



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 5111/1
Permit Holder:	Reward Minerals Limited
Duration of Permit:	14 September 2012 – 14 September 2017

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 access tracks, camp site and a borrow bit.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Section 91 Licence (Lic L00178-2012-A2072418) within Gibson Desert North, Gibson Desert South and Telfer.

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 32.5 hectares of native vegetation within the yellow solid fill area on attached Plan 5111/1a and Plan 5111/1b and Plan 5111/1c and Plan 5111/1d and Plan 5111/1e and Plan 5111/1f and Plan 5111/1g and Plan 5111/1h and Plan 5111/1j and Plan 5111/1k.

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. 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

7. 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:

- avoid the clearing of native vegetation;
- minimise the amount of native vegetation to be cleared; and

- (c) reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.

8. Fauna management

- (a) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit holder shall engage a *fauna specialist* to identify habitat suitable for:
- (i) Giant Desert Skink (*Liopholis kintorei*)
 - (ii) Mulgara (*Dasymercus cristicauda*)
 - (iii) Marsupial Mole (*Notoryctes caurinus*)
 - (iv) Bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*)
- (b) Prior to undertaking any clearing within 50 metres of fauna burrows identified in Condition 8(a) of this Permit, the areas shall be inspected by a *fauna specialist* for the presence of Giant Desert Skink (*Liopholis kintorei*), Mulgara (*Dasymercus cristicauda*), Marsupial Mole (*Notoryctes caurinus*) and Bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*).
- (c) Where fauna habitat is identified in relation to Condition 8(b) of this Permit, the Permit Holder shall ensure that no clearing occurs within 50 metres of the identified fauna burrows, unless approved by the CEO.

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

9. Records must be kept

The Permit Holder must maintain the following records in relation to the clearing of native vegetation authorised under this Permit:

- (a) the species composition, structure and density of the cleared area;
- (b) 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;
- (c) the date that the area was cleared; and
- (d) the size of the area cleared (in hectares).

10. Reporting

- (a) The Permit Holder must provide to the CEO on or before 31 July of each year, a written report:
 - (i) of records required under condition 9 of this Permit; and
 - (ii) concerning activities done by the Permit Holder under this Permit between 1 July and 30 June of the preceding year.
- (b) Prior to 14 June 2017, the Permit Holder must provide to the CEO a written report of records required under condition 10 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under condition 10(a) of this Permit.

DEFINITIONS

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

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



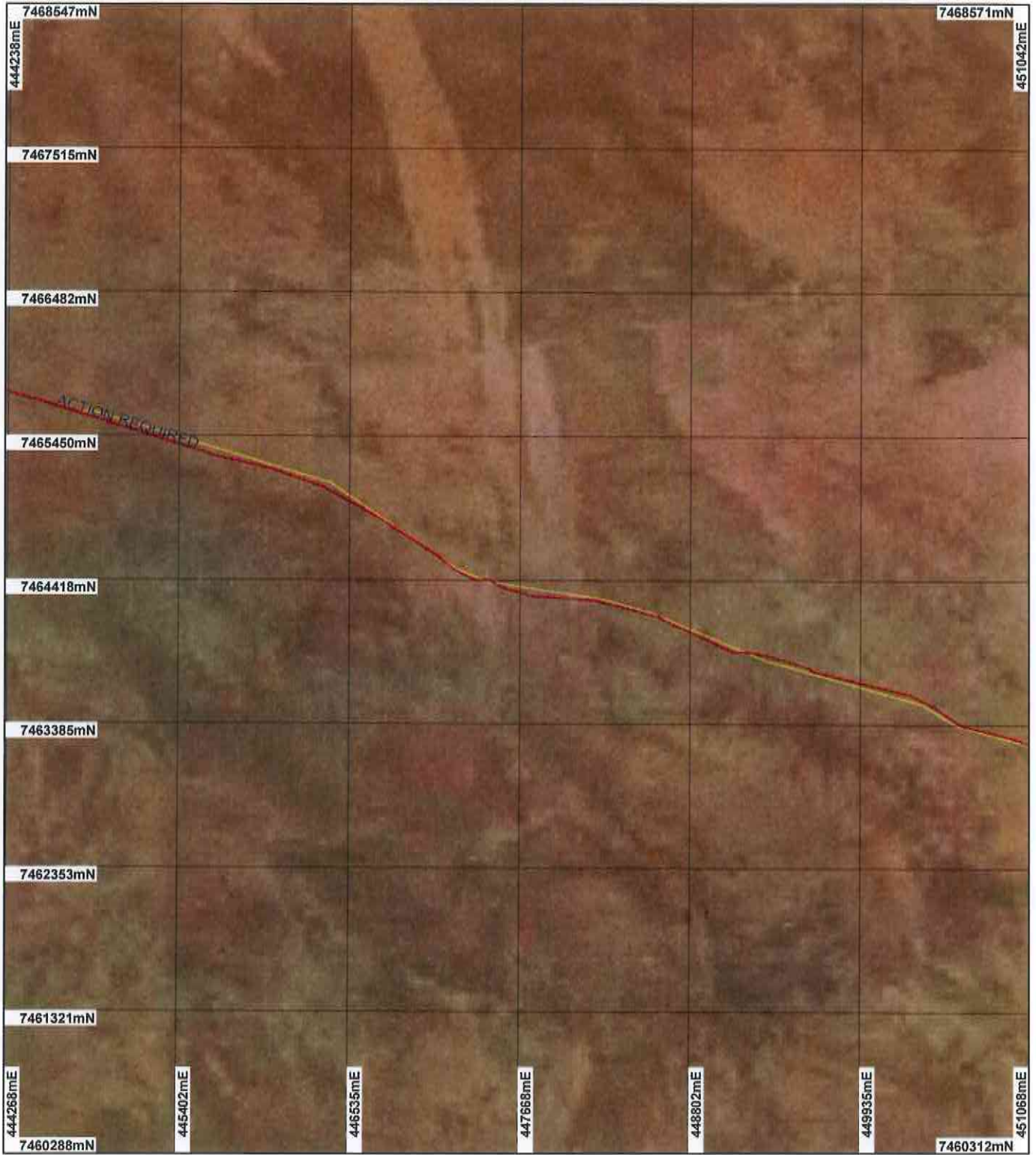
M Warnock
A/MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

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

23 August 2012

CPS 5111/1, 23 August 2012

Plan 5111/1a



LEGEND

- Clearing instruments
- Areas Approved to Clear
 - Road Centrelines
 - Cadastre
- Western Australia ETM 25m
543 - 2002



Scale 1:37827
(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

Geocentric Datum Australia 1994

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M Warnock Date 23/8/12

M Warnock

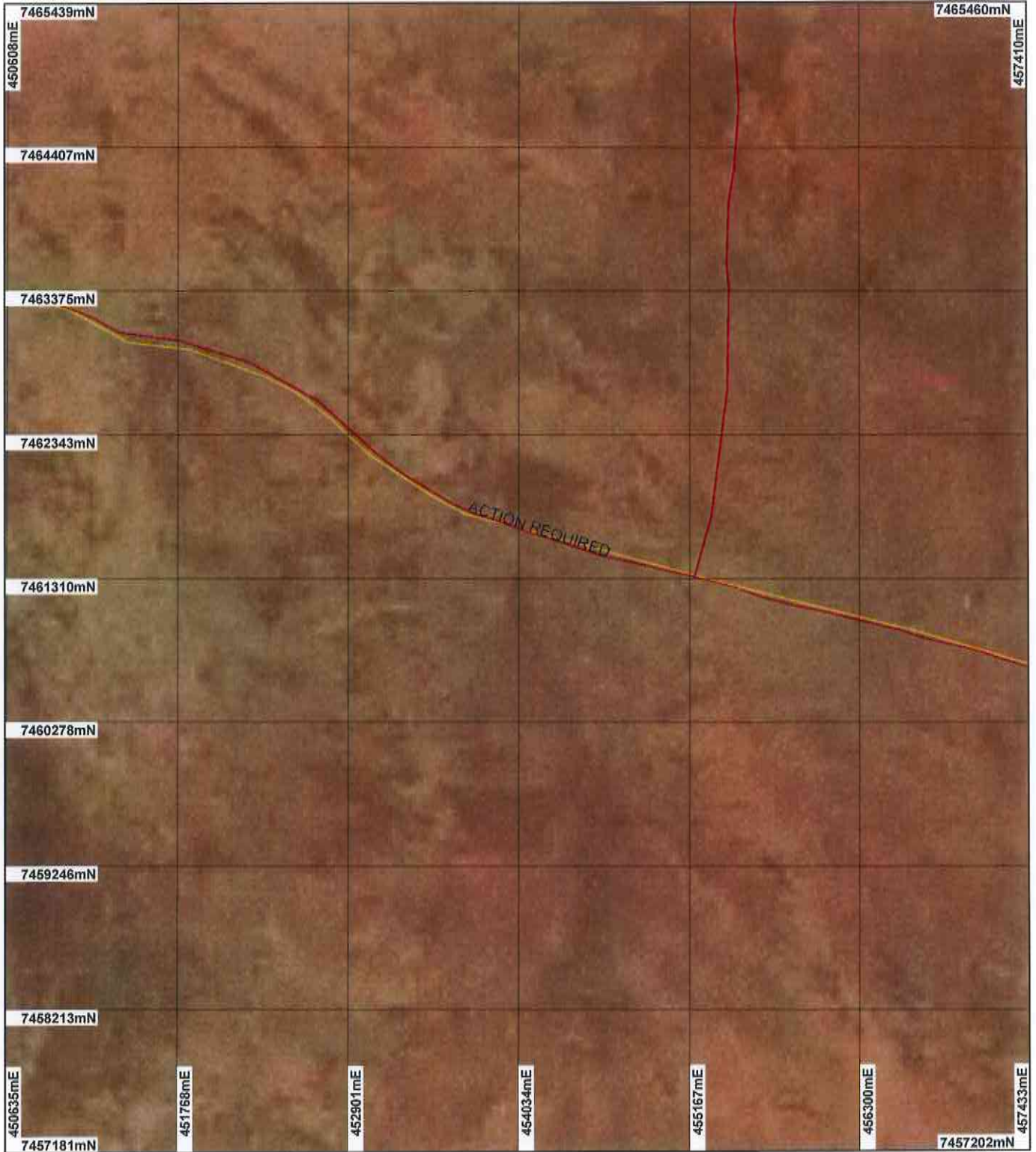
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Plan 5111/1b



LEGEND

- Clearing instruments
- Areas Approved to Clear
- Road Centrelines
- Cadastre
- Western Australia ETM 25m
543 - 2002



0 ————— 1 km

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M Warnock Date 23/8/12

M Warnock

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

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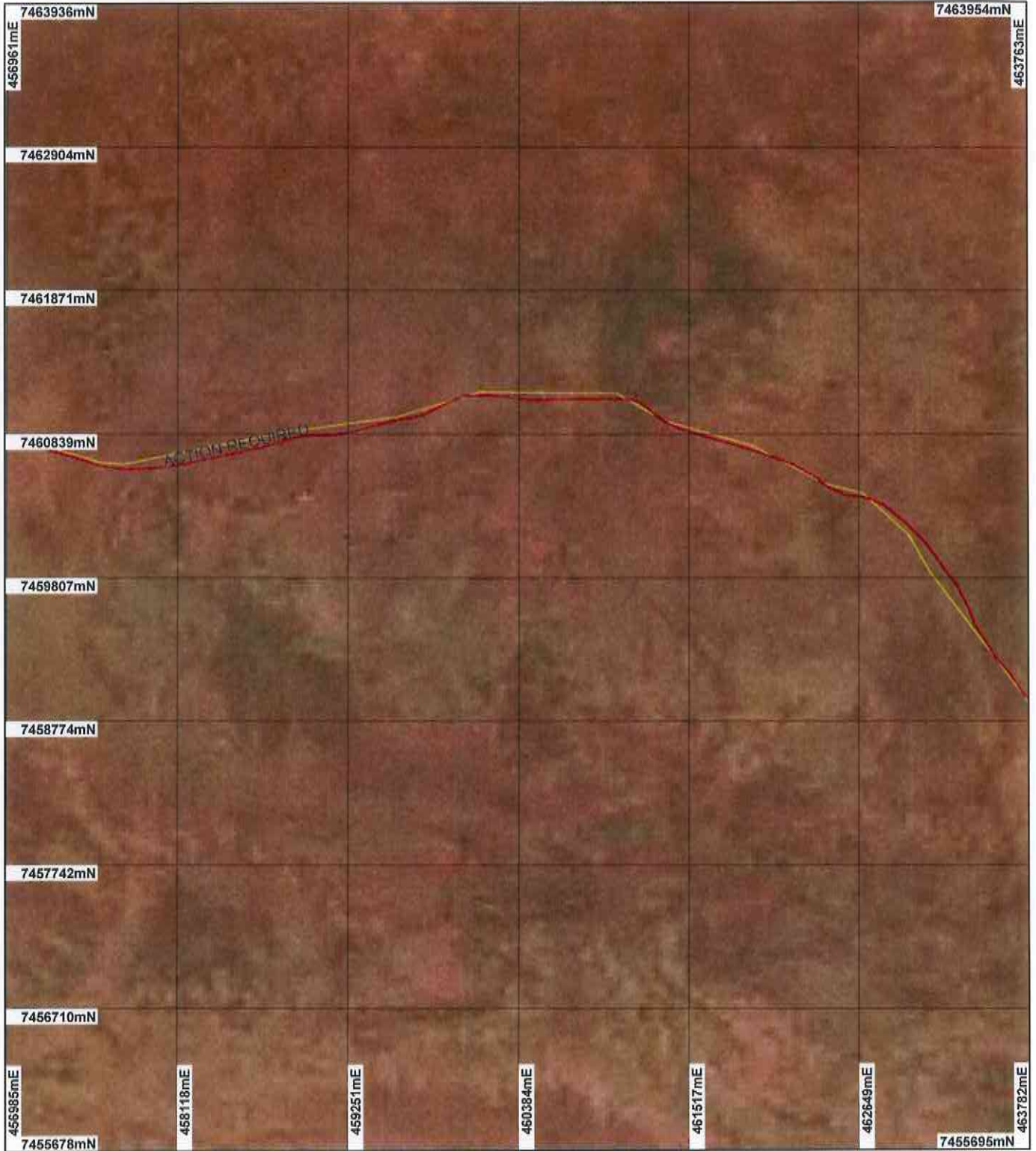


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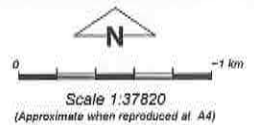
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Plan 5111/1c



LEGEND

- Clearing Instruments
- Areas Approved to Clear
- Road Centrelines
- Cadastre
- Western Australia ETM 25m
543 - 2002



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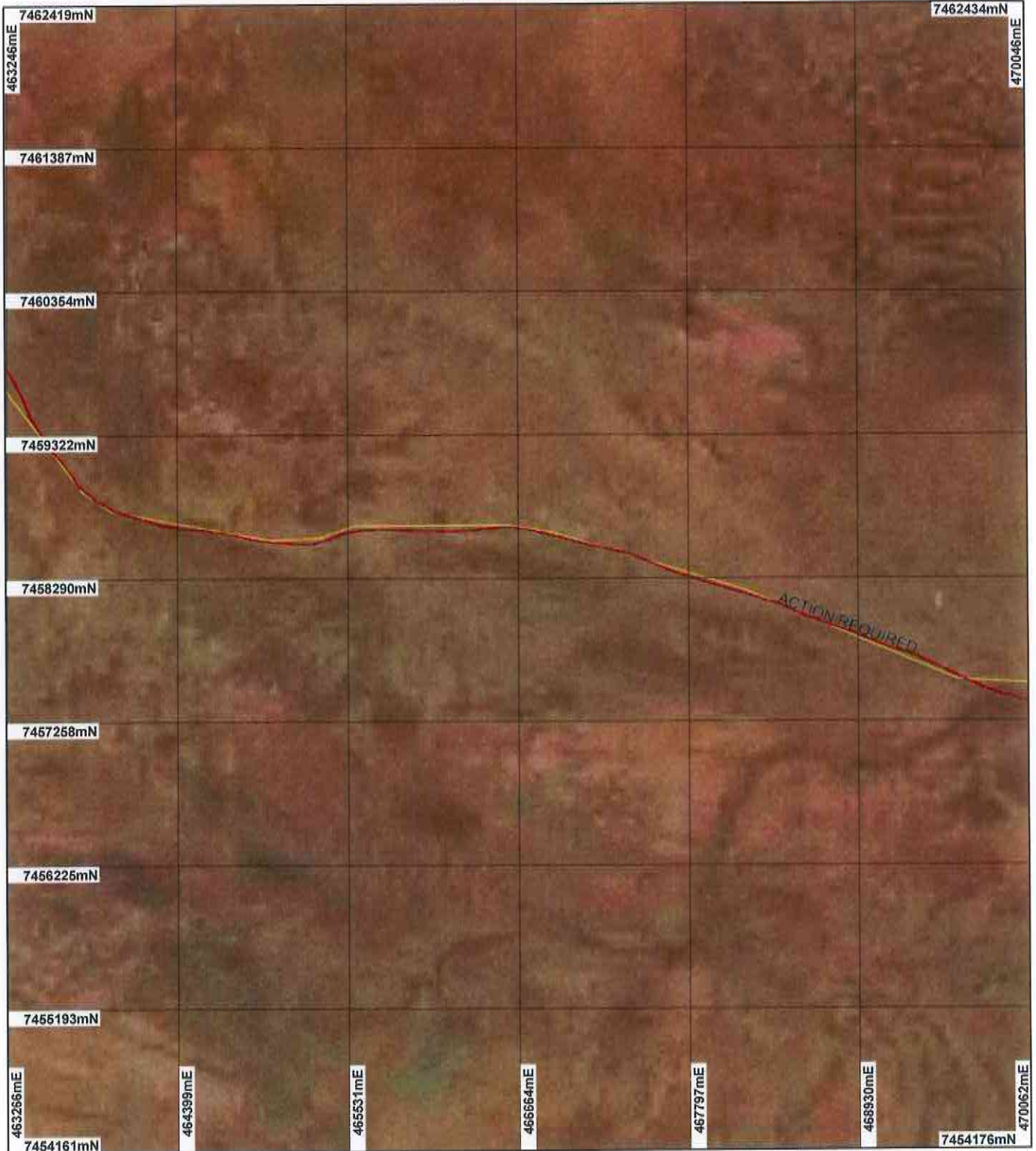
M Warnock Date 23/8/12
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Plan 5111/1d



LEGEND

- Clearing instruments
- Areas Approved to Clear
 - Road Centrelines
 - Cadastre
 - Western Australia ETM 25m
543 - 2002



0 ————— 1 km

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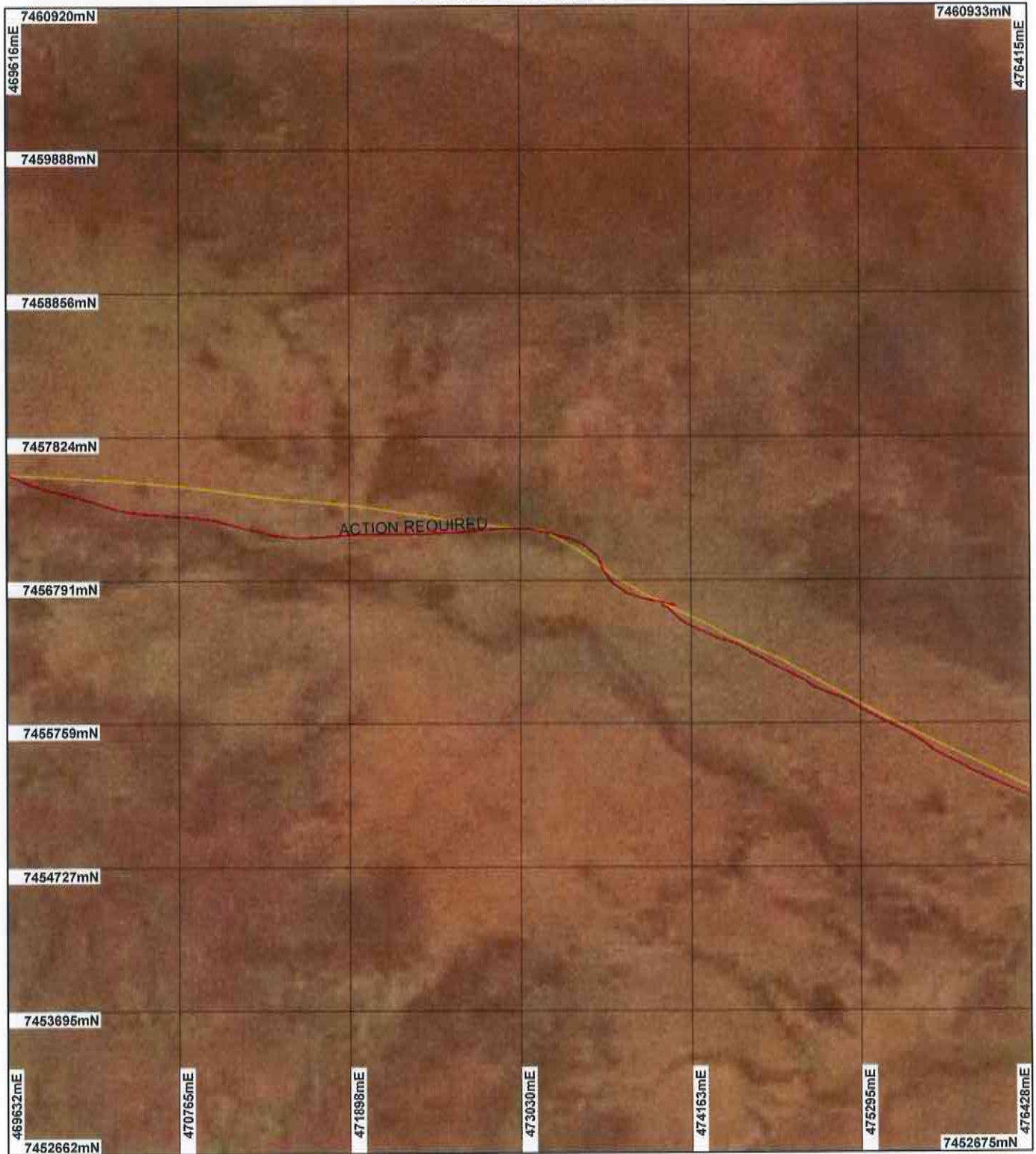


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Plan 5111/1e



LEGEND

- Clearing instruments
- Areas Approved to Clear
- Road Centrelines
- Cadastre
- Western Australia ETM 25m 543 - 2002



0 ————— 1 km

Scale 1:37817

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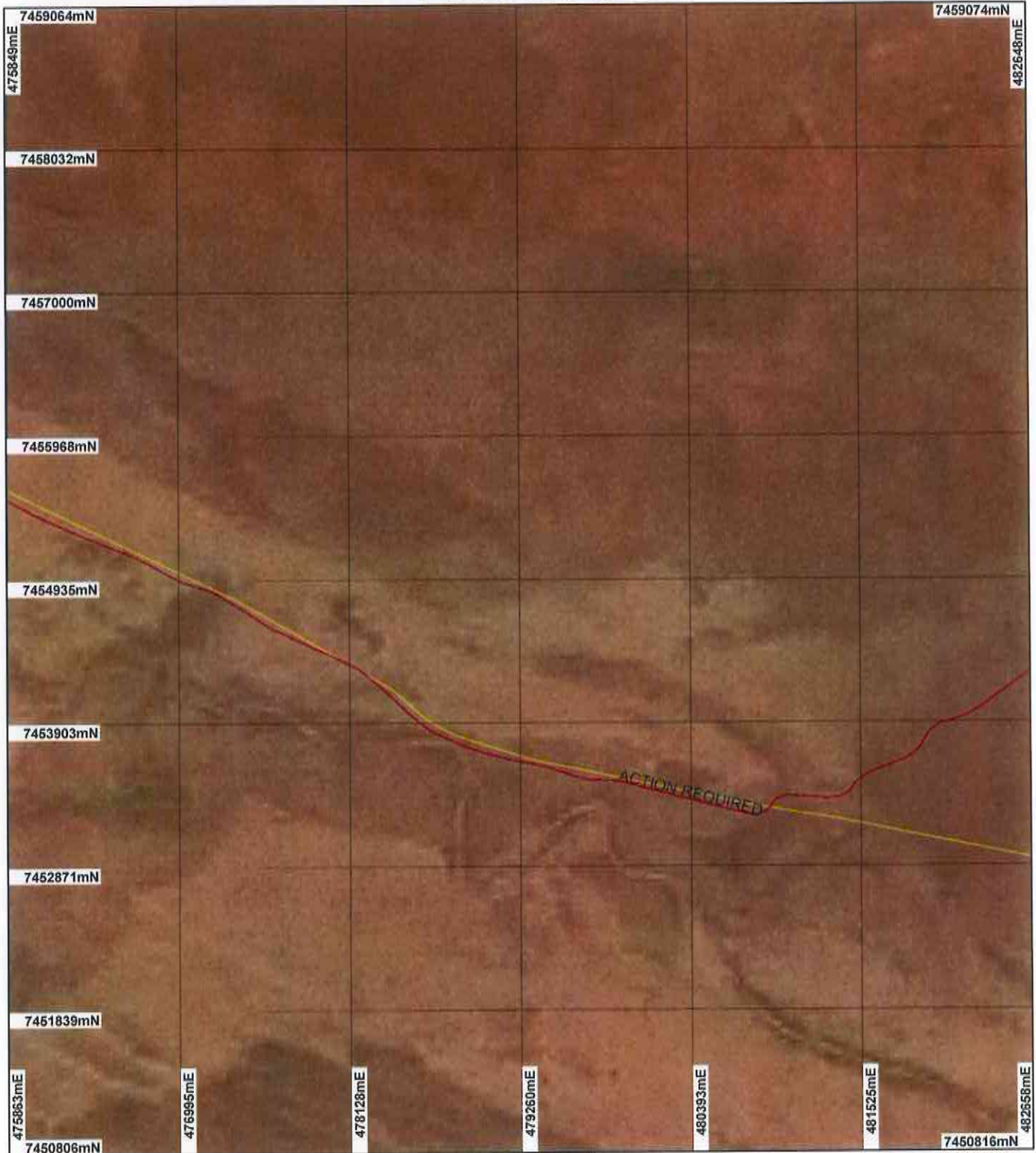


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Plan 5111/1f



LEGEND

- Clearing instruments
- Areas Approved to Clear
- Road Centrelines
- Cadastre
- Western Australia ETM 25m
543 - 2002



0 1 km

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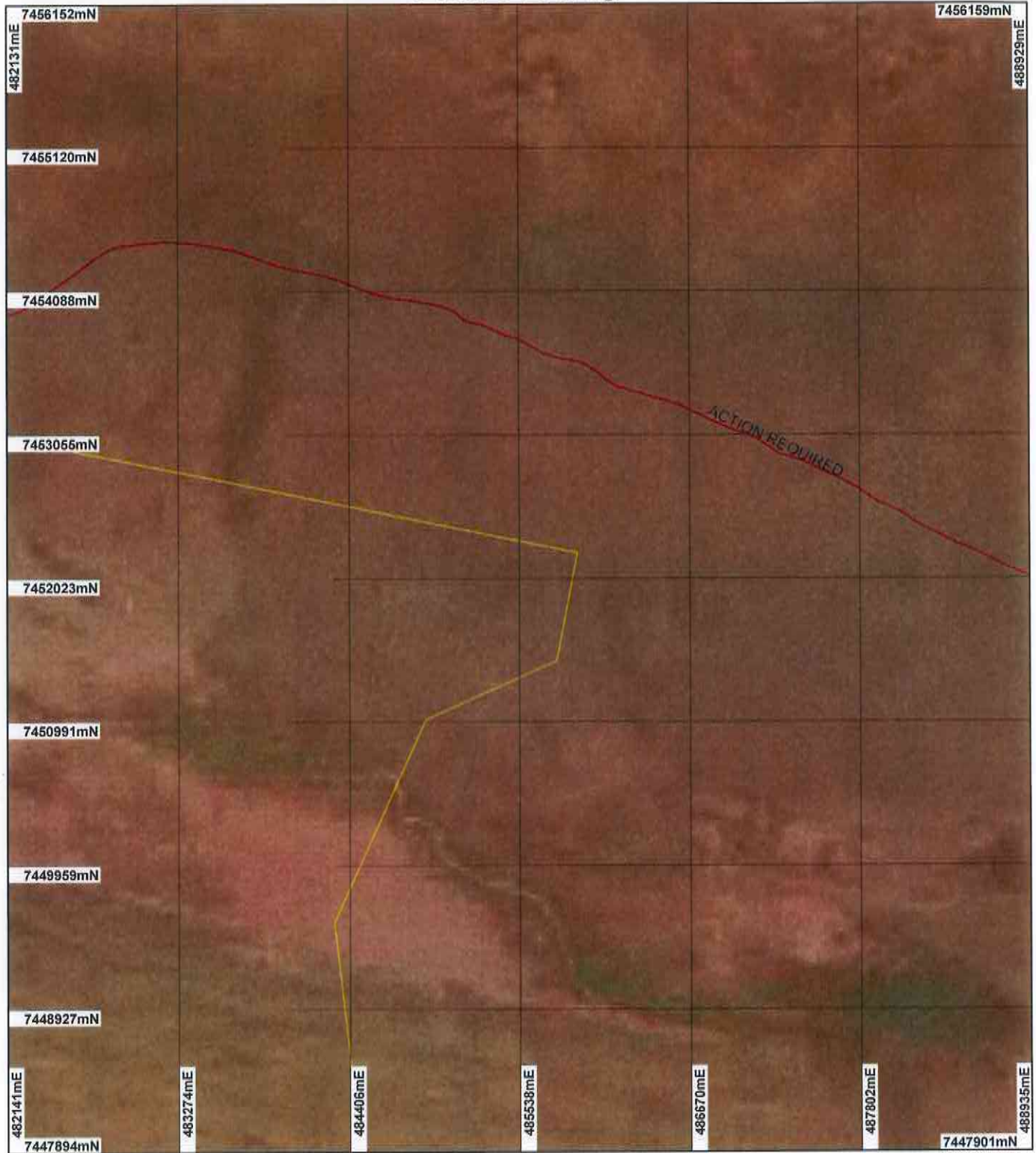
M Warnock Date 23/8/12

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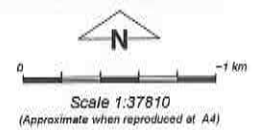
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Plan 5111/1g



LEGEND

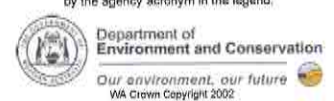
- Clearing Instruments
- Areas Approved to Clear
- Road Centrelines
- Cadastral
- Western Australia ETM 25m 843 - 2002



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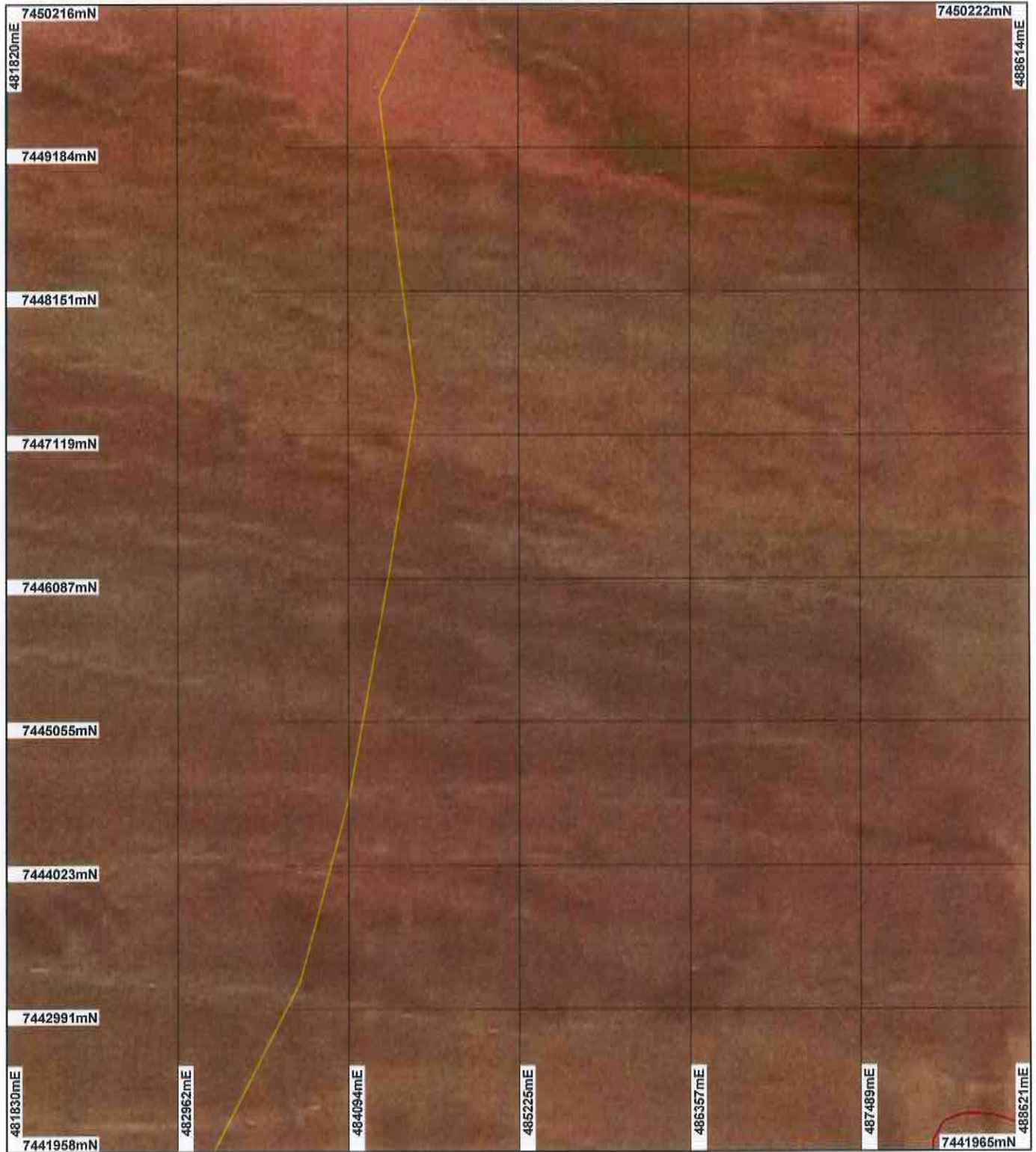
M Warnock Date 23/8/12
M Warnock

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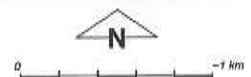
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Plan 5111/1h



LEGEND

- Clearing instruments
- Areas Approved to Clear
- Road Centrelines
- Cadastral
- Western Australia ETM 25m
543 - 2002



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M Warnock

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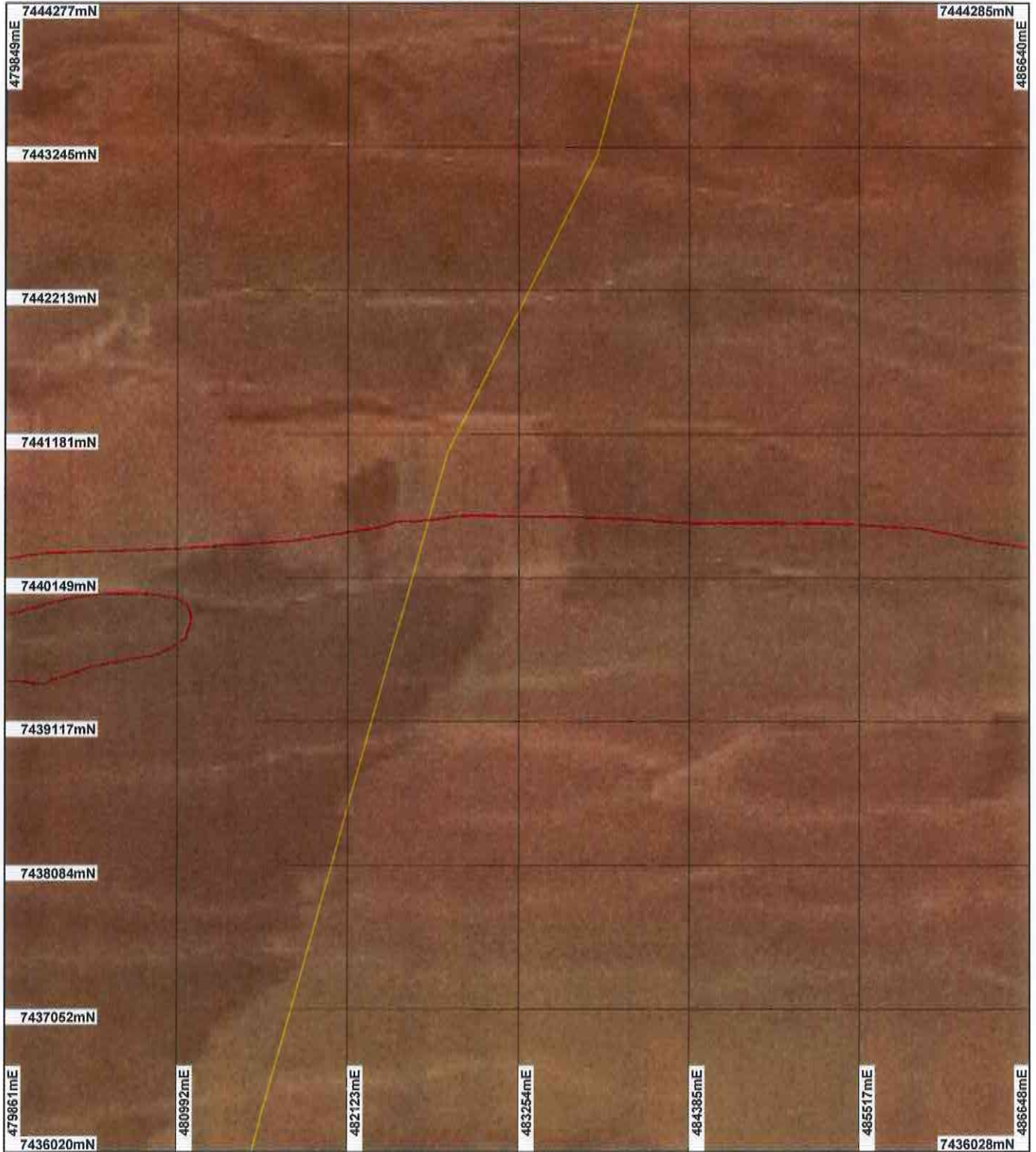


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Plan 5111/1i



LEGEND

- Clearing instruments
- Areas Approved to Clear
- Road Centrelines
- Cadastre
- Western Australia ETM 25m
543 - 2002



0 ————— 1 km

Scale 1:37795

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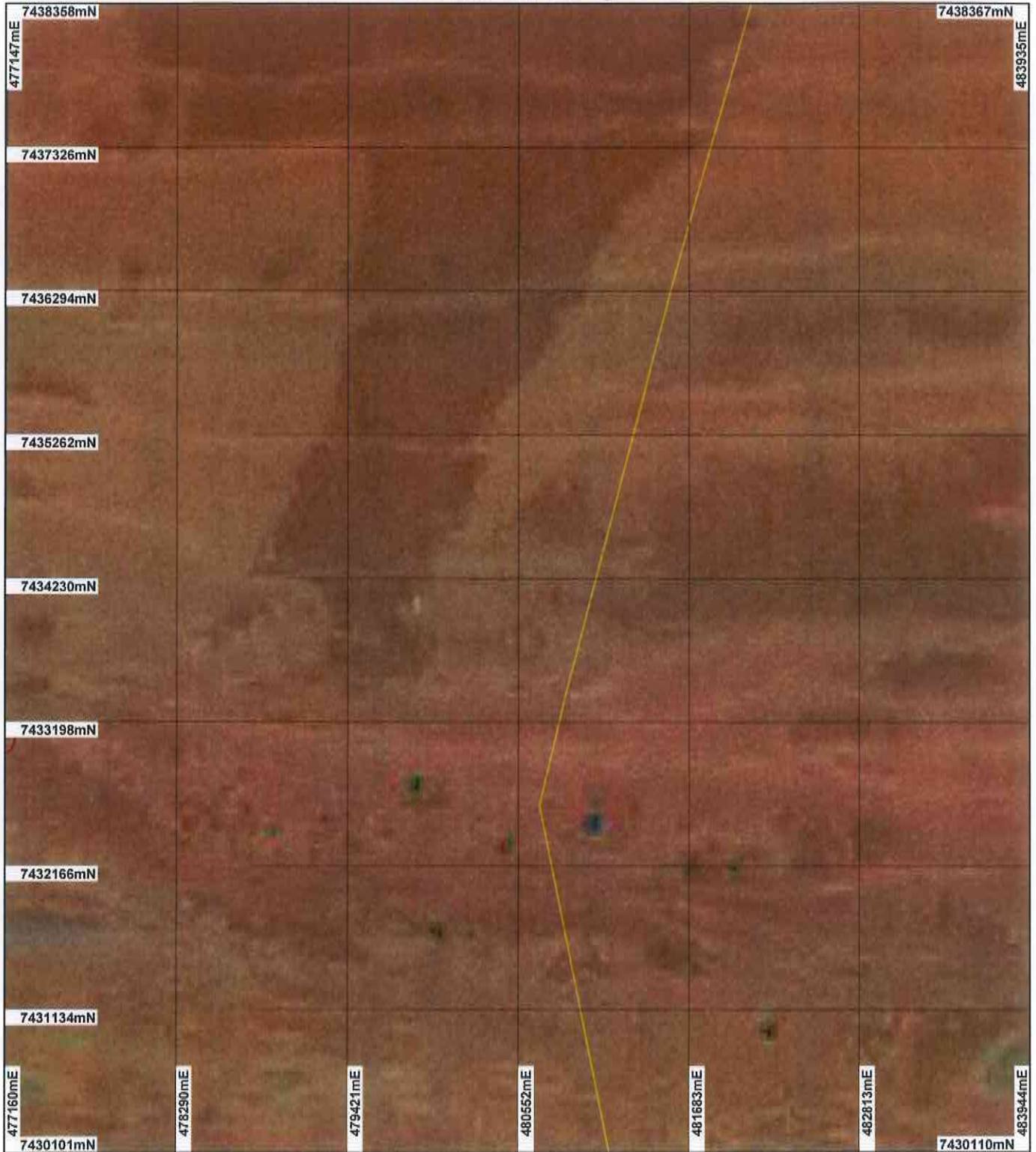
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Plan 5111/1j



LEGEND

- Clearing Instruments
- Areas Approved to Clear
- Road Centrelines
- Cadastre
- Western Australia ETM 25m
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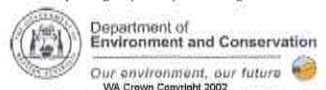
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Geocentric Datum Australia 1994

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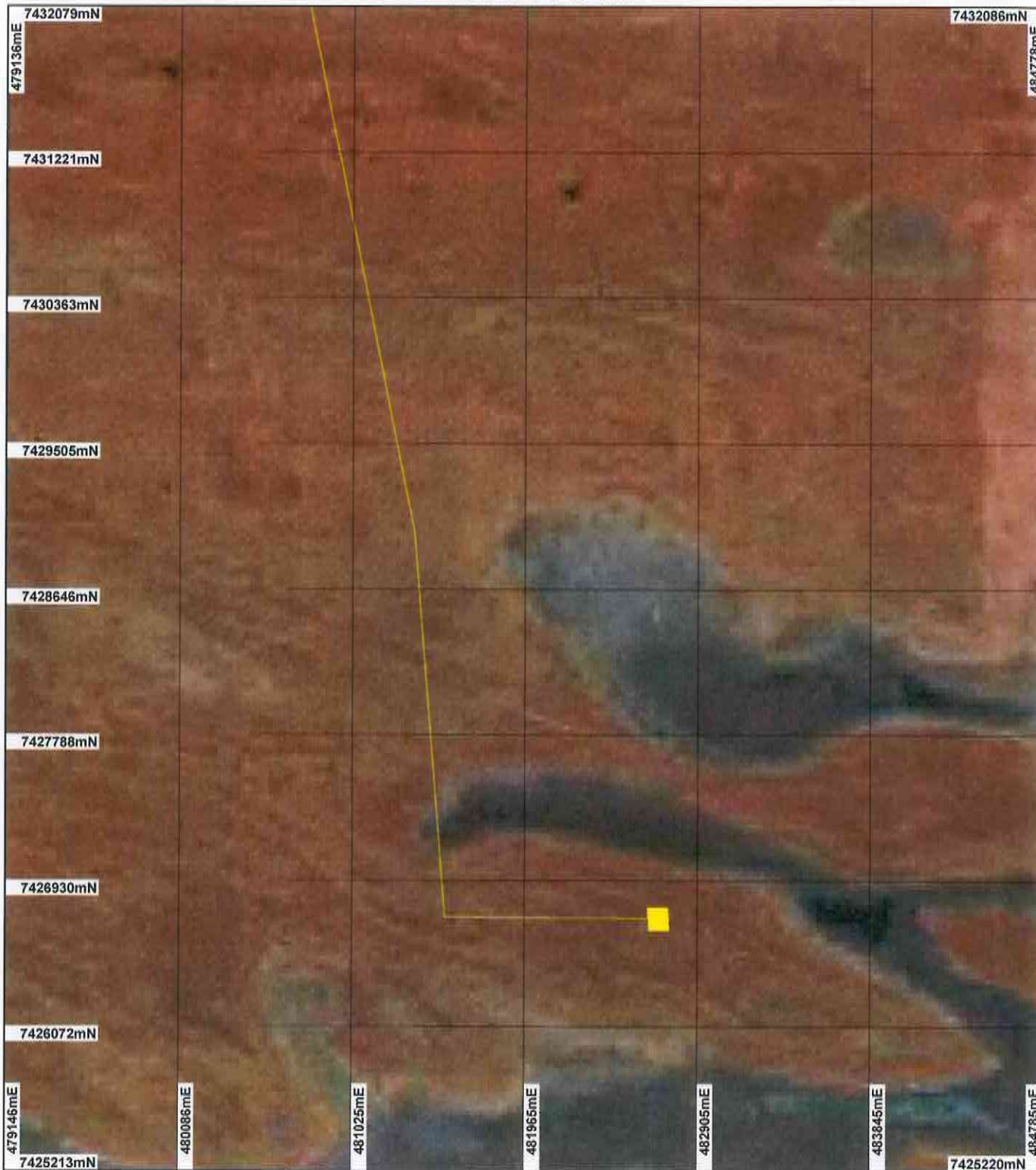
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* Project Data. This data has not been quality assured. Please contact map author for details.

Plan 5111/1k



LEGEND

- Clearing instruments**
- Areas Approved to Clear
 - Road Centrelines
 - Cadastre
- Western Australia ETM 25m
543 - 2002



Scale 1:31416
(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

Geocentric Datum Australia 1994
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M Warnock Date 23/8/12
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1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 5111/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Reward Minerals Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: UNALLOCATED CROWN LAND (TELFER 6762)
LOT 333 ON PLAN 55302 (GIBSON DESERT NORTH 0872)
UNALLOCATED CROWN LAND (GIBSON DESERT SOUTH 0872)
Local Government Area: Shire of East Pilbra

Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

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

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 23 August 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 99: Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; Acacia coriacea & hakea over hard spinifex Triodia basedowii (Shepherd, et al 2001).	The application is to clear 32.5 hectares for the purpose of access tracks, campsite and borrow pits. The vegetation under application is considered to be in degraded to very good (Keighery, 1994) condition.	Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994)	The condition of the vegetation under application was obtained via areal imagery.
Beard Vegetation 134: Mosaic: Hummock grasslands, open low tree steppe; desert bloodwood and feathertop spinifex (on) sandhills / Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; mixed shrubs over spinifex between sandhills (Shepherd, et al 2001).		To	
Beard Vegetation 158: Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; kanji over Triodia basedowii (Shepherd, et al 2001).		Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)	

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 application is to clear 32.5 hectares over a linear area approximately 74km in length for the purpose of access tracks, campsite and borrow pits. The vegetation under application is considered to be in a degraded to very good (Keighery, 1994) condition.

Within a 20km radius of the area under application two priority flora species have been recorded. Priority 4 species Tecticornia Sp. Sunshine Lake has been mapped as occurring 12.6km south of the area under

application and priority 4 species Acacia Sp. Broome mapped approximately 19.2km from the area under application. These species have been mapped within different soil and vegetation association to the application area.

Several fauna species of conservation significance are known to occur within the vicinity of the proposed clearing. Fauna surveys undertaken by the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) and the traditional owners of the land have recorded the Giant Desert Skink, Mulgara, Marsupial Mole and Bilby within 1-2km of the proposed clearing area. The proposed clearing may impact on the burrows these species dwell in.

Approximately 0.17ha of the proposed clearing has been mapped as intersecting Lake Disappointment. Lake Disappointment has been mapped as an ANCA wetland and has been formally recognised as a nationally important wetland in Western Australia (Environment Australia, 2001).

Considering the presence of conservation significant fauna known to occur within close proximity to the area under application and the proposed clearing will impact on Lake Disappointment, a nationally important wetland, the application area may comprise of a high level of biodiversity.

Considering the above the application may be at variance to this principle. A fauna condition will assist in mitigating potential impacts to conservation significant fauna.

Methodology References
DEC (2012)
Environment Australia (2001)
Keighery (1994)
GIS Database:
- ANCA Wetlands
- SAC Bio Datasets August 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 may be at variance to this Principle**

Several fauna species of conservation significance are known to occur in the local area including, the Giant Desert Skink (*Liopholis kintorei*), Mulgara (*Dasycercus cristicauda*), Marsupial Mole (*Notoryctes caurinus*) and Bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*). All these species are listed as specially protected fauna under the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950. Under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 the Giant Desert Skink, Mulgara and Bilby are listed as vulnerable, whilst the Marsupial Mole is listed as endangered. Fauna surveys undertaken by DEC and the traditional owners of the land have recorded the Giant Desert Skink, Mulgara, Marsupial Mole and Bilby within 1-2 km of the proposed clearing area.

The area under application is represented by three Beard vegetation associations, which are all highly represented in the IBRA region. The local area (20km radius) has approximately 99 percent of its pre-European vegetation remaining. The clearing, as proposed is not likely to significantly impact the habitat required for fauna of conservation significance known to occur in the area.

Given the linear shape of the proposed clearing, along with the large amount of vegetation remaining in the local area, the application is unlikely to significantly impact on fauna habitats. However the clearing may impact on burrows occupied by the Giant Desert Skink, Bilby, Mulgara and Marsupial Mole. Considering this the application may be at variance to this principle.

A fauna condition will assist in mitigating potential impacts to conservation significant fauna.

Methodology References
GIS Database:
- Pre-European

(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**

There are no records of rare flora within a 20 km radius of the application area. The closest is approximately 290km from the area under application.

Given the above the application is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology GIS Database:
- SAC Bio Datasets August 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 likely to be at variance to this Principle

There are no records of threatened ecological communities (TEC) within a 20km radius of the application area.

The closest known TEC is approximately 460km away from the area under application.

Given the above the application is not likely to be at a variance to this principle.

Methodology GIS Database:
- SAC Bio Datasets August 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 at variance to this Principle

The application area has been mapped as comprising of three Beard vegetation associations. The mapped vegetation associations retains vegetation above the 30 percent threshold level as 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).

The application and surrounding areas are extensively vegetated with approximately 99 percent pre-European vegetation remaining in the local area (20km radius). The Shire of East Pilbara contains a large amount of vegetation within its boundaries, with approximately 99 percent of its pre-European vegetation remaining (Government of Western Australia, 2011).

The application area does not occur within an extensively cleared landscape and is not at variance to this principle.

	Pre-European (ha)	Current Extent (ha)	Remaining (%)	Extent in DEC Managed Lands (%)
IBRA Bioregion				
Little Sandy Desert	11,090,276	11,088,325	99	5
Shire				
Shire of East Pilbara	37,183,051	37,155,255	99	4
Beard Vegetation Association in Bioregion				
99	526,656	526,656	100	27
134	7,390,344	7,390,275	100	2
158	227,462	227,462	100	63

Methodology References
Commonwealth of Australia (2001)
Government of western Australia (2011)
GIS Databases:
- Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia

(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 is at variance to this Principle

Approximately 0.17 ha of the application has been map as intersecting with Lake Disappointment. Lake Disappointment (also referred to as the Savoury Creek system) is an ANCA wetland and is recognised as a nationally important wetland in Western Australia (Environment Australia, 2001). The system is made up of seasonal and irregular rivers and streams, and seasonal intermittent saline lakes, covering a total area of 154200 hectares (Environment Australia, 2001). Several minor perennial watercourses have been mapped as intersecting with the clearing area.

Considering that the application intersects Lake Disappointment, the clearing as proposed is likely to impact on vegetation that is associated with this wetland. Therefore the application is at variance to this principle.

The applicant has received a licence to construct or alter wells, licence to take water and a permit to obstruct or interfere, from the Department of Water (DoW, 2012).

Methodology References:
DoW (2012)
Environment Australia (2001)
GIS Database:
- ANCA Wetlands

- 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

The area under application comprises of three different soil types. The soil types consist of low ranges and hills on metamorphics and granites with some inclusions of sandstones and conglomerates. Plains with a variable, but usually high proportion of longitudinal sand dunes with some clay pans (Northcote et al, 1960-68).

Considering the linear shape of the proposed clearing and the large amount of vegetation remaining in the local area, it is unlikely the proposed clearing will cause appreciable land degradation.

The application is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology References
Northcote et al (1960-1968)

(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 at variance to this Principle

The closest conservation area to the application area is the Karlamilyi National Park located approximately 9.2km north of the area under application.

Given the distance between the clearing area and the National Park, it is unlikely that the proposed clearing will impact upon the environmental values of Karlamilyi National Park.

The application is not at variance to this principle.

Methodology GIS database
- DEC Tenure

(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

Several watercourses have been mapped as occurring within the clearing footprint. The known watercourses consist of the northern edge of Lake Disappointment, seasonal creeks and drainage lines. It is possible the clearing as proposed may cause deterioration to the water quality to the known watercourses during seasonal rains. However these impacts are likely to be short term and minimal.

The Department of Water (2012) considers that the application to clear is unlikely to have an impact on the quantity or quality of groundwater, provided the clearing activities are conducted in accordance with the Department of Water's guidelines and advice.

The application is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology GIS Databases:
- ANCA Wetlands
- Hydrography, linear

(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

Numerous watercourses intersect the linear footprint of the application area, including areas that are subject to inundation during the wet season. However, given the linear shape of the proposed clearing along with the large amount of vegetation remaining in the local area, the proposed clearing is not likely to cause or exacerbate flooding.

The clearing as proposed is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology GIS Databases:
- Hydrography, linear

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

Comments

The Department of Water (2012) considers that the application to clear 32.5ha of native vegetation for the purpose of access tracks and a borrow pit, is unlikely to have an impact on the quantity or quality of groundwater, provided clearing activities are conducted in accordance with the DoW guidelines and advice.

Application area falls within the Surface Water and Groundwater Pilbara Area covered by the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914. The applicant has received a licence to construct or alter wells, licence to take water and a permit to obstruct or interfere, from the Department of Water.

The area under application is subject to native title claims. Both the claimants and their representing body have been notified of the application. To date no response has been received.

The applicant has obtained a section 91 Licence in accordance with the Land Administration Act 1997 to access the land for the proposal.

Methodology

References
DoW (2012)
GIS Database
- Native Title Claims
- RIWI Act, Groundwater areas
- RIWI Act, Surface water areas, Irrigation districts

4. References

- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.
- DoW (2012). Advice received for clearing permit application CPS 5111/1, Reward Minerals Limited . Department of Water.
- Environment Australia (2001). Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia, Third Edition. Environment Australia, Canberra.
- Government of Western Australia (2011); 2011 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). 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.
- 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., 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)