



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 4218/1
Permit Holder:	West Australian Land Authority t/a LandCorp
Duration of Permit:	18 April 2011 – 18 April 2016

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 drainage and soil storage.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Lot 503 on Deposited Plan 40616 (WEDGEFIELD 6721)

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 7 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 4218/1.

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. Fauna management

(a) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the area shall be inspected by a *fauna specialist*, in accordance with *Guidance Statement No 56* for the presence of *Dasyercus hillieri* (Crest-tailed Mulgara) burrows.

(b) Where *Dasyercus hillieri* (Crest-tailed Mulgara) burrows are identified in relation to condition 6(a) of this Permit, the Permit Holder shall ensure that no clearing occurs within 50 metres of the identified *Dasyercus hillieri* (Crest-tailed Mulgara) burrows, unless approved by the CEO.

7. Records to be kept

- (a) In relation to the clearing of native vegetation authorised under this Permit:
- (i) 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 or decimal degrees;
 - (ii) the date that the area was cleared; and
 - (iii) the size of the area cleared (in hectares).
- (b) In relation to fauna management pursuant to condition 6 of this Permit, the location of each *Dasypercus hillieri* (Crest-tailed Mulgara) burrow recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees

8. Reporting

- (a) The Permit Holder must provide to the CEO on or before 30 June of each year, a written report:
- (i) of records required under condition 7 of this Permit; and
 - (ii) concerning activities done by the Permit Holder under this Permit between 1 January and 31 December of the preceding year.
- (b) Prior to 18 January 2016 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.

Definitions

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

fauna clearing person means a person who has obtained a licence from the Department, issued pursuant to the *Wildlife Conservation Regulations 1970* authorising them to take fauna;

fauna specialist means a person with training and specific work experience in fauna identification or faunal assemblage surveys of Western Australian fauna;

Guidance Statement No 56 means Guidance for the Assessment of Environmental Factors: Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Australia. Guidance Statement No 56, Environmental Protection Authority (2004).



Kelly Faulkner
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

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

23 March 2011

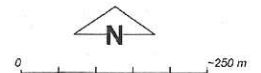
Plan 4218/1



LEGEND

- Clearing Instruments**
- Areas Approved to Clear
 - Road Centrelines
 - Cadastre

Port Hedland 50cm
Orthomosaic - Landgate
2004



Scale 1:9715
(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.

Date 23/3/11

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.



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 4218/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Western Australian Land Authority TA LandCorp

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 503 ON PLAN 40616 (WEDGEFIELD 6721)
Local Government Area: Town of Port Hedland

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
7		Mechanical Removal	Stockpile

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 24 March 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
The vegetation under application is mapped as Beard vegetation association 647, which has been described as 'Hummock grasslands, dwarf-shrub steppe; Acacia translucens over soft spinifex' (Shepherd, 2009).	The 7 hectare area under application has been described as coastal and sub-coastal plains with a grass savannah of mixed bunch and hummock grasses and dwarf shrub steppe of <i>Acacia stellaticeps</i> or <i>A. pyrifolia</i> and <i>A. inaequilatera</i> (Kendrick and Stanley, 2001 in GHD, 2009).	Excellent: Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery 1994)	The condition of the vegetation under application was determined via digital imagery (Port Hedland 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004) and through a Preliminary Environmental Impact Assessment and Biological Survey prepared by GHD (2009).

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

The proposal is to clear 7 hectares of native vegetation for the purpose of soil storage and drainage. The proposed works are associated with the future Wedgefield Industrial Estate.

The vegetation under application has been mapped as Beard vegetation association 647 (Shepherd, 2009). This vegetation association has approximately 100 per cent of its pre European extent remaining within the Pilbara bioregion.

Within the local area (20km radius) eight records of priority one flora species, *Tephrosia rosea* var *venulose* have been identified. This species preferred habitat is red sands and near to creek lines. The chief soils within the area under application are red earthy sands (Northcote, 1960-1968), however no water courses are located within the vicinity. Therefore, it is unlikely that the application will be necessary for the continued existence of this species.

The application area contains suitable habitat for the following conservation significant fauna; *Ardeotis australis* (Australian Bustard, P4), *Aspidites ramsayi* (Woma, Other specially protected fauna), *Dasyercus blythi* (Brush-tailed Mulgara, Vulnerable) and *Dasyercus cristicauda* (Crest-tailed Mulgara, Endangered). All of these species have been recorded within the local area (20km radius). Evidence (including scats, tracks and diggings) of the Mulgara species has been found just north of the application area (GHD, 2009).

The conservation status of the Australian Bustard, Woma and Brush-tailed Mulgara is not likely to be effected by the proposed clearing due to the application areas close proximity to a large intact remnant in very good (Keighery, 1994) condition. However, given the conservation status (Endangered) of the Crest-tailed Mulgara and the evidence that Mulgaras utilise adjacent land, this proposal may be at variance to principle (b). A fauna management condition will assist in ensuring the conservation status of this species is not compromised by the proposed clearing.

The removal of 7 hectares of vegetation may cause some short term land degradation in the form of wind erosion and surface water runoff, however this degradation is not likely to be appreciable.

Considering the above this proposal may be at variance to principle (b), is not at variance to principle (e) and is not likely to be at variance to any of the remaining clearing principles.

Methodology References
GHD (2009)
Keighery (1994)
Northcote (1960-1968)
Shepherd (2009)

GIS Databases:
- Hydrography, linear - DoW 13/7/06
- Port Hedland 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004
- Pre-European vegetation - DA 01/01
- SAC Biodatasets - accessed 24 Feb 2011
- Soils, Statewide - 30/11/99

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

Comments

The State of Western Australia via delegated authority of the Department of Regional Development and Lands as landowner of Lot 503 Great Northern Highway authorises LandCorp to clear vegetation from this property.

The proposal for the Wedgefield Industrial Estate is under assessment by the West Australian Planning Commission (WAPC), however the area under CPS 4218/1 falls outside the boundary of which WAPC is assessing.

The proposal for the Wedgefield Industrial Estate was referred to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) in April 2010. After considering the information provided the EPA determined that this proposal should not be assessed under Part IV Division 3 (Assessment of Schemes) of the Environmental Protection Act 1986. The EPA provided advice and recommendations regarding environmental issues.

The Town of Port Hedland has approved the Development Plan for the Wedgefield Industrial Estate.

In February 2011, this proposal was referred to the Kariyarra – Pipingarra native title claimants for comment, however no submission has been received.

Methodology GIS database:
- Native Title Claims - LA 2/5/07

4. References

- GHD (2009) Report for Port Heland Industrial Land LIA 3, 4, 5, General Industry/ Transport Part A and Part B - Preliminary Environmental Impact Assessment and Biological Survey. Prepared for LandCorp, October 2009.
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Kendrick, P. and Stanley, F. (2001) A Biodiversity Audit of WA: Pilbara 4 (PIL4 - Roebourne synopsis) Report prepared for the Department of Environment and Conservation, October 2001.
- 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. (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.

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)