



# CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

<b>Purpose Permit number:</b>	CPS 123/8
<b>Permit Holder:</b>	Chevron Australia Pty Ltd
<b>Duration of Permit:</b>	12 June 2006 – 12 June 2022

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The Permit Holder is authorised to clear native vegetation subject to the following conditions of this Permit.

## **PART I – CLEARING AUTHORISED**

### **1. Purpose for which clearing may be done**

Clearing for the purpose of *infrastructure maintenance, pipelines, minor works and emergencies*.

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

Barrow Island Crown Reserve 11648  
 Petroleum Production Licence L10 (R1)  
 Pipeline Licence TPL/9 (R1)

### **3. Application**

This Permit allows the Permit Holder to authorise persons, including employees, contractors and agents of the Permit Holder, to clear native vegetation for the purposes of this Permit subject to compliance with the conditions of this Permit and approval from the Permit Holder.

### **4. Clearing for Infrastructure Maintenance Authorised**

In accordance with this Permit, the Permit Holder may clear previously disturbed vegetation without complying with Part II for the purposes of:

- (a) maintaining and operating existing production, waterflood and water source wells, cathodic cabinets and cables, roadside bollards, main camp infrastructure, sewer lines, airport perimeter beacons, airport perimeter fences and other similar infrastructure, other than *pipelines*<sup>1</sup>;
- (b) providing safety buffers around the infrastructure referred to in 4(a);
- (c) replacing and upgrading infrastructure referred to in 4(a) in the same location;
- (d) maintaining and grading existing graded roads, and maintaining and removing windrows;
- (e) operating and carrying out works within *hardstand areas*;
- (f) driving on *access tracks*;
- (g) accessing power poles for repair and maintenance provided that the distance traversed from a graded road or *access track* to the power pole is less than 50 metres in total in one direction;
- (h) *active rehabilitation* carried out in accordance with condition 16;
- (i) assessing, monitoring and removal of dead vegetation at leak sites to allow for *regeneration*;
- (j) clearing areas for maintenance of conduits passing under road crossings;
- (k) decommissioning and removal of redundant pipelines and road crossings;
- (l) removing vegetation in areas previously cleared in order to maintain the effectiveness of a *pipeline* to the extent of 5 metres from the *pipeline*;

<sup>1</sup> See Part IV of this Permit.  
 CPS 123/8, 10 June 2021

- (m) environmental monitoring and investigation activities including biodiversity monitoring, bore construction, and soil and groundwater sampling and monitoring associated with contamination assessment, *remediation* and *rehabilitation*; and
- (n) incidental clearing resulting from *weed* management activities involving herbicide use.

The clearing described in condition 4 is not subject to the 105 hectare limit on total clearing that otherwise applies to this Permit.

## 5. Clearing for Marine Activities Authorised

In accordance with this Permit, the Permit Holder may clear vegetation without complying with Part II for the purposes of:

- (a) inspecting, accessing, operating and maintaining existing *Marine Infrastructure*;
- (b) replacing and upgrading existing *Marine Infrastructure* in the same location;
- (c) environmental monitoring; and
- (d) activities associated with decommissioning, demolition and abandonment of infrastructure.

The clearing described in condition 5 is not subject to the 105 hectare limit on total clearing that otherwise applies to this Permit.

## 6. Other Clearing Authorised

In accordance with this Permit, the Permit Holder may clear up to 105 hectares of vegetation, to the extent reasonably necessary (including necessary safety buffers) for the purposes of:

- (a) installing road side bollards;
- (b) exploring and taking material at borrow pits;
- (c) reducing fire risk around oilfield facilities;
- (d) installation and modification of infrastructure at the central processing facility for the *produced water reinjection project*;
- (e) accessing any infrastructure;
- (f) environmental monitoring and investigation activities including biodiversity monitoring, bore construction, and soil and groundwater sampling and monitoring associated with contamination assessment, *remediation* and *rehabilitation*;
- (g) *remediation*, including excavation of contaminated soil and installation of remedial devices;
- (h) *active rehabilitation* carried out in accordance with condition 16;
- (i) clearing from the base of overhead powerlines;
- (j) installing, constructing, replacing, maintaining and operating airport perimeter beacons, water source wells and other similar minor works necessary for the maintenance, operation or upgrade of existing infrastructure other than *pipelines*; and
- (k) activities associated with decommissioning, demolition and abandonment of infrastructure.

## 7. Emergencies

The Permit Holder may clear vegetation:

- (a) for the purpose of preventing danger to human life or health or irreversible damage to a significant portion of the environment;
- (b) to prevent or reduce imminent damage to infrastructure in response to the impact of a destructive natural event such as a storm, lightning strike, fire or flood;
- (c) where reasonably necessary to immediately respond to an accident such as a leak, fire or medical emergency or to repair damage caused by vandalism.

and may carry out this clearing without complying with Part II and such clearing shall not be subject to the 105 hectare limit on total clearing that otherwise applies to this Permit.

## 8. General Restrictions on Clearing

The Permit Holder:

- (a) shall only clear for vehicle turnarounds where the extent of vegetation disturbance will be less by turning around and traversing back to the closet access road than proceeding forward to the closet access road;
- (b) shall not clear for temporary laydown areas;
- (c) shall not stockpile cleared vegetation on any other native vegetation;
- (d) is not authorised by this Permit to clear for any purposes related to the Gorgon Gas Development on Barrow Island and offshore North West Shelf (Shire of Ashburton) proposal, which was referred to the Environmental Protection Authority by ChevronTexaco Australia Pty Ltd on behalf of the Gorgon Joint Venture.

## PART II: VEGETATION DISTURBANCE ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE

### 9. Assessment Procedure

The Permit Holder shall undertake the assessment procedure detailed in Part II for all clearing activities authorised under conditions 6 and 8, in order to minimise the amount and impacts of clearing within the permitted area.

### 10. Preparation of Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form

- (a) Prior to carrying out any clearing, or any activity likely to involve clearing, a *Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form* shall be prepared describing the proposed activity, the *location* of the proposed activity, and the kind of clearing that is likely to occur.
- (b) The *Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form* shall be considered by an officer of the Permit Holder responsible for coordinating works and if it is reasonably likely that the proposed activity will involve or result in clearing of vegetation, the *Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form*, together with information recorded on a global positioning system device relating to the *location* and extent of the proposed activity or clearing, shall be submitted to the *Environmental Specialist*.

### 11. Inspection and Survey by *Environmental Specialist*

- (a) Prior to the activity or clearing being undertaken an *Environmental Specialist* shall:
  - (i) refer to the *environmental sensitivity mapping database* and determine whether the area to be cleared is classified as P1, P2, P3 or P4 in **Annexure 2**; and
  - (ii) walk, inspect and survey locations (except those walked by a *qualified botanist* for the proposed activity or clearing) classified as P1, P2 and P3 at which any proposed activity or clearing is to be undertaken or in respect of which a *Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form* has been submitted.
- (b) document the inspection and survey including:
  - (i) the proposed activity and method of clearing;
  - (ii) the *location* and extent of the proposed activity and clearing on a global positioning system device;
  - (ii) whether the area is classified as P1, P2, P3 or P4 on the *environmental sensitivity mapping database*;

- (iii) the vegetation and fauna habitat present at the *location* of the proposed activity or clearing; and
  - (iv) observations about preferred routes or locations for the proposed clearing, taking into account information from the inspection and information on the *environmental sensitivity mapping database*.
- (c) record the data collected by the field inspection and survey required under this condition into the Permit Holder's *electronic geographic information system* incorporating the *environmental sensitivity mapping database*.

## 12. Assessment Process

The *Environmental Specialist* shall undertake an assessment of the proposed activity or clearing in each case taking into account:

- (a) the survey and inspection report and any *qualified botanist's* report that relates to the area to be cleared;
- (b) the information on the *environmental sensitivity mapping database*, including the proportion of each vegetation type set out in **Annexure 1** that remains prior to and after the proposed clearing, expressed as a percentage of the areal extent of these vegetation types as identified in Mattiske (1993);
- (c) the nature and extent of the proposed activity or clearing;
- (d) the environmental implications of the proposed activity or clearing for vegetation and fauna habitat, taking into account the guidelines set out in condition 13 below;
- (e) any other relevant information; and
- (f) shall determine whether the vegetation or areas to be affected by the proposed activity or clearing is classified P1, P2, P3 or P4 as described in **Annexure 2**.

## 13. Guidelines for Assessment

The *Environmental Specialist* must follow the guidelines set out in this condition when assessing a *Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form*:

- (a) Clearing of vegetation should occur in vegetation or areas classified as P4 in Annexure 2 in preference to P3, in P3 in preference to P2, and P2 in preference to P1.
- (b) A *Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form* must not be issued if there is a reasonable alternative means to carry out the proposed activity or works that does not involve clearing vegetation.
- (c) Subject to condition 10(a) above, a *Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form* must include conditions that minimise the overall extent of clearing.
- (d) In the event that the vegetation or area that is proposed to be cleared is classified as P1 in **Annexure 2**, any *Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form* shall not be issued unless the clearing is absolutely necessary and no other practicable alternative to clearing the vegetation or area exists.
- (e) A decision to issue a *Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form* shall be made, and any conditions on a *Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form* shall be imposed, having regard to the following:
  - (i) clearing and activities in the area shall be restricted wherever possible to existing tracks and or *previously disturbed* areas;
  - (ii) disturbance to topsoil or rootstock shall be avoided wherever possible;
  - (iii) blading outside areas required to be *hardstand areas* shall be avoided wherever possible;
  - (iv) no slashing of *known priority flora*, *significant vegetation communities* (**Annexure 3**), *additional significant vegetation communities* (**Annexure 4**), or *flora of conservation significance* (**Annexure 5**) shall be undertaken, unless there is no other practicable alternative; and

- (v) where off road vehicle access is approved, significant occurrences of trees, shrubs or habitat must be avoided and the number of vehicle movements along the off road alignments must be restricted to the absolute minimum necessary for the approved purpose.

#### 14. Assessment Report

The *Environmental Specialist* shall document the assessment undertaken in making the decision to grant or refuse a *Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form*, including:

- (a) whether or not any vegetation or areas classified as P1, P2, P3 or P4 in **Annexure 2** is likely to be affected by the proposed activity or clearing;
- (b) whether or not any *identified priority flora, significant vegetation communities (Annexure 3), flora of significant conservation value (Annexure 5)* or *vegetation comprising significant or unique fauna habitat* is likely to be affected by the proposed activity or clearing;
- (c) the areal extent that the clearing of each vegetation type set out in **Annexure 1** would represent, expressed as a percentage of the areal extent of each vegetation type as identified in Mattiske (1993);
- (d) the areal extent that the vegetation remaining after the clearing would represent, in relation to each vegetation type set out in **Annexure 1**, expressed as a percentage of the areal extent of each vegetation type as identified in Mattiske (1993); and
- (e) information demonstrating consideration of the guidelines set out in condition 13 above.

#### 15. Issuing Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Forms<sup>2</sup>

- (a) A copy of the Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form with any vegetation disturbance management conditions will be issued to the person carrying out the activity or clearing prior to the commencement of the activity or clearing.
- (b) The *Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form* shall specify:
  - (i) the method of clearing approved;
  - (ii) the purpose for which the activity or clearing may be carried out;
  - (iii) the extent of the clearing approved;
  - (iv) the *location* of the approved activity or clearing; and
  - (v) other relevant conditions or restrictions regarding the carrying out of the proposed activity or clearing.
- (c) The Permit Holder shall comply with the conditions of the *Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form* and any directions given by the *Environmental Specialist*.

### PART III: ACTIVE REHABILITATION

#### 16. Active Rehabilitation

- (a) When carrying out clearing of vegetation for the purpose of *active rehabilitation*, the Permit Holder must implement and adhere to the approved 'Barrow Island – WA Oil Prescription for the Rehabilitation of Disturbed Areas (ABU15050153)' and site-specific rehabilitation plans, including its provisions for:
  - (i) *site preparation*;
  - (ii) *weed control*;
  - (iii) *regeneration, direct seeding or planting*;

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<sup>2</sup> Note: A *Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form* issued by an *Environmental Specialist* does not give any authorisation not given by this Permit or allow clearing that is otherwise restricted or prohibited by this Permit.

- (iv) a *vegetation establishment period*;
  - (v) ongoing maintenance and monitoring; and
  - (vi) timeframes for key stages.
- (b) If *active rehabilitation* requires clearing of previously disturbed areas as set out in condition 4(h), the clearing is not subject to the 105 hectare limit on total clearing that otherwise applies to this Permit.
  - (c) If *active rehabilitation* requires clearing of areas that have not been previously disturbed as set out in condition 6(h), the clearing is subject to the 105 hectare limit on total clearing that applies to this Permit.

## **PART IV: SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS AND CONDITIONS ON CLEARING FOR PIPELINES**

### **17. Clearing for Pipelines Authorised**

- (a) Subject to complying with Part I and Part II of this Permit, the Permit Holder may clear for the installation, replacement, maintenance and decommissioning of *pipelines* in accordance with Part IV of this Permit.
- (b) If the installation, replacement, maintenance and decommissioning of *pipelines* requires clearing of previously disturbed areas, the clearing is not subject to the 105 hectare limit on total clearing that otherwise applies to this Permit.

### **18. Special Restrictions and Conditions on Clearing for Pipelines**

- (a) The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 20 metres in width for multiple parallel *pipelines*, except in areas within 20 metres of manifolds where *pipelines* converge;
- (b) The Permit Holder shall not remove root stock when clearing vegetation for *pipelines*, except where creating pipeline road crossings and installing pipe supports;
- (c) The Permit Holder shall not clear vegetation by driving vehicles over *known significant vegetation communities (Annexure 3)*, *additional significant vegetation communities (Annexure 4)*, or *flora of conservation significance (Annexure 5)* when installing, replacing or decommissioning *GRE pipelines*, except where such *GRE pipelines* are of 80 millimetres or more in diameter;
- (d) Where *GRE pipelines* are to be installed over a distance of less than 100 metres between two existing access tracks, the *GRE pipeline* shall be installed without using vehicles to drive along the route that section of the pipeline will traverse, unless the pipes to be installed are 80 millimetres or more in diameter;
- (e) The Permit Holder shall not dispose of residual pipe contents on vegetation;
- (f) Prior to the installation of any *pipeline*, with the exception of electrical cables laid by hand, in an area that has not been previously cleared, a *qualified botanist* shall, having regard to the guidelines set out in condition 13 of this Permit:
  - (i) walk the proposed route for the new *pipeline*;
  - (ii) make and document recommendations for;
    - (A) preferred clearing methodology;
    - (B) preferred locations and route for any clearing;
    - (C) conditions or restrictions that should be imposed on the work or activity; and
  - (iii) record the location of the route on a global positioning system device.



## PART V: RECORD KEEPING, REPORTING AND AUDITING

### 19. Electronic Geographic Information System and Environmental Sensitivity Mapping

#### Database

- (a) The Permit Holder shall maintain an *electronic geographic information system* incorporating an *environmental sensitivity mapping database* of Barrow Island that stores and allows search and recovery of spatial environmental information in data layers which will include a visual representation overlaid on an electronic map of:
- (i) vegetation distribution (areal extent) of each vegetation type as set out in **Annexure 1**;
  - (ii) *previously disturbed* areas;
  - (iii) areas cleared that, at the date of issue of this Permit are not *previously disturbed*, and the method by which they were cleared;
  - (iv) landform, geomorphology (including caves) and topography;
  - (v) all recorded sites of *significant or unique fauna habitat*;
  - (vi) all recorded sites of *rare flora* and *priority flora*;
  - (vii) all recorded sites of *significant vegetation communities* (**Annexure 3**);
  - (viii) all recorded sites of additional *significant vegetation communities* (**Annexure 4**); and
  - (ix) all vegetation types containing *recorded flora of conservation significance* (**Annexure 5**).
- (b) The Permit Holder shall update the *electronic geographic information system* incorporating the environmental sensitivity database annually with the following information:
- (i) information contained in reports given by *qualified botanists* during the term of this Permit that identifies new locations of vegetation and any other features referred to in condition 19(a) above; and
  - (ii) all locations of vegetation communities identified in a *qualified botanist's* report provided during the term of this Permit which are identified in that report as suffering low *regeneration* rates after site disturbance.
- (c) The resulting disturbance approved under that *Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form* shall be recorded and entered into the *electronic geographic information system* incorporating the *environmental sensitivity mapping database* and this shall include:
- (i) the method of clearing;
  - (ii) the area cleared in square metres (e.g. for vehicle tracks, length by width of the vehicle's tracks, and for *pipelines*, the length by width of the actual pipe plus other related clearing) by each clearing method and for each purpose;
  - (iii) the *location*, extent and method of clearing any *identified* vegetation of the vegetation types listed in **Annexure 3**, **Annexure 4**, or **Annexure 5**; and
  - (iv) the *location*, extent and method of clearing any *identified* vegetation or areas of the vegetation types or areas set out in **Annexure 2**.

### 20. Reporting

The Permit Holder shall provide to the *CEO*, by 30 September of each year, a report including:

- (a) for all clearing, other than clearing under condition 4 where the vegetation has been *previously disturbed*, a record of the extent, location and method of clearing carried out under this Permit;
- (b) for clearing under condition 6, an additional summary of the extent, location and method of this clearing by reference to vegetation or area types referred to in **Annexure**

- 2, **Annexure 3**, **Annexure 4** or **Annexure 5** and the reasons why such clearing was required;
- (c) in relation to clearing for *pipelines*,
    - (i) the type of *pipelines* involved;
    - (ii) the *location*, extent and method of clearing in each case;
    - (iii) the *location*, extent and method of clearing of any *identified* vegetation or areas of the vegetation types or areas described in **Annexure 2**, **Annexure 3**, **Annexure 4** or **Annexure 5** that were cleared;
    - (iv) the reasons why such clearing was required; and
  - (d) the *location*, extent and method of any clearing carried out in accordance with condition 7;
  - (e) the *location* and extent of any clearing carried out in accordance with condition 5; and
  - (f) the areal extent of each vegetation type set out in **Annexure 1**, that has been:
    - (i) cleared in that year; and
    - (ii) that is remaining on Barrow Island;
 expressed as a percentage of the areal extent of those same vegetation types as identified in *Mattiske (1993)*;
  - (g) a list of all reports provided by *qualified botanists* as required by this Permit in relation to Barrow Island;
  - (h) the location, extent and method of any *active rehabilitation* carried out in relation to Barrow Island;
  - (i) audit reports required under condition 22 below; and
  - (j) a copy of the *environmental sensitivity mapping database* in an electronic form.

## 21. Permit holder to retain records

The Permit Holders shall retain a separate record of all documentation produced in relation to each *Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form* including:

- (a) the *Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form* and all supporting material;
- (b) a record of the relevant information obtained from the Environmental Sensitivity Database;
- (c) any reports from a *qualified botanist*;
- (d) documentation produced by the *Environmental Specialist* relating to the inspection, survey and assessment;
- (e) any *Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form* issued; and
- (f) a written record that the *Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form* was issued to the person undertaking the work.

## 22. Auditing

The Permit Holder shall conduct an audit of one new *Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form* that has been issued in each two month period after the commencement of this Permit to determine whether the clearing carried out under the *Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form* was in accordance with the *Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form* and this Permit. The Permit Holder shall create a report detailing the findings of such an audit and the nature, extent and reason for any non-compliance and shall include the results of each audit in the annual report described in condition 20 above.

## 23. Records and reports to be made available to the CEO upon request

The Permit Holder shall, upon receipt of written request from the *CEO*, make all records and reports required by this Permit, all reports of *qualified botanists* required by the Permit provided to the Permit Holder during the term of this Permit and the *electronic geographical*

*information system* incorporating the *environmental sensitivity mapping database* available to the *CEO* for the purposes of auditing compliance with the conditions of this Permit.

## **PART VI: INTERPRETATION & DEFINITIONS**

### **24. Interpretation**

The following rules of interpretation apply to this Permit:

- (a) a reference to any *written law* includes a reference to that *written law* as amended, repealed or replaced from time to time; and
- (b) if a word or phrase is defined, other parts of speech and grammatical forms of that word or phrase have corresponding meanings.

### **25. Severance**

It is the intent of these conditions that they shall operate so that, if a condition or part of a condition is beyond the *CEO's* power to impose, or is otherwise ultra vires or invalid, that condition or part of a condition shall be severed and the remainder of these conditions shall nevertheless be valid to the extent that they are within the *CEO's* power to impose and are not otherwise ultra vires or invalid.

### **26. Inconsistency**

- (a) The *EP Act* prevails to the extent of any inconsistency between its provisions and the conditions of this Permit.
- (b) Subject to condition 26(a), this Permit prevails to the extent of any inconsistency between its conditions (including its Schedules), and the provisions of any other document referred to in this Permit.

## **Definitions**

The following meanings are given to terms used in this Permit:

***CEO*** means the Chief Executive Officer of the Department responsible for the administration of the clearing provisions under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.

***access track/s*** means the track/s identified on the plan marked *BWI Road and Maintenance Track Network*, as updated from time to time, and as identified in Annexure 6 attached to this Permit;

***active rehabilitation*** means rehabilitation involving earthworks, clearing of vegetation to facilitate *regeneration*, erection of structures to facilitate *regeneration* of vegetation, applying soil conditions, seeding, planting and other similar works;

***additional significant vegetation communities*** means vegetation types and associations on Barrow Island set out in **Annexure 4**;

***Barrow Island Port Area*** means the area described as the Barrow Island Port Area in the Schedule to the proclamation under the *Marine and Harbours Act 1981* section 9 published in the *Government Gazette of Western Australia* of 5 February 1982 at page 410 (as varied by the proclamation under that section published in the *Government Gazette of Western Australia* of 19 February 1982 at page 584).

**Barrow Tanker Loading Line** means the pipeline authorised by Pipeline Licence TPL/9 granted under section 54 of the *Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1982*.

**Block** means the blocks identified in Annexure 6 marked *BWI Road and Maintenance Track Network* attached to this Permit;

**direct seeding** means a method of re-establishing vegetation through the establishment of a seed bed and the introduction of seeds of the desired plant species;

**electronic geographic information system** means Chevron Australia Pty Ltd's system required to store information, including an *environmental sensitivity mapping database* as outlined in condition 19 of this Permit;

**Emergencies** mean those activities described in condition 7 of this Permit;

**environmental sensitivity mapping database** means Chevron Australia Pty Ltd's database to store information gathered as required under this Permit;

**Environmental Specialist** means a person who is employed by the Permit Holder under the title of 'HSE Specialist' or similar and who has an environmental qualification, diploma or degree and a capability, through specific training and access to on-site reference materials, to identify flora and fauna habitat of conservation significance on Barrow Island and assess environmental impacts of the Permit Holder's activities;

**EP Act** means the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*;

**flora of conservation significance** means flora described in **Annexure 5**;

**GRE pipeline** means a pipe or pipeline constructed of glass reinforced epoxy;

**hardstand areas** means a graded road, well pad or other operational area that, at the time of granting this Permit, has been cleared of all vegetation (whether or not vegetation has regrown in the area) and which is required to be maintained for the safe operation of oilfield facilities;

**identified** in relation to vegetation or environmental features means vegetation or environmental features that are required by this Permit to be recorded on the Permit Holder's *electronic geographic information system* incorporating the *environmental sensitivity mapping database*;

**infrastructure maintenance** means those activities described in condition 4 of this Permit;

**known** means that which is known, or which should reasonably be known, by the Permit Holder;

**local provenance** means native vegetation seeds and propagating material from natural sources within 20 kilometres of the area cleared;

**location** means the location expressed and recorded using Geocentric Datum Australia 1994;

**Marine Infrastructure** means buoys, markers, licensed water discharge lines and other similar infrastructure and the Barrow Tanker Loading Line.

**Mattiske (1993)** means the vegetation types described in Flora and Vegetation of Barrow Island E.M. Mattiske & Associates November, 1993 WAP003/58/93;

**Minor works** means those activities described in conditions 5 and or 6 of this Permit;

**planting** means the re-establishment of vegetation by creating favourable soil conditions and planting seedlings of the desired species;

**pipeline/s** means pipeline/s (excluding the Barrow Tanker Loading Line) for the movement of oil, gas and water necessary for carrying out oilfield operations and operations incidental thereto and includes electrical cabling;

**previously disturbed** means, in relation to vegetation or an area, known to be previously cleared, driven over or otherwise impacted or interfered with by human activity;

**priority flora** means those plant taxa described as priority flora classes 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 in the *Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attraction's Threatened and Priority Flora List for Western Australia* (as amended);

**produced water reinjection project** means the replacement and upgrade of the produced formation water processing facilities at the Central Processing Facility to provide for filtration of produced formation water and its recycling into the Permit Holder's waterflood system;

**Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form** means the Permit Holder's application form for Vegetation Disturbance;

**qualified botanist** means a person who holds a tertiary qualification specialising in environmental science or equivalent, and has a minimum of two (2) years work experience in Western Australian flora identification and undertaking flora surveys native to the bioregion being inspected or surveyed, or who is approved by the *CEO* as a suitable environmental specialist for the bioregion, and who holds a valid flora licence issued under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*;

**threatened flora** means those plant taxa listed as threatened flora under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*;

**recorded** means identified in *Mattiske (1993)*;

**regeneration** means *revegetation* that can be established from **in situ** seed banks contained either within the topsoil or seed-bearing *mulch*;

**remediation** means action taken to eliminate, limit, correct, counteract, mitigate or remove any contaminant or the negative effects of the contaminant on the environment or human health. With respect to the *Contaminated Sites Act 2003* and a site that is contaminated, remediation includes:

- (a) the attempted restoration of the site to the state it was in before the contamination occurred
- (b) the restriction, or prohibition, of access to, or use of, the site
- (c) the removal, destruction, reduction, containment or dispersal of the substance causing the contamination, or the reduction or mitigation of the effect of the substance
- (d) the protection of human health, the environmental or any environmental value from the contamination.

**rehabilitate/ed/ion** means actively managing an area containing native vegetation in order to improve the ecological function of that area;

**revegetate/ed/ion** means the re-establishment of a cover of *local provenance* native vegetation in an area using methods such as natural *regeneration*, *direct seeding* and/or *planting*, so that the species composition, structure and density is similar to surrounding vegetation types in that area;

**significant or unique fauna habitat** means a range of habitats and refugia important to the terrestrial fauna of Barrow Island and includes termite mounds, cliffs, gorges and rock piles, boodie warrens, caves and subterranean limestone cavities, nesting sites for marine turtles, grasslands and shelter sites for the Barrow Island golden bandicoot, dense vegetation, particularly of the higher profile shrubs such as clumps of *Ficus* and *Melaleuca*;

**significant vegetation communities** means vegetation types and associations on Barrow Island set out in **Annexure 3**.


**site preparation** means management of existing site topsoil and preparation of the finished soil surface;

**vegetation establishment period** means a period of at least two summers after the *revegetation* during which time replacement and infill *revegetation* works may be required for areas in which *revegetation* has been unsuccessful, and involves regular inspections of *revegetation* sites to monitor the success of *revegetation*;

**weed/s** means any plant -

- (a) that is a declared pest under section 22 of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*; or
- (b) published in the 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; and

**written law** has the same meaning as it is given in section 5 of the *Interpretation Act 1984*.



---

Meenu Vitarana  
A/MANAGER  
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

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

10 June 2021

## ANNEXURE 1

### Mattiske Vegetation Units (1993)

- C1 Coastal complex dominated by *Spinifex longifolius* on white foredunes; including Coastal Complex of *Ipomoea pes-caprae* ssp. *brasiliensis* and *Spinifex longifolius* on strand line foredunes.
- C2 Open Shrub of *Acacia coriacea* - *Rhagodia preisii* ssp. *obovata* – *Olearia dampieri* ssp. *dampieri* on elevated dunes on fringes of island.
- C3 Hummock Grassland of *Triodia pungens* with dense shrubs, including *Acacia bivenosa* on back slopes of foredunes.
- C4 Mixed Hummock Grassland of *Triodia angusta* – *Triodia pungens* with dense shrubs, including *Acacia bivenosa* on back-slopes of foredunes.
- C5 Low Mixed Shrubland of *Frankenia pauciflora* and *Hedyotis crouchiana* on exposed cliff faces around edge of island.
- C6 Hummock Grassland of *Triodia pungens* with dense pockets of *Melaleuca cardiophylla* on sandy valley systems in south-western corner of island.
- C7 Hummock Grassland of *Triodia pungens* with dense pockets of *Olearia dampieri* ssp. *dampieri* on sandy soils behind foredunes in south-western corner of island.
- D1 Mixed Hummock Grassland of *Triodia angusta* with pockets of dense shrubs along major creek lines.
- D2 Hummock Grassland of *Triodia angusta* along minor creek lines and drainage lines.
- D3 Hummock Grassland of *Triodia angusta* along minor creek lines with emergent *Santalum murrayanum*.
- F1 Hummock Grassland of *Triodia angusta* on red earth flats and drainage lines.
- F2 Hummock Grassland of *Triodia angusta* with emergent *Acacia synchronicia* on red earth flats.
- F3 Hummock Grassland of *Triodia angusta* with emergent shrubs of *Gossypium robinsonii* on red earth flats.
- F4 Hummock Grassland of *Triodia angusta* – *Triodia* spp. with emergent pockets of *Erythrina vespertilio* on flats.
- F5 Mixed Hummock Grassland of *Triodia pungens* – *Triodia angusta* on fringes of main red earth flats and drainage lines.
- F6 Hummock Grassland of *Triodia pungens* on slopes of escarpments on fringes of red earth flats.

- F7 Hummock Grassland of *Triodia pungens* – *Triodia angusta* - *Triodia wiseana* on slopes of escarpments on fringes of red earth flats.
- L1 Hummock Grassland of *Triodia wiseana* with *Ficus platypoda* var. *platypoda* on central limestone ridges.
- L2 Hummock Grassland of *Triodia wiseana* with *Ficus virens* var. *virens* on escarpments on west coast and southern edge of limestone ridges.
- L3 Hummock Grassland of *Triodia wiseana* with low mixed shrubs including *Acacia gregorii* on limestone ridges.
- L4 Hummock Grassland of *Triodia wiseana* with dense emergent shrubs of *Acacia pyrifolia*, *Acacia gregorii* and *Petalostylis labicheoides* on limestone ridges.
- L5 Hummock Grassland of *Triodia wiseana* with emergent *Hakea suberea* on limestone ridges.
- L6 Hummock Grassland of *Triodia wiseana* with emergent *Grevillea pyramidalis* on limestone ridges.
- L7 Hummock Grassland of *Triodia wiseana* with dense pockets of *Melaleuca cardiophylla* on limestone ridges.
- L8 Hummock Grassland of *Triodia wiseana* with pockets of *Eucalyptus patellaris* on limestone ridges.
- L9 Hummock Grassland of *Triodia wiseana* – *Triodia angusta* with emergent *Sarcostemma viminali* ssp. *australe* and *Ficus platypoda* var. *platypoda* on coastal limestone flats and low ridges with localised pockets of *Frankenia pauciflora*.
- L10 Hummock Grassland of *Triodia pungens* – *Triodia angusta* with emergent *Hakea suberea* on exposed small limestone hills on southern coastal area.
- M1 Aquatic complex supporting stands of *Avicennia marina* and *Ruppia maritima* on the fringes of the island.
- S1 Mixed Herbfield and Grassland of *Eragrostis xerophila*, *Eriachne flaccida* and *Sporobolus virginicus* on clay pans.
- S2 Mixed Herbfields with *Streptoglossa bubakii* and *Pterocaulon sphacelatum* on fringes of tidal Halophytic areas and flood channels on clay soils near coast.
- T1 Halophytic Complex dominated by *Halosarcia halocnemoides* and *Halosarcia indica* on tidal flats.
- T2 Mixed Chenopod and Halophytic Complex with low *Frankenia pauciflora* shrubs on high tide areas usually associated with stands of *Avicennia marina*.
- V1 Hummock Grassland of *Triodia wiseana* with mixed emergent shrub species on valley slopes.
- V2 Hummock Grassland of *Triodia wiseana* with *Pentapeltis trichodesmoides* on southern escarpment.



## ANNEXURE 2

### Environmental Criteria for GIS Modelling of Priority Areas for Barrow Island

Criterion	P1	P2	P3	P4
<b>Vegetation</b> Distribution, regenerative abilities and landform stability	Vegetation described in Annexures 3, 4 and 5 of this Permit, containing floristic components of particular vulnerability and/or with high sensitivity to disturbance (eg coastal dunes)	Vegetation described in Annexures 3, 4 and 5 of this Permit with lower sensitivity to disturbance, or where important floristic components are highly visible, widely distributed vegetation types containing components with particular importance to fauna and/or low ability to regenerate (eg Melaleuca)	Widely distributed vegetation not being vegetation described in Annexures 3, 4 and 5 of this Permit.	Very widely distributed vegetation or widely distributed vegetation and with high regeneration capacity, not being vegetation described in Annexures 3, 4 and 5 of this Permit.
<b>Fauna</b> Habitat and fauna susceptibility to impacts	Area immediately surrounding important habitat to protected fauna sensitive to disturbance, including nesting sites for marine turtles (green turtle, flatback turtle and hawksbill turtle), Bettong warren polygon +100m Bettong warren point +150m Brahminy kite nest +50m Sea-eagle/Osprey nests + 70m Stygofauna in caves/sinkholes +100m			
<b>Heritage Sites</b>	Areas immediately surrounding important			

	heritage sites: Anthropological sites +100m Fossil sites +100m			
<b>Landform</b> Susceptibility to impacts	Areas at elevated risk from indirect impacts (leaks/spills); Caves, fissures soak wells +100m			

## ANNEXURE 3

### Significant vegetation communities on Barrow Island

- C4 Mixed Hummock Grassland of *Triodia angusta* – *Triodia pungens* with dense shrubs, including *Acacia bivenosa* on back-slopes of foredunes.
- C5 Low Mixed Shrubland of *Frankenia pauciflora* and *Hedyotis crouchiana* on exposed cliff faces around edge of island.
- C6 Hummock Grassland of *Triodia pungens* with dense pockets of *Melaleuca cardiophylla* on sandy valley systems in south-western corner of island.
- C7 Hummock Grassland of *Triodia pungens* with dense pockets of *Olearia dampieri* ssp. *dampieri* on sandy soils behind foredunes in south-western corner of island.
- D1 Mixed Hummock Grassland of *Triodia angusta* with pockets of dense shrubs along major creek lines.
- D3 Hummock Grassland of *Triodia angusta* along minor creek lines with emergent *Santalum murrayanum*.
- F2 Hummock Grassland of *Triodia angusta* with emergent *Acacia synchronicia* on red earth flats.
- F3 Hummock Grassland of *Triodia angusta* with emergent shrubs of *Gossypium robinsonii* on red earth flats.
- F4 Hummock Grassland of *Triodia angusta* – *Triodia* spp. with emergent pockets of *Erythrina vespertilio* on flats.
- F6 Hummock Grassland of *Triodia pungens* on slopes of escarpments on fringes of red earth flats.
- L2 Hummock Grassland of *Triodia wiseana* with *Ficus virens* var. *virens* on escarpments on west coast and southern edge of limestone ridges.
- L5 Hummock Grassland of *Triodia wiseana* with emergent *Hakea suberea* on limestone ridges.
- L6 Hummock Grassland of *Triodia wiseana* with emergent *Grevillea pyramidalis* on limestone ridges.
- L8 Hummock Grassland of *Triodia wiseana* with pockets of *Eucalyptus patellaris* on limestone ridges.
- L10 Hummock Grassland of *Triodia pungens* – *Triodia angusta* with emergent *Hakea suberea* on exposed small limestone hills on southern coastal area.
- M1 Aquatic complex supporting stands of *Avicennia marina* and *Ruppia maritima* on the fringes of the island.

- S2 Mixed Herbfields with *Streptoglossa bubakii* and *Pterocaulon sphacelatum* on fringes of tidal Halophytic areas and flood channels on clay soils near coast.
- T1 Halophytic Complex dominated by *Halosarcia halocnemoides* and *Halosarcia indica* on tidal flats.
- T2 Mixed Chenopod and Halophytic Complex with low *Frankenia pauciflora* shrubs on high tide areas usually associated with stands of *Avicennia marina*.
- V2 Hummock Grassland of *Triodia wiseana* with *Pentapeltis trichodesmoides* on southern escarpment.

## ANNEXURE 4

### Additional significant vegetation communities on Barrow Island

Vegetation descriptions follow Matiske 1993 and more recently described by Long 2001, 2002

- L7b Open Low Shrubland (2-10%; 0.5-1m) of *Melaleuca cardiophylla* over Dwarf Shrubland (10-30%; -0.5m) of *Acacia gregorii* and *Scaevola cunninghamii* over Hummock Grassland (30-70%) of *Triodia wiseana*.
- L11 Dwarf to semi-prostrate *Acacia bivenosa* (glabrous or pruinose) Shrubland (10-30%) to Heath (30-40%; 0-0.5m) over Closed Hummock Grassland (70-100%) of *Triodia wiseana* with scattered <2% *Petalostylis labicheoides*/*Stylobasium spathulatum*. Occurs on limestone valley or hill slopes.

A small community (not mapped individually) of *Scaevola aff. spinescens* with *Capparis spinosa* located near "B" Block, GPS 50K 0331748 7694946.

Tussock grassland of *Whiteochloa airoides* on the landward side of foredunes, hind dunes or remnant dunes with white or pinkish white medium sands with marine fragments. Including occasional *Spinifex longifolius* tussock or *Triodia epactia* hummock grasses and scattered low shrubs of *Olearia dampierii* subsp. *dampierii*, *Scaevola spinescens*, *S. cunninghamii*, *Trianthema turgidifolia* and *Corchorus* species (*C. walcottii*, *C. laniflorus*).

## ANNEXURE 5

### Flora of conservation significance on Barrow Island

As per Mattiske & Associates (1993) 'State of knowledge on vegetation, Barrow Island,' report prepared for West Australian Petroleum Pty Ltd, Perth.

*Abutilon otocarpum*

*Acacia cowleana*

*Acacia inaequilatera* (dwarf form)

*Acacia synchronicia*

*Cassutha capillaris*

*Cullen patens*

*Dicanthium sericeum* subsp. *humilius*

*Dysphania kalpari*

*Erythrina vespertilio*

*Eucalyptus xerothermica* ms

*Euphorbia* sp.A

*Ficus opposita* var. *aculeata*

*Ficus virens* var. *virens*

*Gossypium australe*

*Grevillea pyramidalis* var. *leucadendron*

*Hakea lorea* subsp. *lorea* (ex *suberea*)

*Halosarcia indica* subsp. *julacea*

*Helichrysum oligochaetum*

*Hibiscus sturtii* var. *platychlamys*

*Hybanthus aurantiacus*

*Isotropis atropurpurea*

*Mallotus dispersus*

*Melaleuca cardiophylla*

*Santalum murrayanum*

*Sida micracantha*

*Sporobolus mitchelli*

*Stemodia glabella*

*Whitechloa airoides*

**As per Chevron Texaco (2004) Environment Plan. Barrow Island Oilfield Production Flowlines Replacement Project. Report No. C04329 Rev. A.**

*Dolichandrone heterophylla*

*Clerodendrum tomentosum var. lanceolatum*

*Jasminum calcarium*

**As per Chevron (2020) Barrow Island Joint Venture Environment Plan. Document ID: 030240006. Revision: 22.**

*Cucumis* sp. Barrow Island

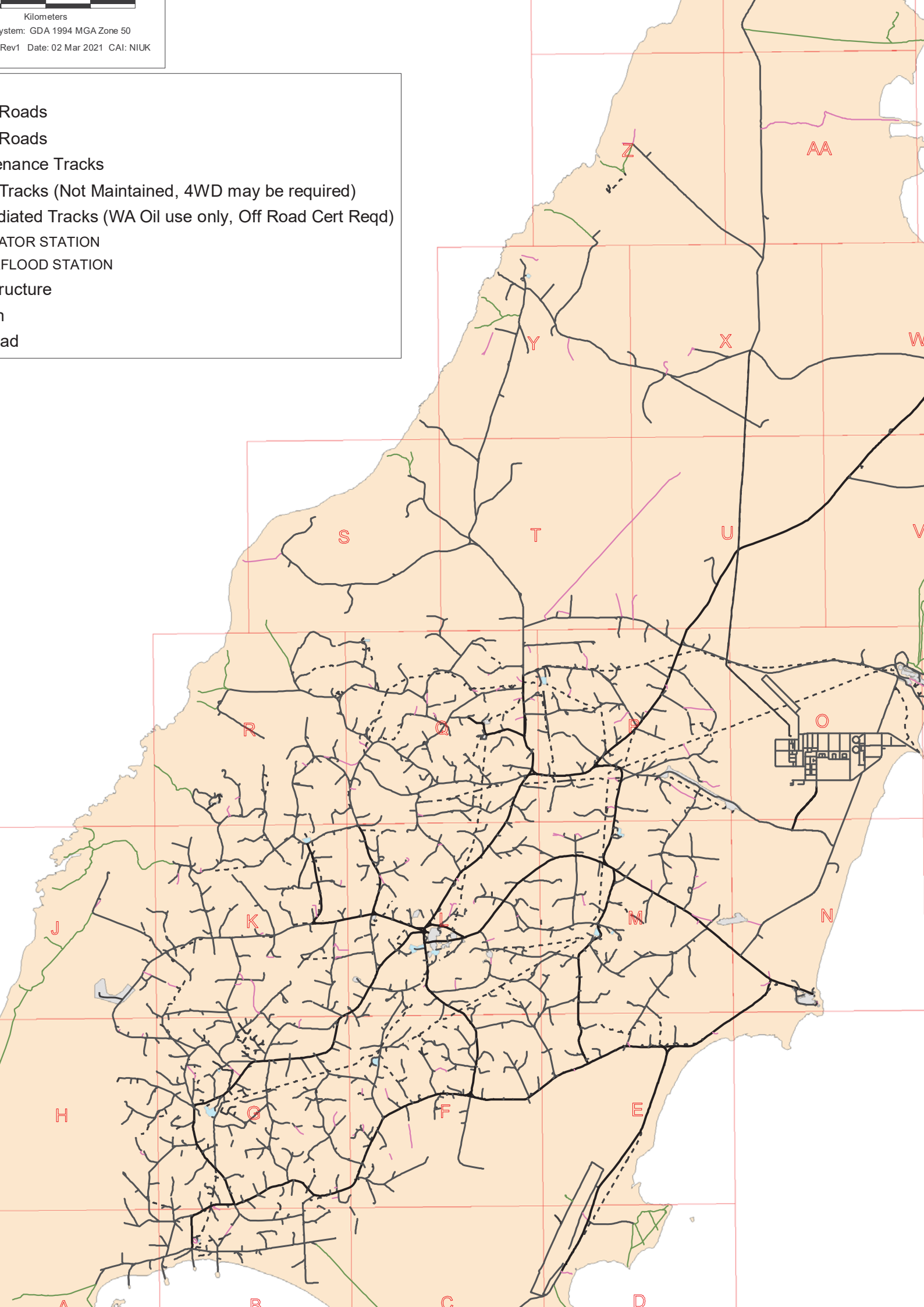
All species identified in a *qualified botanist's* report required by this Permit as suffering low regeneration rates after site disturbance influenced by soil availability, type of soil available, rainfall, exposure of disturbed area, presence of naturally invasive species in the surrounding area and whether the area has been cleared, bladed, crushed or compacted.

**ANNEXURE 6**

**BWI Road and Maintenance Track Network**



- Roads
- Roads
- Maintenance Tracks
- Tracks (Not Maintained, 4WD may be required)
- Mediated Tracks (WA Oil use only, Off Road Cert Req'd)
- WATER STATION
- FLOOD STATION
- Structure
- ...
- ...
- ...



# Plan 123/8

115°17'24.000"E

115°22'48.000"E

115°28'12.000"E

115°33'36.000"E

20°39'25.200"S

20°44'52.800"S

20°50'20.400"S

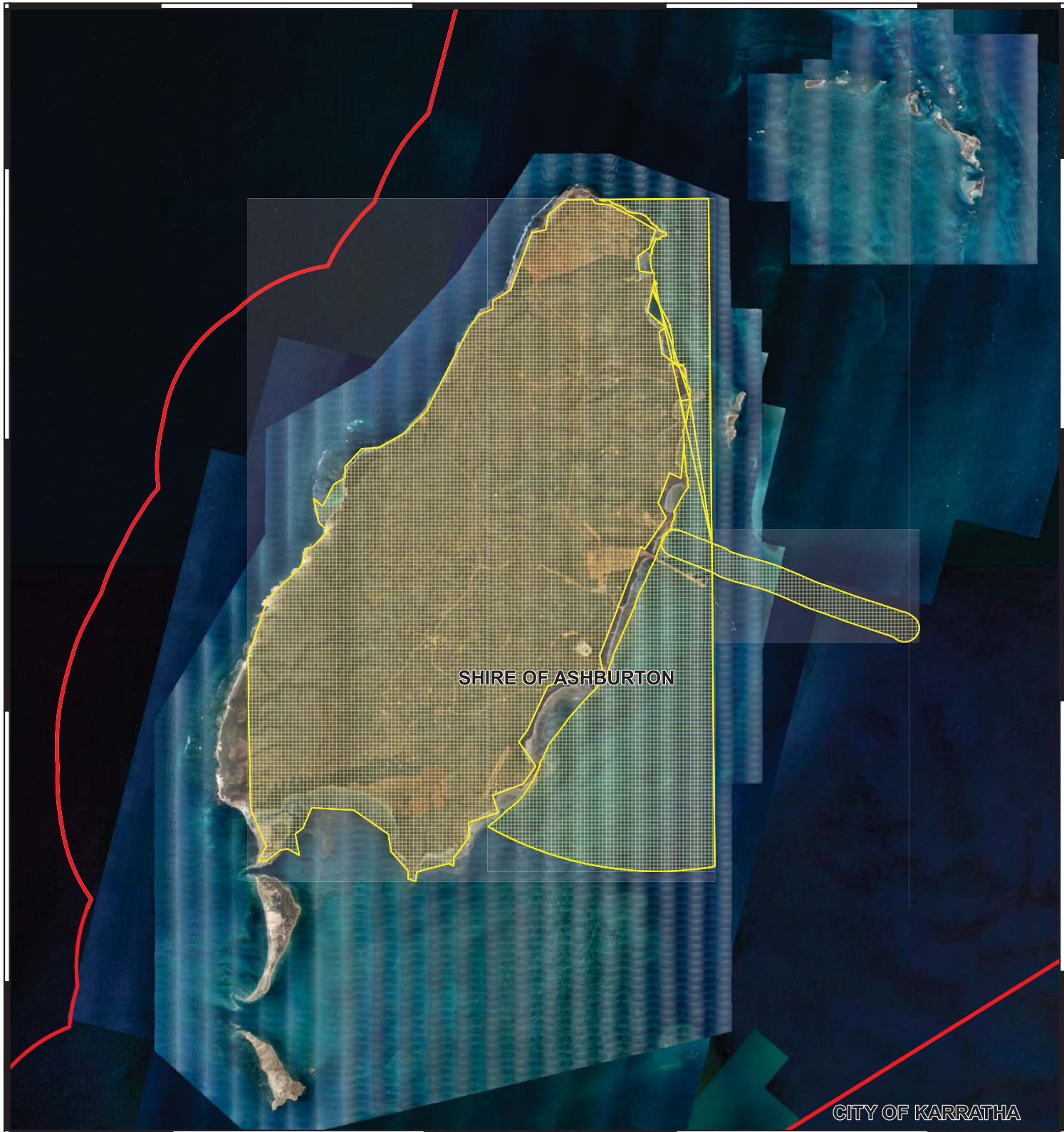
20°55'48.000"S

20°39'25.200"S

20°44'52.800"S

20°50'20.400"S

20°55'48.000"S





115°17'24.000"E

115°22'48.000"E

115°28'12.000"E

115°33'36.000"E

## Legend

-  CPS areas approved to clear
-  Local Government Authorities

Image



0 2.5 5 7.5 10 km



MGA Zone 50  
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

Meenu Vitarana  
2021.06.10  
21:07:19 +08'00'

Officer delegated under section 20 of  
the Environmental Protection Act 1986



GOVERNMENT OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 123/8  
Permit type: Purpose Permit

### 1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Chevron Australia Pty Ltd  
Application received date: 4 March 2021

### 1.3. Property details

Property: Lot 3000 on Deposited Plan 91514 (Crown Reserve 11648)  
Lot 3570 on Deposited Plan 64836 (Crown Reserve 50376)  
Lot 42 on Deposited Plan 241419  
Marine Reserve 10  
Marine Reserve 11  
Local Government Authority: Shire of Ashburton  
Localities: Barrow Island

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	Purpose category:
105		Mechanical	Petroleum production

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted  
Decision Date: 10 June 2021

Reasons for Decision: The clearing permit amendment application was received on 4 March 2021 and has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with section 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. It has been concluded that the proposed clearing is at variance to principles (a) and (h), may be at variance to principle (b) and is not likely to be at variance to any of the remaining clearing principles.

The Delegated Officer took into consideration that the proposed amendment relates only to extending the permit duration, removing an area no longer included under the permit, adding additional tracks to Annexure 6, making minor amendments, updates and corrections to the wording of permit conditions and definitions, and including an additional weed management condition.

Given the nature of the proposed amendments, the Delegated Officer considered that the amendments to CPS 123/7 are unlikely to significantly alter the previous assessments of the environmental impacts of clearing activities authorised under the permit. Based on a review of current environmental information and the existing permit conditions, the Delegated Officer also considered that the extent to which the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological, conservation, or land and water resource values is unchanged.

However, the Delegated Officer considered that the following additional amendments were required to mitigate potential impacts resulting from the proposed clearing:

- The addition of *Cucumis* sp. Barrow Island and *Helichrysum oligochaetum* to the flora of conservation significance on Barrow Island under Annexure 5,
- The inclusion of nesting habitat for the *Chelonia mydas* (green turtle), *Natator depressus* (flatback turtle), and *Eretmochelys imbricata* (hawksbill turtle) in Annexure 2 of the clearing permit and the inclusion of turtle nesting habitat in the definition of "significant or unique fauna habitat", and
- The addition of the Coastal dune tussock grassland dominated by *Whiteochloa airoides* priority ecological community as an additional significant vegetation community on Barrow Island under Annexure 4.

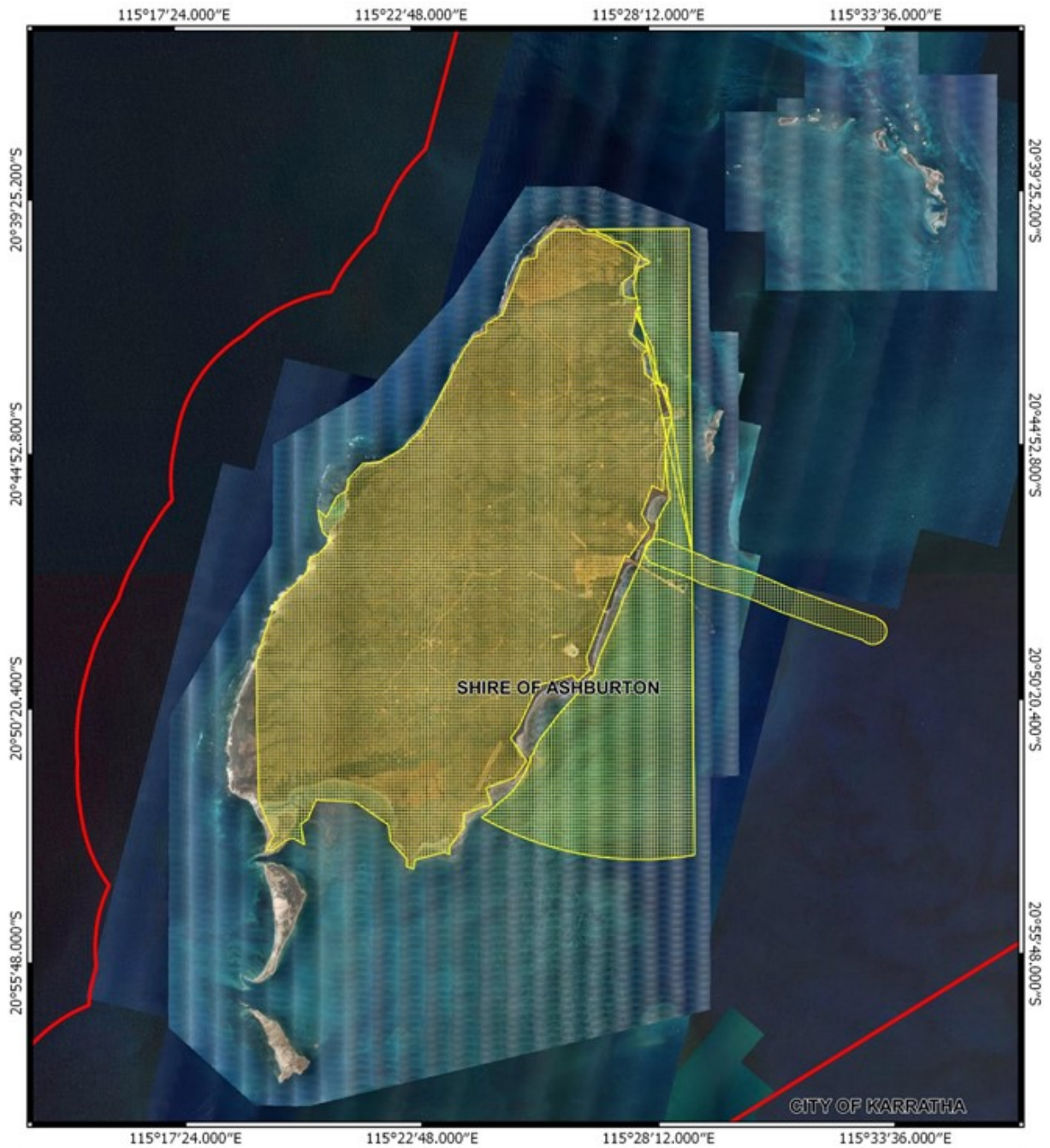
Noting that the permit was due to expire on 12 June 2021, the Delegated Officer also considered that the duration of the permit should be extended by one year only to 12 June 2022, to allow sufficient time to complete a detailed review of the conditions and permit processes.

The Delegated Officer determined that environmental impacts associated with clearing activities undertaken through the permit can be appropriately managed through the existing

and amended conditions imposed on the permit. The Delegated Officer determined that, given the nature of the proposed amendments and the existing permit conditions, the proposed amendments are not likely to lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values.

## 2. Site Information



<b>Clearing Description:</b>	<p>The proposed amendment to Clearing Permit CPS 123/7 is for the purpose of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Extending the permit duration,</li><li>• Amending condition 2 to remove Petroleum Exploration Permit EP 62(7),</li><li>• Amending condition 4(d) to ensure windrow maintenance is included within road maintenance and grading,</li><li>• Amending condition 4 to include a new sub-condition allowing clearing of previously disturbed vegetation for environmental monitoring,</li><li>• Amending condition 5 to specify that clearing described in this condition is not subject to the 105 hectare limit on total clearing that otherwise applies to this Permit,</li><li>• Amending condition 6 to combine sub-conditions (f) and (g),</li><li>• Combining conditions 9 and 12,</li><li>• Amending condition 12 to correct typographical errors,</li><li>• Amending condition 16 to account for the approved rehabilitation plan; Prescription of the Rehabilitation of Disturbed Areas (ABU15050153)</li><li>• Amending condition 17 to specify that clearing described in this condition within previously disturbed vegetation is not subject to the 105 hectare limit on total clearing that otherwise applies to this Permit,</li><li>• Updating references to <i>Permit to Work</i> to read <i>Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form</i>, to align with Chevron Australia Pty Ltd's updated internal procedure,</li><li>• Include a new condition allowing for incidental clearing during weed management through herbicide use,</li><li>• Updating the definition of access track/s,</li><li>• Updating the definition of environmental specialist,</li><li>• Updating Annexure 6 to include the updated current Barrow Island Road and Maintenance Track Network 2021, and</li><li>• Updating Plan 123/7 to remove the area/s under Petroleum Exploration Permit EP 62(7).</li></ul> <p>Clearing Permit CPS 123/7 authorised the clearing of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• previously disturbed vegetation for the purpose of infrastructure maintenance, active rehabilitation, and pipelines,</li><li>• up to 105 hectares of undisturbed vegetation over the life of the permit for the purposes of infrastructure maintenance and minor works, active rehabilitation, and pipelines,</li><li>• vegetation for marine activities specified under the permit, and</li><li>• during emergencies to prevent danger to human life or health, irreversible damage to the environment or imminent damage to infrastructure resulting from a natural event,</li></ul> <p>within Barrow Island Crown Reserve 11648, Petroleum Production Licence L10 (R1), and Pipeline Licence TPL/9 (R1).</p> <p>Records indicate that approximately 47 hectares of clearing has been undertaken under CPS 123 to date, since the commencement of the permit in 2006.</p>
<b>Vegetation Description</b>	<p>The vegetation within the application area is mapped within the following Beard vegetation associations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 667, described as hummock grasslands, shrub-steppe: scattered shrubs over <i>Triodia wiseana</i> &amp; <i>Triodia angusta</i> over the majority of the island, and</li><li>• 117, described as hummock grasslands, grass steppe, soft spinifex along the south coast and extending northwards (Hopkins et al. 2001, Shepherd et al 2001).</li></ul> <p>Mattiske and Associates (1993) identified 34 vegetation units within Barrow Island, which are described in Annexure 1 of the clearing permit.</p>
<b>Vegetation Condition</b>	<p>The condition of the vegetation within the application area is assumed to be in Very Good (Keighery, 1994) condition, defined as vegetation structure altered, with obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery, 1994).</p>
<b>Soil Type</b>	<p>The soil types present on Barrow Island are highly variable, ranging from 'silty clays' and 'clayey loam' textures in the west (which are more influenced by Tertiary limestone and associated with alluvial watersheds), to coarser 'clayey sands', 'sandy loams' and 'sandy clays' (influenced by Quaternary deposition) to the east (Lewis and Grierson, 1990). Duplex soils are present in lower lying areas and evidence of aeolian (wind) processes is evident on southern-eastern facing slopes (Lewis and Grierson, 1990).</p>
<b>Local Area</b>	<p>The local area referred to in the assessment of this application is defined as a 50-kilometre (km) radius measured from the perimeter of the application area, which includes adjacent islands and the marine environment.</p>



**Legend**

- CPS areas approved to clear
- Local Government Authorities

Image

MGA Zone 50  
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994




Figure 1. The areas crosshatched yellow indicate the areas authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.  
 CPS 123/8, 10 June 2021 Page 3 of 11

### 3. Avoidance and mitigation measures and Permit Holder's submissions

The Permit Holder advised that the proposed amendments to CPS 123/7 are required to facilitate ongoing infrastructure maintenance, pipelines, minor works and emergency responses on Barrow Island (Chevron, 2021). The Permit Holder's rationale for the proposed amendments to Clearing Permit CPS 123/7 are summarised in Table 1.

The Permit Holder advised that, in accordance with the conditions of Clearing Permit CPS 123/7, all efforts are taken during the planning and design of work activities to avoid the clearing of native vegetation in the first instance (Chevron, 2021). Where the clearing of native vegetation cannot be avoided, activities are designed to fall within previously disturbed areas, where possible (Chevron, 2021). The Permit Holder has advised that where activities must be undertaken in undisturbed areas, an environmental assessment is conducted by an environmental specialist in accordance with the conditions of Clearing Permit CPS 123/7, and priority classifications are given to the vegetation, based upon the environmental values present (Chevron, 2021). Activities are then designed to ensure impacts to undisturbed vegetation are limited to lower priority vegetation classifications, unless there is no other practicable alternative (Chevron, 2021). The Permit Holder has advised that, in all circumstances, previously disturbed or otherwise, all efforts are made to minimise impact to mature shrubs or trees (Chevron, 2021).

Activities authorised under the clearing permit are also undertaken in accordance with the Barrow Island Joint Venture (BWIJV) Environment Plan (Chevron, 2020). The BWIJV Environment Plan includes provisions to avoid, mitigate and manage terrestrial fauna interactions, seabed disturbance, impacts to rare flora and significant vegetation, impacts to significant fauna habitat, land degradation, and heritage sites during ground disturbance and ongoing activities related to the clearing of native vegetation (Chevron, 2020). The BWIJV Environment Plan also includes mitigation and management measures for the risks associated with active rehabilitation, including achieving appropriate landform design, the respread of topsoil relating to appropriate soil type and depth of soil used during rehabilitation, and burial of clean concrete and vegetation waste for landform reinstatement (Chevron, 2020).

Table 1. Applicant's proposed amendments to Clearing Permit CPS 123/7 and rationale (Chevron, 2021).

CPS 123/7 Section	Proposed Amendment	Rationale for Amendment
Condition 2. Land on which clearing is to be done.	Remove reference to Petroleum Exploration Permit EP 62(7).	Petroleum Exploration Permit EP 62(7) expired in 2016.
Condition 4. Clearing for Infrastructure Maintenance Authorised	Amend (d) to the following: <i>Maintaining and grading existing graded roads and maintaining windrows.</i>	Clarification that windrow maintenance is included within road maintenance and grading. Windrows are artificially created along the edge of each road while conducting road maintenance and grading.  Windrows may act as an impediment to hydrological flows and increase the risk of vehicle interaction with fauna (due to fauna seeking shade on the edge of the road).  Maintenance of windrows reduces detrimental effects and provides a topsoil resource for rehabilitation activities.
	Add sub-conditions for conducting environmental investigations, environmental monitoring, remediation and rehabilitation, similar to those within Condition 6(f) and (g).	Condition 6 provides for the initial disturbance of areas that are not previously disturbed. Once those areas have been disturbed, future access will be required to conduct additional monitoring.
Condition 5. Clearing for Marine Activities Authorised	Insert the following sentence below at the end of this Condition: <i>The clearing described in condition 5 is not subject to the 105 hectare limit on total clearing that otherwise applies to this Permit.</i>	Amendment proposed to ensure that the condition wording is aligned with the other Conditions which do not require compliance with Part II. <i>Note:</i> this inclusion is for clarification purposes only and does not allow any additional clearing to that approved under CPS 123/7.
Condition 6. Other Clearing Authorised	Consider merging subconditions (f) and (g) to one subcondition which encompasses activities related to environmental investigations, and environmental monitoring.	Both of these conditions refer to activities related to environmental investigations, monitoring remediation and rehabilitation. Combining these subconditions will streamline this section.
Condition 9. Assessment Procedure	Consider merging Condition 9 and Condition 12.	Both of these conditions refer to the process for assessing the proposed activity or clearing.

CPS 123/7 Section	Proposed Amendment	Rationale for Amendment
Condition 12. Assessment Process	Amend (d) to the following: <i>The environmental implications of the proposed activity or clearing for vegetation and fauna habitat, taking into account the guidelines set out in condition 13 below.</i>	Correction of typographical error in Clearing Permit.
	Label the last sentence with a sub-condition number: <i>(f) shall determine whether the vegetation or areas to be affected by the proposed activity or clearing is classified P1, P2, P3 or P4 as described in Annexure 2.</i>	Correction of typographical error in Clearing Permit.
Condition 16. Active Rehabilitation	Delete Conditions 16(a), (b), (c), (d).  Replace with: <i>(a) Active rehabilitation is undertaken in accordance with the approved Prescription for the Rehabilitation of Disturbed Areas (ABU15050153) and site specific Rehabilitation Plans.</i> <i>(b) If active rehabilitation requires clearing of previously disturbed areas, the area cleared will not be recorded as part of the 105 hectare limit (refer to Condition 4).</i> <i>(c) If active rehabilitation requires clearing of areas that have not been previously disturbed, then the area cleared will be recorded as part of the 105 hectare limit (refer to Condition 6).</i>	Condition 16(a), 16(b) and 16(c) have been completed. In addition, Conditions 16(b) and 16(c) are identical in wording.  The rehabilitation plan referenced in this Condition has been developed: <i>Prescription of the Rehabilitation of Disturbed Areas (ABU15050153)</i> .
Condition 17. Clearing for Pipelines Authorised	Include clarification on applicability of 105 hectare clearance limit in relation to pipeline activities, i.e. Clearing of previously disturbed vegetation is not subject to the 105 hectare limit on total clearing that otherwise applies to this Permit.	Amendment proposed to ensure that the condition wording is aligned with other Conditions which relate to clearing of previously disturbed vegetation. <i>Note:</i> this inclusion is for clarification purposes only and does not allow any additional clearing to that approved under CPS 123/7.
Conditions 10, 11, 13, 14, 19, 21, 22, and Definitions: <i>Permit to Work Certificate</i>	Remove reference to <i>Permit to Work Certificate</i> and <i>Permit to Work Certificate for Vegetation Disturbance</i> .  Replace with <i>Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form</i> .	Chevron Australia has updated their processes for managing work.  Vegetation disturbance is now managed through the <i>Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form</i> .
Weed management	Insert a new condition related to weed management activities involving use of herbicides to control high risk weeds.  Include clarification on applicability of 105 hectare clearance limit in relation to weed management activities. i.e. Weed management activities are not subject to the 105 hectare limit on total clearing that otherwise applies to this Permit.	The current Clearing Permit does not mention activities related to weed management. Herbicides are spot sprayed to control high risk weed species on island. Herbicide application occurs in areas where weeds have been detected through ongoing monitoring programs. Targeted spraying or distribution of herbicide granules is generally conducted in 5 square metre areas. On occasion, native vegetation may be affected by the herbicides used.
Definitions: <i>access track/s</i>	Amend to the following: <i>Access track/s means the track/s identified on the BWI Road and Maintenance Track Network, as updated from time to time, and identified in Annexure 6.</i>	Assessment and installation of new access tracks is conducted under Condition 6 and Part II of the Clearing Permit. The ability to update the BWI Road and Maintenance Track Network in the five year period between subsequent revisions of the Clearing Permit removes the requirement to complete a Part II assessment every subsequent time the track is accessed.
Definitions: <i>environmental specialist</i>	Amend the reference to this role to include reference to <i>HSE Specialists</i> .	Chevron Australia has updated a number of job titles and their Environmental Specialists are now referred to as HSE Specialists.

CPS 123/7 Section	Propose Amendment	Rationale for Amendment
Annexure 6: BWI Road and Maintenance Track Network	Replace this map with the updated current Barrow Island Road and Maintenance Track Network 2021.	The current map in Annexure 6 of CPS 123/7 is out of date. The updated map represents the current road and maintenance track network on Barrow Island.
Plan 123/7	<p>Update this map to remove the yellow hashed area related to Petroleum Exploration Permit EP 62(7).</p> <p>Please also adjust the yellow hashed area to extend to the low water mark. Currently this extends to the high water mark.</p>	<p>Petroleum Exploration Permit EP 62(7) expired in 2016.</p> <p>The extension of the yellow hashed area to the low water mark aligns with the petroleum permits for tenure purposes.</p> <p>This map identifies the areas of vegetation proposed to be cleared.</p>

#### 4. Assessment of application against clearing principles and planning instruments and other matters

The proposed amendments to CPS 123/7 relate to extending the permit duration, removing an area no longer included under the permit, adding additional tracks to Annexure 6, making minor amendments, updates and corrections to the wording of permit conditions and definitions, and including an additional weed management condition (Chevron, 2021). Under Parts I, III and IV of the existing permit, the Permit Holder is authorised to clear previously disturbed vegetation for the purpose of infrastructure maintenance (Condition 4), active rehabilitation (Condition 16), and pipelines (Conditions 17 and 18), and is authorised to clear up to 105 hectares of undisturbed vegetation over the life of the permit for the purposes of infrastructure maintenance and minor works (Condition 6), active rehabilitation, and pipelines. The Permit Holder is also authorised to clear vegetation for marine activities specified under the permit (Condition 5) and during emergencies to prevent danger to human life or health, irreversible damage to the environment or imminent damage to infrastructure resulting from a natural event (Condition 7).

Under the clearing permit, areas of undisturbed vegetation within Barrow Island are assigned a priority classification from P1 to P4, based on criteria considering the environmental values present within the vegetation and its priority for conservation. The criteria for modelling of Priority Areas is outlined in Annexure 2 of the clearing permit, with the significant vegetation communities and flora of conservation significance that contribute to this criteria being outlined in Annexures 3, 4 and 5. P1 areas are of the highest priority for conservation and include floristic components of particular vulnerability and/or with high sensitivity to disturbance (i.e. those outlined in Annexures 3, 4 and 5), the area immediately surrounding important habitat to protected fauna, the area immediately surrounding important heritage sites, and areas at elevated risk from indirect impacts. P4 areas are of the lowest priority for conservation and include very widely or widely distributed vegetation and with high regeneration capacity, not being vegetation described in Annexures 3, 4 and 5 of the permit.

Where the clearing of undisturbed vegetation is necessary for infrastructure maintenance, minor works, active rehabilitation, or pipelines, the Permit Holder is required to adhere to the assessment procedure outlined in Part II of the permit, which centres around determining the priority classification of the vegetation proposed to be cleared and ensuring higher priority vegetation is retained. The assessment procedure outlined in Part II of the permit specifies:

- The Permit Holder must prepare a *Permit to Work Certificate for Vegetation Disturbance* (amended and hereafter referred to as a *Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form* under CPS 123/8) describing the extent, location and clearing required for the proposed activity and submit this to an environmental specialist (Condition 10).
- The environmental specialist must undertake an inspection and survey of the proposed activity using the environmental sensitivity mapping database for Barrow Island and site investigations, to identify the environmental values present within the area proposed to be cleared (Condition 11). The findings of the inspection and survey are required to be documented and recorded within the environmental sensitivity mapping database.
- The environmental specialist must undertake an assessment of the proposed activity to determine the priority classification of the vegetation to be cleared, considering the inspection and survey report, any qualified botanist's report relating to the proposed clearing area, information from the environmental sensitivity mapping database, the nature and extent of the clearing, the environmental implications of the clearing for vegetation and fauna habitat, and any other relevant information (Condition 12).
- The environmental specialist must make a decision as to whether a *Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form* will be issued with consideration of the following guidelines for avoidance and minimisation:
  - Clearing of vegetation should occur in vegetation or areas classified as P4 in Annexure 2 in preference to P3, in P3 in preference to P2, and P2 in preference to P1,
  - A *Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form* shall not be issued if there is a reasonable alternative to carry out the works that does not involve clearing vegetation,
  - A *Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form* must include conditions to minimise the overall extent of clearing, where practicable, and
  - A *Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form* shall not be issued in an area classified as P1 unless the clearing is absolutely necessary and no other practicable alternative to clearing the vegetation exists (Condition 13).



- The environmental specialist's decision shall impose conditions on a *Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form*, having regard to the following:
  - Clearing and activities shall be restricted wherever possible to existing tracks or previously disturbed areas,
  - Disturbance of topsoil and rootstock shall be avoided, where possible,
  - Blading outside areas required to be hardstand areas shall be avoided, where possible,
  - No slashing of known priority flora, significant vegetation communities (Annexure 3), additional significant vegetation communities (Annexure 4), or flora of conservation significance (Annexure 5) shall be undertaken, unless there is no other practicable alternative, and
  - Where off-road vehicle access is approved, significant occurrences of trees, shrubs or habitat must be avoided and the number of vehicle movements along the off road alignments must be restricted to the absolute minimum necessary for the approved purpose.
- The environmental specialist must document the assessment undertaken in making the decision to grant or refuse to issue a *Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form* (Condition 14).
- The environmental specialist will issue a copy of the approved *Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form* outlining the method, purpose, extent and location of the approved activity and any other relevant conditions or restrictions to carrying out the proposed clearing (Condition 15).
- The Permit Holder must comply with the conditions of the *Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form* and any directions given by the environmental specialist (Condition 15).

A review of current environmental information indicates that the environmental values present within the application area remain largely unchanged from previous assessments of the permit. It is acknowledged that Barrow Island is an A Class Nature Reserve that is reserved for flora and fauna conservation and contains a unique biodiversity repository including conservation significant fauna species and habitats, rare flora of conservation significance, and locally significant vegetation communities. The existing permit conditions and assessment procedure outlined above designate vegetation containing these significant environmental values as either P1 areas, in which clearing must be avoided unless it is absolutely necessary and no other practicable alternative to clearing the vegetation exists, or P2 areas, where clearing should be avoided unless there are no reasonable alternatives within P3 or P4 vegetation. Where clearing within P1 or P2 areas is absolutely necessary, the Permit Holder is also required to minimise the overall extent of the clearing, where practicable. Significant environmental values of Barrow Island are required to be recorded in the island's environmental sensitivity mapping database, which is reviewed prior to undertaking any clearing activities or operational works, to ensure significant habitats and vegetation are avoided. Given the existing permit conditions, the provisions of the BWIJV Environment Plan, and the assessment procedure outlined in Part II of the permit, it is considered unlikely that impacts to conservation significant fauna species and habitats, rare flora of conservation significance, or locally significant vegetation communities will result from the clearing activities authorised under the permit. Where clearing in these areas is absolutely necessary and there are no practicable alternatives, impacts are likely to be minor and localised.

A desktop assessment identified that two flora species listed as Priority (P) species by DBCA are present on Barrow Island; *Corchorus congener* (P3) and *Cucumis* sp. Barrow Island (D.W. Goodall 1264) (P2). *Corchorus congener* is widespread throughout Barrow Island and occurs in a range of habitat types including coastal spinifex and hummock grassland (Chevron, 2020; Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). *Cucumis* sp. Barrow Island (D.W. Goodall 1264) is known from several restricted populations on Barrow Island, found within limestone flats and coastal habitats (Chevron, 2020; Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). A third priority species, *Helichrysum oligochaetum* (P1), has been recorded twice by Mattiske and Associates (1993) during vegetation assessments on Barrow Island in 1993, but has not been recorded on Barrow Island in any subsequent flora and vegetation survey or monitoring program (Chevron, 2020). *Helichrysum oligochaetum* is associated with red alluvial soils in Eucalyptus woodland over hummock grassland on the mainland (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). While *Corchorus congener* and *Helichrysum oligochaetum* were noted as potentially occurring within the application area in previous assessments of the clearing permit, *Cucumis* sp. Barrow Island (D.W. Goodall 1264) was not mentioned. Further, none of these three species are listed in Annexure 5 as a flora of conservation significance on Barrow Island. As all three species are noted and accounted for in the BWIJV Environment Plan, it is expected that these species are referred to as "known priority flora" in the current clearing permit. While the current permit conditions state that "no slashing of known priority flora... shall be undertaken, unless there is no other practicable alternative", these species and their significant habitat are not explicitly stated as meeting the criteria for a P1 or P2 area. Noting that *Corchorus congener* is widespread throughout a range of habitat types on Barrow Island (Chevron, 2020) and that clearing activities are likely to be minor and localised, it is expected that the existing permit conditions are sufficient to prevent significant impacts to this species. However, impacts to individual *Cucumis* sp. Barrow Island and *Helichrysum oligochaetum* may be significant, noting the restricted distribution of these species on Barrow Island. To ensure that impacts to individuals of *Cucumis* sp. Barrow Island and *Helichrysum oligochaetum* are avoided and minimised further, these species have been added to Annexure 5, and habitat containing these species are to be considered a P1 or P2 area.

The previous assessments of the clearing permit acknowledge that Barrow Island contains a range of conservation significant fauna species and their critical habitat. The previous assessments noted that the application area may contain significant habitat for stygofauna and subterranean fauna, migratory bird species and *Bettongia lesueur* subsp. (Barrow and Boodie Islands) - Barrow Island burrowing bettong, and specifies that the area within 150 metres of a Barrow Island burrowing bettong warren, 50 metres of a *Haliastur indus* (brahminy kite) nest, 70 metres of a *Haliaeetus* spp. (sea eagle) or *Pandion cristatus* (osprey) nest, and 100 metres of stygofauna caves and sinkholes, is a P1 area under the clearing permit. It is acknowledged that other conservation significant fauna species are likely to occur on Barrow Island that were not specified during previous versions of the clearing permit including *Chelonia mydas* (green turtle), *Eretmochelys imbricata* (hawksbill turtle), *Natator depressus* (flatback turtle), and *Isodon auratus barrowensis* (Barrow Island golden bandicoot). The sandy beaches and intertidal zone of Barrow Island is likely to provide suitable nesting habitat for the green turtle, flatback turtle and hawksbill turtle, and is noted as a major nesting site for the green turtle and flatback turtle, and a minor nesting site for the hawksbill turtle in Western Australia (DoEE, 2017). The Barrow Island golden bandicoot is widespread across most of Barrow Island and inhabits a wide range of habitat types, utilising grasslands and limestone caves for shelter (DoE, 2014). While it is acknowledged that these species were not specified during previous assessments of the permit or in the permit conditions, the "area immediately surrounding important habitat to protected fauna sensitive to disturbance" is specified in the criteria for a P1 area under Annexure 2 of the existing permit. Therefore, it is likely that the existing permit conditions would consider the area immediately surrounding nesting habitat for the green turtle and hawksbill turtle and suitable shelter sites for the Barrow Island golden bandicoot as a P1 area, which is subject to the avoidance and minimisation measures outlined under Part II of the existing clearing permit. Noting that the Barrow Island golden bandicoot is widespread throughout a range of habitat types across Barrow Island, it is expected that the existing permit conditions are sufficient to prevent significant impacts to this species.

Further, the BWIJV Environment Plan contains provisions to mitigate and manage impacts to fauna during clearing activities including requirements for pre-clearing inspections for fauna and delaying of clearing activities/operations until any fauna present have dispersed or been relocated by a specialist, the installation of fauna deterrents or protective measures on infrastructure, and the review of sensitive fauna sites in the island's environmental sensitivity mapping database prior to operations so that these can be avoided during works (Chevron, 2020). Given the above, it is not considered that impacts to conservation significant fauna species and their habitats have changed significantly since the assessment of previous versions of the permit and the updated permit conditions are considered sufficient to mitigate potential impacts to these species. However, it is considered that the proposed clearing may be at variance to Clearing Principle (b), given the potential for minor impacts to significant fauna habitat. For clarity and given the significance of Barrow Island as a turtle nesting site, nesting habitat for the green turtle, flatback turtle, and hawksbill turtle have been included in Annexure 2 of the clearing permit and in the definition of "significant or unique fauna habitat", to ensure these areas are specifically protected as a P1 area.

A desktop assessment identified three state-listed priority ecological communities (PECs) occurring within Barrow Island that were not noted in previous assessments of the clearing permit; Barrow Island stygofauna and troglofauna (P1), *Triodia angusta* dominated creekline vegetation (P1), and Coastal dune tussock grassland dominated by *Whiteochloa airoides* (P3). The Barrow Island stygofauna and troglofauna PEC relates to the subterranean fauna communities located in caves, sinkholes, fissures and groundwater on Barrow Island (DBCA, 2021). Under Annexure 2 of the existing permit, areas within 100 metres of stygofauna habitat are considered P1 areas, where clearing must be avoided unless it is absolutely necessary and there are no practicable alternatives. This management measure is also outlined in the BWIJV Environment Plan, which specifies that a 100 metre buffer will be established from cave areas known to support stygofauna when establishing new groundwater abstraction wells (Chevron, 2020). Given the existing permit conditions and the nature of the clearing activities proposed, impacts to the Barrow Island stygofauna and troglofauna PEC are considered unlikely to result from clearing activities under the permit. Although not specified during previous assessments of the clearing permit, *Triodia angusta* dominated creekline vegetation is listed as a significant vegetation community on Barrow Island in Annexure 3 of the current permit under communities D1 and C1. Therefore, the *Triodia angusta* dominated creekline vegetation PEC is also considered a P1 or P2 area and is subject to the avoidance and minimisation measures outlined under Part II of the existing clearing permit. Given the existing permit conditions, significant impacts to the *Triodia angusta* dominated creekline vegetation PEC are considered unlikely to result from clearing activities under the permit. The Coastal dune tussock grassland dominated by *Whiteochloa airoides* PEC is not included in the significant vegetation communities on Barrow Island listed in Annexures 3 and 4 of the current permit. However, *Whiteochloa airoides* is listed as a flora of conservation significance under Annexure 5, and vegetation containing this species is considered a P1 or P2 area. While the existing permit conditions are likely to provide some protection for the Coastal dune tussock grassland dominated by *Whiteochloa airoides* PEC, this community has been added to Annexure 4, to ensure no clearing of the wider community is to occur where other practicable alternatives exist.

It is acknowledged that previous assessments of the clearing permit did not reference the Barrow Group Nature Reserves Management Plan (the Island Management Plan) (DPAW, 2015). The Island Management Plan outlines the key management actions for Barrow Island, including the management of tenure and land arrangements, natural environmental values, cultural heritage, resource use, community involvement and reporting, research and monitoring (DPAW, 2015). The Island Management Plan acknowledges the Barrow Island Joint Venture (BWIJV) and lists the BWIJV Environment Plan as a key contributor to the on-ground management of Barrow Island Nature Reserve (DPAW, 2015). In regards to infrastructure on Barrow Island, the Island Management Plan recommends that key values are not significantly and adversely impacted by the establishment, operation and decommissioning of infrastructure, where proposals for infrastructure should undergo environmental assessment and be accompanied with environmental management plans that prescribe how impacts to the environment will be managed during works (DPAW, 2015). The Island Management Plan also recommends that decommissioned structures are restored and undergo ecosystem rehabilitation, unless the structure can be retained for use in the monitoring of ecological impacts (DPAW, 2015). Given the existing permit conditions, the assessment process in place to minimise clearing and reduce impacts to significant environmental values, and that works on Barrow Island are undertaken in accordance with the BWIJV Environment Plan, it is considered that the proposed clearing is compatible with the provisions of the Island Management Plan.

The assessment against the remaining clearing principles is unchanged and can found in the Decision Reports prepared for Clearing Permits 123/1, 123/4 and 123/6.

In relation to the specific amendments proposed under CPS 123/8 and with consideration of current environmental information and existing permit conditions, the Delegated Officer determined the following:

- The minor amendments to the wording of Conditions 2, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 19, 21, and 22 are unlikely to alter the previous assessments of the environmental impacts of clearing activities authorised under the permit, given they relate only to removing an area no longer included under the permit, amending typographical errors, updating wording to align with the Permit Holder's internal processes, and ensuring consistency throughout the permit.
- The addition of condition 4(m) is unlikely to alter the previous assessments of the environmental impacts of clearing activities authorised under the permit, given this condition relates only to allowing the clearing of previously disturbed areas for ongoing environmental monitoring and investigations associated with contamination assessment, remediation and rehabilitation.
- The addition of condition 4(n) relates only to ensuring that incidental clearing resulting from herbicide use during weed management programmes is included in the clearing authorised under the permit. Given that herbicide use is limited to spot spraying of high risk weed species within 5 square metre designated areas, it is unlikely that incidental clearing from herbicide use represents a significant impact to the environmental values of Barrow Island. No clearing of undisturbed vegetation will be undertaken through herbicide use.
- Condition 9 of CPS 123/7 should remain as its own separate condition and should not be merged with Condition 12, as proposed by the Permit Holder. This is due to the fact that Condition 9 outlines the Permit Holder's requirement to adhere to all of the conditions outlined in Part II of the clearing permit when undertaking clearing activities authorised under Conditions 6 and 8, and does not only relate to the assessment process outlined under Condition 12.
- The amendments to Condition 16 are unlikely to alter the previous assessments of the environmental impacts of clearing activities authorised under the permit, given they relate only to requiring the Permit Holder to implement the approved rehabilitation plan and acknowledging that the Permit Holder has completed the requirements under Conditions 16(a) to (c) of CPS 123/7.
- The amendment to the definition of access tracks relates only to acknowledging that the Barrow Island Road and Maintenance Track Network mapping is updated to include or exclude existing tracks from the network as required for on-ground works. The minor change to wording ensures that a Part II assessment is not required for each subsequent use of an existing track, as it is included or excluded from the network. It is not expected that this amendment will alter the previous assessments of the environmental impacts of clearing activities authorised under the permit.
- The amendment to the definition of environmental specialist is unlikely to alter the previous assessments of the environmental impacts of clearing activities authorised under the permit, given it relates only to capturing a change in job title.
- The amendment to Annexure 6 relates only to updating the permit annexure to the current Barrow Island Road and Maintenance Track Network 2021. This amendment includes the addition of approximately 60 access tracks to the Barrow Island Road and Maintenance Track Network for the purpose of providing access to groundwater monitoring wells and anode wells, including or upgrading existing maintenance tracks or roads, and constructing new roads or maintenance tracks (Chevron, 2021). All proposed tracks to be added to the Barrow Island Road and Maintenance Track Network occur within the existing clearing permit area. Noting the extent of the proposed clearing for access tracks across Barrow Island and that clearing for access tracks is restricted to previously disturbed vegetation, it is not expected that the clearing of vegetation for the additional access tracks represents a significant impact to the environmental values of Barrow Island or alters the previous assessments of the environmental impacts of clearing activities authorised under the permit.
- The updates to Plan 123/7 relate only to removing an area no longer included in the permit and adjusting the approved area to the low water mark to align with the existing petroleum permits for tenure purposes. These modifications result in an overall reduction in the total clearing area and the inclusion of a small area of intertidal zone between the low and high water marks. This adjustment is unlikely to result in environmental impacts in excess to those outlined in previous assessments of the clearing activities authorised under the permit.

With consideration of the above, a review of current environmental information and the existing permit conditions indicates that the extent to which the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological, conservation, or land and water resource values is unchanged and can be found in the Decision Reports prepared for Clearing Permits 123/1, 123/4 and 123/6. The Delegated Officer considered that the environmental impacts associated with clearing activities undertaken through the permit can be appropriately managed through the amended and existing permit conditions.

#### **Planning instruments and other relevant matters.**

Clearing Permit CPS 123/1 was granted to Chevron Australia Pty Ltd on 11 May 2006 by the then Department of Environment. The clearing permit authorises the clearing of native vegetation for infrastructure maintenance, pipelines, minor works and emergencies related to the Barrow Island Joint Venture. The permit has since been amended six times, with CPS 123/8 being the latest amendment. Records indicate that approximately 47 hectares of clearing has been undertaken under CPS 123 to date, since the commencement of the permit in 2006.

CPS 123/7 was due to expire on 12 June 2021. In order to allow sufficient time to complete a detailed review of the conditions and permit processes, DWER has extended the permit's duration by 12 months until 12 June 2022. DWER is currently reviewing the operation of CPS 123 to ensure that it is consistent with current departmental policies and procedures, whilst also providing an efficient approvals pathway for clearing of native vegetation for the purpose of infrastructure maintenance, pipelines, minor works and emergencies on Barrow Island.

The clearing permit amendment application was advertised on the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's website on 16 April 2021, inviting submissions from the public within a 21-day period. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

The Shire of Ashburton were invited to provide comments on the proposed amendment to CPS 123/7. No comments were received.

A review of available databases indicates that the application intersects one contaminated site classified as *Contaminated – remediation required* under the *Contaminated Sites Act 2003* due to hydrocarbon (such as from oil) contamination within soil and/or groundwater at the impacted locations. DWER's Contaminated Sites Branch (Contaminated Sites) advised that, based on the available information, they had no concerns with respect to the proposed clearing (DWER, 2021). Contaminated Sites advised that ground disturbing activities across Barrow Island are supported by a series of site assessments, health risk assessments and site management plans within areas of identified contamination, and that the Permit Holder is providing regular updates to Contaminated Sites on the progress of decommissioning, contamination investigation and remediation activities across Barrow Island (DWER, 2021).

The application area includes numerous Aboriginal Sites of Significance. It is the applicant's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Sites of Aboriginal Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

The remaining assessment against other *Relevant planning instruments and other matters* is unchanged and can be found in the Decision Reports prepared for Clearing Permits 123/1, 123/4 and 123/6.

## 5. References

Chevron Australia Pty Ltd (Chevron) (2020) *Barrow Island Joint Venture Environment Plan* received 15 May 2021 (DWER Ref: A2009796). Available from:

<https://ace.dmp.wa.gov.au/ACE/Public/PetroleumProposals/ViewPlanSummary?registrationId=87638>.

Chevron Australia Pty Ltd (Chevron) (2021) *Clearing permit amendment application CPS 123/8 and supporting information*, received 4 March 2021 (DWER Ref: DWERDT423430).

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Keighery, B.J. (1994) *Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community*. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

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Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) *FloraBase - The Western Australian Flora*. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. Available from: <http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/> (accessed February 2020).

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

- 10 Metre Contours (DPIRD-073)
- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- 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)

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)