



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Purpose Permit number: | CPS 2995/1 |
| Permit Holder: | Compass Group (Australia) Pty Ltd |
| Duration of Permit: | 2 May 2009 – 2 May 2014 |

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 extending a water main.
- 2. Land on which clearing is to be done**
Great Northern Highway (Road Reserve, Port Hedland)
Unallocated Crown Land (PIN 11583948)
Unallocated Crown Land (PIN 11583949)
- 3. Area of Clearing**
The Permit Holder must not clear more than 17 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 2995/1.
- 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:
 - (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.

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 2 February 2014, 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.

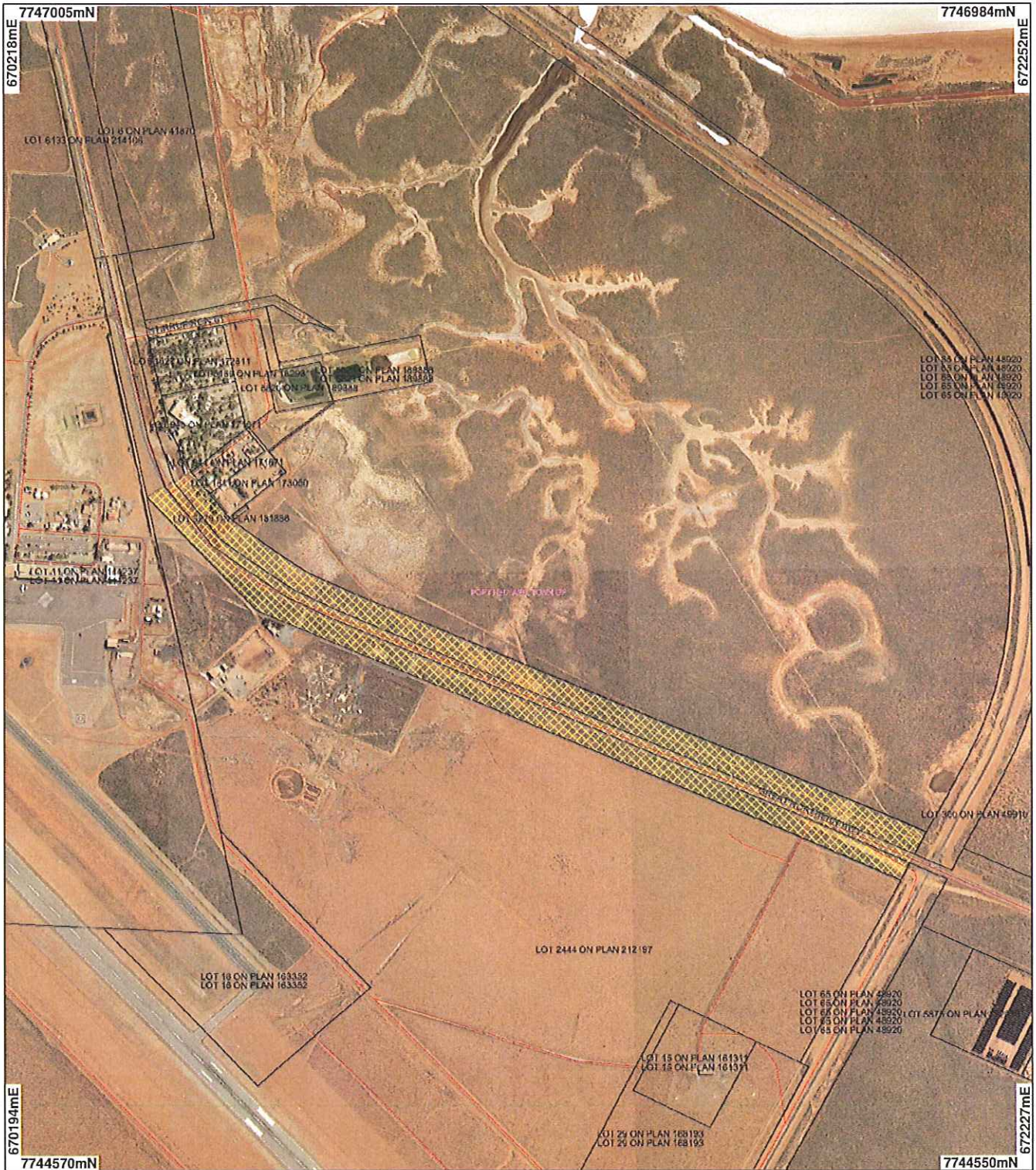


Keith Claymore
A/ ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
NATURE CONSERVATION DIVISION

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

2 April 2009

Plan 2995/1



LEGEND

- | | |
|---|---|
| Clearing Instruments | Local Government Authorities |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Areas Approved to Clear Road Centrelines Cadastre | <p>Port Hedland Townsite 20cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2002</p> |



Scale 1:11196

(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

Geocentric Datum Australia 1994

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

Kait Claymore Date 2/4/07
K Claymore

Officer with delegated authority under Section 20 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

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



Department of Environment and Conservation

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1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 2995/1
 Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: **Compass Group (Australia) Pty Ltd**

1.3. Property details

Property: ROAD RESERVE (PORT HEDLAND 6721)
 UNALLOCATED CROWN LAND (PORT HEDLAND 6721)
 UNALLOCATED CROWN LAND (PORT HEDLAND 6721)

Local Government Area: Town Of Port Hedland

Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

| Clearing Area (ha) | No. Trees | Method of Clearing | For the purpose of: |
|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 17 | | Mechanical Removal | Building or Structure |

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 area to be cleared consists of Beard Vegetation Association 647 - Hummock grasslands, dwarf-shrub steppe; <i>Acacia translucens</i> over soft spinifex (Shepherd et al., 2007). | The purpose of clearing is for water main extension to service an accommodation village. Some of the vegetation on site has been previously cleared for the existing road (Great Northern Highway). Most the vegetation within the road reserve is highly disturbed and in a degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition. Buffel grass and other invasive weed species are within the application area (Western Botanical, 2008). | Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994) | Vegetation condition was assessed through aerial photography and a vegetation survey (Western Botanical, 2008). |

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 clearing is for water main extension to service an accommodation village. The area to be cleared consists of Beard vegetation association 647 of which there is approximately 100% of the Pre-European extent remaining (Shepherd et al., 2007). Some of the vegetation on site has been previously cleared for the existing road (Great Northern Highway). Most the vegetation within the road reserve is highly disturbed and in a degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition. Buffel grass and other invasive weed species are within the application area (Western Botanical, 2008).

The application area is unlikely to represent an area of higher biodiversity value when compared to representative vegetation in a local and regional context.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology Shepherd et al., (2007)
 GIS Database:
 Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (subregions) - EA 18/10/00.
 - Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia - EA 18/10/00.

- Pre-European Vegetation - DA 01/01.
- Port Hedland Townsite 20cm Orthomosaic - DLI 02.

(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 fauna habitats within the proposed area to be cleared are well represented elsewhere within the local and regional area, and no significant loss of habitat for fauna indigenous to WA is expected. The area to be cleared does not represent a fauna corridor and therefore the clearing will not remove an ecological linkage that is necessary for the maintenance of fauna.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology Sac Biodataset (Fauna) 110309

(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 species within the local area (30km radius) of the application area. Therefore it is unlikely that the proposal is at variance to this principle.

Methodology SAC Biodatasets (110309)

(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 Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) within a 30km radius of the proposed clearing area. Therefore it is unlikely that the proposal is at variance to this principle.

Methodology SAC Biodataset 110309
GIS Database:

(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 at variance to this Principle

Approximately 99.95% and 99.78% of the Pre-European vegetation remains in the IBRA Pilbara bioregion and the Town of Port Hedland respectively, within which this proposal is located (Shepherd et al., 2007).

The vegetation applied to be cleared is part of Beard Vegetation association 647 which is described as follows; hummock grasslands, dwarf-shrub steppe; *Acacia translucens* over soft spinifex (Shepherd et al., 2007). There is approximately 100% of the Pre-European extent remaining of association 647 and therefore the 17 ha area proposed to be cleared is not considered to be a significant remnant of native vegetation within an extensively cleared area.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology Shepherd et al. (2007).
GIS Database:
- Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (subregions) - EA 18/10/00.
- Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia - EA 18/10/00.
- Port Hedland Townsite 20cm Orthomosaic - DLI 02.

(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 may be at variance to this Principle

A seasonal watercourse crosses the Great Northern Highway in the south eastern corner of the application area. A samphire vegetation unit occurs within the application area consisting of *Trianthema turgidifolia* or *Tecticornia indica* ssp. *indica*/ *lelostachya* very open shrubland over *Triodia secunda* very open hummock grassland and sometimes over *Cenchrus ciliaris*, *Eragrostis* sp. or *Erianche* sp. open tussock grassland (Western Botanical, 2008). This vegetation is found within a low-lying saline drainage area (Western Botanical, 2008). Where the water course crosses the road reserve, the vegetation has been highly disturbed in the past during road works.

As there is a watercourse located within the application area, the proposal may be at variance to this principle.

However, road infrastructure has been previously installed and therefore disturbance will be minimal.

Methodology Western Botanical (2008)
Gis Database:
GIS Database:
- Hydrography, linear (medium scale, 250k GA).
- Hydrography, linear - DOE 1/2/04.
- Hydrography, linear (hierarchy) - DOW.

(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 clearing application area lies within the Uaroo land system (sandy surfaced plains: not degraded or eroded) and Littoral Land system (bare coastal mudflats with samphire flats)(Van Vreeswyk et al., 2004). The Uaroo land system is generally not susceptible to erosion or significant degradation (Van Vreeswyk et al., 2004).

The application area has been previously disturbed, with numerous bare patches present.

Based on the above, the proposal is unlikely to be at variance to this Principle provided appropriate erosion control measures are implemented.

Methodology Van Vreeswyk et al. (2004)
GIS Database:
- Rangeland Land System Mapping - DA.

(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 nearest Directory of Important Wetlands (formerly Australian Nature Conservation Agency (ANCA)) wetland area is the Leslie (Port Hedland) Saltfields System, located approximately 10.6 kilometres north-east of the proposed clearing area. The Saltfields System plays an important ecological role, as a major migration stop-over area for shorebirds in the East-Asia-Australasia Flyway (Department of the Environment and Water Resources, 2007). However, based on the distance between the proposed clearing and the wetlands, adverse impacts on the environmental values of the wetlands are unlikely.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology Department of the Environment and Water Resources (2007).
GIS Database:
- ANCA, Wetlands - CALM 08/01.
- CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 1/07/05.
- CALM proposed 2015 pastoral lease exclusions.
- CALM Regional Parks - CALM 12/04/02.
- Proposed National Parks, FMP - CALM 19/03/03.
- Register of National Estate - EA 28/01/03.
- System 1 to 5 and 7 to 12 Areas - DEP 06/95.

(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

Clearing of 17 hectares of vegetation is unlikely to have a significant impact on groundwater in the proposed area given the average annual rainfall and evapotranspiration rate of the site is 400mm per annum. Furthermore, the existing vegetation is shallow rooted grass and shrub species and thus the proposed clearing is unlikely to have a significantly impact the level of the groundwater table.

Methodology GIS Database:
- Evaporation Isopleths - BOM 09/98
- Rainfall, Mean Annual - BOM 30/09/01

(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

The limited amount of clearing proposed (17 hectares) in comparison with the extent of the Port Hedland coastal catchment area (which is approximately 744,300 hectares) is unlikely to result in an increase in peak flood height or flood peak duration.

Further to this, the existing vegetation consists of shallow rooted grasses and shrubs with minimal tree root systems, thus the proposed clearing of vegetation is unlikely to significantly affect the level of the ground water table.

Given the above, it is unlikely that the proposed clearing will cause or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding.

Methodology GIS Database:
- Evaporation Isopleths - BOM 09/98
- Hydrographic Catchments - Catchments - DOW.
- Rainfall, Mean Annual - BOM 30/09/01.

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

Comments

The proposed area lies within the Pilbara River and Tributaries Area as proclaimed under the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914. Any groundwater extraction and/or taking or diversion of surface water for the purposes other than domestic and/or stock watering is subject to licence by the Department of Water. The applicant will source construction water from the Water Corporation's water supply network via a standpipe (DEC TRIM Ref: DOC79278).

Methodology GIS Themes:
~ Register of Heritage Places - DPI 14/7/03;
~ Register of National Estate - EA 28/01/03;
~ Aboriginal Sites of Significance - DIA 28/02/03;

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 may be at variance to principle (f), is not at variance to Principle (e) and not likely to be at variance to any of the clearing Principles.

5. References

- Department of the Environment and Water Resources (2007) A Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia, Leslie (Port Hedland) Saltfields System } WA068, <http://www.environment.gov.au>
- Department of Water (2007) Submission. Department of Environment and Conservation reference: TRIM Ref; DOC34840
- 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.
- Shepherd, D.P. (2007). Adapted from: Shepherd, D.P., Beeston, G.R., and Hopkins, A.J.M. (2001), Native Vegetation in Western Australia. Technical Report 249. Department of Agriculture Western Australia, South Perth. Includes subsequent updates for 2006 from Vegetation Extent dataset ANZWA1050000124.
- Van Vreeswyk, A.M.E., Payne, A.L, Leighton, K.A., and Henning, P. (2004) An inventory and condition survey of the Pilbara region, Western Australia, Technical Bulletin No.92, South Perth, Western Australia

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) |