



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 4126/1
File Number: 2010/010877-1
Duration of Permit: From 7 March 2011 to 7 March 2013

PERMIT HOLDER

Shire of Carnarvon

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Lot 287 on Deposited Plan 210981, Brown Range

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 4 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 4126/1.

CONDITIONS

1. Weed control

- (a) When undertaking any clearing or other activity authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder must take the following steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *weeds*:
- (i) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
 - (ii) ensure that no *weed*-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill* or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and
 - (iii) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.
- (b) At least once in each 12 month period for the term of this Permit, the Permit Holder must remove or kill any *weeds* growing within areas cleared under this Permit.

DEFINITIONS

The following meanings are given to terms used in this Permit:

fill means material used to increase the ground level, or fill a hollow;

mulch means the use of organic matter, wood chips or rocks to slow the movement of water across the soil surface and to reduce evaporation;

mulch means the use of organic matter, wood chips or rocks to slow the movement of water across the soil surface and to reduce evaporation;

weed/s means a species listed in Appendix 3 of the "Environmental Weed Strategy" published by the Department of Conservation and Land Management (1999), and plants declared under section 37 of the *Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act 1976*.

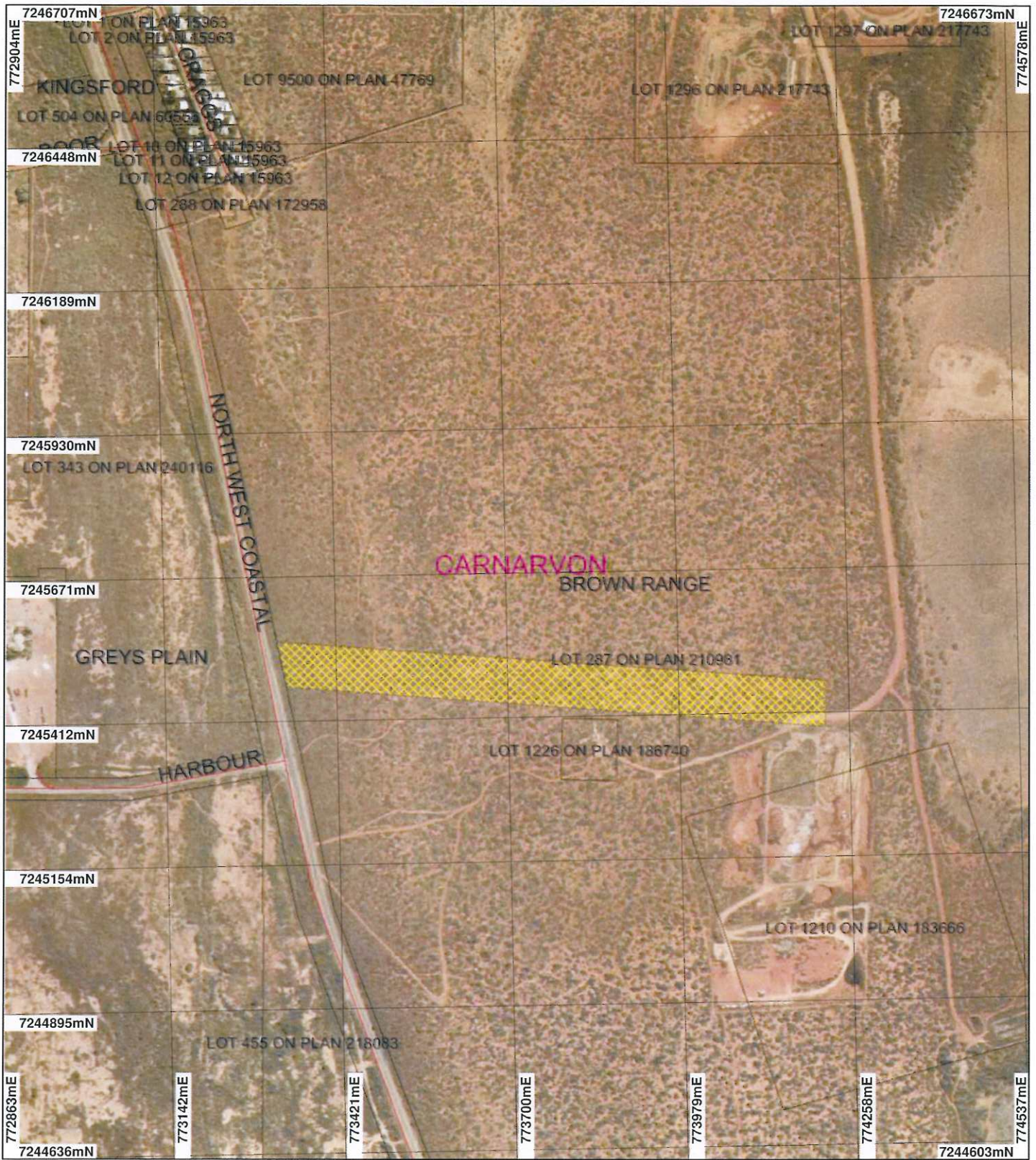


Kelly Faulkner
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

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

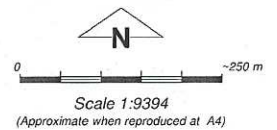
10 February 2011

Plan 4126/1



LEGEND

- Cadastre
- Clearing Instruments
- Areas Approved to Clear
- Local Government Authorities
- Road Centrelines
- Carnarvon 1.4m Orthomosaic - Landgate 2002
- Localities



Geocentric Datum Australia 1994

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

Date 10/2/01

K. Faulkner
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.: 4126/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Shire of Carnarvon

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 287 ON PLAN 210981 (BROWN RANGE 6701)
Local Government Area: Shire of Carnarvon
Colloquial name: Speedway Road

1.4. Application

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

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 10 February 2011

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 Association: 205: Shrublands; Acacia sclerosperma & bowgada scrub	The application area is located within Speedway Road reserve on Unallocated Crown Land (Lot 287 on Deposited Plan 210981), approximately 4.5km east of the Carnarvon town site.	Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery, 1994)	Vegetation condition was determined through aerial imagery and photographs provided by the Shire of Carnarvon and the Carnarvon Land Conservation District Committee.
308: Mosaic: Shrublands; Acacia sclerosperma sparse scrub / Succulent steppe; saltbush & bluebush (Shepherd, 2009)	The application area originally included approximately 0.05ha within the mapped boundary of the McNeill Claypan System, an ANCA wetland. During assessment, the application area was modified to remove the portion within the ESA from the application. No clearing is required within the ESA as there are sufficient existing cleared areas due to the current road (Shire of Carnarvon, 2011).	To	
	The proposed extension for the Speedway Road will have an east-west orientation perpendicular to the McNeill Claypan System.	Excellent: Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery, 1994)	
	The vegetation under application is considered to be exposed to low levels of disturbance and is in very good to excellent (Keighery, 1994) condition.		
	The proposed clearing includes vegetation mapped as two Beard vegetation associations, with the eastern two thirds of the area mapped as Beard 205 and the western third of the application area mapped as Beard 308.		

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

The proposal is to clear up to 4 hectares (ha) of native vegetation, within a 7.2ha footprint area, for the purpose of extending the existing Speedway Road westward to connect to the North West Coastal Highway. The clearing for the proposed road will be approximately 40 meters wide and 1km long. There is an operational rubbish tip to the south of the existing section of Speedway Road and the proposed extension will create new access from the North West Coastal Highway.

Aerial imagery and photographs of the application area indicate the vegetation is typical of the area and

mapped vegetation units and is in very good to excellent (Keighery, 1994) condition, exhibiting signs of low level disturbance.

At the closest point, the application area is located approximately 52 meters to the west of the McNeill Claypan System, which is an ANCA wetland. The McNeill Claypan System ANCA wetland and the 50 meter buffer outside the wetland boundary is an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) and protected under the Environmental Protection Act 1986. The application area is outside of the ESA boundary. No clearing within the ESA is required for this proposal (Shire of Carnarvon, 2011).

The McNeill Claypan System is considered to be in fair condition, with recovery requiring significant intervention (DSEWPC, 2009). Pressures on this system include grazing, increasing fragmentation and loss of remnants, inappropriate use by speedway and off road vehicles and pollution from rubbish tip, sewage disposal and waster oil disposal (DSEWPC, 2009).

The vegetation under application is not considered to provide significant buffer function to the McNeill Claypan System as the existing Speedway Road is situated between the application area and the wetland, with a significant portion of it located within the mapped boundary of the wetland.

It is likely that the vegetation under application is growing in association with the McNeill Claypan System and the proposed clearing may add to the pressures already experienced by this ANCA wetland. Therefore the proposal is considered to be at variance to Principle (f).

The local area (10km radius) is approximately 90% vegetated, the vegetation types proposed to be cleared are well represented and there are no records of declared rare flora or threatened ecological communities within the local area.

The vegetation under application is not considered to be significant habitat for fauna or flora, or to hold high biodiversity or conservation values on the local or regional scale.

The proposed clearing of a long (approximately 1km), relatively narrow (40 metre wide) strip of vegetation is not expected to result in appreciable land degradation or water quality issues, nor increase the risk, frequency, or intensity of flooding.

Vegetation clearing activities have the potential to introduce and spread weeds due to the movement and disturbance of soil. This risk can be minimised with weed control conditions.

Considering the above, the proposed clearing is at variance with Principle (f) and is not likely to be at variance to the remaining Principles.

Methodology

References:

DSEWPC, 2009

Keighery, 1994

Shire of Carnarvon, 2011

GIS Databases:

- Acid Sulfate Soils Risk Map - DEC 02/07/10

- ANCA, Wetlands - 26/03/99

- Carnarvon 1.4m Orthomosaic - Landgate 2002

- DEC Managed Lands & Waters - DEC 28/10/09

- Evapotranspiration, Area Actual - BOM 30/09/01

- Groundwater Salinity, statewide - DoW 13/07/06

- Hydrogeographic Catchments, Catchments - DoW 01/06/07

- Hydrogeology, statewide - DoW 13/07/06

- Hydrography, linear DoW 13/7/06

- Rainfall, Mean Annual - BOM 30/09/01

- Pre-European vegetation - DA 01/01

- RAMSAR, Wetlands - 15/10/09

- SAC Biodatasets - 14/01/11

- Soils, Statewide - 30/11/99

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

Comments

The applicant removed the portion of the clearing area that was within an Environmentally Sensitive Area (buffer to the ANCA wetland McNeill Claypan System) from the application during the assessment process. No clearing is required within the ESA as there are sufficient cleared areas due to the existing road (Shire of Carnarvon, 2011).

Lot 287 on Deposited Plan 210981 is Unallocated Crown Land (UCL) vested with the State of Western Australia. The Department of Regional Development and Lands (DRDL) advised that the Shire of Carnarvon is

authorised to apply for a clearing permit over this UCL (DEC Ref: A358797). Clearing is proposed to be done within the Speedway Road reserve as per Deposited Plan 69587.

In a direct interest submission, the Carnarvon Land Conservation District Committee (CLCDC) advised that the proposed alignment of the Speedway Road extension is aligned at right angles to the most common wind direction, thus keeping to the minimum likelihood of wind erosion (CLCDC, 2011). The CLCDC also confirms that the vegetation under application is typical of the dune area generally (CLCDC, 2011).

In addition, the CLCDC advised that the southern-most known population of the Priority 3 flora *Owenia acidula* is in close proximity to the existing section of Speedway Road and provided GPS coordinates of these locations. Apart from ensuring the protection of these plants, the CLCDC has no issues with the current clearing proposal (CLCDC, 2011). The *Owenia acidula* population is outside of the application area, with the closest extent of the population mapped approximately 385 meters to the north of the proposed clearing area, and will not be impacted by the proposed clearing.

The CLCDC (2011) also drew attention to the number of casual vehicle and horse bridle path tracks in the general area, however this issue is beyond the scope of the current clearing permit assessment.

Methodology

References:

CLCDC, 2011

Shire of Carnarvon, 2011

GIS Databases:

- Aboriginal Sites of Significance - DIA 02/10

- Cadastre - Landgate 12/09

- Country Area Water Supply Act (Part IIA) Clearing Control Catchments - DoW 29/06/06

- Environmental Impact Assessments - EPA 08/03/05

- Native Title Claims - LA 02/5/07

- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (PDWSAs) - DoW 07/02/06

- RIWI Act, Areas - DoW 05/04/02

- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas - DoW 13/07/06

- RIWI Act, Irrigation Districts - DoW 13/07/06

- Town Planning Scheme Zones - MFP 31/08/98

4. References

CLCDC (2011) Direct Interest Submission. Carnarvon Land Conservation District Committee. Received 28/01/2011. DEC Ref: A364770

DSEWPC (2009) Australian Natural Resource Atlas. Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, Canberra. Retrieved 2/02/2011 from <http://www.anra.gov.au/topics/vegetation/assessment/wa/ibra-car-imp-wetlands.html>

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. (2009) 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.

Shire of Carnarvon (2011) Clearing permit application CPS 4126/1 and supporting documentation. DEC Ref: A355675, A365285

5. 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)