



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 4389/1
Permit Holder:	Downer EDI Mining Blasting Services Pty Ltd
Duration of Permit:	7 June 2013 – 7 June 2015

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.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Lot 63 on Deposited Plan 172079, Pippingarra.

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 0.001 hectares of native vegetation within the area shaded yellow on attached Plan 4389/1.

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. Weed control

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*:

- clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
- ensure that no *weed*-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill* or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and
- restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.

7. Retain vegetative material and topsoil, revegetation and rehabilitation

The Permit Holder shall:

- (a) Retain the vegetative material and topsoil removed by clearing authorised under this Permit and stockpile the vegetative material and topsoil in an area that has already been cleared.
- (b) At an optimal time within 12 months following completion of geotechnical investigations, *revegetate* and *rehabilitate* areas not required for future scheduled and approved development, by:
 - (i) ripping the ground on the contour to remove soil compaction; and
 - (ii) laying the vegetative material and topsoil retained under condition 7(a) on the cleared area(s).

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;

regenerate/ed/ion means re-establishment of vegetation from in situ seed banks and propagating material (such as lignotubers, bulbs, rhizomes) contained either within the topsoil or seed-bearing *mulch*;

rehabilitate/ed/ion means actively managing an area containing native vegetation in order to improve the ecological function of that area; and

weed/s means any plant -

- (a) that is a declared pest under section 22 of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*; or
- (b) published in the Department of Environment and Conservation Regional Weed Assessments, regardless of ranking; or
- (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.

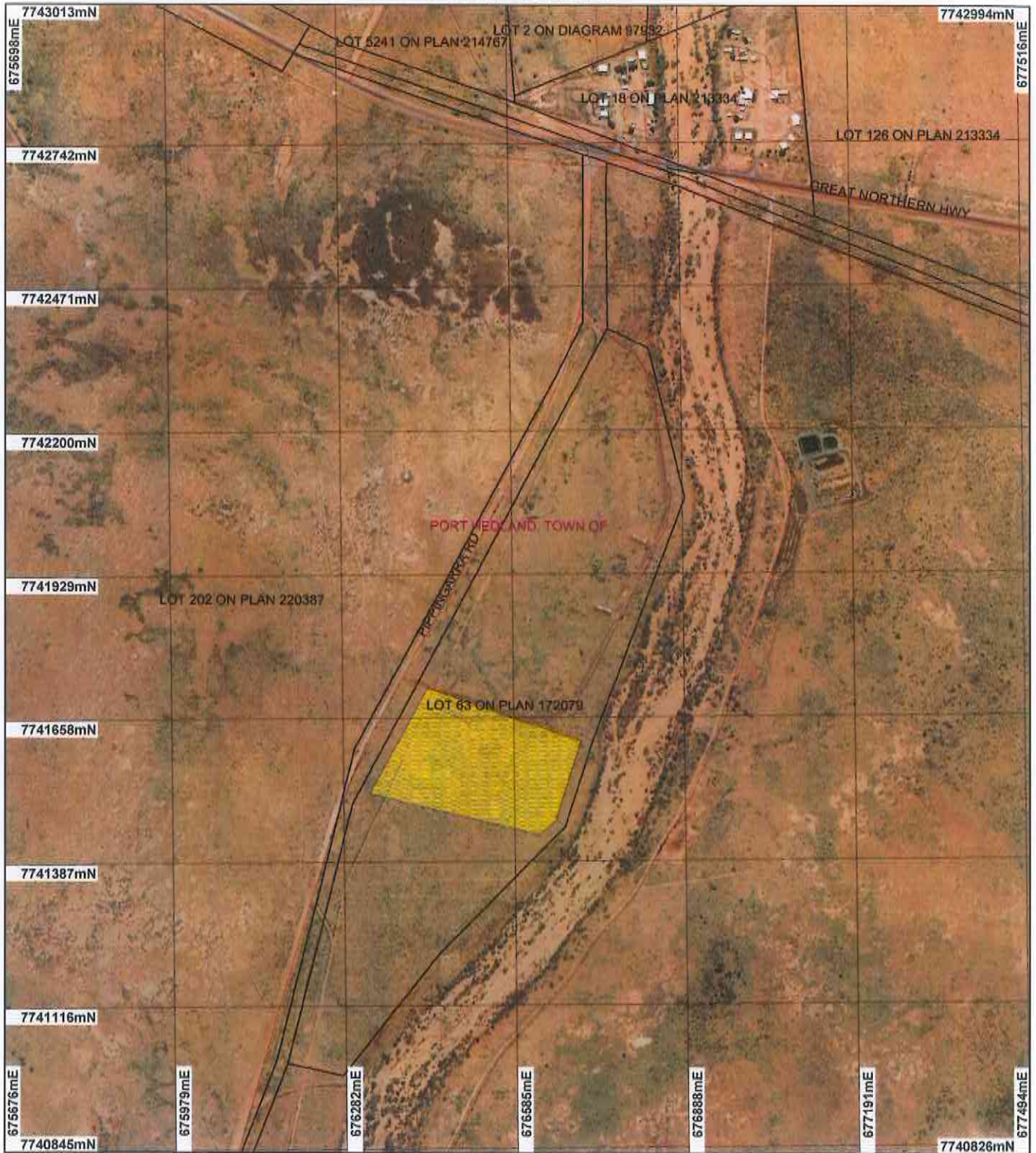


M Warnock
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

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

16 May 2013

Plan 4389/1



LEGEND

- Cadastral Clearing Instruments
- Areas Approved to Clear
- Local Government Authorities

Road Centrelines
 Port Hedland 50cm
 Orthomosaic - Landgate
 2004



Scale 1:10000
 (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.

M Warnock Date *10/5/13*

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



* Project Data is denoted by asterisk. This data has not been quality assured. Please contact map author for details.



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 4389/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Downer EDI Mining Blasting Services

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 63 ON PLAN 172079 (PIPPINGARRA 6722)
Local Government Area: Town of Port Hedland
Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
0.001		Mechanical Removal	Geotechnical investigations

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 16 May 2013

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: 589 - Mosaic: Short bunch grassland - savanna / grass plain (Pilbara) / Hummock grasslands, grass steppe; soft spinifex (Shepherd et al. 2001).	The application is to clear up to 0.001 hectares of native vegetation for the purpose of geotechnical investigations.	Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994)	Vegetation condition and description were determined through aerial imagery (Port Hedland 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004).

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

The amended application is to clear up to 0.001 hectares of native vegetation for the purpose of geotechnical investigations.

There are no rare or priority flora species or threatened ecological communities within close proximity to the application area. The vegetation to be cleared is well represented in the local area (90 percent), and therefore would not have a detrimental impact on fauna habitat or consist of an area of high biodiversity.

The vegetation under application is hummock grasslands and the application area is surrounded by vegetation. The proposed clearing is unlikely to cause or exacerbate land degradation or flooding or impact on groundwater quality. There are no DEC managed lands within the local area (10 kilometre radius).

The application area is located approximately 50 metres from a minor, non-perennial watercourse. The vegetation under application does not appear to be associated with this watercourse.

The disturbance caused by the proposed clearing will increase the risk of weeds being introduced into adjacent vegetation as well as vegetation within the application area that will not be cleared. Weed management practices will assist in mitigating this risk.

The assessment of the application identified that the clearing is not likely to be at variance to any of the principles.

Methodology GIS Databases:
- Port Hedland 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004
- DEC Tenure
- Hydrography, Linear
- SAC Biodatasets

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

Comments

The applicant initially applied to clear 6.3 hectares of native vegetation for the purpose of constructing an Ammonium Nitrate Emulsion manufacturing facility. The applicant is still waiting for a lease to be issued before they can commence works on the Ammonium Nitrate Emulsion manufacturing facility. In the absence of a lease the applicant has requested to amend the application to reduce the area to 0.001 hectares for the purpose of geotechnical investigations. The Primary Interest Holder, Department of Mines and Petroleum has provided the applicant with authority to access the land to commence soil testing (DMP 2013).

A management order has been placed over Lot 63 on Plan 172079 for the designated purpose of 'Manufacture and Storage of Explosives and Security Risk Substances'.

The application area is located within the Pilbara Surface Water area and the Pilbara Groundwater Area, covered by the Rights in Water and Irrigation (RIWI) Act 1914. The Department of Water (DoW 2011) advise that the proponent should contact DoW to ensure sustainable groundwater allocation limits have not been reached and that the Ammonium Nitrate Emulsion Facility may be subject to further assessment.

The application area is located within an Aboriginal Site of Significance. The applicant will be notified of their responsibilities under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972.

The Town of Port Hedland has no objection to the proposed clearing (Town of Port Hedland 2011).

The application area is located within a Native Title claim area determined by the Federal Court. The claimants were given the opportunity to make comment on the application. No comments were received. The applicant will be advised of their obligations under the Native Title Act 1993.

No submissions have been received in relation to this application.

Methodology

References:

DMP 2013
DoW 2011
Town of Port Hedland 2011

GIS Databases:

- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
- Native Title Claim areas
- RIWI Act areas

4. References

- DMP (2013) Email granting authority to commence soil testing. Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia. DEC REF: A628650
- DoW (2011) Response to Direct Interest Letter for Clearing Permit Application CPS 4389/1, Received 13/07/2013. Department of Water, Western Australia. DEC REF: A412205.
- Government of Western Australia. (2013). 2012 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of October 2012. WA Department of Environment and Conservation, Perth.
- 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., Beeston, G.R., and Hopkins, A.J.M. (2001), Native Vegetation in Western Australia. Technical Report 249. Department of Agriculture Western Australia, South Perth.
- Town of Port Hedland (2011) Response to Direct Intere Letter for Clearing Permit Application CPS 4389/1. Received 1/07/2011. Town of Port Hedland, Western Australia. DEC REF: A409241.

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)