GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 4960/1
Permit Holder:	New Standard Onshore Pty Ltd
Duration of Permit:	15 June 2012 to 15 June 2022

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 the upgrade of access tracks and borrow pits and the construction of water bores and campsites.

2. **Land on which clearing is to be done**
   Unallocated Crown Land, East Pilbara (Section 91 Licence 00050_2012_A1735072)

3. **Area of Clearing**
   The Permit Holder must not clear more than 35 hectares of native vegetation within the combined areas shaded yellow on attached Plan 4960/1a, Plan 4960/1b, Plan 4960/1c, Plan 4960/1d, Plan 4960/1e, Plan 4960/1f, Plan 4960/1g, Plan 4960/1h and Plan 4960/1i.

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. **Type of clearing authorised**
   This Permit authorises the Permit Holder to clear native vegetation for activities to the extent that the Permit Holder has the right to access land under the *Land Administration Act 1997* or any other written law.

6. **Period in which clearing is authorised**
   The Permit Holder shall not clear any native vegetation after 28 February 2017

7. **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

8. 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.

9. 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*:

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

10. 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) within 6 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 10(a) on the cleared area(s) no longer required under this Permit.

(c) within 24 months of laying the vegetative material and topsoil on the cleared area in accordance with condition 10(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 10(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 10(c)(ii) of this permit, the Permit Holder shall repeat condition 10(c)(i) and 10(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 10(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 10(c)(ii), the CEO may require the Permit Holder to undertake additional *planting* and *direct seeding* in accordance with the requirements under condition 10(c)(ii).

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

11. 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;
   (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 10 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);
   (iv) the species composition, structure and density of *revegetation* and *rehabilitation*, and
   (v) a copy of the environmental specialist's report.

12. 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 11 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 15 March 2022 the Permit Holder must provide to the CEO a written report of records required under condition 11 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under condition 12(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 100 kilometres 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;

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

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;

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.

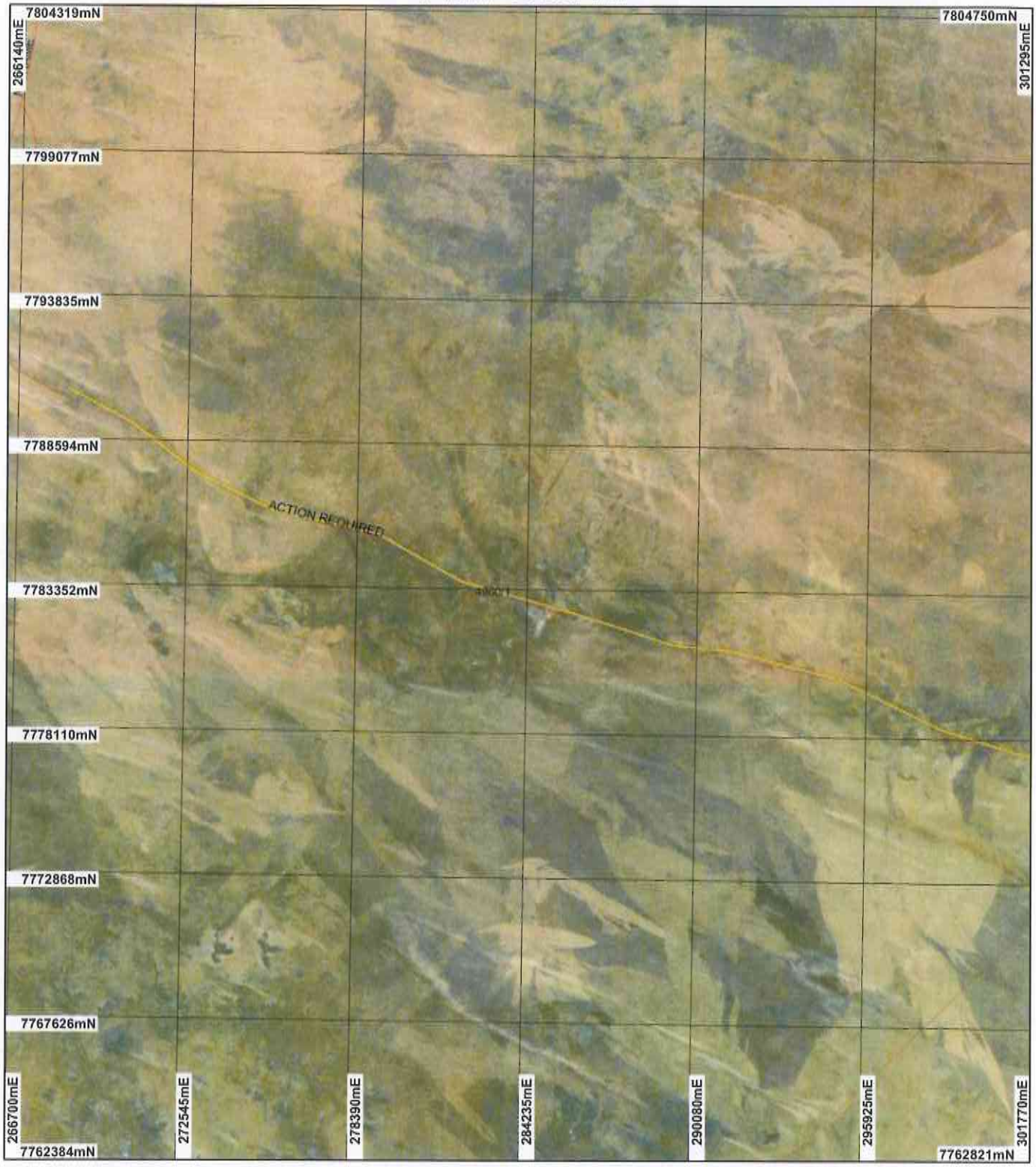
weed/s means a species listed in Appendix 3 of the "Environmental Weed Strategy" published by the Department of Conservation and Land Management (1999), and plants declared under section 37 of the *Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act 1976*.

Kelly Faulkner
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

Officer delegated under Section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

24 May 2012

Plan 4960/1a



LEGEND

- Road Centrelines Cadastre for labelling
  - Freehold
  - Crown Reserve
  - State Forest / Timber Reserve
  - Marine Park (cont)
  - Crown Lease
  - Lease / Reserve
  - Lease on State Forest / Timber Reserve
  - Public Roads
  - Unallocated Crown Land
  - Water

Clearing Instruments

- Areas Approved to Clear

Western Australia Landsat Mosaic 25m - AGO 2006

N

0 5 km

Scale 1:193013
(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 24/5/12

K. Faulkner

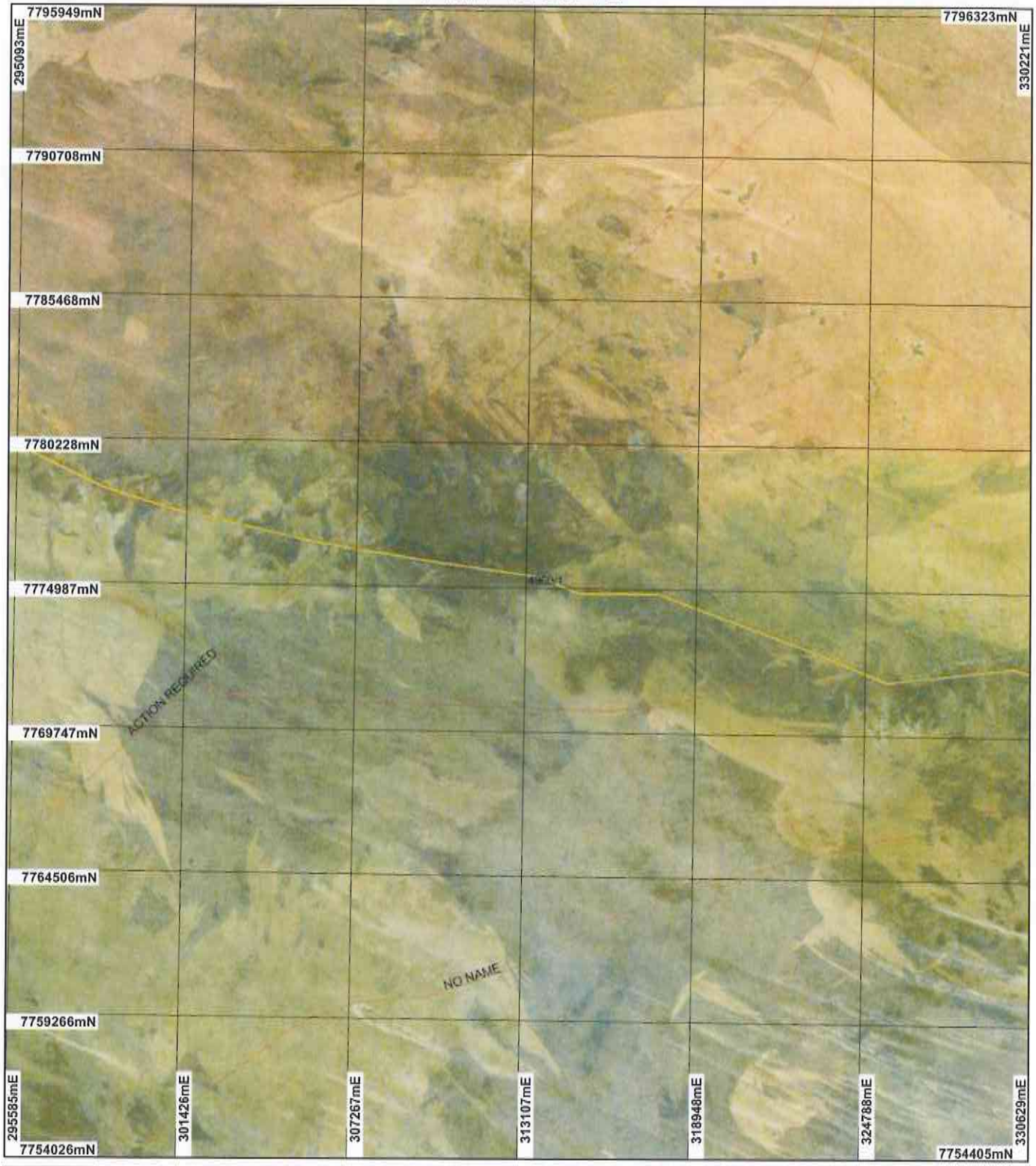
Officer with delegated authority under Section 20 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

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

Our environment, our future

Plan 4960/1b



LEGEND

Road Centrelines
Cadastre for labelling

- Freehold
- Crown Reserve
- State Forest / Timber Reserve
- Marine Park (cont)
- Crown Lease
- Lease / Reserve
- Lease on State Forest / Timber Reserve
- Public Roads
- Unallocated Crown Land
- Water

Clearing Instruments

- Areas Approved to Clear

Western Australia Landsat Mosaic 25m - AGO 2006

N

0 5 km

Scale 1:192944
(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

Geocentric Datum Australia 1994

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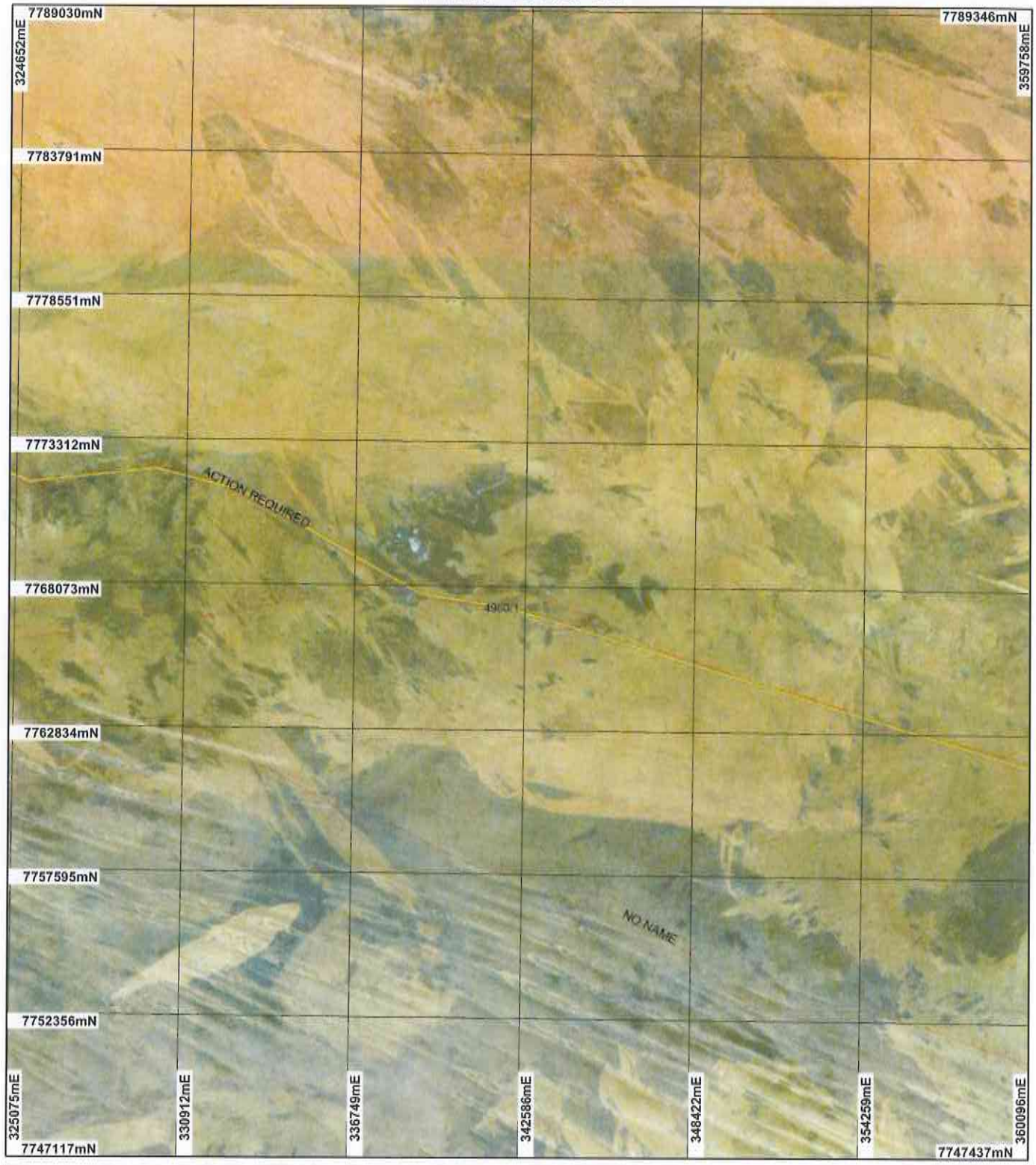

LEGEND

Road Centrelines
Cadastre for labelling

- Freehold
- Crown Reserve
- State Forest / Timber Reserve
- Marine Park
(cont)

- Crown Lease
- Lease / Reserve
- Lease on State Forest / Timber Reserve
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- Unallocated Crown Land
- Water

Clearing Instruments

- Areas Approved to Clear

Western Australia Landsat Mosaic 25m - AGO 2006

N

0 ~5 km

Scale 1:192888
(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

Geocentric Datum Australia 1994

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K. Faulkner Date 24/5/12

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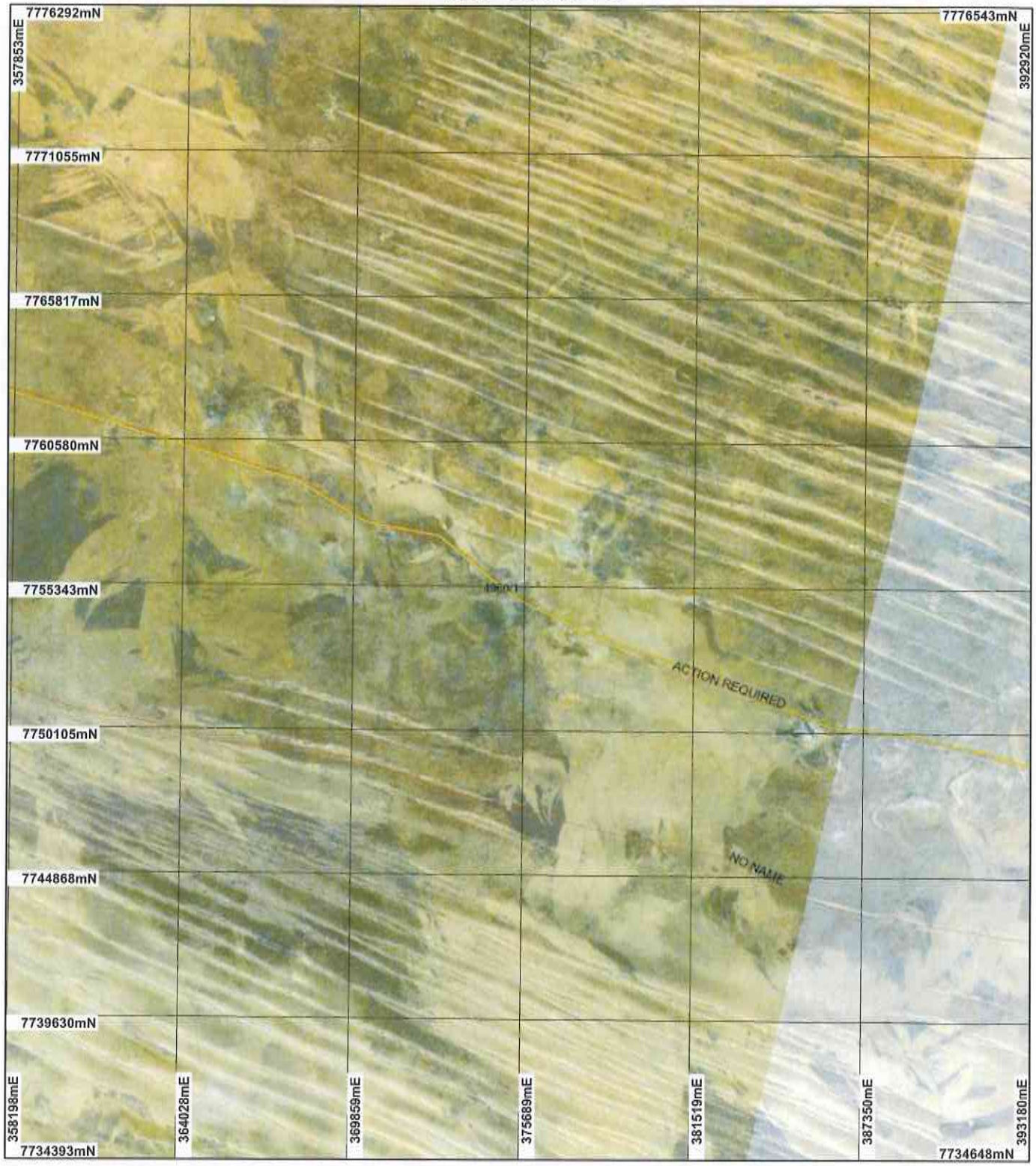
Plan 4960/1d



LEGEND

Road Centrelines
Cadastre for labelling

- Freehold
- Crown Reserve
- State Forest / Timber Reserve
- Marine Park (cont)
- Crown Lease
- Lease / Reserve
- Lease on State Forest / Timber Reserve
- Public Roads
- Unallocated Crown Land
- Water

Clearing Instruments

- Areas Approved to Clear

Western Australia Landsat Mosaic 25m - AGO 2006

N

0 5 km

Scale 1:192785
(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

Geocentric Datum Australia 1994

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K. Faulkner Date 24/5/12

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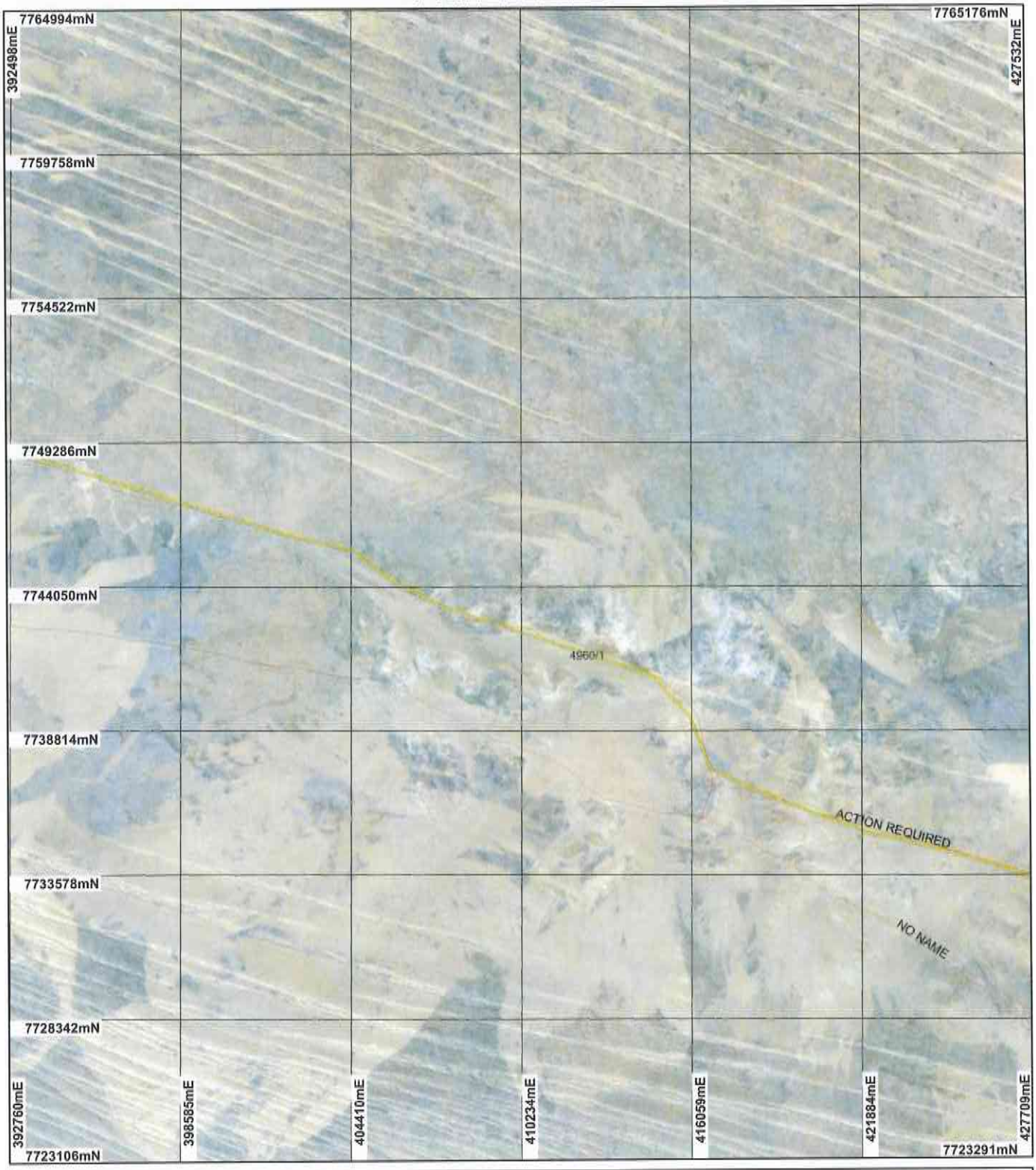

LEGEND

- Road Centrelines Cadastre for labelling
- Freehold
- Crown Reserve
- State Forest / Timber Reserve
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- Crown Lease
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Clearing Instruments

- Areas Approved to Clear

Western Australia Landsat Mosaic 25m - AGO 2006

N

0 ~5 km

Scale 1:192693
(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

Geocentric Datum Australia 1994

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Date 24/5/12

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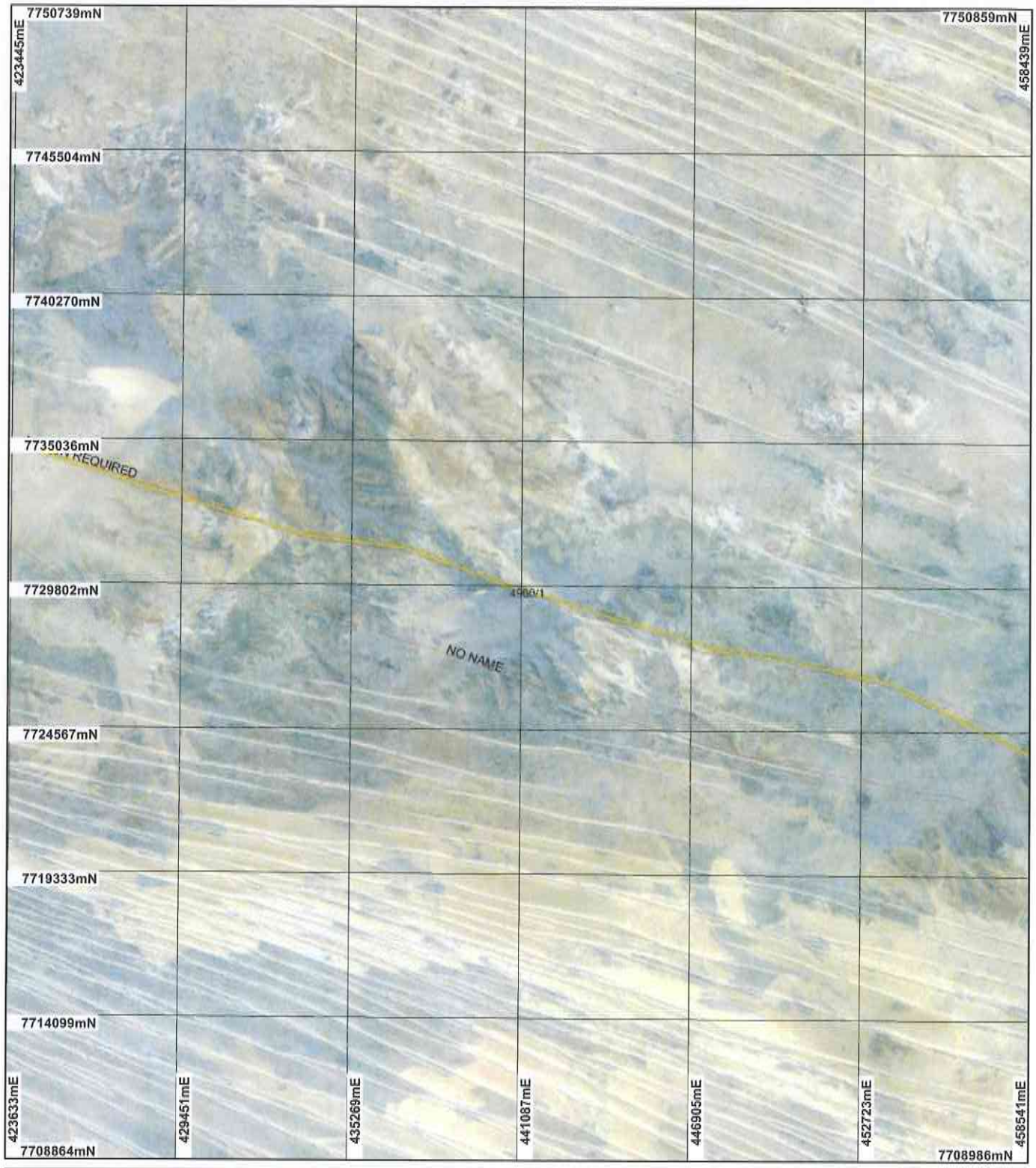
Plan 4960/1f



LEGEND

- Road Centrelines Cadastre for labelling
- Freehold
- Crown Reserve
- State Forest / Timber Reserve
- Marine Park (cont)
- Crown Lease
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Clearing Instruments

- Areas Approved to Clear

Western Australia Landsat Mosaic 25m - AGO 2006

N

0 — 6 km

Scale 1:192578
(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 24/5/12

K. Faulkner

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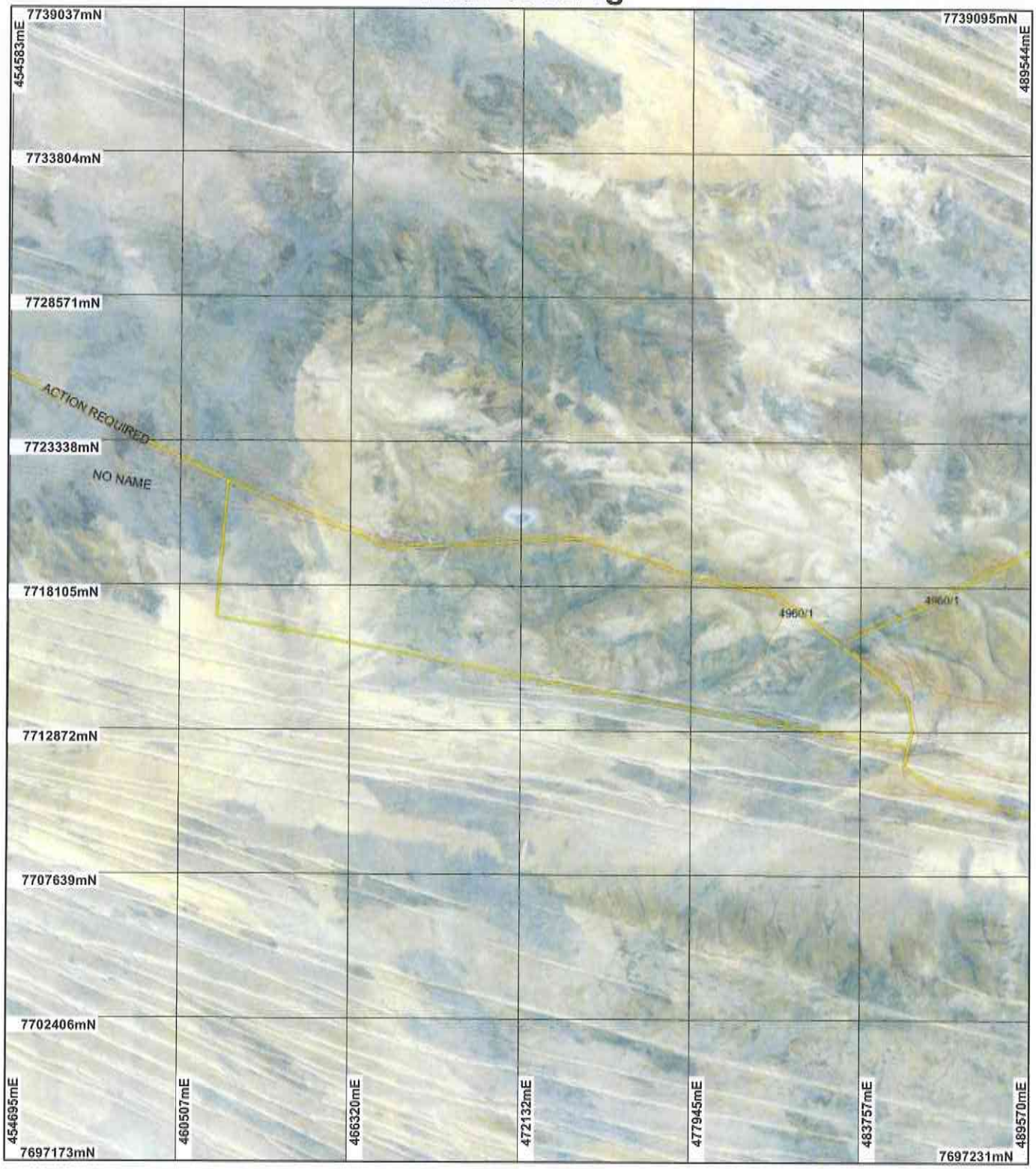
Plan 4960/1g



LEGEND

- Road Centrelines Cadastre for labelling
  - Freehold
  - Crown Reserve
  - State Forest / Timber Reserve
  - Marine Park (cont)
  - Crown Lease
  - Lease / Reserve
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Clearing Instruments

- Areas Approved to Clear

Western Australia Landsat Mosaic 25m - AGO 2006

N

0 5 km

Scale 1:192484
(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.

K. Faulkner Date 24/5/12

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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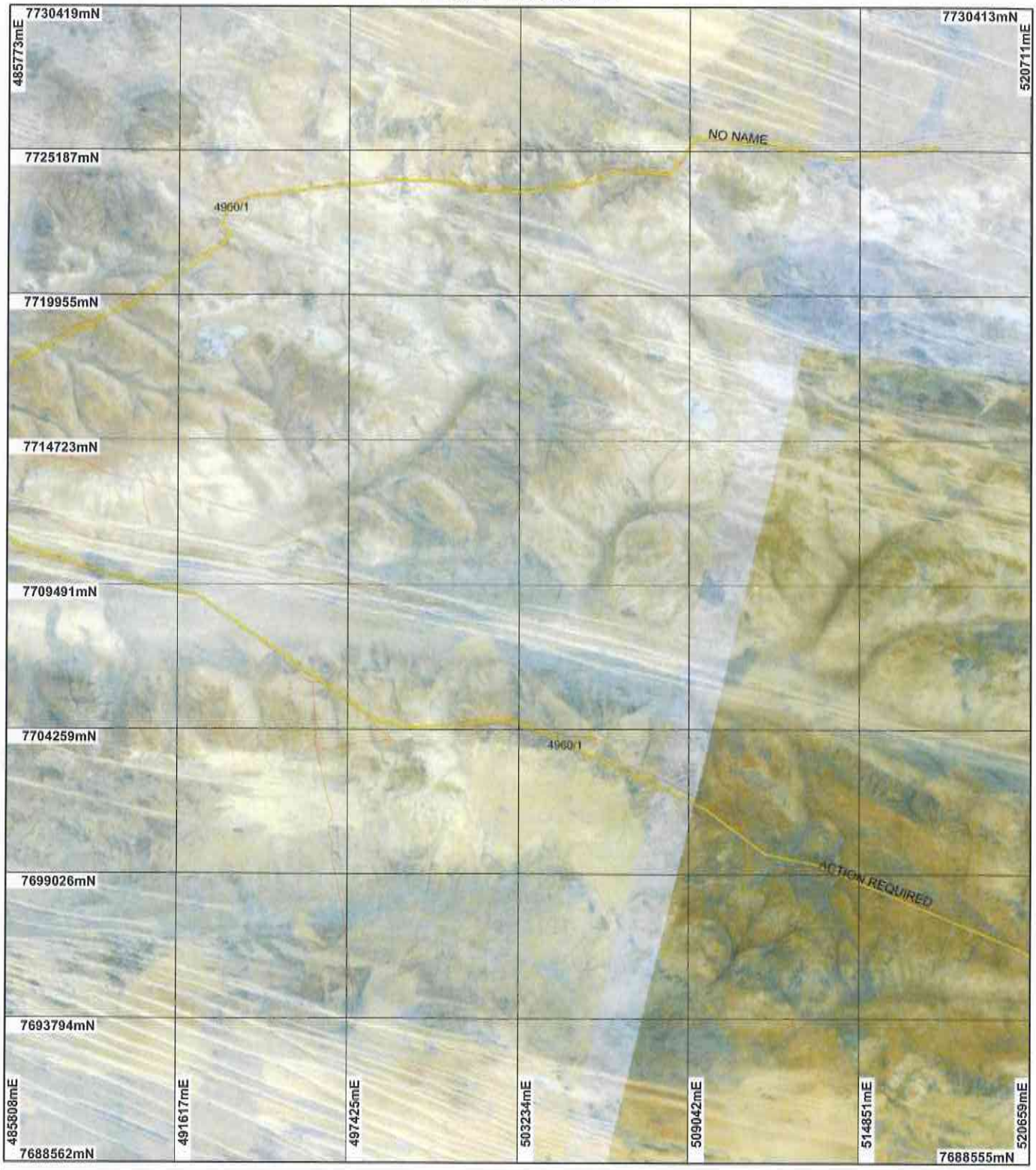
Plan 4960/1h



LEGEND

Road Centrelines Cadastre for labelling

- Freehold
- Crown Reserve
- State Forest / Timber Reserve
- Marine Park (cont)
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- Lease on State Forest / Timber Reserve
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Clearing Instruments

- Areas Approved to Clear

Western Australia Landsat Mosaic 25m - AGO 2006

N

0 5 km

Scale 1:192414
(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 24/5/12

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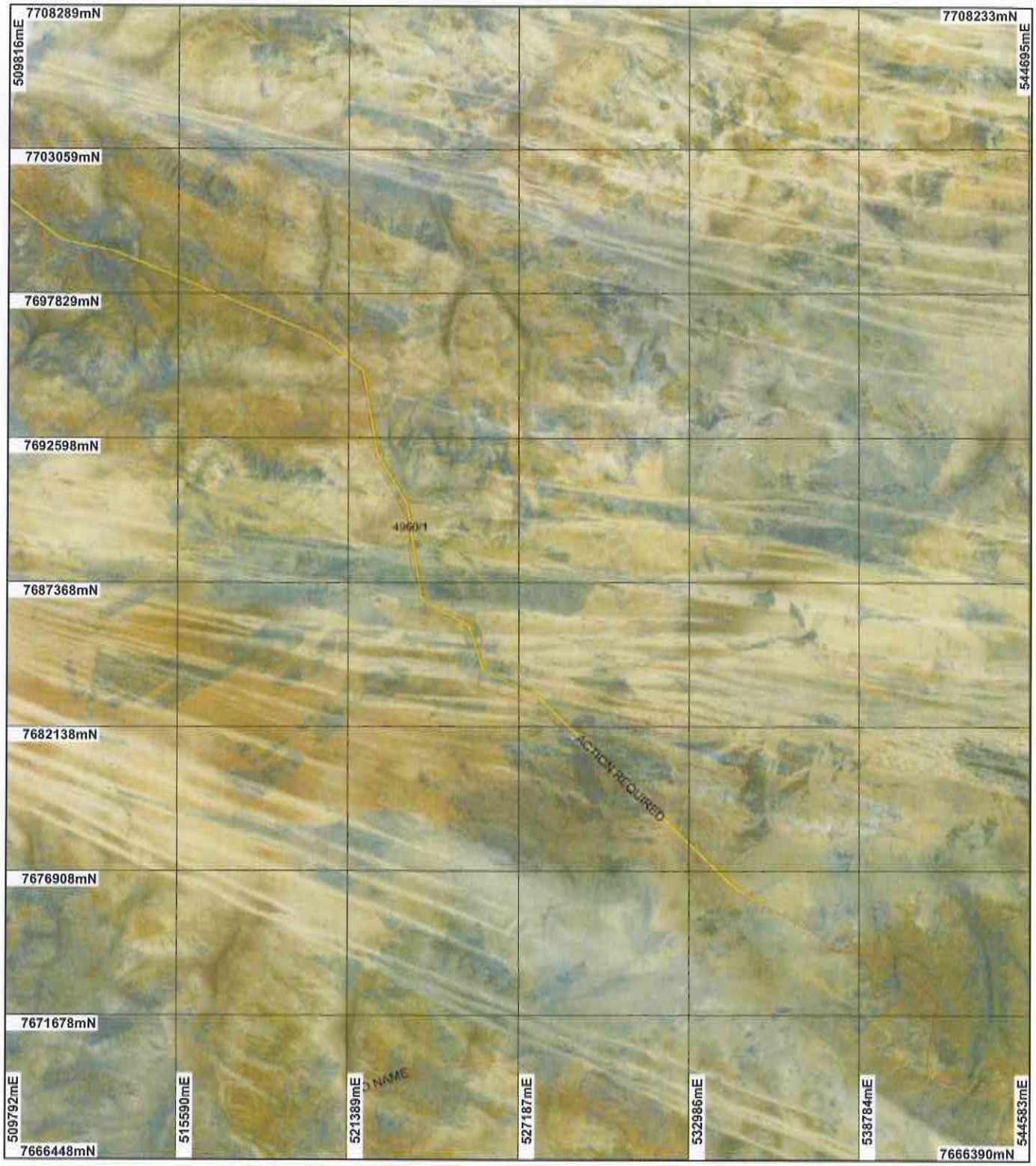
Plan 4960/1i



LEGEND

Road Centrelines
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- Freehold
- Crown Reserve
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- Marine Park (cont)
- Crown Lease
- Lease / Reserve
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Clearing Instruments

- Areas Approved to Clear

Western Australia Landsat Mosaic 25m - AGO 2006

N

0 ~5 km

Scale 1:192235
(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

Geocentric Datum Australia 1994

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K. Faulkner ..... Date 24/5/12

Officer with delegated authority under Section 20 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

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Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 4960/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: New Standard Onshore Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: UNALLOCATED CROWN LAND (TELFER 6762)
Local Government Area: Shire of East Pilbara
Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

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

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 24 May 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
Mapped Beard vegetation association 80 is described as Hummock grasslands, low tree steppe; desert walnut over soft spinifex between sandridges. Mapped Beard vegetation association 101 is described as Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; Acacia pachycarpa over soft spinifex Mapped Beard vegetation association 713 is described as 'Mosaic: Hummock grasslands, open low tree steppe; bloodwood (Eucalyptus dichromophloia) over soft spinifex soft spinifex / Hummock grasslands, open low tree steppe; desert walnut over soft spinifex between sandridges'. Mapped Beard vegetation association 155 is described as 'Hummock grasslands, low tree steppe; eucalypts over soft spinifex and feathertop spinifex between sandhills'. Mapped Beard vegetation association 138 is described as 'Mosaic: Hummock grasslands, low tree steppe; eucalypts over feathertop between dunes / Hummock grasslands, patchy shrub steppe; Acacia pachycarpa over soft spinifex on lateritic rises'. Mapped Beard vegetation association 41 is described as 'Shrublands; teatree scrub'. (Shepherd et al 2001)	The proposed clearing is for 35 hectares along a 400km linear area for the upgrade of access tracks, water bores and campsite related to Kidson and Kemp Field Tracks. The proposed clearing is to occur along the existing Kemp Field track which is overgrown and requires re-instated to a width of 8-10 m. New bypass tracks are proposed around heritage protection areas and washout remediation work is also required. Clearing also includes regrowth within old borrow pits areas and washout areas (New Standard Onshore 2012). The majority of the proposed clearing will impact pre-disturbed vegetation areas except within bypass roads (New Standard Onshore 2012). Ten vegetation types occur within the application area in excellent condition (Coffey Environments 2012), being Acacia ancistrocarpa, Grevillea wickhamii subsp, hispidula tall open shrubland Triodia schinzii hummock grassland on red/pink loamy sand and Acacia tumida var. kulpan and Grevillea wickhamii subsp. hispidula tall open shrubland over Triodia epactia (Forma) and Triodia schinzii hummock grassland on red/pink fine grained sand within Kemp Field Track . Within the red book area of the track the following vegetation communities were recorded; Grevillea wickhamii subsp. hispidula scattered tall shrubs with Acacia monticola tall	Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994) To Excellent: Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery 1994)	Condition of the vegetation was established from aerial photography and from a limited flora survey conducted by Coffey Environments (2012).

shrubland one drainage/flow lines over Triodia epactia hummock grassland on skeletal red rocky loam,

Grevillea wickhamii subsp. hispidula scattered shrubs over Acacia hilliana low shrubs over Triodia epactia hummock grassland on skeletal red rocky loam,

Corymbia zygophylla scattered low trees over Acacia tumida var. kulpan shrubland over Triodia schinzii hummock grassland on red fine grained sand,

Solanum sturtianum and Acacia stelliceps scattered shrubs over hummock grassland on red fine grained loamy clay,

Eucalyptus victrix and Corymbia hamersleyana scattered low trees over Acacia open shrubland over Jacksonia aculeata and Dampiera candicans low open shrubland over hummock grassland on red fine grained loam,

Acacia pachycarpa open shrubland over hummock grassland on red fine grained loamy sand,

Acacia monticola and Acacia ancistrocarpa scattered tall shrubs over dense hummock grassland on red fine grained clayey loamy sand and

Acacia ancistrocarpa, Grevillea wickhamii subsp. hispidula and grevillea refracta subsp. refracta tall open shrubland over Otion simplicifolium and Jacksonia aculeata shrubs over dense hummock grassland on red loamy sand.

(Coffey Environments 2012)

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

(a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.

Comments

Proposal may be at variance to this Principle

The proposed clearing of 35 hectares along a 400km linear area is for the upgrade of access tracks and construction of water bores and campsites related to Kidson and Kemp Field Tracks. These tracks occur within the Great Sandy Desert area. The proposed clearing is to occur along the existing Kemp Field track which is overgrown and requires re-instated to a width of 8-10 m. New bypass tracks are proposed around heritage protection areas and washout remediation work is also required. Clearing also includes regrowth within old borrow pits areas and washout areas (New Standard Onshore 2012). The majority of the proposed clearing will impact pre-disturbed vegetation areas except within bypass roads (New Standard Onshore 2012).

A level 1 flora survey was undertaken in March 2012 within the red book area and along the Kemp Field Track within the application area (Coffey Environments 2012). Not all of the application area was surveyed given the large and linear nature of the proposed clearing (400km long). Ten vegetation types occur within the application area in excellent condition (Coffey Environments 2012). In addition, a total of 106 taxa were recorded and no weed species were observed (Coffey Environments 2012).

The central eastern portion of the area under application (70km long) occurs within the Percival Lakes / Great Sandy Desert area. The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA, 1993) classified the Percival Lakes / Great Sandy Desert area within the System 12 subarea of the Red Book classification system. The EPA considered the area to be a good representative section of the central Great Sandy Desert. Given this classification, the area under application within this area may contain a high biological diversity.

Numerous priority flora species occur within the local area (150km radius) including 16 Priority 3 species (under

the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950 (WC Act)), 4 Priority 2 species (under WC Act) and 6 Priority 1 species (under WC Act), given this the proposed clearing may include habitat for these species. No rare or priority flora species were recorded during a Level 1 flora survey of a portion of the application area (Coffey Environments 2012).

Given that the proposed clearing of 35 hectares is scattered along a long and linear area (400km) and that the local area consists of similar habitat in the same or better condition as the area under application, it is not considered for the proposed clearing to significantly impact priority flora species.

Given that the proposed clearing occurs in excellent condition and may contain habitat for priority flora species and a potion occurs within the Percival Lakes/Great Desert area, the proposed clearing may be at variance to this principle. Weed management would reduce impact of the proposed clearing.

Methodology

References
-New Standard Onshore (2012)
-Environmental Protection Authority (1993)
-Coffey Environments (2012)
GIS Databases
-Sac Bio datasets (19 April 2012)

(b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.

Comments

Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

Within the local area (40km radius) there are four records of conservation significant fauna species, being Macrotis lagotis (Bilby) (Rare -Wildlife Conservation Act 1950 (WC Act)), Aspidites ramsayi (Woma) (Specially Protected - WC Act)), Ardeotis australis (Australian Bustard) (Priority 4 - WC Act) and Leggadina lakedownensis (Short tailed Mouse) (Priority 4 - WC Act) (DEC 2007-).

Four habitat types have been identified within the application area including, Acacia over Spinifex sandplain, Acacia over spinifex lateritic rise, Minor drainage lines and Spinifex over clay/calcrete (Coffey Environments 2012).

Apart from the new bypass road areas within the application area, the majority of the application area has been previously disturbed and consists of regrowth (New Standard Onshore 2012).

The Australian Bustard was observed during the flora and vegetation survey within the application area (Coffey Environments 2012). A level 1 fauna assessment identified seven fauna conservation significant species likely to utilized the application area including the Woma Python (Aspidites ramsayi) (Specially Portected), Bush Stone curlew (Burhinus grallarius) (Priority 4 - WC Act), Major Mitchells Cockatoo (Lophochroa leadbeateri) (Specially protected), Princess Parrot (Polytelis alexandrae) (Priority 4 - WC Act), Bush tailed Mulgara (Dasycercus blythi) (Priority 4 - WC Act), Crest - tailed Mulgara (Dasycercus cristicauda) (rare - WC Act), Greater Bilby (Macrostis lagotis) (rare - WC Act).

There is approximately 100% of pre-European extent of vegetation remaining in the local area (40km radius) of the area under application. It is considered for the surrounding area to contain similar vegetation types and habitat as the application area, in similar or better condition. Given this, the limited clearing of 35ha along a 400km existing track is not considered to consist of significant fauna habitat.

Methodology

References
-New Standard Onshore (2012)
-Coffey Environmnets (2012)
- DEC (2007-)
GIS Databases
-Pre-European vegetation

(c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora.

Comments

Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

No rare flora species have been recorded within the local area (40 km radius). The closet recording of a rare flora species is Keraudrenia exastia located 127.5 km from the application area.

A level 1 flora survey undertaken in March 2012 of a portion of the application area (red book area) did not identify any rare flora species (Coffey Environments 2012).

Given the distance to the nearest rare flora species it is not considered for the proposed clearing to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

References

-Coffey Environments (2012)
GIS Databases
-SAC Bio datasets (19 April 2012)

(d) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a threatened ecological community.

Comments

Proposal is not at variance to this Principle

There are no recorded occurrences of threatened or priority ecological communities within the area under application, or within the local area (150km radius).

A level 1 flora survey undertaken in March 2012 of a portion of the application area (red book area) did not identify vegetation communities that could represent a TEC (Coffey Environments 2012).

Given that no TEC has been recorded within the local area, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

References
-Coffey Environments (2012)
GIS Databases
-SAC Bio datasets (19 April 2012)

(e) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.

Comments

Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The vegetation under application is described as Beard vegetation associations 80, 41, 101, 713, 134 155 and 138 which there is 100%, 93%, 100%, 100%, 100% 100% and 100% of pre-European extent remaining, respectively (Shepherd 2001).

The Beard vegetation associations retains more than the threshold level (30%) recommended in the National Objectives Targets for Biodiversity Conservation, below which species loss appears to accelerate exponentially at an ecosystem level (Commonwealth of Australia 2001).

In addition, the application areas do not occur within an extensively cleared landscape as approximately 99% remains in the local area (40 km radius) and 100% remaining in the Shire of East Pilbara. Therefore, the proposal is not at variance to this principle

	Pre-European (ha)	Current Extent (ha)	Remaining (%)	Extent in DEC Managed Lands (%)
IBRA Bioregion*				
Great Sandy Desert	29,538,795	29,537,848	100	3
Shire*				
Shire of East Pilbara	37,183,293	37,182,808	100	4
Beard Vegetation Association in Bioregion*				
80	294,534	294,534	100	0
41	194,251	180,791	93	10
101	1,191,083	1,191,083	100	0
713	3,609,415	3,609,415	100	0
134	26,024,960	26,024,428	100	3
155	5,902,719	5,902,719	100	0
138	1,008,692	1,008,692	100	0

*Shepherd (2001)

Methodology

References
-Shepherd (2001)
-Commonwealth of Australia (2001)
GIS Databases
-Pre-European vegetation

(f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.

Comments

Proposal may be at variance to this Principle

Drainage within the Great Sandy desert where this application area occurs is limited to short ephemeral creeks

and rivers which flow after heavy rains (New Standard Onshore 2012). Numerous small non perennial watercourses/ drainage lines cross through the application area.

A portion (70 km area) of the application area crosses through the Percival Lakes / Great Sandy Desert area, an area that has been classified within System 12 subarea of the Red Book classification system. The Percival Lakes area contains small fresh water springs and seepages that are significant water sources that have high biological and cultural significance (Kendrick 2001). As the application area crosses through this locality, it may contain vegetation growing in association with wetlands. However, as the application area is 35 ha over a 400km long and linear area, 70 km of which occurs within the Percival lakes area, it is considered for the proposed clearing to have minimal impact on these wetlands. In addition, the majority of the clearing is along an existing track and within areas that have been previously disturbed.

There are no known wetlands located within the red book area according to aerial photography and the vegetation recorded within this area does not suggest permanent wetland areas (Coffey Environments 2012)

The removal of limited vegetation associated with small non-perennial watercourses is unlikely to significantly impact on the watercourse network as a whole throughout the landscape.

The proposed clearing may be at variance to this principle.

Methodology

References
-Kendrick (2001)
-New Standard Onshore (2012)
-Coffey Environments (2012)
GIS Databases
-Hydrography, linear

(g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.

Comments

Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

Chief soils within the area under application are red earthy sands (Northcote et al 1960-68). These soils are at a high risk of wind and water erosion.

The proposed clearing may cause localised minor soil erosion during heavy rains.

Given that the proposed clearing is 35 ha over a long and linear area (400km), it is not likely to cause appreciable land degradation in the form of soil erosion and is not likely to be at variance to this clearing principle.

Methodology

References
-Northcote et al (1960-68)
GIS Databases
-Soils, statewide

(h) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.

Comments

Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The closest conservation area to the area under application is Dragon tree soak Nature Reserve occurring 94 km north of the application area.

Given the distance to the nearest conservation area it is not considered for the proposed clearing to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

GIS Databases
-DEC Managed Lands

(i) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.

Comments

Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

Drainage within the Great Sandy desert where this application area is limited to short ephemeral creeks and rivers which flow after heavy rains (New Standard Onshore 2012). Numerous small non perennial watercourses/ drainage lines cross through the application area.

A portion (70 km area) of the application area crosses through the Percival Lakes / Great Sandy Desert area, an area that has been classified within System 12 subarea of the Red Book classification system. The Percival Lakes area contains small fresh water springs and seepages that are significant water sources that have high biological and cultural significance (Kendrick 2001). As the application area crosses through this locality, it may

contain vegetation growing in association with these seepages. There are no known wetlands located within the red book area according to aerial photography and the vegetation recorded within this area does not suggest permanent wetland areas (Coffey Environments 2012)

The proposed clearing may cause temporary sedimentation of surface water of drainage lines that occur within the application area during wet weather.

Given that the proposed clearing is 35 ha over a long and linear area (400km) it is not likely to cause deterioration in surface or underground water and is not likely to be at variance to this clearing principle

Methodology

References
-Kendrick (2001)
-New Standard Onshore (2012)
-Coffey Environmnets (2012)
GIS Databases
-Hyrdography, linear
-Hydrography, lakes

(j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.

Comments

Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle
Chief soils within the area under application are red earthy sands (Northcote et al 1960-68).

Given the sandy soils and that the proposed clearing is of 35 ha over a long and linear area (400km), it is not considered for the clearing to exacerbate or increase the intensity of flooding.

Methodology

References
-Northcote et al (1960-68)
GIS Databases
-Hyrdography, linear
-Hydrography, lakes
-Soils, statewide

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

Comments

The proposed clearing of 35 hectares along a 400km linear area for the upgrade of access tracks, water bores and campsite related to Kidson and Kemp Field Tracks. The Kidson track requires re-mediation of washout areas, the use of previously disturbed borrow pit for temporary gravel and campsite establishment, establishment of water bores along the edge of tracks and deviation of the track in areas to avoid heritage sites (New Standard Onshore 2012). The Kemp field track requires re-instatement of track to original width of 8-10 m and remediation of washout areas (New Standard Onshore 2012).

The upgrade of the Kidson and Kemp field tracks is to allow New Standard Onshore to access and undertake exploration within their Petroleum Exploration Permits in the Canning Basin.

The proposed clearing occurs on Unallocated Crown Land (UCL). The applicant holds a section 91 License under the Land Administration Act 1997 (Lic 00050_2012_A1735072) for the permitted use of access, borrow pits and water bores within a 40 m casement centred on the centre of the existing Kemp Field and Kidson tracks. This license is valid from the 1 March 2012 to the 28 February 2017. Condition 4.1 (h) of this license states 'must not undertake nor allow to be undertaken any excavation or clearing of the License Area'.

An email from Department of Regional Development and Lands (RDL) has been received (dated 22 March 2012) stating that Condition 4.1(h) is no longer applicable and the permitted use of the license is now 'Access, use of borrow pits and use of water bores within a 40 m easement centred on the centre of the existing track, construct track by-passes as requested by Native Title holders for the protection of heritage sites along the easement and disturb vegetation required for the completion of the works, subject to compliance with all applicable law associated with vegetation disturbance'.

An Environmental Management Plan has been approved by The Department of Mining and Petroleum for the applicant's Canning basin exploration program (Coffey Environments 2012).

The applicant has a Native Title Agreement with the Nyangumarta people (Native title holders) in relation to the works along the Kemp Field and Kidson tracks.

One Aboriginal Site of Significance is mapped within the application area. It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged throughout the clearing process.

The application area occurs within the Canning- Kimberley Groundwater Management Area as proclaimed under the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act. The applicant has obtained licences from the Department of Water to sink bores within the application area (Licences CAW175435, GWL175436, CAW175437, GWL175438, CAW175439, GWL175441).

Methodology

References
-New Standard Onshore (2012)
-Coffey Environments (2012)
GIS Databases
-RIWI Areas

4. References

Coffey Environments (2012) Level 1 Flora, Vegetation and Fauna Assessment -Nicolay -1 Well Exploration Program Canning Basin. May 2012 Prepared for New Standard Energy Pty Ltd. DEC ref A506948

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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)