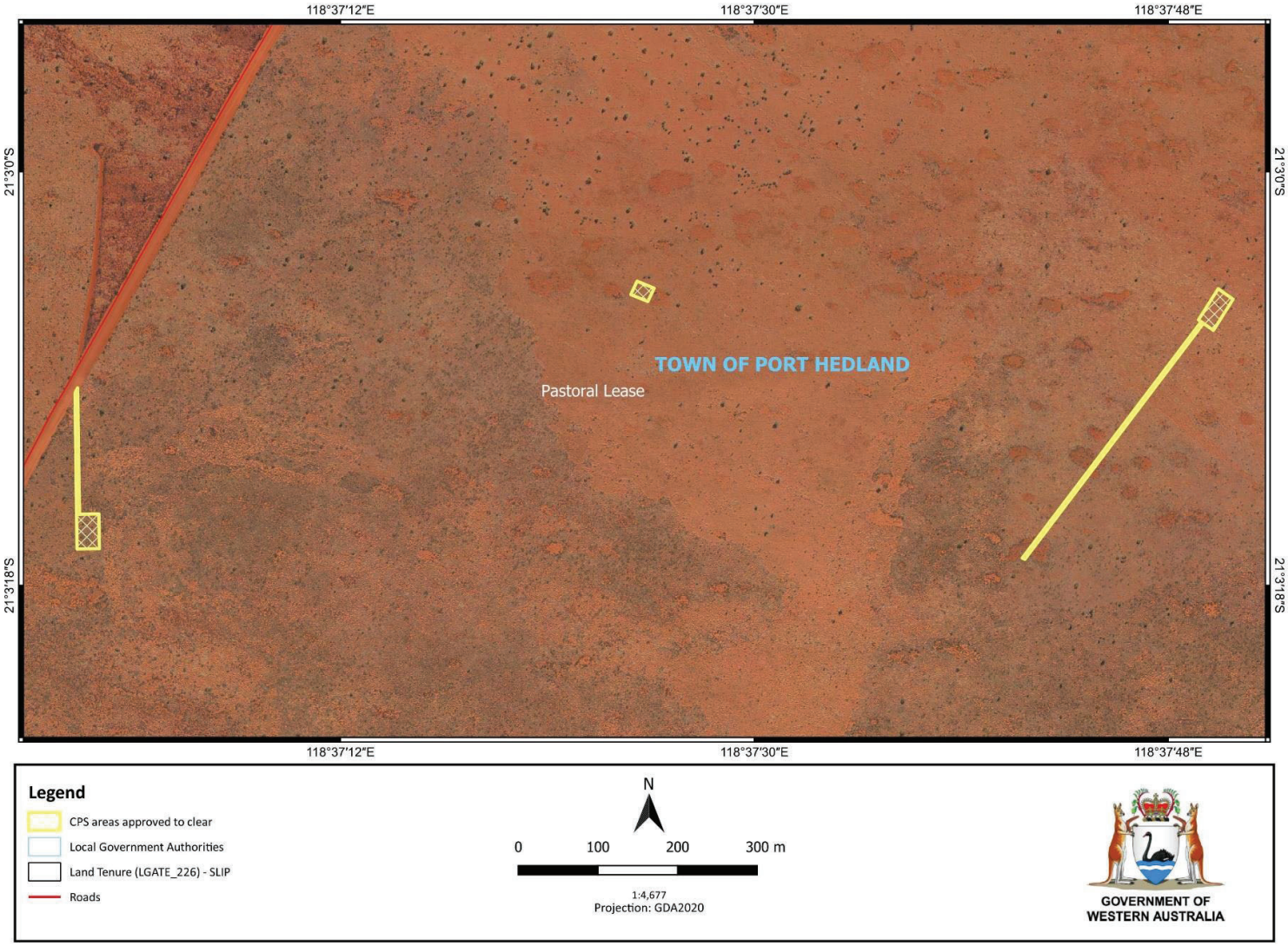

Figure 17: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur

Government of Western Australia
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1 Application details and outcome

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	CPS 10939/1
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	Vysarn Asset Management Pty Ltd
Application received:	5 February 2025
Application area:	7.6 hectares of native vegetation (revised)
Purpose of clearing:	Constructing drill pads and access tracks for aquifer testing and monitoring bores.
Method of clearing:	Mechanical
Property:	Lot 209 on Deposited Plan 238236 (Pastoral lease N049839)
Location (LGA area/s):	Town of Port Hedland
Localities (suburb/s):	Marble Bar

1.2. Description of clearing activities

The application is to clear 7.6 hectares of native vegetation distributed across multiple areas to facilitate the access and installation of drill pads for testing and monitoring bores (see Figure 1, Section 1.5).

During the assessment the application area was revised from 9.8 hectares to 7.6 hectares to remove clearing within one land parcel within which authority to access was no longer valid. The purpose of the clearing was also revised to exclude production bores, to align with the approved 26D water licence, where only investigative works can be carried out.

1.3. Decision on application

Decision:	Granted
Decision date:	19 May 2025
Decision area:	7.6 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 (DWER) advertised the application for 21 days and five submissions were received. Consideration of matters raised in the public submissions are summarised in Appendix B.

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics (see Appendix C), relevant datasets (see Appendix F.1), the findings of fauna, flora and vegetation survey's, the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (see Appendix D), relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (see Section 3).

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; and,
- the loss 7.6 hectares of habitat suitable for conservation significant fauna.

After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant's avoidance and mitigation measures (see Section 3.1), the Delegated Officer determined the proposed clearing is unlikely to have long-term adverse impacts on conservation significant flora and fauna. Impacts of the proposed clearing can be minimised and managed to not result in an unacceptable risk to environmental values.

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

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds
- fauna management measures to mitigate impacts to greater bilby
- a pre-clearance survey for western pebble-mound mouse and brush-tailed mulgara to mitigate impacts to these fauna species
- engage a fauna spotter for the duration of the clearing activities
- limit the time of clearing to during daytime hours to reduce impacts to nocturnal fauna
- flora management measures to ensure no inadvertent clearing of mapped priority flora species

1.5. Site map

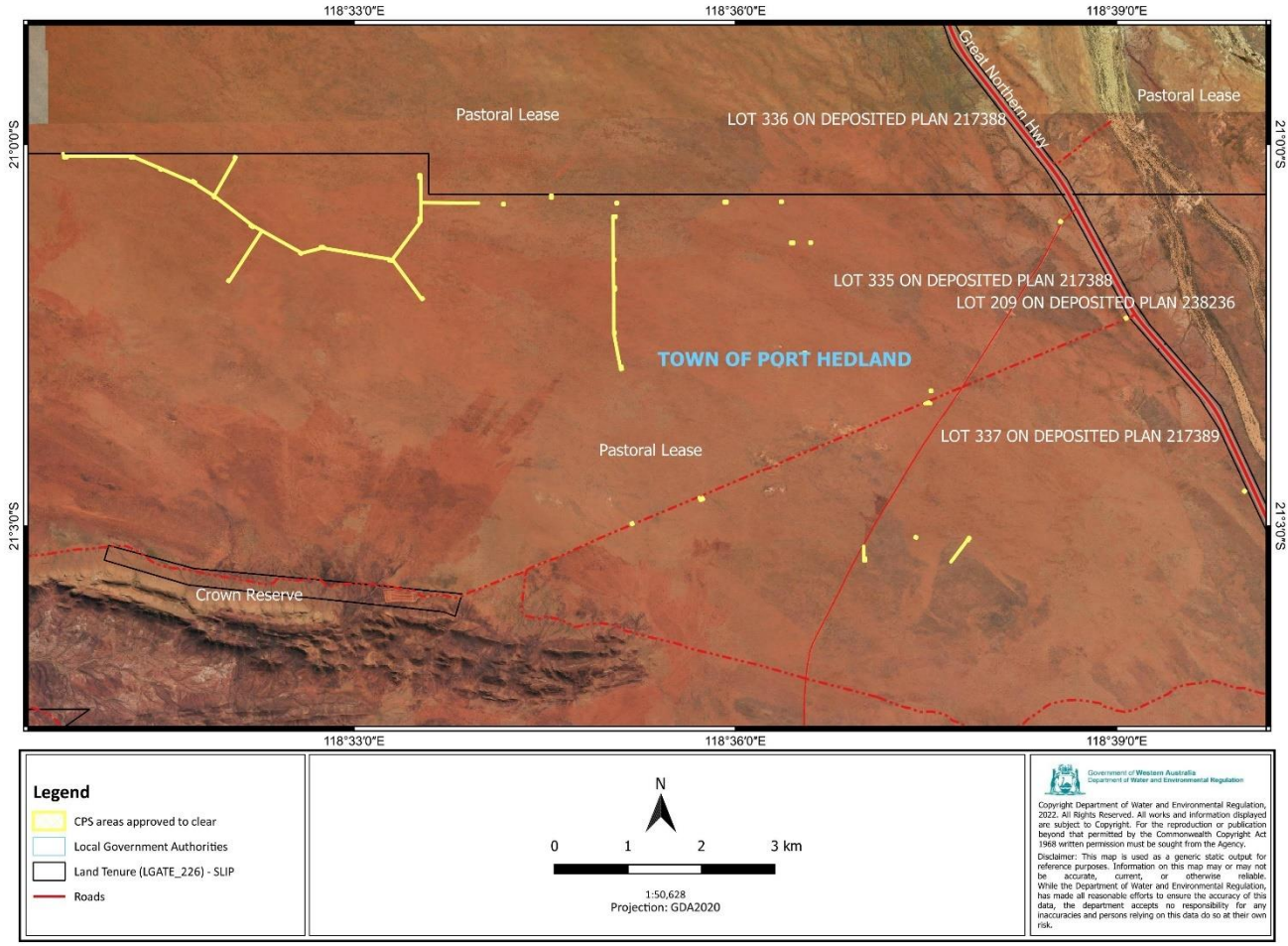

Figure 1 Map of the application area

The areas crosshatched yellow indicates the areas authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit. Detailed maps are available in the 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)
- *Planning and Development Act 2005* (WA) (P&D Act)
- *Land Administration Act 1997*

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)
- Technical guidance – *Terrestrial Fauna 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 avoidance and mitigation measures were considered, including;

- the application area was revised to avoid priority flora records identified within the survey (Emerge, 2024),
- bores have been located adjacent to existing access tracks,
- existing cleared areas were prioritised where practicable,
- drill pads have been reduced in size to suit the type of bore,
- new access tracks are limited to a four metre width,
- works will occur systematically to minimise re-run and compaction of access tracks,
- the area will be demarcated prior to clearing,
- pre-clearing meetings to occur to ensure all staff understand the works approved under the clearing permit;
- native vegetation will be cleared in a slow progressive manner in one direction to allow fauna to move ahead of the clearing;
- vehicle and machinery movement will only occur on access tracks; and,
- the Greater Bilby Management Plan will be followed for the project (Vysarn Asset Management Pty Ltd, 2025b).

Further, the application area was reduced during the assessment from 9.8 to 7.6 hectares.

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 C) and the extent to which the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological, conservation, or land and water resource values.

The assessment against the clearing principles (see Appendix D) identified the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological values (fauna, adjacent flora and 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. Biological values (Flora) - Clearing Principles (a)

Assessment

A detailed flora and vegetation assessment was conducted over the wider site of the proposed Kangan Station Bore Field. This survey was conducted in both May and June of 2024 (Emerge, 2024).

The Delegated Officer considered the consistency of the surveys with the EPA Technical Guidance – Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment (EPA, 2016). It was determined the survey was appropriate to identify the presence of conservation listed flora within the survey area; which are known to occur within the local area.

The Emerge assessment indicates the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in a very good condition (Trudgen,1991) and consists of two vegetation units:

- AaAiTc – 1.09 hectares of the survey area
- AaAsTl – 36.83 hectares of the survey area

The above vegetation units are two variations of open *Acacia* shrubland over low shrubs and native grasslands and full descriptions of the vegetation units is in Appendix C.

The flora and vegetation survey identified 38 native flora species within the survey area, of which two species were identified as priority flora (Emerge, 2024)

Priority Flora

A likelihood of occurrence analysis undertaken for the flora and vegetation survey identified 21 conservation listed flora species that may occur within the broader survey area. Of these the DWER's assessment identified five species may occur within the application area. This is based on known records within the local area and habitat suitability within the survey area.

- *Euploca mutica* (P3)
- *Triodia chinchesyerensis* (P3)
- *Abutilon sp. Pritzelianum* (S. van Leeuwen 5095) (P3)
- *Euphorbia clementii* (P3)
- *Gymnanthera cunninghamii* (P3)

Euploca mutica

Within the local area 39 records of the species have been recorded within available datasets. The nearest mapped record is located 5.7 kilometres from the application area.

During the flora and vegetation survey it was identified the AaAsTl vegetation unit would provide suitable habitat for the species. This vegetation unit is the dominant unit across the application area. During the survey there were 92 individuals recorded (Emerge, 2024). These individuals were scattered within the AaAsTl vegetation unit and occurred within the proposed application area; which was identified for the survey. This proposed application area was revised prior to the submission of the clearing permit application and the submitted application area has avoided the individuals identified within the survey.

Whilst the application area does consist of habitat suitable for the species, suitable habitat is also found outside the application area. Given the above the proposed clearing is not likely to significantly impact this species noting the applicant has avoided the individuals identified within the survey.

Triodia chinchesyerensis

Within the local area available datasets indicates there are 28 records of the species with the nearest record located approximately 5.2 kilometres from the application area. This species is restricted to the Abydos Plain land system of the Pilbara (Emerge, 2024).

The flora and vegetation survey identified the AaAiTc vegetation unit was suitable habitat for the species which occurred within the application area. During the flora and vegetation survey this species was identified throughout the survey area with an estimate of 80,000 to 300,000 individuals likely to occur (Emerge, 2024). Due to the variable size of this species and difficulties with counting individual hummock grasses, the individuals were recorded within a number of samples sites located in the proposed application area. The survey concluded the species does occur

within the proposed application area; which was provided for the survey, and was amended after the survey to avoid priority flora. The survey also concluded that whilst a substantial number of individuals are estimated to occur within the surveyed area, similar habitat and dense individuals of *Triodia chichesterensis*, does occur outside of the application area (Emerge, 2024).

Whilst the application area does consist of habitat suitable for the species to occur, this habitat extends into areas adjacent to the application area. It is evident the applicant has taken efforts to avoid individuals of this species identified within the survey, and the proposed clearing is therefore not likely to significantly impact the species.

Other Priority Flora

The departments likelihood analysis identified *Abutilon sp. Pritzelianum*, *Euphorbia clementii and Gymnanthera cunninghamii* were possible to occur. This analysis was based on known records within the local area and habitat suitability. The flora and vegetation survey report also identified these species of having a moderate to high likelihood of occurring prior to conducting the field survey (Emerge, 2024). The survey conducted a targeted search for species with a moderate to high likelihood of occurring within the application area. The survey report concluded these species are not considered to occur within the application area.

Other Impacts

The proposed clearing has the potential to increase the risk of weeds spreading into adjacent area of higher quality vegetation which may indirectly impact priority flora recorded outside of, or nearby the application area. Weed hygiene management measures would assist in minimising this risk and is therefore a condition of the permit.

Conclusion

The assessment has determined the proposed clearing is not likely to significantly impact on local or regional extent of the above species or their conservation status.
The proposed clearing may result in indirect impacts to priority flora recorded outside of, but nearby the application area. Appropriate management measures will be required as a condition of the clearing permit (as detailed below) to address this potential impact

Conditions

To manage the impacts to priority flora, the following actions will be required as conditions on the clearing permit:

- undertake avoidance and minimisation actions to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing
- undertake specific hygiene measures to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds into surrounding native vegetation
- demarcate the application area and priority flora within 20 metres of the application area. A buffer of 10 meters is to be maintained around priority flora, unless otherwise approved by the CEO.

3.2.2. Biological values (Fauna) - Clearing Principles (a and b)

Assessment

A fauna survey was conducted in May 2024 and indicates the application area consists of three habitat types (Ecology Matters Australia, 2024):

- spinifex sandplains
- gravel rise; and,
- cleared

The desktop assessment identified 37 conservation significant fauna species within the local area. In forming a view on the likelihood of each species occurring in the application area, the following was considered:

- the preferred habitat and vegetation types of the species;
- their recorded proximity to the application area; and
- date of record

The likelihood analysis identified five conservation significant fauna species may occur within the application area (see Appendix C.3). Of these, four were considered likely to occur:

- Northern quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus)* – Endangered
- Western pebble-mound mouse (*Pseudomys chapmani)* – Priority 4
- Bilby (*Macrotis lagotis)* – Vulnerable

- Brush-tailed mulgara (*Dasycercus blythi)* – Priority 4.

Northern quoll (EN)

Within the local area there are 1,811 records of the northern quoll, with the most recent record from 2024. This species occurs within a variety of habitats across their range (Commonwealth of Australia, 2010). Daytime denning habitat is important for shelter and includes, rocky outcrops, tree hollows, hollow logs and artificial habitat. Critical habitat is not well defined, however is considered as areas where the northern quoll is least exposed to threats.

The provided survey identified suitable habitat for foraging and dispersal was identified within the surveyed area, specifically in areas of ridgelines, scattered rocky areas and the drainage lines (Ecology Matters Australia, 2024). The survey identified habitat located 1.4 kilometres south of the application area which likely consists of suitable denning habitat, within the rocky ridge. Individuals were detected on motion-sensitive cameras in the northern portion of the Kangan Station. Given the application area consists of mostly Spinifex sandplains it is likely the species utilises the application area to traverse the landscape as there are no suitable denning habitat features (Ecology Matters Australia, 2024).

Noting the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on significant habitat for this species, noting the absence of suitable denning habitat within the application area. Whilst the species was present during the survey, the application area is likely utilised for traversing the landscape and foraging. Noting the application area provides suitable foraging habitat, clearing conducted during daytime hours will be a condition of the permit to minimise the impacts to this nocturnal species.

Bilby (VU)

Within the local area there are 436 records of the bilby, with the most recent record from 2022. The species occupies three main habitat types (Commonwealth of Australia, 2023):

- Open grasslands on hills
- *Acacia* woodland and shrubland growing on ridges and rises, and;
- Grasslands in flat areas and near river systems.

Habitat critical for this species is yet to be clearly defined however the Recovery Plan for the Greater Bilby (Commonwealth of Australia, 2023), identifies critical habitat is considered to be:

- any area the species is known to occur or likely to occur,
- any location outside the known or likely distribution where the species is found to occur,
- any area between the above areas which may be periodically occupied by the species, and
- any area in which the species may naturally colonise or may be feasibly reintroduced.

The application area is situated within the distribution for the bilby and the nearest mapped record is located approximately 1.5 kilometres from the application area. The survey identified the portions of the application area, consisting of the spinifex sandplain, would provide suitable habitat for the species for foraging, burrowing and dispersal (Ecology Matters, Australian, 2024). Whilst the survey concluded the application area consists of suitable habitat for the bilby, no evidence of the species was observed during the survey.

Given the survey did not identify the presence of greater bilbies within the application area, it is unlikely the clearing would significantly impact bilby habitat noting the abundance of suitable habitat situated outside of the application area. The applicant has provided a Greater Bilby Management Plan (Pentium Water, 2025), to further mitigate the impacts during the proposed clearing. In addition to the Greater Bilby Management Plan, a fauna management condition has been implemented on the permit to further mitigate impacts to the greater bilby.

Western pebble-mound mouse (P4)

Within the local area there are 265 mapped records of this species, with the most recent record from 2022. This species occurs in areas of spinifex grasslands on gravel/stony rises (Ecology Matters Australia, 2024). The species relies on an abundance of small stones or pebbles to construct mounds.

The fauna survey identified suitable habitat of stony areas on slopes, occurred within the surveyed area. This suitable habitat contributes to 0.11 hectares of the application area. No active or inactive mounds for this species were identified during the survey (Ecology Matters Australia, 2024). The survey concluded the species is expected as a resident within gravel areas of the surveyed site.

Given the above the species is likely to occur within the application area, however, noting the extent to which the application area consists of appropriate habitat it is not likely the proposed clearing will significantly impact the species. To further reduce the impacts to the species a pre-clearance survey is a condition on the permit.

Brush-tailed mulgara (P4)

Within the local area there are 160 mapped records of the species. This species is known to occur in areas of sandy regions with spinifex grasslands (DBCA, 2009). The closest record is mapped approximately 1.7 kilometres from the application area.

The provided survey identified the application area; consisting of the spinifex sandplain, provides suitable habitat for the brush-tailed mulgara for foraging, burrowing and dispersal (Ecology Matters, Australian, 2024). The survey captured two occasions where the species was recorded on camera trap, located approximately 300 metres from the application area.

Given the above the species is likely to occur within the application area, and may utilise it for foraging, burrowing or dispersal. Whilst the survey did not identify the species within the application area, noting the presence of suitable habitat, a fauna management condition has been implemented on the permit to further mitigate impacts to this species.

Other Impacts

The proposed clearing has the potential to increase the risk of injury to any fauna using the application area at the time of clearing, via machinery strike. Fauna management measures that require slow, one directional, progressive clearing would assist in minimising this risk. The proposed clearing may also increase the risk of weeds spreading into adjacent area of higher quality fauna habitat. Weed hygiene management measures would assist in minimising this risk.

Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on significant fauna habitat. Fauna management is required as a condition on the permit to further reduce the impacts to conservation significant fauna. Additionally, the clearing may:

- increase the risk of fauna strike to any fauna using the application area at the time of clearing
- increase the risk of weeds spreading into adjacent areas of higher quality fauna habitat.

Conditions

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

- Avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and extent of the clearing,
- Take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds
- Fauna management condition requiring a pre-clearing inspection of the application area for the above conservation significant fauna species,
- Engage a fauna spotter for the duration of the clearing activities,
- Slow directional clearing to allow ground dwelling fauna to move into adjacent vegetation ahead of the clearing activity will minimise impact to individual; and,
- Daytime clearing only to mitigate impacts to nocturnal fauna.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

Under section 51O of the EP Act the CEO shall have regard to any planning instruments or other matters considered relevant to the assessment of a clearing permit application. The below planning and other matters were considered relevant to the assessment of the application.

Planning

The application area is situated within a 'Rural' area of the Town of Port Hedland's Local Planning Scheme No. 7 (DPLH, 2025). The purpose of the 'Rural' zone is to;

- provide maintenance or enhancement of specific local rural character,
- protect broad acre agricultural activities and intensive primary uses, with other secondary rural pursuits and industries which are compatible with primary uses,
- maintain and enhance the environmental qualities and protect sensitive area,
- provide operation and development of existing, future and potential rural land uses by limiting the introduction of sensitive land uses in the Rural zone,
- provide for a range of non-rural land uses where they have demonstrated benefit and are compatible with surrounding rural uses.

Given the above the proposed clearing is consistent with the zoning of the land.

The Town of Port Hedland were invited to provide comment on the clearing permit application, however no comments were received.

Land Use – Pastoral Lease

The application area is situated within a Crown Allotment currently under a Pastoral Lease agreement. Under section 106 of the *Land Administration Act 1997* (LA Act) pastoral leases can only be used for pastoral purposes unless a permit has been issued under the LA Act, or the Department of Planning Lands and Heritage (DPLH) has authorised a license or alternative land tenure (DPLH, 2024a). On 21 November 2024 DPLH advised the applicant, that the investigation of groundwater resources through drilling of exploration bores within Kangan Station is consistent with the terms of the Pastoral Lease and the Pastoral Purpose Framework (DPLH, 2024b). Given this there is no requirement for land tenure or additional access rights to be granted under the LA Act to facilitate the investigative works. The applicant was to seek written consent of the Pastoral Lessee for the proposed works and evidence of this was provided with the clearing permit application. At the completion of the investigative works additional consult from DPLH is required if additional development is considered (DPLH, 2024b).

The applicant provided authority to access Pastoral lease N049839 (Kangan station) within which the proposed (revised) clearing will occur.

The Department of Planning Lands and Heritage's Pastoral Land Unit was given the opportunity to comment on the application. No comments were received.

Water Licences – RIWI Act

Advice was sort from DWER's North West Planning Advice Branch on whether licences or permits under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (RiWi Act) are required for the proposed clearing (DWER, 2025). The advice identified the clearing is situated within the proclaimed Pilbara groundwater and surface water areas and is therefore subject to licensing requirements under the RiWi Act. The North West Planning Advice Branch identified Karriyarra Aboriginal Corporation has entered a joint venture agreement with the applicant of the clearing permit and was issued a 26D license for the purpose of test pumping and sampling purposes which aligns with the (revised) purpose of the clearing.

Aboriginal sites under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972

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 no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

Native Title

The proposed clearing is located within the registered Native Title area of the Kariyarra People. Under section 24KA of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth), the department provided an opportunity for the Kariyarra community native title claimants and Kariyarra Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC that acts on behalf of the Kariyarra People, to comment on this clearing permit application. No comments were received.

End

Appendix A. Additional information provided by applicant

Summary of comments	Consideration of comment
The applicant revised the application area to 7.6 hectares within Kangan Station only, within which authority to access was still valid.	Application area was revised accordingly.
The purpose for the proposed clearing was amended to be for drill pads and access tracks to allow the construction of 17 aquifer testing bores and 19 monitoring bores on Kangan Station.	This clarified the overall purpose is for investigative works only which aligns with the 26D water licence obtained (as outline in section 3.3 Planning and other matters).
Provided evidence a Section 91 Licence is not required	Refer to Section 3.3 planning and other matters.
Applicant confirmed relevant parties have been consulted relating to intersecting active mining tenement of the Wodgina Gas Pipeline. The applicant confirmed the proposed clearing will not impact the pipeline.	The department considered the applicants consultation with relevant parties sufficient to ensure the proposed clearing does not interfere with the Wodgina Pipeline.

Appendix B. Details of public submissions

Grounds of Submission	Summary of comments	Consideration of comment
No Authority to access	The applicant does not have authority to access Indee Station and letter of authority for this was not published within the supporting documentation. No authority to access or consultation for the project occurred between holders of live mining tenements and pending tenements.	During the assessment the applicant revised the application area to exclude clearing within Indee station. As such, comments related to Indee station are considered out of scope for the assessment of the revised application area. Letters of authority to access land provided in support of clearing permit applications are not published for public view, as they are considered as confidential material in accordance with regulation 13 of the *Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004*. Pending mining tenements are considered out of scope for the assessment as these tenements have not yet been approved. The applicant has stated consultation had occurred between relevant active mining tenements holders.

Grounds of Submission	Summary of comments	Consideration of comment
The application area intersects critical Bilby habitat	Submission claims a referral under the EPBC Act would be required for protected Bilby habitat which has not been included in the clearing permit application.	This matter is addressed in Section 3.2.2 of this decision report.
Survey provided as supporting information does not address the entire application area	The survey does not sufficiently assess the ecological impact of this clearing application. A portion of the proposed clearing activity occurs outside the areas surveyed for this application	During the assessment the application area was revised. The surveys provided as supporting information for the application now covers a majority of the revised application area. This survey was sufficient for the assessment of the revised application area by the department.
Conflicts in water supply	The proposed project will inhibit future access to the water reserve and compromise the rights and access to necessary water, for current and future mining tenement holders, which occur within the local area.	This is considered out of scope for the assessment of the clearing permit application and will be addressed as part of the approval process for water under the RIWI Act.
The clearing is not consistent with pastoral lease activities	The clearing application is to facilitate the Karriyarra Water Scheme which is an industrial water scheme and is not consistent with the prescribed pastoral activities.	DPLH had advised the applicant, that the investigation of groundwater resources through drilling of exploration bores within Kangan Station is consistent with the terms of the Pastoral Lease and the Pastoral Purpose Framework (DPLH, 2024b). Refer Section 3.3 (Planning and other matters) of this report for further details.
Water licence holder and clearing permit applicant is inconsistent	Vysarn Asset Management Pty Ltd has made the clearing permit application on its own behalf, however, the related 5C licence, referred to in the application, is in the name of Kariyarra Aboriginal Corporation (KAC). It is therefore unclear whether the application has been made by the relevant entity.	This is addressed in section 3.3 (Planning and other matters) and is also addressed in the applicant supporting document available for public view on Index of /permit/10939 (Vysarn Asset Management, 2025c)
The potential for overlap of activities over the application area	The construction of the bores and access tracks may impact the viability of the land for future exploration/mining activities, effectively sterilising the area for future exploration.	The potential for the proposed bore-field works to impede future exploration and development is outside the scope of the clearing permit assessment. It is the permit holder's responsibility to provide access or authorisations for any future works proposed that may occur within the bore-field development footprint.
The application has used information from third-party consultant ecological reports	One submission noted that Plates 2-5 of the applicants supporting document were from “Hemi Gold Deposit Flora and Vegetation Studies” (Umwelt 2023) and the “Hemi Gold Project: Detailed Vertebrate Fauna Survey 2021 -2022” (Western Wildlife 2023) reports. The submission noted that this information was produced for the exclusive use of De Grey, solely in support of the Hemi Gold Project, and has been used without consent and the information is not fit for purpose in the context of the clearing permit application.	All biodiversity survey reports that support assessments and compliance under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* are required to be submitted to the Index of Biodiversity Surveys for Assessments (IBSA), which are made publicly available. It is noted that both surveys quoted by the applicant have been submitted via IBSA, and as such is publicly available for use in accordance with the IBSA disclaimer.

Grounds of Submission	Summary of comments	Consideration of comment
Safety and damage concerns of conflicting works	Concerns raised regarding safety in relation to conflicting works of mining activities and the proposed clearing. A portion of the application area is situated adjacent to active Wodgina Airport and safety arrangements are to be in place. The clearing of native vegetation will impact existing nearby bores and equipment.	This is considered out of scope for the assessment of the clearing application. It is the permit holder's responsibility to ensure the proposed works are carried out in a safe manner and ensure all relevant authorities are consulted to ensure the works does not impact other operations in the area.

Appendix C. Site characteristics

C.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details
Local context	The application area is part of an expansive tract of native vegetation in the extensive land use zone of Western Australia. It is situated on the Kangan Pastoral Station and borders Indee Pastoral Station. The proposed clearing area consists of multiple small areas for bore sites and a larger area for vehicle access, situated in Pilbara region. Spatial data indicates the local area (50-kilometre radius from the centre of the application area) retains approximately 99 per cent of the original native vegetation cover.
Ecological linkage	The application area is not mapped within a formal ecological linkage.
Conservation areas	The application area is not mapped within any conservation areas, the nearest conservation area is located 50 kilometres south west of the application area.
Vegetation description	The vegetation survey (Emerge Associates, 2024) and supporting information (KWS, 2025) indicates the vegetation within the proposed clearing area consists of two vegetation units; AaAsTL; Sparse to open shrubland of *Acacia ancistrocarpa*, *Acacia inaequilatera* and *Grevillea wickhamii* over low open shrubland of *Acacia stellaticeps*, *Dampiera candicans* and Ptilotus *astrolasius* over closed hummock grassland of *Triodia lanigera.* AaAiTc: Sparse to open shrubland of *Acacia ancistrocarpa*, *Acacia inaequilatera*, *Codonocarpus cotinifolius* and *Grevillea wickhamii* over low open shrubland of *Acacia stellaticeps* and *Senna* sp. over closed hummock grassland of *Triodia chichesterensis* (P3) located on rocky low rises with surface quartzite. This is consistent with the mapped vegetation type(s): • Abydos Plain -Chinchester 93, which is described as Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; kanji over soft spinifex (Shepherd et al, 2001) *The mapped vegetation type retain approximately 99 per cent of the original extent (Government of Western Australia, 2019).*
Vegetation condition	The Vegetation survey (Emerge Associates 2024) indicate the vegetation within the application area is in very good condition (Trudgen, 1991), described as: • 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. The full Trudgen (1991) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix EAppendix E.
Climate and landform	The application area is a part of the Chichester and Roebourne subregion, which is described as having a semi-desert tropical climate with highly variable rainfall and significant cyclonic activity
Soil description	The soil is mapped as the Uaroo system (281Ua), which is described as broad sandy plains, pebbly plains and drainage tracts supporting hard and soft spinifex hummock grasslands with scattered acacia shrubs.
Land degradation risk	The application area consists of no mapped land degradation risks. The Uaroo soil system may be susceptible to erosion along drainage lines however is generally not susceptible to erosion or significant land degradation (DPIRD, 2019)
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that no waterbodies intersect the application area.
Hydrogeography	The application area is located within the Pilbara surface water area and the Pilbara groundwater area.

Characteristic	Details
Flora	Within the local 50 kilometre area there are 252 conservation significant flora records, with the nearest record located 3.9 kilometres from the application area. The records of the local area consists one threatened species, two priority 1 species, 15 priority 3 and two priority 4 species.
Ecological communities	The application area is not mapped within any threatened or priority ecological communities. The local 50 kilometre area consists of 18 areas of the Gregory Land System Priority 3 ecological community, with the nearest patch located 1.61 kilometres west of the application area.
Fauna	The local 50 kilometre area consists of 3,856 mapped records of conservation significant fauna. These records consist of 37 different species of which one is endangered, seven are vulnerable, two are priority 1, one is priority 2, five are priority 4, one is other specially protected and 20 species are migratory species. Three species occur within one kilometre of the application area with the nearest mapped record located 310 metres from the application area.

C.2. Flora analysis table

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features ? [Y/N]	Suitable vegetation type? [Y/N]	Suitable soil type? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (total)	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]
Euploca mutica	3	Y	Y	Y	5.58	39	Y
Triodia chichesterensis	3	Y	Y	Y	5.16	28	Y
Abutilon sp. Pritzelianum (S. van Leeuwen 5095)	3	Y	N	Y	13.34	34	Y
Euphorbia clementii	3	Y	Y	Y	7.52	22	Y
Gymnanthera cunninghamii	3	N	Y	Y	3.90	9	Y

T: threatened, CR: critically endangered, EN: endangered, VU: vulnerable, P: priority

C.3. Fauna analysis table

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Suitable vegetation type? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (total)	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]
Dasyurus hallucatus	EN	Y	Y	0.31	1811	Y
Pseudomys chapmani	P4	Y	Y	0.52	265	Y
Macrotis lagotis	VU	Y	Y	1.49	436	Y
Dasycercus blythi	P4	Y	Y	1.51	160	Y
Lagorchestes conspicillatus leichardti	P4	Y	Y	0.85	146	Y

T: threatened, CR: critically endangered, EN: endangered, VU: vulnerable, P: priority

Appendix D. Assessment against the clearing principles

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Environmental value: biological values		
Principle (a): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity."* Assessment: The application area contains habitat suitable for conservation significant flora and fauna, however it is not considered to contain locally or regionally significant flora, fauna, habitats or assemblages of plants.	May be at variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.1 and 3.2.2, above.*
Principle (b): *"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."* Assessment: The application area contains habitat for conservation significant fauna, however the habitat is not considered to be critical for foraging, denning or breeding habitat.	May be at variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.2, above.*
Principle (c): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora."* Assessment: The application area is unlikely to contain habitat for flora species listed under the BC Act. The nearest record of threatened flora is located 34 kilometres away and no threatened flora were identified during the flora and vegetation survey.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Principle (d): *"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."* Assessment: The application area does not contain species that can indicate a threatened ecological community, and there are no threatened ecological communities located within the local 50 kilometre area.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas		
Principle (e): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared."* Assessment: The extent of the mapped vegetation type and the native vegetation in the local area is consistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia. The vegetation within the application area is not considered to be part of a significant ecological linkage in the local area.	Not likely to be at variance	No .
Principle (h): *"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."* Assessment:	Not likely to be at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Given the nearest conservation area is located 50 kilometres from the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of nearby conservation areas.		
Environmental value: land and water resources		
Principle (f): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland."* Assessment: Given no watercourses or wetlands are recorded within the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact on- or off-site hydrology and water quality.	Not at variance	No
Principle (g): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation."* Assessment: The mapped Uaroo soil system(281Ua) may be susceptible to erosion along drainage lines, however, is generally not susceptible to erosion or significant land degradation. Noting no drainage lines intersect the application area and the soil type outside of drainage areas is unlikely to be susceptible to land degradation the proposed clearing is not likely to have an appreciable impact on land degradation.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Principle (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."* Assessment: Given no watercourses or wetlands are recorded within the application area, and noting the clearing is to install monitoring bores and for aquifer testing the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact surface or groundwater quality. The applicant has also been issued an appropriate 26D water license.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Principle (j): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding."* Assessment: 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. Given no watercourses or wetlands are recorded within the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to contribute to waterlogging.	Not likely to be at variance	No

Appendix E. 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 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)

F.2. References

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