



**1. Application details**

**1.1. Permit application details**

Permit application No.: 2791/1  
 Permit type: Purpose Permit

**1.2. Proponent details**

Proponent's name: Shire of Laverton

**1.3. Property details**

Property: UNALLOCATED CROWN LAND ( LAKE WELLS 6440)  
 CROWN RESERVE 24980 ( LAKE WELLS 6440)  
 Local Government Area: Shire Of Laverton  
 Colloquial name: Great Central Road - Reserve

**1.4. Application**

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
49		Mechanical Removal	Road construction or maintenance
		Mechanical Removal	Road construction or maintenance
		Mechanical Removal	Road construction or maintenance
		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
Beard Vegetation Unit: 18 - Low woodland; mulga (Acacia aneura)	The proposal is to clear 49ha of native vegetation for the purpose of gravel extraction and road widening.	Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994)	The condition of the vegetation under application was determined through aerial imagery Western Australian Landsat Orthomosaic 25m 741 - AGO 2005
24 - Low woodland; Allocasuarina cristata			
1239 - Hummock grasslands, open meduim tree & mallee steppe; marble gum & mallee (E. youngiana) over hard spinifex Triodia basedowii on sandplain			

**3. Assessment of application against clearing principles**

**(a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.**

**Comments**      **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**  
 The proposed clearing is for 49ha of native vegetation for the purpose of road widening and gravel extraction along the Great Central Road.

The local area (50km radius) is highly vegetated (approximately 95%) and there are no rare flora within the local area.

There is one known record of a Priority flora species within the local area, namely Comesperma viscidulum (Priority 4).

The vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered to have a high level of biological diversity in a local context.

**Methodology**      GIS Database:  
 SAC Bio Datasets - accessed 4/12/2008

**(b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.**

**Comments** **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**  
 Within a 50km radius there are is one record of threatened, priority fauna, namely Ramphotyphlops margaretae (Priority 2 Long tailed blind snake ssp).

However, the local area is highly vegetated therefore the area under application is not likely to be significant habitat for any fauna indigenous to Western Australia.

**Methodology** GIS Database:  
 SAC Bio Dataset - accessed 4/12/08

**(c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora.**

**Comments** **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**  
 There are no known records of rare flora within a 50km radius of the applied area.

Therefore the clearing as proposed is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

**Methodology** GIS Database:  
 SAC Bio Dataset - accessed 4/12/2008

**(d) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a threatened ecological community.**

**Comments** **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**  
 There are no known records of Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) within a 50km of the applied area.

Therefore the vegetation under application is not likely to comprise whole or part of, or be necessary for the maintenance of a TEC.

**Methodology** GIS Database:  
 SAC Bio Datasets - accessed 4/12/2008

**(e) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.**

**Comments** **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

Pre-European	Current	Remaining % % in reserves/DEC- area (ha) extent (ha) managed land		
IBRA Bioregion **				
- Great Victoria Desert	21,794,205	21,784,756	99.96	8.47
LGA				
- Shire of Laverton*	11,999,851	17,992,328	99.96	6.60
Beard vegetation associations**				
- 18	19,892,304	19,890,195	99.99	6.24
- 24	263,147	263,147	100	0.92
- 1239	2,234,315	2,234,315	100	11.85

\* (Shepherd et al., 2001; Hopkins et al., 2001)

\*\* (Shepherd, 2007)

The local area is well vegetated and the vegetation under application is not considered to be significant in an extensively cleared landscape.

**Methodology** References:  
 Hopkins et al. (2001)  
 Shepherd et al. (2001)  
 Shepherd (2007)

GIS Database:  
 Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia - EA 18/10/00



**(f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.**

**Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

The closest watercourse is approximately 240m south (minor, non-perennial) and the closest wetland is located approximately 4.3km west of the applied area.

Given the distance between these wetlands and watercourses the vegetation under application is not likely to be growing in or in association with an environment associated with a wetland or watercourse.

**Methodology** GIS Database:  
Hydrography linear (hierarchy) - DoW 13/7/06

**(g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.**

**Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

The local area (50km radius) is highly vegetated and the soils are mapped as chiefly shallow red earths and stony sands over red to brown hardpan (Northcote et al., 1968) which are not prone to wind and / or water erosion.

Given the above it is not likely that the clearing as proposed will cause appreciable land degradation.

**Methodology** References:  
Northcote et al. (1968)

GIS Database:  
Evapotranspiration Isopleths - WRC 29/09/98  
Groundwater Salinity Statewide DoW 13/07/06  
Hydrographic catchments, catchments - DoW 01/06/07  
Hydrogeology, statewide DOW 13/07/06  
Mean Annual Rainfall Isohytes (1975 - 2003) DEC 02/08/05  
Soils, Statewide DA 11/99  
Topographic Contours, Statewide - DOLA 12/09/02

**(h) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.**

**Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

The closest area of conservation significance is approximately 2km south of the applied area (Yeo Lake Nature Reserve).

Given the distance between the applied area and the Ywo Lake Nature Reserve the clearing as proposed is not likely to impact on the environmental values of this conservation area.

**Methodology** GIS Database:  
CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 01/06/05  
System 1 to 5 and 7 to 12 areas ? DEC 11/7/06

**(i) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.**

**Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

Given the high vegetation representation within the local area and the distance between the applied area and the closest watercourse (240m), the clearing as proposed is not likely to degrade water quality.

**Methodology** GIS Database:  
Hydrographic catchments, catchments - DoW 01/06/07  
Hydrography linear - DOW 13/7/06  
Western Australian Landsat Orthomosaic 25m 741- AGO 2005

**(j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.**

**Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

Given that the local area is highly vegetated the clearing as proposed is not likely to cause or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding.

**Methodology GIS Database:**

Hydrogeographic catchments, catchments - DOW 01/06/07  
Western Australian Landsat Orthomosaic 25m 741 - AGO 2005

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

**Comments**

There is a Native Title Claim 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. No response was received from the representative body.

**Methodology GIS Database:**

Native Title Claims - LA 2/5/07

**4. Assessor's comments**

**Comment**

The application has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with s51O of the Environmental Protection Act 1986, and the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to any of the clearing principles.

**5. References**

- DEC (2008) Goldfields Regional Advice. Department of Environment and Conservation Trim Ref DOC70042  
Hopkins, A.J.M., Beeston, G.R. and Harvey J.M. (2001) A database on the vegetation of Western Australia. Stage 1. CALMScience after J. S. Beard, late 1960's to early 1980's Vegetation Survey of Western Australia, UWA Press.  
Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.  
Northcote, K. H. with Beckmann G G, Bettenay E., Churchward H. M., van Dijk D. C., Dimmock G. M., Hubble G. D., Isbell R. F., McArthur W. M., Murtha G. G., Nicolls K. D., Paton T. R., Thompson C. H., Webb A. A. and Wright M. J. (1960-68): 'Atlas of Australian Soils, Sheets 1 to 10, with explanatory data'. CSIRO and Melbourne University Press: Melbourne.  
Shepherd, D.P., Beeston, G.R. and Hopkins, A.J.M. (2001) Native Vegetation in Western Australia, Extent, Type and Status. Resource Management Technical Report 249. Department of Agriculture, 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 2005).

**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)