



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 3033/2
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Latent Petroleum Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: Pipeline Licence 80 (PL80)
Local Government Area: Shire of Coorow & Shire of Dandaragan
Colloquial name: Warro Gas Project

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
16.2		Mechanical Removal	Gas pipeline and associated activities

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 29 May 2014

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
<p>The vegetation within the application area has been broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation associations:</p> <p>946: Medium woodland; wandoo; and</p> <p>1031: Mosaic: Shrublands; hakea scrub-heath / Shrublands; dryandra heath (GIS Database).</p> <p>An initial flora survey of the application area was carried out by Botanica Consulting and Keith Lindbeck and Associates between 13 and 17 November 2007 to collect flowering material from the vegetation groups within the application area. An additional vegetation survey was conducted by Botanica Consulting and Keith Lindbeck and Associates between 5 and 7 December 2007 to identify the major vegetation groups within the application area (Keith Lindbeck and Associates, 2009). Targeted flora surveys were undertaken by a local flora specialist (Mr Don Williams) between May and October 2009 (Keith Lindbeck and Associates, 2009).</p> <p>The vegetation surveys identified the following 15 vegetation communities within the application area (Keith Lindbeck and Associates, 2009):</p> <p>Kwongan:</p> <p>K1 - Dense low (<1m) Kwongan heath dominated by <i>Adenanthos cygnorum</i>, <i>Allocasuarina humilis</i>, <i>Banksia candolleana</i> and <i>Banksia sphaerocarpa</i> over duplex sands.</p> <p>K2 - Mid dense Kwongan heath dominated by <i>Banksia strictifolia</i> and <i>Banksia sclerophylla</i> over grey clay and laterite outcrop.</p> <p>K3 - Low Kwongan heath (regrowth) over <i>Banksia candolleana</i>, <i>Banksia sphaerocarpa</i>, <i>Banksia carlinoides</i> and <i>Daviesia daphnoides</i> over deep grey-yellow sands.</p> <p>K4 - Tall Kwongan heath dominated by <i>Banksia sessilis</i> var <i>flabellifolia</i>, <i>Eremaea beaufortoides</i>, <i>Adenanthos cygnorum</i> and <i>Jacksonia floribundum</i> over deep yellow</p>	<p>Warro Gas Project.</p> <p>Latent Petroleum Pty Ltd (Latent Petroleum) proposes to clear up to 16.2 hectares of native vegetation within a total boundary of approximately 100 hectares, for the purpose of a gas pipeline, temporary gas processing plant, maintenance road and associated activities.</p> <p>The project area is approximately 30 metres wide by approximately 33 kilometres long, and is located in the Shire of Coorow and the Shire of Dandaragan.</p>	<p>Excellent: Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery, 1994).</p> <p>To</p> <p>Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994).</p>	<p>The vegetation condition was provided by Keith Lindbeck and Associates (2009).</p> <p>Of the 33.1 kilometre proposed pipeline route, only 16.2 hectares is proposed to be cleared - approximately 9.22 hectares comprises of remnant vegetation and 6.98 hectares of regrowth native vegetation. The remaining area within the application area comprises of agricultural land. The proposed clearing will be restricted to a width of 20 metres through areas of remnant native vegetation and 30 metres through areas on agricultural land (Keith Lindbeck and Associates, 2009).</p> <p>The vegetation will be cleared using blade down clearing techniques. Topsoil and vegetative material will be stockpiled within the application area and progressive rehabilitation will be completed as soon as practicable (Keith Lindbeck and Associates, 2009). Following the rehabilitation, Keith Lindbeck and Associates (2009) has advised that a total of 3.22 hectares (1.80 hectares on regrowth farmland, and 1.42 hectares in remnant</p>

sands.

Shrubland:

S1 - Dense *Allocasuarina campestris* shrubland.

Woodland:

W1 - Open low *Eucalyptus tottiana* and *E. wandoo* woodland over tall Kwongan dominated by *Jacksonia sternbergiana*, *Lachnostachys eriobotrya* and *Xylomelum angustifolium* over grey, yellow and red loam.

W2 - *Eucalyptus tottiana* scattered low trees over tall Kwongan dominated by *Banksia attenuata*, *B. burdettii*, *B. candolleana*, *B. sessilis* var *flabellifolia* and *Xylomelum angustifolium*.

W3 - Low *Banksia* and *Xylomelum angustifolium* woodland over Kwongan heath dominated by *Banksia* species, *Hibbertia subvaginata* and *Petrophile macrostachya*.

Disturbed:

KD1 - Grazed areas of Kwongan vegetation over duplex sands and some breakaway.

KD2 - Degraded areas of kwongan vegetation over shallow duplex sand, gravel exposed.

KD3 - Kwongan regrowth (~4 yrs) over deep grey-yellow sands.

WD1 - Parkland cleared - Isolated *Eucalyptus wandoo* trees.

D1 - Cleared agricultural land with isolated *Eucalyptus loxophleba* and *E. gittinsii* trees over breakaway.

D2 - Cleared agricultural land with isolated *Eucalyptus tottiana*, *Banksia candolleana*, *Nuytsia floribunda* and agricultural species.

D3 - Cleared agricultural land with isolated individual *Eucalyptus falcata*, *Hibbertia hypericoides*, *Lomandra hastilis* and *Mesomelaena stygia* with agricultural species.

vegetation) will remain cleared for a 5 metre wide maintenance track along the pipeline route.

Clearing permit CPS 3033/1 was granted by the Department of Mines and Petroleum on 2 July 2009, and was valid from 1 August 2009 to 31 July 2014. On 8 April 2014, Latent Petroleum Pty Ltd applied to amend CPS 3033/1 to extend the duration of the permit by two years to 31 July 2016.

The period within which clearing is authorised has been extended to 31 July 2016, and the permit duration has been extended by an additional 5 years (to 31 July 2021) to allow sufficient time to complete all the required rehabilitation and revegetation activities.

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

The proposed amendment to extend the permit duration is unlikely to result in any significant additional environmental impacts. The size of the area approved to clear (16.2 hectares) and the permit boundaries remain unchanged.

The assessment against the clearing principles remains consistent with the assessment in clearing permit decision report CPS 3033/1.

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

Comments

There is one Native Title Claim over the area under application (WC1997/071). This claim has been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on behalf of the claimant group. However, the tenure has been granted in accordance with the future act regime of the *Native Title Act 1993* and the nature of the act (i.e. the proposed clearing activity) has been provided for in that process, therefore the granting of a clearing permit is not a future act under the *Native Title Act 1993*.

There are no registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the area application area (GIS Database). It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Aboriginal sites of significance are damaged through the clearing process.

It is the proponent's responsibility to liaise with the Department of Environment Regulation, the Department of Water, and the Department of Parks and Wildlife, to determine whether a Works Approval, Water Licence, Bed and Banks Permit, or any other licences or approvals are required for the proposed works.

Methodology

- GIS Database:
- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
 - Native Title Claims - Determined by the Federal Court
 - Native Title Claims - Filed at the Federal Court
 - Native Title Claims - Registered with the NNTT

4. 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.
- Keith Lindbeck and Associates (2009) *Latent Petroleum Limited Warro Gas Project - Gas Pipeline and Temporary Gas Processing Plant, Supporting Document for Clearing Permit Application, Prepared for Latent Petroleum Limited, Prepared by Keith Lindbeck and Associates, March 2009.*

5. Glossary

Acronyms:

BoM	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government
DAA	Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (now DPaW and DER)
DER	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia
DMP	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia
DRF	Declared Rare Flora
DotE	Department of the Environment, Australian Government
DoW	Department of Water, Western Australia
DPaW	Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia
DSEWPaC	Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (now DotE)
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
EP Act	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Federal Act)
GIS	Geographical Information System
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – commonly known as the World Conservation Union
PEC	Priority Ecological Community, Western Australia
RIWI Act	<i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> , Western Australia
s.17	Section 17 of the <i>Environment Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community

Definitions:

{DPaW (2013) *Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora and Fauna*. Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia}:-

T	Threatened species: Specially protected under the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i> , listed under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna or the Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora (which may also be referred to as Declared Rare Flora). Threatened Fauna and Flora are further recognised by the Department according to their level of threat using IUCN Red List criteria. For example Carnaby's Cockatoo <i>Calyptorhynchus latirostris</i> is specially protected under the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i> as a threatened species with a ranking of Endangered. <u>Rankings:</u> CR: Critically Endangered - considered to be facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild. EN: Endangered - considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild. VU: Vulnerable - considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.
X	Presumed Extinct species: Specially protected under the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i> , listed under Schedule 2 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Presumed Extinct Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Presumed Extinct Flora (which may also be referred to as Declared Rare Flora).
IA	Migratory birds protected under an international agreement: Specially protected under the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i> , listed under Schedule 3 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice. Birds that are subject to an agreement between governments of Australia and Japan, China and The Republic of Korea relating to the protection of migratory birds and birds in danger of extinction.
S	Other specially protected fauna:

Specially protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, listed under Schedule 4 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice.

- P1** **Priority One - Poorly-known species:**
Species that are known from one or a few collections or sight records (generally less than five), all on lands not managed for conservation, e.g. agricultural or pastoral lands, urban areas, Shire, rail reserves and Main Roads WA road, gravel and soil reserves, and active mineral leases and under threat of habitat destruction or degradation. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more localities but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and appear to be under immediate threat from known threatening processes.
- P2** **Priority Two - Poorly-known species:**
Species that are known from one or a few collections or sight records, some of which are on lands not under imminent threat of habitat destruction or degradation, e.g. national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves, State forest, unallocated Crown land, water reserves, etc. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more localities but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and appear to be under threat from known threatening processes.
- P3** **Priority Three - Poorly-known species:**
Species that are known from collections or sight records from several localities not under imminent threat, or from few but widespread localities with either large population size or significant remaining areas of apparently suitable habitat, much of it not under imminent threat. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from several localities but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and known threatening processes exist that could affect them.
- P4** **Priority Four - Rare, Near Threatened and other species in need of monitoring:**
(a) Rare. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed, or for which sufficient knowledge is available, and that are considered not currently threatened or in need of special protection, but could be if present circumstances change. These species are usually represented on conservation lands.
(b) Near Threatened. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed and that do not qualify for Conservation Dependent, but that are close to qualifying for Vulnerable.
(c) Species that have been removed from the list of threatened species during the past five years for reasons other than taxonomy.
- P5** **Priority Five - Conservation Dependent species:**
Species that are not threatened but are subject to a specific conservation program, the cessation of which would result in the species becoming threatened within five years.