



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Purpose Permit number: | CPS 2915/3 |
| Permit Holder: | Chevron Australia Pty Ltd |
| Duration of Permit: | 9 May 2009 – 12 February 2012 |

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 geotechnical investigations and trenching machine trial.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Lot 3055 on Plan 52026

Unallocated Crown Land (Department of Planning and Infrastructure Licence to Occupy Crown Land, Licence Number 391/245/00951-2008/1)

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 1.0 hectare of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 2915/3.

4. 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.

5. Compliance with Assessment Sequence and Management Procedures

Prior to clearing any native vegetation under conditions 1, 2 and 3 of this Permit, the Permit Holder must comply with the Assessment Sequence and the Management Procedures set out in Part II of this Permit.

PART II – ASSESSMENT SEQUENCE AND MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

6. Avoid, minimise etc clearing

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

- 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.

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

7. Records must be kept

The Permit Holder must maintain the following records for activities done pursuant to this Permit in relation to the clearing of native vegetation authorised under this Permit:

- (a) the species composition, structure and density of the cleared area;
- (b) the location where the clearing occurred, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings;
- (c) the date that the area was cleared; and
- (d) the size of the area cleared (in hectares).

8. Reporting

- (a) The Permit Holder must provide to the CEO, on or before 30 June of each year, a written report of records required under condition 7 of this Permit and activities done by the Permit Holder under this Permit between 1 January and 31 December of the preceding year.
- (b) Prior to 12 November 2011, the Permit Holder must provide to the CEO a written report of records required under condition 7 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under condition 8(a) of this Permit.

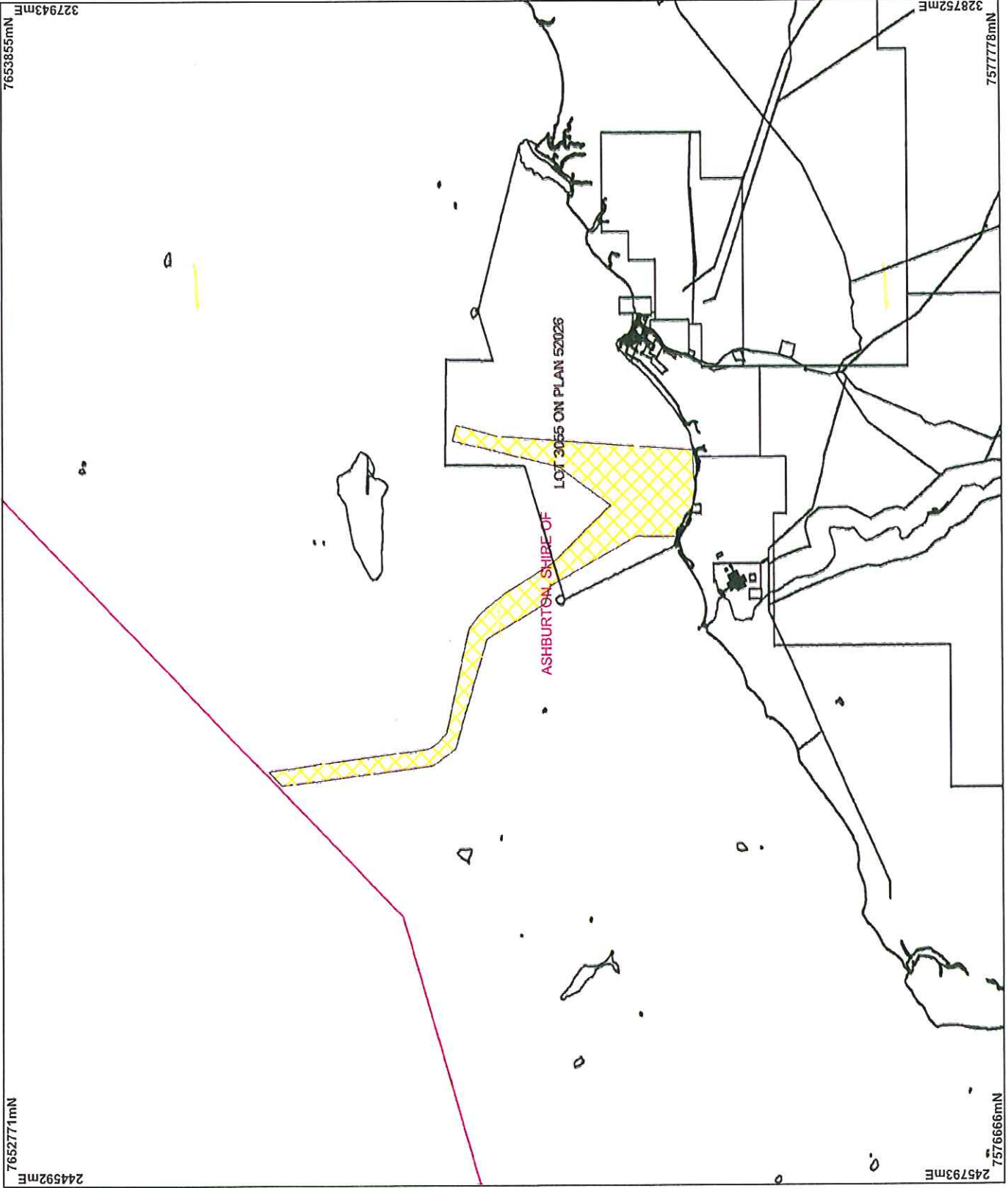


Kelly Faulkner
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

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

17 December 2009

Plan 2915/3



LEGEND

- Cleaning Instruments
- Areas Approved to Clear
- Road Centrelines
- Cadastral
- Local Government Authorisations
- Cadastral for labelling



Scale 1:383949
(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

Geocentric Datum Australia 1994

Note: the date in this map have not been projected. This may result in geometric distortion of measurement inaccuracies.

K Faulkner Date 16/12/09

K Faulkner

Information derived from this map should be confirmed with the cadastral information acknowledged by the agency acronym in the legend.

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Department of Environment and Conservation

W/A Green Copyright 2002

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1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 2915/3
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Chevron Australia Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 3055 ON PLAN 52026 (ASHBURTON, SHIRE OF)
Local Government Area:
Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

| Clearing Area (ha) | No. Trees | Method of Clearing | For the purpose of: |
|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 0.5 | | Mechanical Removal | Industrial |
| | | Mechanical Removal | Industrial |
| 0.5 | | Mechanical Removal | Industrial |
| | | Mechanical Removal | Industrial |

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 |
|---|--|--|---|
| Vegetation consists of seagrass species: Halophila spinulosa and Halophila decipiens; Brown Algae: Sargassum, Padina and Dictyopteris; and Red Algae: Graciliana and Laurencia (URS, 2009). | The proposed clearing is for geotechnical investigations. There will be five small clearing areas of 7m ² at each site, of which there will be 40. The vegetation within the application area is found to be of a lower density than surrounding areas, with patchy algae cover (URS, 2009). 23 of the sites surveyed contain biota cover of 1-25% (URS, 2009). | Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994) | Vegetation condition was assessed through a survey by URS (2009). |

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 purpose of the application is to clear seagrasses and algae for geotechnical investigations and trenching machine trial. The vegetation within the application area is found to be of a lower density than surrounding areas, with patchy algae cover (URS, 2009).

Given that the application area is relatively large when compared to the actual area of vegetation to be cleared (1ha) and surrounding marine vegetation appears to be in the same or better condition, it is unlikely that the application area is representative of an area of outstanding biodiversity in the region.

Methodology URS (2009)

(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**

The application area comprises of sparse algae with most surveyed plot areas consisting of less than 25% vegetation. Mobile marine fauna are able to feed on surrounding seagrass meadows in better condition than the

application area, which also provide better habitat (URS, 2009).

Given that the application area is relatively large when compared to the actual area of vegetation to be cleared (1ha), the proposal is unlikely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology URS (2009)

(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 records of priority marine flora within the application area. Therefore it is unlikely that the proposal is at variance to this principle.

Methodology Sac Biodatasets (Flora accessed 19 November 2009)

(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 records of priority of threatened ecological communities within the application area. Therefore it is unlikely that the proposal is at variance to this principle.

Methodology Sac Biodatasets (TEC - accessed 19 November 2009)

(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

Various sites within the application area are considered very patchy with less than 25% vegetative cover. The application area is considered to contain lower seagrass and algae content than surrounding areas (URS, 2009).

Given the relatively large application area compared to the small size of clearing (1ha), it is unlikely that the proposal is at variance to this principle.

Methodology URS (2009)

(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 at variance to this Principle

The nearshore area of the application consists of terrestrial silt deposits from the Ashburton River (due to flood flows) which cause a turbid environment. There are low nutrient levels and a lack of significant primary producer habitat (URS, 2009). As the seagrass is growing in association with a river-estuarine environment, the proposed clearing is considered to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology URS (2009)

(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 nearshore existing environment is highly turbid (URS, 2009). The algae and seagrass within the application area do not bind to the seabed sediments due to the constant tidal disturbance (URS, 2009).

Given that the application area is relatively large when compared to the actual area of marine seagrasses and algae to be cleared (1ha), it is unlikely that the proposal will cause appreciated land degradation.

Methodology URS (2009)

(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

Therendard Island Class C Nature Reserve is the nearest conservation area (approximately 25km north of the application area).

Given the distance between the application area and the nearest conservation reserve, it is unlikely that clearing will impact on conservation values.

Methodology GIS Layer:
- Register of National Estate - Environment Australia, Australian and world heritage division 12 Mar 02
- System 1 to 5-7 to 12

(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**
The clearing of 1 hectares of native marine seagrasses and algae within a relatively large application area, is unlikely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.

Methodology

(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**
Clearing with the marine ecosystem is unlikely to cause or exacerbate the incident or intensity of flooding.

Methodology

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

Comments
The applicant has approvals to access the application area from DPI (DEC TRIM Ref: DOC84747 and DOC84746).

Shire of Ashburton has no objections with the proposal (DEC TRIM Ref: DOC74645).

Notice was given under section 24KA of the native title act 1993. A submission was received objecting to the clearing relating to 2915/1. This objection will be withdrawn upon the proponent entering into an arrangement with the native title claimants satisfying both the Native Title Act and the Aboriginal Heritage Act (DEC TRIM Ref: DOC81201). Notice was re-issued for the current application (CPS2915/3), no response was received.

Methodology

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 at variance to principle (f) and not likely to be at variance to the remaining clearing principles.

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 at variance to principle (f) and not likely to be at variance to the remaining clearing principles.

5. References

- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
URS (2009). Final Report Supporting Documentation for the Clearing Permit Application CPS2915/1 Wheatstone LNG Development. Prepared for Chevron Australia Pty Ltd on 19 January 2009 by URS.

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 (now DEC) |

| | |
|-----|---|
| DMP | Department of Mines and Petroleum (ex DoIR) |
| 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) |