



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 123/9
Permit Holder:	Chevron Australia Pty Ltd
Duration of Permit:	12 June 2006 – 12 June 2027

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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 fence lines and other similar infrastructure, other than *pipelines*¹;
- (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 18;
- (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*;

¹ See Part IV of this Permit.

- (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 18;
- (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) must 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) must not clear for temporary laydown areas;
- (c) must not stockpile cleared vegetation on any other native vegetation; and
- (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. Avoid, minimise, and reduce impacts and extent of clearing

In determining the amount of native vegetation to be cleared, the Permit Holder must have regard to the following principles, set out in order of preference:

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

10. Assessment Procedure

Once the Permit Holder has complied with condition 9 of this Permit, if any native vegetation is to be cleared, the Permit Holder must 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.

11. 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* must 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* must 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, must be submitted to the *Environmental Specialist*.

12. Inspection and Survey by *Environmental Specialist*

- (a) Prior to the activity or clearing being undertaken, an *Environmental Specialist* must:
 - (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;
 - (iii) whether the area is classified as P1, P2, P3 or P4 on the *environmental sensitivity mapping database*;
 - (iv) the vegetation and fauna habitat present at the *location* of the proposed activity or clearing; and
 - (v) 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*.

13. Assessment Process

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

- (a) the survey and inspection set out in condition 12 above 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 15 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**.

14. Submissions

- (a) Where the *Environmental Specialist's* assessment pursuant to condition 13 of this Permit identifies that the vegetation or areas to be affected by the proposed activity or clearing is classified P1 as described in **Annexure 2**, the Permit Holder must seek a submission from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions about the *impacts* of the proposed activity or clearing on the vegetation or areas classified P1.
- (b) The Permit Holder must provide the following information to the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions when seeking a submission under condition 14(a):
 - (i) A description of the manner in which the Permit Holder has complied with condition 9 of this Permit, with respect to the proposed activity or clearing to be done,
 - (ii) the *location*, extent (in hectares) and method of the proposed activity or clearing to be done,
 - (iii) a description of the purpose for which the proposed activity or clearing is to be done and the reasons why such clearing is required,
 - (iv) the *impacts* of the proposed activity or clearing on the vegetation or areas classified P1 as described in **Annexure 2**,

- (v) 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,
 - (vi) an outline of the conditions proposed by the *Environmental Specialist* to be implemented in relation to the clearing,
 - (vii) a copy of the *Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form* and any *qualified botanist's* report that relates to the area to be cleared,
 - (viii) the contact details of the person to whom submissions must be sent; and
 - (ix) the date by which submissions must be made.
- (c) The Permit Holder must allow a period of at least 14 days for a submissions to be made.

15. 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 11(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* must 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 must be restricted wherever possible to existing tracks and or *previously disturbed* areas;
 - (ii) disturbance to topsoil or rootstock must be avoided wherever possible;
 - (iii) blading outside areas required to be *hardstand areas* must 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;
 - (v) no clearing of fauna habitat classified as P1 as described in **Annexure 2** or other *significant or unique fauna habitat* shall be undertaken, unless there is no other practicable alternative;
 - (vi) where there is no practicable alternative to the clearing of fauna habitat classified as P1 as described in **Annexure 2** or other *significant or unique fauna habitat*:
 - A. clearing activities must cease in any area where fauna are identified, until any individuals have moved on from that area to adjoining suitable habitat;
 - B. clearing activities must cease in any areas where *active nest/s* are identified, until the *active nest/s* are determined by an *Environmental Specialist* to be no longer in use for that breeding season; and
 - C. where *active nest/s* cannot be avoided, disturbance of *active nest/s* must be undertaken in accordance with a fauna taking license issued under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* and *Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2018*.

- (vii) 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; and
- (viii) any submission received from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions pursuant to condition 14 of this Permit must be considered in making a decision and imposing conditions on a *Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form*.

16. Assessment Report

The *Environmental Specialist* must 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) copies of any submission received from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions pursuant to condition 14, noting where changes were made to the proposed clearing in response to matters raised in the submission; and
- (f) information demonstrating consideration of the guidelines set out in condition 15 above.

17. Issuing Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Forms²

- (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* must specify:
 - (i) the method of clearing approved;
 - (ii) the purpose for which the activity or clearing may be carried out;
 - (iii) the extent (in hectares) 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 must comply with the conditions of the *Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form* and any directions given by the *Environmental Specialist*.

² 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.

PART III: ACTIVE REHABILITATION

18. 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*;
 - (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

19. 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.

20. Special Restrictions and Conditions on Clearing for Pipelines

- (a) The Permit Holder must 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 must not remove root stock when clearing vegetation for *pipelines*, except where creating pipeline road crossings and installing pipe supports;
- (c) The Permit Holder must 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* must 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 must 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* must, having regard to the guidelines set out in condition 15 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

21. Electronic Geographic Information System and Environmental Sensitivity Mapping

Database

- (a) The Permit Holder must 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 must 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 21(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* must be recorded and entered into the *electronic geographic information system* incorporating the *environmental sensitivity mapping database* and this must 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**.

22. Records that must be kept

The Permit Holder must maintain the following records for activities done pursuant to this Permit, as relevant:

- (a) for all clearing, other than clearing under condition 4 of this Permit, where the vegetation has been *previously disturbed*, a record of the extent (in hectares), location and method of clearing carried out under this Permit;
- (b) for clearing under condition 6 of this Permit, an additional summary of the extent (in hectares), 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* in accordance with Part IV of this Permit,
 - (i) the type of *pipelines* involved;
 - (ii) the *location*, extent (in hectares) and method of clearing in each case;
 - (iii) the *location*, extent (in hectares) 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 (in hectares) and method of any clearing carried out for emergencies in accordance with condition 7 of this Permit;
- (e) the *location* and extent (in hectares) of any clearing carried out for marine activities in accordance with condition 5 of this Permit;
- (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 (in hectares) and method of any *active rehabilitation* carried out in relation to Barrow Island in accordance with Part III of this Permit;
- (i) all documentation produced in relation to each *Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form*, including:
 - (i) the *Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form* and all supporting material;
 - (ii) a record of the relevant information obtained from the *environmental sensitivity mapping database*;
 - (iii) any reports from a *qualified botanist*;
 - (iv) documentation produced by the *Environmental Specialist* relating to the inspection, survey and assessment;
 - (v) any *Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form* issued; and
 - (vi) a written record that the *Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form* was issued to the person undertaking the work.
- (j) audit reports required under conditions 25 and 26 of this Permit; and
- (k) a copy of the *environmental sensitivity mapping database* in an electronic form.

23. Reporting

- (a) The Permit Holder must provide to the *CEO*, on or before 30 September of each year, a written report of records required to be maintained pursuant to condition 22(a)-(h), (j) and (k) of this Permit, concerning those activities done by the Permit Holder under this Permit between 1 January and 31 December of the preceding year.
- (b) If no clearing authorised under this Permit was undertaken between 1 January and 31 December of the preceding calendar year, a written report confirming that no clearing

under this permit has been carried out, must be provided to the *CEO* on or before 30 June of each year.

- (c) Prior to 12 March 2027, the Permit Holder must provide to the *CEO* a written report of records required under condition 22 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under condition 23(a) of this Permit.
- (d) The Permit Holder must, 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.

24. Publication of records

Within 30 days of the submission of the written reports to the *CEO* pursuant to conditions 23(a)-(c) of this Permit, the Permit Holder must make the following records, concerning those activities done by the Permit Holder under this Permit between 1 January and 31 December of the preceding year, publicly available:

- (a) for all clearing, other than clearing under condition 4 of this Permit, where the vegetation has been *previously disturbed*, a record of the extent (in hectares), location and method of clearing carried out under this Permit;
- (b) for clearing under condition 6 of this Permit, an additional summary of the extent (in hectares), 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* in accordance with Part IV of this Permit,
 - (i) the *location*, extent (in hectares) and method of clearing;
 - (ii) the *location*, extent (in hectares) 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; and
 - (iii) the reasons why such clearing was required;
- (d) the *location*, extent (in hectares) and method of any clearing carried out for emergencies in accordance with condition 7 of this Permit;
- (e) the *location* and extent (in hectares) of any clearing carried out for marine activities in accordance with condition 5 of this Permit; and
- (f) the *location*, extent (in hectares) and method of any *active rehabilitation* carried out in relation to Barrow Island in accordance with Part III of this Permit.

25. Internal auditing

- (a) The Permit Holder must conduct *internal environmental audits* for areas specified in condition 25(c) to determine the Permit Holder's compliance with the conditions of this Permit, with particular emphasis on:
 - (i) the location and extent of native vegetation cleared;
 - (ii) inspections and surveys carried out by an *Environmental Specialist* and/or qualified *botanist*;
 - (iii) the *Environmental Specialist's* assessment of the *Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form* and compliance with the Guidelines for Assessment outlined in Part II of this Permit;
 - (iv) 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 the conditions of this Permit;
 - (v) the effectiveness of any vegetation disturbance management conditions implemented in accordance with the *Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form*; and

- (vi) the implementation status of any *active rehabilitation* undertaken.
- (b) The Permit Holder must conduct its *internal environmental audits* annually for the *term* of this Permit.
- (c) The areas to be audited under condition 25(a) must be selected by the auditor using a structured and documented risk-based selection framework, and must include at least one cleared area in each Priority area as described in Annexure 2 in which clearing has been done under this Permit within the previous 12 months.
- (d) The Permit Holder must implement *corrective action* required to address any non-compliance with conditions of this Permit identified from the *internal environmental audits*.
- (e) The Permit Holder must provide written reports of the *internal environmental audits* conducted pursuant to this condition 25 to the *CEO* on or before 31 March of each year for the *term* of this Permit. The reports must include details of *corrective action* taken by the Permit Holderto address any non-compliance with conditions of this Permit.

26. External auditing

- (a) The Permit Holder must engage an external accredited *lead environmental auditor* to undertake *external environmental audits* of the Permit Holder's compliance with the conditions of this Permit for each Priority area as described in Annexure 2 in which clearing is done under this Permit.
- (b) The *external environmental audits* must be conducted every second year for the *term* of this Permit and/or as otherwise required by the *CEO*.
- (c) Where the Permit is due to expire before the next external environmental audits, the Permit Holder must arrange for a final *external environmental audit* to be conducted prior to the expiry of the Permit.
- (d) The Permit Holder must implement *corrective action* required to address any non-compliance with conditions of this Permit identified from the *external environmental audits*.
- (e) The Permit Holder must provide the *lead environmental auditor's* written reports of the *external environmental audits* to the *CEO* on or before 31 March in each year that an *external environmental audit* is conducted and/or as otherwise required by the *CEO*. The reports must include details of *corrective action* taken by the Permit Holder to address any non-compliance with conditions of this Permit.
- (f) Where a final *external environmental audit* is arranged in accordance with condition 25(c) of this Permit, the Permit Holder must provide the *lead environmental auditor's* written reports of such an audit to the *CEO* on or before 31 March of the year of the expiry date of the Permit.
- (g) The Permit Holder must make the *lead environmental auditor's* written reports of the *external environmental audits* publicly available within 30 days of the submission of the reports to the *CEO*.

PART VI: INTERPRETATION & DEFINITIONS

27. 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.

28. 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.

29. 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 29(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:

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 nest/s means nests of *migratory and marine bird species* or *marine turtle species* with evidence of current use for nesting, including the presence of the species entering, brooding, or leaving the nest, and/or the presence of eggs, chicks or young;

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;

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

corrective action means action to eliminate the cause of non-conformity detected in an environmental audit;

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 21 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*;

external environmental audit means an audit conducted by a *lead environmental auditor* in accordance with condition 26 of this Permit;

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

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

Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form means the Permit Holder's application form for Vegetation Disturbance and includes documentation of the *Environmental Specialist's* survey and inspection, assessment, and recommended vegetation disturbance management conditions;

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;

internal environmental audit means an audit conducted by the Permit Holder in accordance with condition 25 of this Permit;

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

lead environmental auditor means an individual certified as a lead environmental auditor by either:

- (a) RABQSA International; or
- (b) an organisation accredited to ISO/IEC 17024 by, or by a body recognised by, the Joint Accreditation System of Australia and New Zealand);

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.

marine turtle species means one or more of the following species:

- (a) *Caretta caretta* (Loggerhead turtle);
- (b) *Chelonia mydas* (Green turtle);

- (c) *Eretmochelys imbricata* (Hawksbill turtle); and
- (d) *Natator depressus* (Flatback turtle);

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

migratory and marine bird species means bird species declared under section 209 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* to be migratory species and bird species declared under section 248 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* to be marine species;

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;

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*;

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, for example by ripping or tilling the soil surface and respreading site topsoil and chipped native vegetation;

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

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 2022

Schedule 1

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

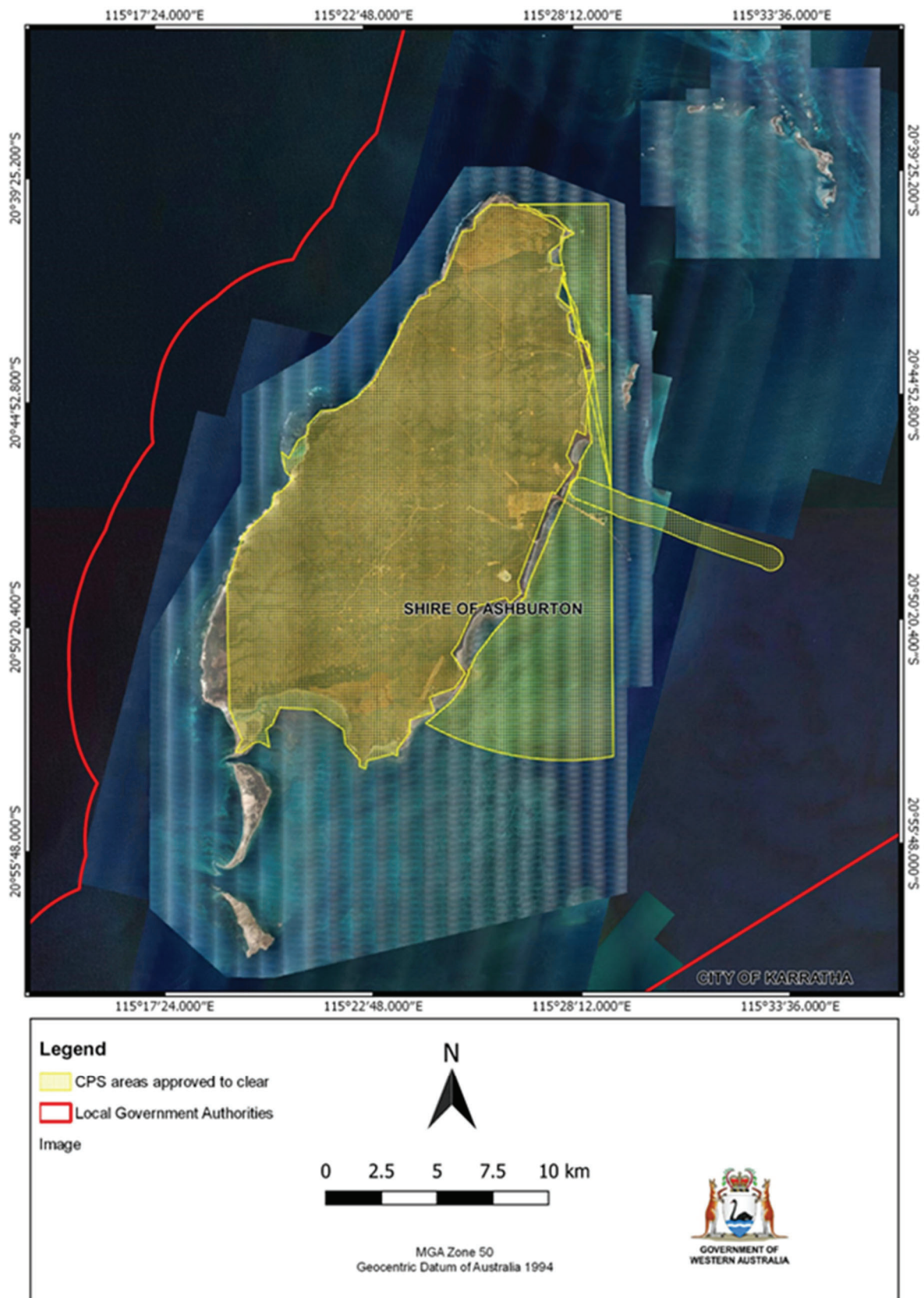


Figure 1: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur

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
Vegetation 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.
Fauna 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			
Heritage Sites	Areas immediately surrounding important heritage sites:			

	Anthropological sites +100m Fossil sites +100m			
Landform 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

Cassya 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. *platyklamys*

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

BARROW ISLAND ROAD AND MAINTENANCE TRACK NETWORK 2021



325000 115°20'0"E 330000 115°25'0"E 335000 340000

7715000
7710000
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PUBLIC

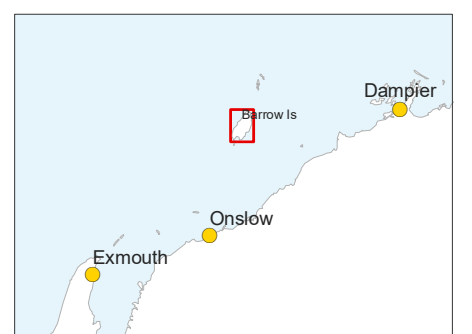
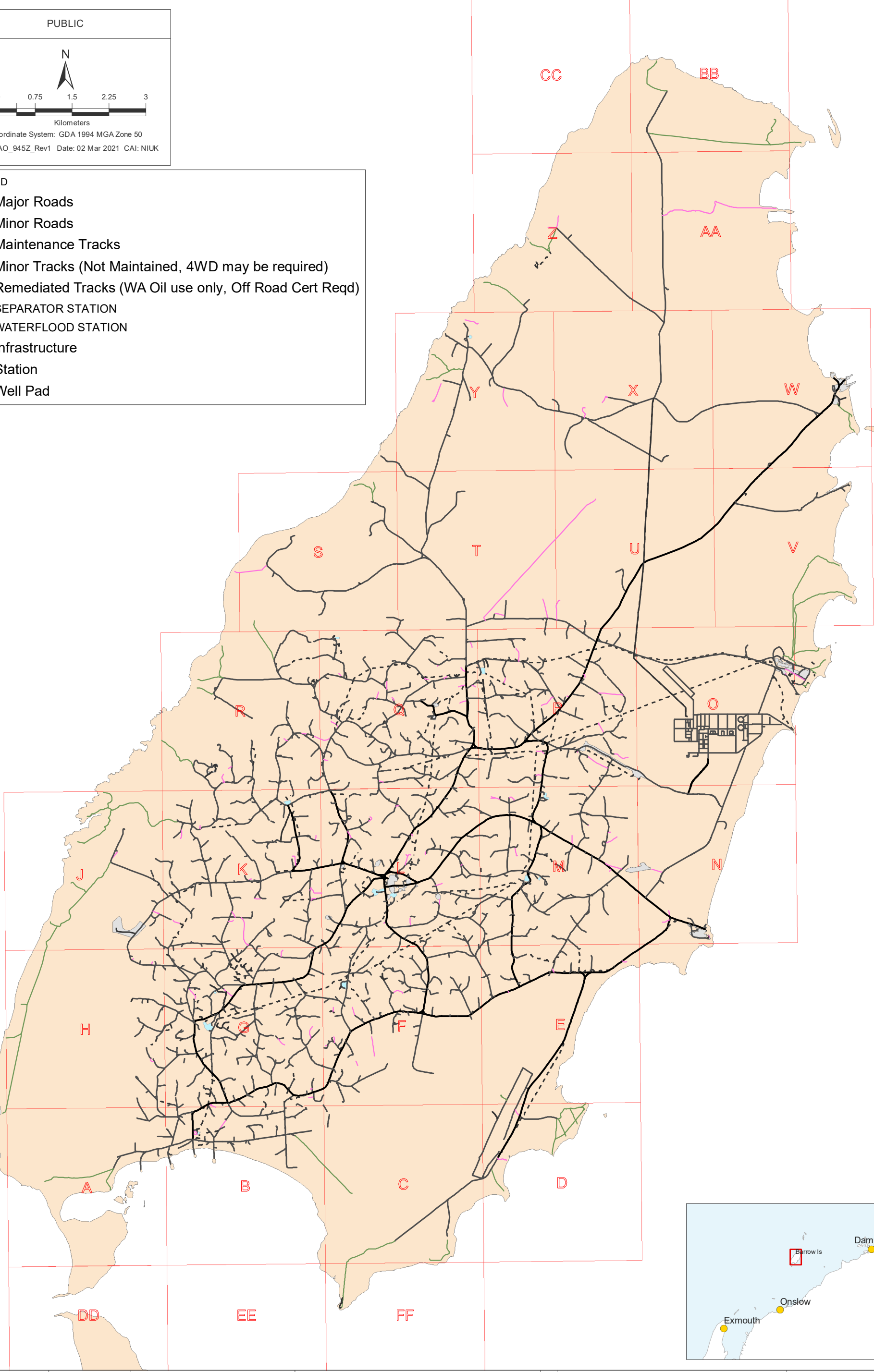
N

0 0.75 1.5 2.25 3
Kilometers

Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 50
Ref: WAO_945Z_Rev1 Date: 02 Mar 2021 CAI: NIUK

LEGEND

- Major Roads
- Minor Roads
- Maintenance Tracks
- Minor Tracks (Not Maintained, 4WD may be required)
- Remediated Tracks (WA Oil use only, Off Road Cert Req'd)
- SEPARATOR STATION
- WATERFLOOD STATION
- Infrastructure
- Station
- Well Pad



325000 115°20'0"E 330000 115°25'0"E 335000 340000



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 123/9
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Chevron Australia Pty Ltd
Application received date: 23 June 2021

1.3. Property details

Property: Barrow Island Crown Reserve 11648
Petroleum Production Licence L10 (R1)
Pipeline Licence TPL/9 (R1)
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 2022

Reasons for Decision: The clearing permit amendment application was received on 23 June 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 clearing permit amendment has been made in order to extend the permit duration by five years from 12 June 2022 to 12 June 2027. In addition to extending the permit duration, the Delegated Officer determined that the following amendments to the existing permit conditions were also required to bring them in line with current departmental policies and procedures:

- The addition of condition 9, requiring the Permit Holder to have regard to three principles to avoid, minimise, and reduce impacts and extent of clearing when undertaking clearing for infrastructure maintenance, pipelines, minor works and emergencies under the permit, to align with current departmental policies,
- The addition of condition 14, requiring the Permit Holder to seek a submission from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) as the managers of Barrow Island Nature Reserve, where vegetation or areas to be affected by the proposed activity or clearing is classified P1 as described in Annexure 2 of the permit, to increase transparency,
- The addition of condition 15(e)(v), requiring the assessment and conditioning of the Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Form to have regard to avoiding the clearing of significant or unique fauna habitat, unless there is no practicable alternative, to further minimise the risk of impacts to significant fauna habitat,
- The addition of condition 15(e)(vi)A, requiring the assessment and conditioning of the Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Form to have regard to ceasing clearing activities where fauna is identified, until individuals have moved on from that area to adjoining suitable habitat, to further minimise the risk of impacts to fauna,
- The addition of condition 15(e)(vi)B-C, requiring the assessment and conditioning of the Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Form to have regard to ceasing clearing activities where active nests of migratory or marine bird species and/or marine turtles are identified, until the nests are no longer in use for that breeding season, unless authorised by a license issued under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* and *Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2018*, to further minimise the risk of impacts to fauna,
- The addition of condition 15(e)(viii), requiring the assessment and conditioning of the Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Form to have regard to any submission received from DBCA pursuant to condition 14 of the permit,
- The addition of condition 16(e), requiring the Environmental Specialist's assessment of the Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Form to include documentation of any submission received from DBCA pursuant to condition 14 of the permit,

- The addition of condition 22, separating the records required to be kept for activities done pursuant to the permit from the reporting condition, to reflect current departmental procedures for record keeping,
- The removal of previous condition 21, as records required to be kept in relation to the Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Form have been incorporated into condition 22 of the permit to remove duplication, as above,
- The addition of condition 23(b), requiring the Permit Holder to provide a written report where no clearing has been carried out in the preceding calendar year, in accordance with current departmental procedures and policies for reporting,
- The addition of condition 23(c), requiring the Permit Holder to provide a written report of activities undertaken in the preceding calendar year within three months prior to the expiry of the permit, where the records had not already been provided to the Department, in line with current departmental procedures and policies for reporting,
- The addition of condition 23(d), requiring the Permit Holder to make all records and reports required by the permit and the electronic geographical information system available at the written request of the CEO, for the purposes of auditing compliance with the permit conditions,
- The removal of previous condition 23, as records and reports to be made available to the CEO have been incorporated into condition 23(d) to remove duplication, as above,
- The addition of condition 25, requiring the Permit Holder to conduct annual internal environmental audits for the life of the permit, implement corrective action to address any non-compliance with permit conditions identified during the audit, and report the audit to the CEO, in line with current departmental procedures and policies for strategic purpose permits,
- The addition of condition 26, requiring the Permit Holder to engage an accredited lead environmental auditor to conduct biennial external environmental audits for the life of the permit, implement corrective action to address any non-compliance with permit conditions identified during the audit, report the audit to the CEO, and make the audit report publicly available, in line with current departmental procedures and policies for strategic purpose permits,
- The removal of previous condition 22, as auditing has been separated into internal auditing under condition 25 and external auditing under condition 26 of the permit to remove duplication, as above,
- Minor updates to the wording of conditions 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 17, 21, and 23 to align with current departmental practices, and
- Minor updates to definitions to align with current departmental procedures and policies.

Given the nature of the proposed amendments, the Delegated Officer considered that the amendments to CPS 123/8 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.

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 amendment to CPS 123/8 is unlikely to lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values.

2. Site Information

Clearing Description:	<p>The proposed amendment to Clearing Permit CPS 123/8 is for the purpose of extending the permit duration by five years to 12 June 2027 and relates to clearing of native vegetation for the purposes of infrastructure maintenance, pipelines, minors works, and emergencies within Barrow Island Crown Reserve 11648, Petroleum Production Licence L10 (R1), and Pipeline Licence TPL/9 (R1).</p> <p>Clearing Permit CPS 123/8 authorised the clearing of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• previously disturbed vegetation for the purpose of infrastructure maintenance, active rehabilitation, and pipelines,• 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,• vegetation for marine activities specified under the permit, and• during emergencies to prevent danger to human life or health, irreversable damage to the environment or imminent damage to infrastructure resulting from a natural event, <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, with 0.34 hectares cleared during the 1 July 2020 to 30 June 201 reporting period.</p>
Vegetation Description	<p>The vegetation within the application area is mapped within the following Beard vegetation associations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 667, described as hummock grasslands, shrub-steppe: scattered shrubs over <i>Triodia wiseana</i> & <i>Triodia angusta</i> over the majority of the island, and• 117, described as hummock grasslands, grass steppe, soft spinifex along the south coast and extending northwards (Hopkins et al. 2001, Shepherd et al 2001). <p>Mattiske and Associates (1993) identified 34 vegetation units within Barrow Island, which are described in Annexure 1 of the clearing permit.</p>
Vegetation Condition	<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>
Soil Type	<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>
Local Area	<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>

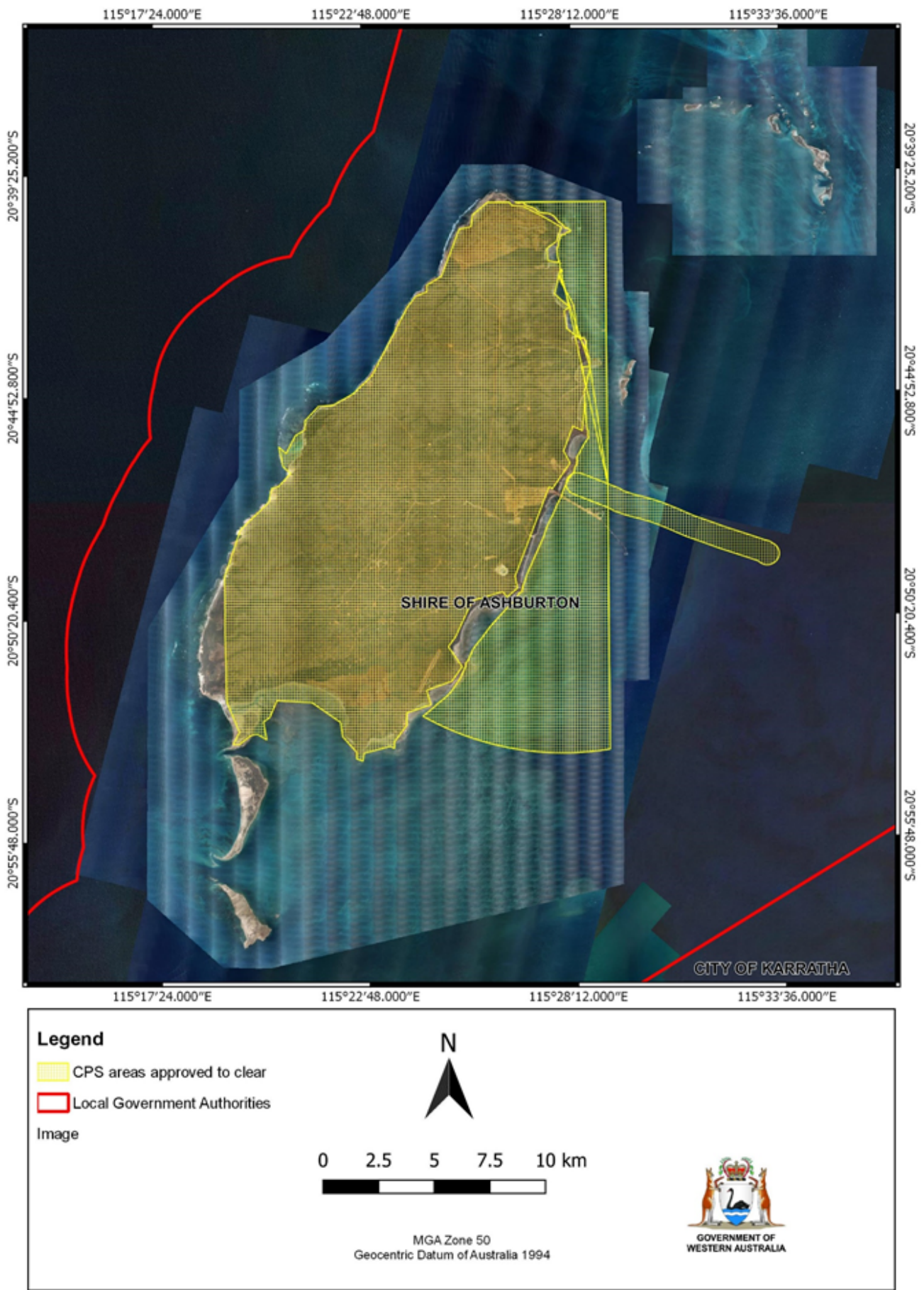


Figure 1. The areas crosshatched yellow indicate the areas authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

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

The Permit Holder advised that, in accordance with the conditions of Clearing Permit CPS 123/8, 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). The Permit Holder also advised that clearing activities authorised under the clearing permit continue to be undertaken in accordance with the Barrow Island Joint Venture (BWIJV) Environment Plan (Chevron, 2020a).

The remaining avoidance and mitigation measures employed by the Permit Holder are unchanged and can be found in the Decision Reports prepared for Clearing Permits 123/1, 123/4, 123/6 and 123/8.

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

Assessment relating to existing permit conditions

The proposed amendments to CPS 123/8 relate only to extending the permit duration by five years to 12 June 2027 (Chevron, 2021). Under Parts I, III and IV of the existing permit (CPS 123/8), 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, irreversable damage to the environment or imminent damage to infrastructure resulting from a natural event (condition 7), which are not subject to the 105-hectare limit on total clearing that otherwise applies to the clearing of undisturbed vegetation under the clearing permit.

In addition to the extension of the permit duration, the Delegated Officer determined that the following amendments were also required to bring the permit conditions in line with current departmental policies and procedures:

- The addition of condition 9, requiring the Permit Holder to have regard to three principles to avoid, minimise, and reduce impacts and extent of clearing when undertaking clearing for infrastructure maintenance, pipelines, minor works and emergencies under the permit,
- The addition of condition 22, separating the records required to be kept for activities done pursuant to the permit from the reporting condition,
- The addition of condition 23(b), requiring the Permit Holder to provide a written report where no clearing has been carried out in the preceding calendar year,
- The addition of condition 23(c), requiring the Permit Holder to provide a written report of activities undertaken in the preceding calendar year within three months prior to the expiry of the permit, where the records had not already been provided to the Department,
- The addition of condition 23(d), combining the requirement for the Permit Holder to make all records and reports required by the permit and the electronic geographical information system available at the written request of the CEO under previous condition 21 into the reporting condition to reduce duplication,
- The addition of condition 25, requiring the Permit Holder to conduct annual internal environmental audits for the life of the permit, implement corrective action to address any non-compliance with permit conditions identified during the audit, and report the audit to the CEO, and
- The addition of condition 26, requiring the Permit Holder to engage an accredited lead environmental auditor to conduct biennial external environmental audits for the life of the permit, implement corrective action to address any non-compliance with permit conditions identified during the audit, report the audit to the CEO, and make the audit report publicly available.

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.

The Permit Holder has advised that some production and historical land use areas such as roads occur within P1 areas, but that minimal future disturbance is expected within previously undisturbed native vegetation in P1 areas (Chevron, 2022). The Permit Holder advised that clearing under CPS 123/9 within previously undisturbed P1 areas is likely to be limited to that associated with decommissioning, remediation, rehabilitation and reinstating landforms (Chevron, 2022).

In determining the amount of native vegetation required to be cleared for project activities, whether disturbed or undisturbed, the Permit Holder is required to have regard to three principles as outlined under condition 9 of the clearing permit (CPS 123/9), being, avoid the clearing of native vegetation, minimise the amount of native vegetation to be cleared and reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.

Where, after adhering to condition 9, the clearing of undisturbed vegetation is still required for infrastructure maintenance, minor works, active rehabilitation, or pipelines, then the assessment procedure outlined in Part II of the permit will require the Permit Holder to prepare a *Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form* and submit this to an environmental specialist for assessment. The environmental specialist's assessment of the *Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form* must:

- involve an inspection and survey of the environmental values present within the area proposed to be impacted in accordance with condition 12 of the permit,

- assign a priority classification to the vegetation to be cleared as described under Annexure 2 of the clearing permit, taking into account the assessment process outlined under condition 13 of the permit,
- make a decision as to whether a *Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form* will be issued and any conditions to be imposed on the *Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form* to minimise the impacts of the clearing, following the assessment guidelines outlined under condition 15 of the permit, and
- document the assessment undertaken in making the decision to grant or refuse a *Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form* as an Assessment Report, in accordance with condition 16 of the permit.

Once a *Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form* is issued by the environmental specialist in accordance with condition 17 of the permit, the Permit Holder must comply with the conditions of the *Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Assessment Form* and any directions given by the environmental specialist.

Assessment relating to current environmental values

A review of current environmental information indicates that the environmental values present within the existing permit area and greater Barrow Island remain largely unchanged from the previous assessments of the permit and can be found in the Decision Reports prepared for Clearing Permits CPS 123/1, 123/4, 123/6 and 123/8.

Conservation significant flora

In regard to conservation significant flora, a desktop assessment of current databases identified a total of six priority flora species have been recorded within the local area, comprising one Priority 1 (P1) flora, two Priority 2 (P2) flora, and three Priority 3 (P3) flora (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). No records of flora species listed as threatened under the state BC Act or Commonwealth EPBC Act were identified in the local area or are known to occur on Barrow Island (DPAW, 2015), which is unchanged from the previous assessment of the permit. Of the six priority species recorded within the local area, all were considered during the previous assessment of the permit, with the exception of *Corynotheca flexuosissima* (P3). However, from available databases, it appears that *Corynotheca flexuosissima* (compact zigzag lily) was not listed as a priority species by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), at the time of the previous assessment.

The compact zigzag lily is a rhizomatous, much-branched perennial herb with white flowers occurring in January, May or September and is associated with coastal sand dunes, usually in grassland of *Triodia* spp., *Eulalia fulva*, or *Spinifex longifolius* (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). Noting the sand dune habitat present and that the compact zigzag lily has been recorded as occurring on Barrow Island, there is the potential for the compact zigzag lily to be impacted by the proposed clearing. However, the species is known to occur from 17 Western Australian Herbarium records including in dune areas on the mainland between Exmouth and Ashburton, and in sand dunes and coastal platforms on Long and Thevenard Islands (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). Further, the current permit conditions state that “no slashing of known priority flora... shall be undertaken, unless there is no other practicable alternative”. Given the distribution and extent of existing records, that direct impacts to individuals will be avoided in the first instance, and that clearing activities within suitable habitat for the compact zigzag lily are likely to be minor and localised, it is expected that the existing permit conditions are sufficient to prevent significant impacts to this species.

According to available databases, there have been no new records of the remaining five species on Barrow Island since the previous assessment of the permit was undertaken in 2021. While it is acknowledged that the previous assessment identified that *Corchorus congener*, *Cucumis* sp. Barrow Island, and *Helichrysum oligochaetum* may occur within the permit area, the assessment of impacts to these species are considered unchanged given there have been no changes in known distribution, documented ecology, or conservation status since the previous assessment of the permit. Given the above, and that no significant changes to vegetation composition or condition within the permit area are known to have occurred since the previous assessment of the permit, the Delegated Officer determined that the assessment of impacts to conservation significant flora species remains unchanged and that the existing permit conditions are still appropriate to mitigate significant impacts to habitat that is critical for the continuation for any threatened or priority flora species.

Conservation significant fauna

In regard to fauna, a desktop assessment of current databases identified a total of 47 conservation significant fauna species recorded within the local area, including 11 threatened fauna species, three priority fauna species, 31 fauna species protected under international agreement, and two other specially protected fauna species (DBCA, 2007-). All 47 conservation significant fauna species recorded within the local area were considered during the previous assessment of the permit and, according to available databases, there have been no new records of these species on Barrow Island since the previous assessment of the permit was undertaken in 2021.

It is acknowledged that the previous assessment identified that the application area may provide suitable and significant habitat for a number of conservation significant fauna species, including stygofauna and subterranean fauna, migratory bird species, *Bettongia lesueur* subsp. (Barrow and Boodie Islands) (the Barrow Island burrowing bettong), *Haliastur indus* (brahminy kite), *Haliaeetus* spp. (sea eagle), *Pandion cristatus* (osprey), *Chelonia mydas* (green turtle), *Eretmochelys imbricata* (hawksbill turtle), *Natator depressus* (flatback turtle), and *Isodon auratus barrowensis* (Barrow Island golden bandicoot). However, the assessment of impacts to these species is considered unchanged given there have been no changes in the known distribution, documented ecology, or conservation status of these species since the previous assessment of the permit, and that habitat values within the permit area and greater Barrow Island remain largely unchanged. Further, 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, which is required to be avoided from clearing unless the clearing is absolutely necessary and there is no practicable alternative. The Permit Holder also adheres to the BWIJV Environment Plan when undertaking activities on Barrow Island, which includes provisions 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, 2020a).

However, on review of the existing permit conditions, the Delegated Officer determined that the guidelines for assessment of the Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Form under condition 15 should also include provisions for avoiding significant fauna habitat within P1 areas, where these areas cannot be entirely avoided from clearing. The Delegated Officer determined that the following amendments to the permit conditions were required:

- The addition of condition 15(e)(v), requiring the assessment and conditioning of the Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Form to have regard to avoiding the clearing of significant or unique fauna habitat, unless there is no practicable alternative,
- The addition of condition 15(e)(vi)A, requiring the assessment and conditioning of the Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Form to have regard to ceasing clearing activities where fauna is identified, until individuals have moved on from that area to adjoining suitable habitat, and
- The addition of 15(e)(vi)B-C, requiring the assessment and conditioning of the Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Form to have regard to ceasing clearing activities where active nests of migratory or marine bird species and/or marine turtles are identified, until the nests are no longer in use for that breeding season, unless authorised by a license issued under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* and *Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2018*.

In considering the above, the Delegated Officer determined that the assessment of impacts to fauna species remains unchanged from the previous assessment of the permit and that the amended and existing conditions on the permit are adequate to mitigate any potential impacts to conservation significant fauna.

Threatened and priority ecological communities

A desktop assessment of current databases identified no new records of threatened or priority ecological communities (TECs and PECs) in the local area since the previous assessment of the permit. Further, no changes in the composition, mapping, or condition of the vegetation within the permit area or greater Barrow Island are known to have occurred since the previous assessment of the permit in 2021. While it is acknowledged that the previous assessment identified that three PECs occur within Barrow Island, it is noted that all three communities are listed in the Annexures of the existing permit and are considered P1 or P2 areas, in which clearing should be avoided unless there are no practicable alternatives. Where clearing in these areas is absolutely necessary and there are no practicable alternatives, impacts to significant vegetation communities are likely to be minor and localised. Given the above, the Delegated Officer determined that the assessment of impacts to TECs and PECs remains unchanged from the previous assessment of the permit and that the existing permit conditions are sufficient to mitigate in significant impacts to any state or federally listed TEC or PEC.

Conservation areas and significant remnant vegetation

As the permit area is located within the Barrow Island Nature Reserve, the proposed clearing will impact on vegetation within a conservation area. However, it is acknowledged that Barrow Island is reserved for flora and fauna conservation and that the existing permit conditions designate vegetation that contains significant habitats and communities as either P1 or P2 areas, in which clearing should be avoided unless there are no practicable alternatives. Where clearing of significant vegetation within the Barrow Island Nature Reserve is absolutely necessary and there are no practicable alternatives, impacts are likely to be minor and localised and are unlikely to significantly impact to environmental values of the conservation area. Further, clearing activities on Barrow Island are undertaken in accordance with the Permit Holder's BWIJV Environment Plan and remain consistent with Barrow Group Nature Reserves Management Plan (the Island Management Plan) (DPAW, 2015). Accordingly, the Delegated Officer considers that the assessment of impacts to conservation areas is unchanged from the previous assessment of the permit and that the existing conditions are sufficient to mitigate any significant impacts to the environmental values of Barrow Island Nature Reserve.

The national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia has a target to prevent clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30 per cent of that present pre-1750, below which species loss appears to accelerate exponentially at an ecosystem level (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001). The extent of native vegetation in the Carnarvon Bioregion, the mapped Beard vegetation types within the application area, and the local area remain consistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia (Government of Western Australia, 2019). The Delegated Officer considers that the permit area does not occur within an extensively cleared landscape and impacts to significant remnant vegetation remain unchanged from the previous assessment of the permit in 2021.

Land and water resources

In regard to water resources, current databases do not indicate any changes in hydrological mapping on Barrow Island since the previous assessment of the permit in 2021. The permit area intersects Biggada Creek, as well as non-perennial tributaries of the Donald River system and various inland and coastal flats. Therefore, some of the vegetation within the permit area is likely to be growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland. However, the existing permit includes significant creekline vegetation communities under Annexure 5, which are considered P1 or P2 areas that must not be cleared unless there are no practicable alternatives. Where clearing in these areas is absolutely necessary and there are no practicable alternatives, impacts to significant riparian vegetation communities are likely to be minor and localised. Accordingly, the Delegated Officer determined that the impacts to water resources remain unchanged from the previous assessments of the permit and that the proposed clearing is unlikely to significantly impact riparian vegetation or surface or underground water quality, or to significantly increase the incidence or intensity of flooding.

No changes to soil mapping have occurred since the previous assessment of the permit in 2021. The coastal, sandy soils present within the permit area may be susceptible to wind erosion, however the extensively vegetated reserve and the provisions of the BWIJV Environment Plan are expected to mitigate any localised occurrences of wind erosion. The Delegated Officer considers that the assessment of land degradation risk is unchanged from the previous assessments of the permit and that the proposed clearing is unlikely to result in appreciable land degradation.

Conclusion

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 CPS 123/1, 123/4, 123/6 and 123/8. 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 seven 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.

The clearing permit amendment application was advertised on the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's website on 19 May 2022, inviting submissions from the public within a 14-day period. Two submissions were received in relation to this application. Table 1 provides a response to the comments raised within the submissions. Each submission has not been responded to separately, as the submissions raised similar issues and have been combined to provide a streamlined response.

The Shire of Ashburton was invited to provide comments on the proposed amendment to CPS 123/8. No comments were received.

In reviewing the operation of CPS 123/8, the Delegated Officer considered that the clearing permit should meet community expectations with respect to transparency and protection of the environment, whilst also providing an efficient approvals pathway for clearing activities relating to infrastructure maintenance, pipelines, minor works and emergencies on Barrow Island. The Permit Holder noted that the management of native vegetation on Barrow Island is undertaken in accordance with the *Barrow Island Joint Venture Environment Plan* (Chevron, 2020a) and the *Barrow Island - WA Oil Prescription for the Rehabilitation of Disturbed Areas* (Chevron, 2020b), which have been developed and approved by relevant stakeholders including the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and the Department of Mines and Industry Regulation (DMIRS) (Chevron, 2022). In considering the above and to improve transparency with stakeholders, government organisations, and members of the public, the Delegated Officer determined that the following amendments to the permit conditions were required:

- The addition of condition 14, requiring the Permit Holder to seek a submission from DBCA as the managers of Barrow Island Nature Reserve, where vegetation or areas to be affected by the proposed activity or clearing is classified P1 as described in Annexure 2 of the permit,
- The addition of condition 15(e)(viii), requiring the Environmental Specialist's assessment and conditioning of the Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Form to have regard to any submission received from DBCA pursuant to condition 14 of the permit,
- The addition of condition 16(e), requiring the Environmental Specialist's documentation of the assessment of the Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Form to include a copy of any submission received from DBCA pursuant to condition 14 of the permit,
- The addition of condition 24, requiring the Permit Holder to make records of the location, extent and method of clearing for infrastructure maintenance, pipelines, minor works and emergencies undertaken within the preceding calendar year publicly available, and
- The addition of condition 26(g), requiring the Permit Holder to make the lead environmental auditor's written reports of the external environmental audits publicly available.

Table 1. Details of public submissions (Submissions, 2022).

Summary of comments	Consideration of comments
<p>The practices for the progressive rehabilitation of Barrow Island under the provisions of the <i>Barrow Island - WA Oil Prescription for the Rehabilitation of Disturbed Areas</i> (Chevron, 2020b) are unacceptable based on the following grounds:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rehabilitation proposes to apply the provisions of the <i>Contaminated Sites Act 2003</i> to set soil and introduced material standards, which does not support the replication of Barrow Island to its pre-industrial state. 2. The reuse of concrete and other industrial wastes for rehabilitation does not support the environmental outcomes for a Class A nature reserve, noting the risk of toxic components of the industrial waste leaching into surrounding soils and waterways. 3. Treated hydrocarbon impacted soil will be used in rehabilitation as a pilot study to inform future use of contaminated soils, which is not appropriate within a Class A Nature Reserve. 4. Weed management for the rehabilitation proposal involves spraying with pesticides, burial, incineration, and off-site disposal, which may impact soil and soil structure. 5. Imported topsoil and fill will be used for rehabilitation in addition to natural topsoil, which presents the risk of introducing pathogenic substances and contaminants into the Class A Nature Reserve. 6. Some topsoil for rehabilitation will be sourced from areas adjacent to the remediation areas, which presents the risk that areas not requiring remediation will be cleared to provide topsoil for other areas. 7. The rehabilitation objectives are inadequate in comparison to the objectives of the <i>Barrow group nature reserves management plan</i> (DPAW, 2015). 8. The presence of absence of key fauna are not included in the Net Environmental Benefit Analysis and rehabilitation prioritisation process. 	<p>The Delegated Officer acknowledges that condition 18 of Clearing Permit CPS 123 specifies that clearing for the purpose of active rehabilitation must be undertaken in accordance with the <i>Barrow Island - WA Oil Prescription for the Rehabilitation of Disturbed Areas</i> (Chevron, 2020b). However, the Delegated Officer notes that the conditioning of Clearing Permit CPS 123 does not require the Permit Holder to undertake active rehabilitation, but rather allows for clearing of native vegetation that may be required to facilitate active rehabilitation that is associated with the decommissioning and site remediation of the Barrow Island Oil and Gas Facility and its infrastructure.</p> <p>Active rehabilitation associated with decommissioning and site remediation and adherence to the <i>Barrow Island - WA Oil Prescription for the Rehabilitation of Disturbed Areas</i> (Chevron, 2020b) is a requirement of the <i>Barrow Island Joint Venture Environment Plan</i> (Chevron, 2020a), approved by DMIRS in relation to titles for petroleum exploration and production in WA (onshore or internal waters) issued under the <i>Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources Act 1967</i> (PGER Act). Noting this requirement, the Delegated Officer considers that reference to active rehabilitation being undertaken in accordance with the <i>Barrow Island - WA Oil Prescription for the Rehabilitation of Disturbed Areas</i> (Chevron, 2020b) is required for consistency with the approved management of the petroleum exploration and production titles on Barrow Island and that there is limited scope for the Department to request specific amendments to rehabilitation practices under this clearing permit amendment alone.</p> <p>The Delegated Officer understands that the <i>Barrow Island - WA Oil Prescription for the Rehabilitation of Disturbed Areas</i> (Chevron, 2020b) and its practices for active rehabilitation has been developed by the Permit Holder in consultation with DMIRS, as the administrator of the PGER Act, the <i>Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources (Environment) Regulations 2012</i>, and the <i>Petroleum Pipelines Act 1969</i>, and DBCA, as the manager of Barrow Island Nature Reserve under the <i>Conservation and Land Management Act 1984</i> (CALM Act). The Delegated Officer also understands that the purpose of the <i>Barrow Island - WA Oil Prescription for the Rehabilitation of Disturbed Areas</i> (Chevron, 2020b) is to provide a framework for rehabilitation activities aimed at meeting the rehabilitation Completion Criteria approved by DMIRS and DBCA.</p> <p>The <i>Barrow Island - WA Oil Prescription for the Rehabilitation of Disturbed Areas</i> (Chevron, 2020b) specifies that the document is reviewed and updated every three years and the Permit Holder has advised that reviews are undertaken in consultation with DMIRS and DBCA (Chevron, 2022). The Department will forward the concerns raised in the submissions to the Permit Holder in relation to rehabilitation practices, for consideration in the next review.</p>

Table 1. Details of public submissions (Submissions, 2022).

Summary of comments	Consideration of comments
<p>Noting that the permit conditions allow for the Permit Holder to undertake an in-house assessment of clearing impacts and determine appropriate management conditions internally, the Department should assess the individual clearing activities undertaken by the Permit Holder, to determine if the conditions of the permit were adequately adhered to, before extending the duration of the Permit.</p>	<p>While it is acknowledged that the permit conditions allow for a level of internal assessment by the Permit Holder, the Delegated Officer notes that the Permit Holder is required to adhere to the vegetation disturbance assessment procedure outlined in Part II of the clearing permit, including its provisions for avoiding the clearing of significant vegetation communities and habitats, and condition setting to manage any impacts resulting from clearing activities.</p> <p>Under the previous condition 22 of Clearing Permit CPS 123/8, the Permit Holder was required to conduct internal audits to determine whether the clearing carried out under an issued Ground and Vegetation Disturbance Form was in accordance with the conditions of the permit. The Permit Holder was also required to document the findings of the audit, including any non-compliances, and provide this to the Department in its annual reports under previous condition 20.</p> <p>As described in the assessment of the application under section 4 of this report, the Delegated Officer concluded that auditing of Clearing Permit CPS 123/9 should include both internal and external auditing conditions, to align with current departmental policies and procedures for strategic purpose permits. Internal audits are required to be implemented annually, while external audits must be implemented biennially. The Permit Holder is required to document the findings of the audit and corrective actions taken to address any non-compliance with the permit conditions, and provide these to the Department in a written report.</p> <p>The Delegated Officer notes that compliance with clearing permits is managed through the Department's Compliance and Enforcement Policy (Interim). The Delegated Officer considers that the ability of the Department to consider the Permit Holder's compliance with the permit conditions is adequately provided for by the auditing and annual reporting conditions of the permit.</p>
<p>The Permit Holder must ensure that Aboriginal cultural heritage is protected and preserved if it is found during vegetation clearing or rehabilitation post-clearing.</p>	<p>The Delegated Officer acknowledges that Barrow Island includes numerous Aboriginal Sites of Significance. It is the Permit Holder's responsibility to comply with the <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972</i> and ensure that no Sites of Aboriginal Significance are damaged through the clearing process.</p>
<p>No new clearing should be undertaken to support the gas infrastructure on Barrow Island, given the significant environmental values of the Nature Reserve, the current economic conditions, the changing international policies regarding CO₂ emissions to reduce the impacts of climate change, and the Permit Holder's inability to meet the stated goals of its carbon capture and storage (CCS) project.</p>	<p>The Delegated Officer notes that the clearing of native vegetation for infrastructure maintenance under condition 4 of the clearing permit is restricted to previously disturbed vegetation. Clearing of undisturbed vegetation is limited to the purposes pursuant to conditions 5, 6, and 7, and Part IV of the permit. Under these conditions, the Delegated Officer considers that clearing of previously undisturbed vegetation in relation to gas infrastructure is likely to be limited to the purposes of installing and modifying infrastructure for the produced water reinjection project, providing access to existing infrastructure, constructing, replacing, or maintaining pipelines and existing infrastructure, and activities associated with the decommissioning, demolition, and abandonment of existing infrastructure.</p> <p>The Delegated Officer also notes that Clearing Permit CPS 123 does not authorise clearing for 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.</p> <p>Further, the Delegated Officer notes that clearing of undisturbed vegetation is subject to the vegetation disturbance assessment procedure under Part II of the clearing permit. The Delegated Officer considers this procedure to be adequate to mitigate the environmental impacts of the clearing proposed under the permit, as outlined in section 4 of this report.</p>

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, 123/6 and 123/8.

5. References

- Chevron Australia Pty Ltd (Chevron) (2020a) *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>.
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- Submissions (2022) *Public submission in relation to clearing permit application CPS 123/9*, received 1 June 2022 (DWER Ref: DWERDT612037 and DWERDT612090).
- Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) *FloraBase - The Western Australian Flora. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions*. Available from: <http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/> (accessed March 2022).

Publicly available GIS Databases used (sourced from 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)