



## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 2275/1  
Permit type: Purpose Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Lower Ord Limited

### 1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 755 ON PLAN 241648 ( CAMBRIDGE GULF 6743)  
Local Government Area: Shire Of Wyndham-East Kimberley  
Colloquial name:

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
0.004		Mechanical Removal	Road construction or maintenance

## 2. Site Information

### 2.1. Existing environment and information

#### 2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description	Clearing Description	Vegetation Condition	Comment
The Vegetation under application is Beard Vegetation 127: Bare areas and mud flaps	Of the 0.004 ha under application, approximately 30% is vegetated, the remaining area consists of mud and bare ground.	Pristine: No obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994)	The condition and description of the area under application was obtained via the use of aerial mapping systems.

## 3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

### Comments

The area under application is 0.004 ha (40m<sup>2</sup>) and is comprised of Beard vegetation association 127 which is described as bare areas and mud flats. This vegetation association is well represented as the remaining pre-European extent is above the recommended 30% threshold as outlined in the National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005 (Canberra 2001) within the Victoria Bonaparte Bioregion, subregion and local shire, with vegetation representations currently at 98.6%, 98.8% & 98% of Pre-European extent remaining respectively (Shepherd et al. 2006). The soil for the application area is low-lying coastal plains with some sand dunes: chief soils are saline clays on the flat to very gently sloping plains. The local area has seen a declining frequency in floods and the area has potential issues with rising water tables (Davis et al. 2001). There were no Declared Rare or Priority flora or fauna occurrences recorded within the local area (10km radius), however the application area is within a Ramsar (Ord River Flood Plain) and ANCA (Parry Flood Plain) listed wetland.

This area is known to support populations of the globally threatened saltwater crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*) and the nationally venerable Freshwater Sawfish (*Microdon pristis*). The Parry flood plain is important for the high diversity and complex mangrove species. It is a breeding site for water birds and can attract up to 20, 000 individuals from 54 species during a good rainfall year (NatureBase 2008). Rainfall is monsoonal and falls between the months of November to March, with an average annual rainfall of 695 - 1000mm.

Due to the application area being situated on a flood plain the elevation is at sea level. Of the 0.004ha under application, approximately 30% is vegetated; the remaining area consists of mud and bare ground. Even though the application area is within a Ramsar and ANCA listed wetland (ANCA 1996), where there is strict management guidelines in place to ensure the integrity of such wetlands are maintained, due to the size and condition of the vegetation, the proposed clearing is unlikely to significantly impact the environmental values of the wetland.

To alleviate any impacts that clearing may have on flow dynamics, sediment deposition and erosion on or off site, a revegetation condition will be imposed should a permit be granted

Methodology Keighery ( 1994)  
ANCA (1996)

- Davis et al. (2001)
- Canberra (2001)
- Shepherd et al (2006)
- NatureBase (2008)
- GIS DataSets:
  - Wyndham 50cm Orthomosaic Landgate 07
  - Pre-European Vegetation
  - Soils, Statewide
  - Rainfall, Annual
  - Topographic Contours, Statewide
  - Calm Managed Lands & Waters
  - Clearing Regulations-Environmentally Sensitive Areas
  - Clearing Regulations- Schedule One Areas
  - ANCA, Wetlands
  - RAMSAR, Wetlands
  - Groundwater Salinity, Statewide

#### Planning instrument, Native Title, Previous EPA decision or other matter.

##### Comments

There is Native Title Claims over the area under application. The Department of Environment and Conservation's advertising of the application in the West Australian Newspaper constitutes legal notification of the Native Title representative body for the purpose of the future act procedures under the Native Title Act 1993

##### Methodology

- GIS Datasets:
- Native Title

#### 4. Assessor's comments

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Comment
Road construction or maintenance	Mechanical Removal	0.004	The proposed clearing for the purpose of gaining access way for geotechnical investigations was found to be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- At variance to Principle (f)</li> <li>- Not likely to be at variance to all other Principles</li> </ul>

#### 5. References

- ANCA (1996) A Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia. Second Edition. Australian Nature Conservation Agency, Canberra
- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Targets and Objectives for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, AGPS, Canberra.
- Davis, JA., Froend, RH., Hamilton, DP., Horwitz, P., McComb, AJ., Oldham, CE., (2001) Environmental Water Requirements to Maintain Wetlands of National and International Importance, Environmental Flows Initiative Technical Report Number 1, Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra (accessed 180408 via [www.environment.gov.au/water/publications/environmental/rivers/nrhp/pubs/wetlands.pdf](http://www.environment.gov.au/water/publications/environmental/rivers/nrhp/pubs/wetlands.pdf))
- Information Sheet On Ramsar Wetlands (accessed 180408 via [www.naturebase.net/pdf/national\\_parks/wetlands/fact\\_sheets/ord\\_river\\_floodplain1.doc](http://www.naturebase.net/pdf/national_parks/wetlands/fact_sheets/ord_river_floodplain1.doc))
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Shepherd, D.P., Beeston, G.R. and Hopkins, A.J.M. (2001a) Native Vegetation in Western Australia, Extent, Type and Status. Resource Management Technical Report 249. Department of Agriculture, Western Australia (updated 2006)

#### 6. Glossary

Term	Meaning
BCS	Biodiversity Coordination Section of DEC
CALM	Department of Conservation and Land Management (now BCS)
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection (now DEC)
DoE	Department of Environment
DoIR	Department of Industry and Resources
DRF	Declared Rare Flora

EPP Environmental Protection Policy  
GIS Geographical Information System  
ha Hectare (10,000 square metres)  
TEC Threatened Ecological Community  
WRC Water and Rivers Commission (now DEC)