



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 4673/3

File Number: 2011/006804-1

Duration of Permit: From 27 February 2012 – 27 February 2014

PERMIT HOLDER

Shire of Ashburton

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

LOT 16 ON PLAN 161140 (ONSLOW 6710)

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 102.5 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross hatched yellow on attached Plan 4673/3a.

CONDITIONS

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. Wind erosion management

The Permit Holder shall not clear native vegetation within the areas proposed for airstrip redevelopment and workers camp unless airstrip redevelopment and workers camp construction begins within 3 months of the clearing being undertaken.

4. Vegetation management

The Permit Holder shall not clear native vegetation within 30 metres of any *wetland* within and/or adjacent to the area cross hatched red on Plan 4673/3b.

5. 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.
- (b) within 12 months following clearing authorised under this Permit, *revegetate* and *rehabilitate* the area(s) that are no longer required for the purpose for which they were cleared under this Permit by:
 - (i) re-shaping the surface of the land so that it is consistent with the surrounding 5 metres of uncleared land; and
 - (ii) ripping the ground on the contour to remove soil compaction; and
 - (iii) laying the vegetative material and topsoil retained under condition 5(a).
- (c) within 24 months of laying the vegetative material and topsoil on the cleared area in accordance with condition 5(b) of this Permit:
 - (i) engage an *environmental specialist* to determine the species composition, structure and density of the area *revegetated* and *rehabilitated*; and
 - (ii) where, in the opinion of an *environmental specialist*, the composition structure and density determined under condition 5(c)(i) of this Permit will not result in a similar species composition, structure and density to that of pre-clearing vegetation types in that area, *revegetate* the area by deliberately *planting* and/or *direct seeding* native vegetation that will result in a similar species composition, structure and density of native vegetation to pre-clearing vegetation types in that area and ensuring only *local provenance* seeds and propagating material are used.
- (d) Where additional *planting* or *direct seeding* of native vegetation is undertaken in accordance with condition 5(c)(ii) of this Permit, the Permit Holder shall repeat condition 5(c)(i) and 5(c)(ii) within 24 months of undertaking the additional *planting* or *direct seeding* of native vegetation.
- (e) Where a determination by an *environmental specialist* that the composition, structure and density within areas *revegetated* and *rehabilitated* will result in a similar species composition, structure and density to that of pre-clearing vegetation types in that area, as determined in condition 5(c)(i) and (ii) of this permit, that determination shall be submitted for the CEO's consideration. If the CEO does not agree with the determination made under condition 5(c)(ii), the CEO may require the Permit Holder to undertake additional *planting* and *direct seeding* in accordance with the requirements under condition 5(c)(ii).

6. Records must be kept

The Permit Holder must maintain the following records for activities done pursuant to this Permit:

- (a) In relation to the clearing of native vegetation authorised under this Permit:
 - (i) the species composition, structure and density of the cleared area;
 - (ii) 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;
 - (iii) the date that the area was cleared; and
 - (iv) the size of the area cleared (in hectares).
- (b) In relation to the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* of areas pursuant to condition 5 of this Permit:
 - (i) the location of any areas *revegetated* and *rehabilitated*, 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) a description of the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* activities undertaken;
 - (iii) the size of the area *revegetated* and *rehabilitated* (in hectares); and
 - (iv) the species composition, structure and density of *revegetation* and *rehabilitation*;

7. 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 6 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 27 November 2013, the Permit Holder must provide to the CEO a written report of records required under condition 6 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under condition 7(a) of this Permit.

DEFINITIONS

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

direct seeding means a method of re-establishing vegetation through the establishment of a seed bed and the introduction of seeds of the desired plant species;

environmental specialist means a person who is engaged by the Permit Holder for the purpose of providing environmental advice, who holds a tertiary qualification in environmental science or equivalent, and has experience relevant to the type of environmental advice that an environmental specialist is required to provide under this Permit;

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

local provenance means native vegetation seeds and propagating material from natural sources within 200 kilometres and the same Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) subregion of the area cleared.;

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;

optimal time means the period from November to December; for undertaking *direct seeding*;

planting means the re-establishment of vegetation by creating favourable soil conditions and planting seedlings of the desired species;

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

revegetate/ed/ion means the re-establishment of a cover of *local provenance* native vegetation in an area using methods such as natural *regeneration*, *direct seeding* and/or *planting*, so that the species composition, structure and density is similar to pre-clearing vegetation types in that area;

weed/s means any plant -

- (a) that is declared under section 37 of the *Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act 1976*;
or
- (b) published in the Department of Environment and Conservation Regional Weed Assessments, regardless of ranking; or
- (c) not indigenous to the area concerned; and

wetland/s means an area of seasonally, intermittently or permanently waterlogged or inundated land, whether natural or otherwise, and includes a lake, swamp, marsh, spring, dampland, tidal flat or estuary.

B. Walker

Belinda Walker
A/MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

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

17 January 2013

Plan 4673/3a



LEGEND

-  Road Centrelines
-  Clearing Instruments
-  Areas Approved to Clear
-  Cadastre for labelling
-  Pilbara Coastline Exmouth Cape Preston 50cm
-  Orthomosaic - Landate



Scale 1:12500
(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.

B. Walker Date: 17/1/12

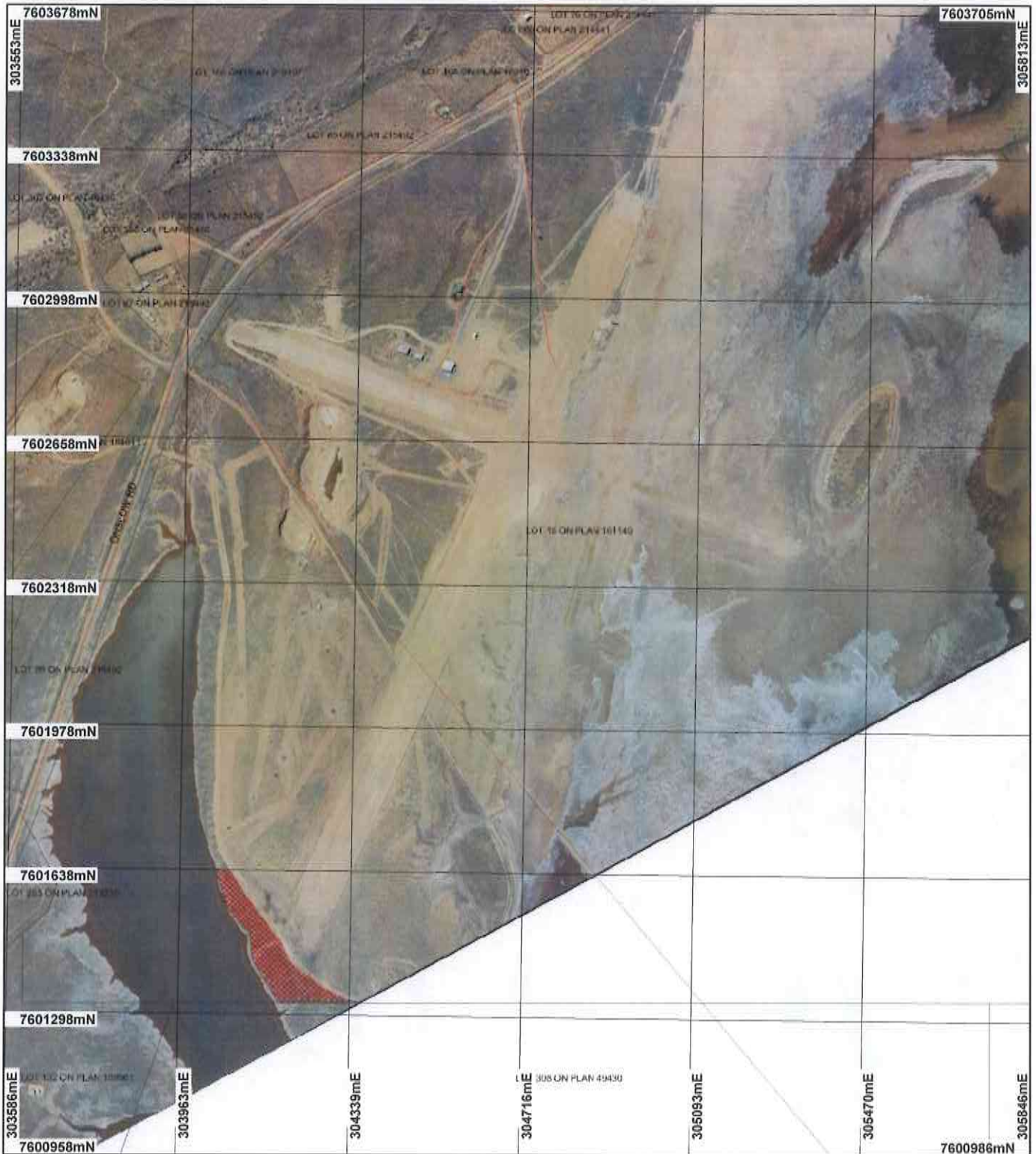
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Information derived from this map should be confirmed with the data custodian acknowledged by the agency acronym in the legend.









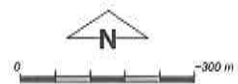
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Plan 4673/3b



LEGEND

-  Road Centrelines
-  Clearing Instruments
-  Areas Subject to Conditions
-  Cadastre for labelling
-  Pilbara Coastline Exmouth Cape Preston 50cm
-  Orthomosaic - Landate



Scale 1:12500
(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.

B. Walker Date 17/1/13

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1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 4673/3

Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Shire of Ashburton

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 16 ON PLAN 161140 (House No. 16 ONSLOW ONSLOW 6710)

Local Government Area: Shire of Ashburton

Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
101.9		Mechanical Removal	Building or Structure
0.6		Mechanical Removal	Water/gas/cable/pipeline/power installation

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant

Decision Date: 17 January 2012

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 associations - 127; Bare areas; mud flats (Shepherd et al., 2001)	<p>The clearing areas for the Onslow airport upgrades comprise areas of unvegetated intertidal mudflats with undulating sandplain to the west (Shire of Ashburton, 2011a).</p> <p>The sandplains and dunes to the west are not consistent with the mapped vegetation type and have been described as hummock and mixed grasslands of <i>Triodia pungens</i> and the weed species <i>Cenchrus ciliaris</i> (Buffel grass) with scattered shrubs including <i>Acacia bivenosa</i> and <i>A. translucens</i> (ATA, 2000). The north-west portion of Lot 16 (the survey site), which includes the northern portion of the western permitted clearing area and the additional 9.9ha area under application, has been described by ENV Australia (2011) as open shrubland of <i>Acacia coriacea</i> subsp. <i>coriacea</i>, <i>Acacia bivenosa</i>, <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> over low open shrubland of <i>Acacia stellaticeps</i>, <i>Indigofera monophylla</i> and <i>Scaevola spinescens</i> over open hummock grassland of <i>Triodia epactia</i> over very open tussock grassland of <i>Cenchrus ciliaris</i> and <i>Aristida holathera</i> var. <i>holathera</i> on sand dunes.</p> <p>The vegetation ranges from 'excellent' to 'completely degraded' (Keighery, 1994) condition, with the majority of the survey site being 'good' to 'very good' (ENV Australia, 2011). Approximately 37ha of the 101.9ha area proposed to be cleared is considered to be in 'good' (Keighery, 2004) or better condition. The vegetation has been impacted through introduced species, rubbish dumping and historic clearing for tracks, roads and existing airport infrastructure (ENV Australia, 2011) with other portions within the clearing areas having previously been disturbed with evidence of old golf course and previous airstrip alignment (Shire of Ashburton, 2011b).</p> <p>The areas comprising tidal flats are mostly bare of vegetation but are likely to support areas of samphire on the tidal and fringing clay soils (Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation, 2011). A mixture of buffel grass, spinifex (<i>Triodia pungens</i>) and other perennial grasses are likely to be present in areas comprising deep red sands and sandy duplex soils (Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation, 2011).</p>	<p>Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery 1994)</p> <p>To</p> <p>Excellent: Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery 1994)</p>	<p>The condition of the vegetation has been confirmed through a vegetation survey undertaken by ENV Australia in May 2011 and through aerial imagery (Onslow 1.4m Orthomosaic - Landgate 2011, Pilbara Coastline Exmouth Cape Preston 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004 and Ortho Image - Landgate September 2010).</p>

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

- Comments** **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
The permit has been amended to increase the area of clearing from 101.9 hectares to 102.5 hectares for the purpose of constructing a new water main supply pipeline.
- The amended application area is long and linear and is located adjacent to an access track. The vegetation with the new clearing area is in a degraded (Keighery 1994) condition.
- The assessment against the clearing principles has not changed and can be found in Decision Report CPS 4673/2.
- Methodology** **References:**
- Keighery (1994)

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

- Comments**
The assessment against Planning Instruments and Other Matters has not changed and can be found in Decision Report CPS 4673/2.
- Methodology**

4. References

- ATA Environmental (2000) Onslow Aerodrome Environmental Assessment and Management Plan, Perth, Western Australia. Excerpt within Shire of Ashburton (2011a) Application for a clearing permit (area permit) - Lot 16 on Deposited Plan 161140 Mt Stuart Road, Onslow. Shire of Ashburton, Onslow, Western Australia. DEC ref A442784.
- Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation Land degradation assessment report (2011). Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia. DEC ref. A458778.
- ENV Australia (2011) Onslow Light Industrial Area Flora, Vegetation and Fauna Assessment Prepared for Shire of Ashburton. ENV Australia Pty Ltd, Perth, Western Australia. DEC ref A465561.
- 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.
- Shire of Ashburton (2011a) Application for a clearing permit (area permit) - Lot 16 on Deposited Plan 161140 Mt Stuart Road, Onslow. Shire of Ashburton, Onslow, Western Australia. DEC ref A442784.
- Shire of Ashburton (2011b) Email correspondence from Shire of Ashburton, Planning and Survey Information. Shire of Ashburton, Onslow, Western Australia. DEC ref A459401.

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)