



## CLEARING PERMIT

*Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986*

<b>Purpose Permit number:</b>	CPS 5113/1
<b>Permit Holder:</b>	New Standard Onshore Pty Ltd
<b>Duration of Permit:</b>	21 September 2012 – 21 September 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 maintenance of water bores, establishment of campsites, access tracks and gravel pits.

**2. Land on which clearing is to be done**

Section 91 Licence (Lic 00050\_2012\_A1735072) within Telfer.

**3. Area of Clearing**

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 21 hectares of native vegetation within the combined areas shaded yellow on attached Plan 5113/1a, Plan 5113/1b, Plan 5113/1c, Plan 5113/1d, Plan 5113/1e and Plan 5113/1f.

**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 21 September 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. 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) Mulgara (*Dasyercus cristicauda*)
- (ii) Bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*)

(b) Prior to undertaking any clearing within 50 metres of suitable habitat identified in Condition 9(a) of this Permit, the areas shall be inspected by a *fauna specialist* for the presence of, Mulgara (*Dasyercus cristicauda*) and Bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*).

(c) Where the presence of Mulgara and or Bilby is identified in relation to Condition 9(b) of this Permit, the Permit Holder shall ensure that no clearing occurs within 50 metres of those areas, unless approved by the CEO.

### **10. 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.

### **11. 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 11(a) on the cleared area(s) no longer required under this Permit.

## PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

### **12. 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 fauna management pursuant to condition 9 of this Permit:

- (i) the location of each Mulgara (*Dasyercus cristicauda*) and Bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*) recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;
- (ii) the species name of each Mulgara (*Dasyercus cristicauda*) and Bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*) identified; and
- (iii) a copy of the fauna specialist's report.

### 13. 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 12 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 21 June 2022 the Permit Holder must provide to the CEO a written report of records required under condition 12 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under condition 13(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;

*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;

*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*.

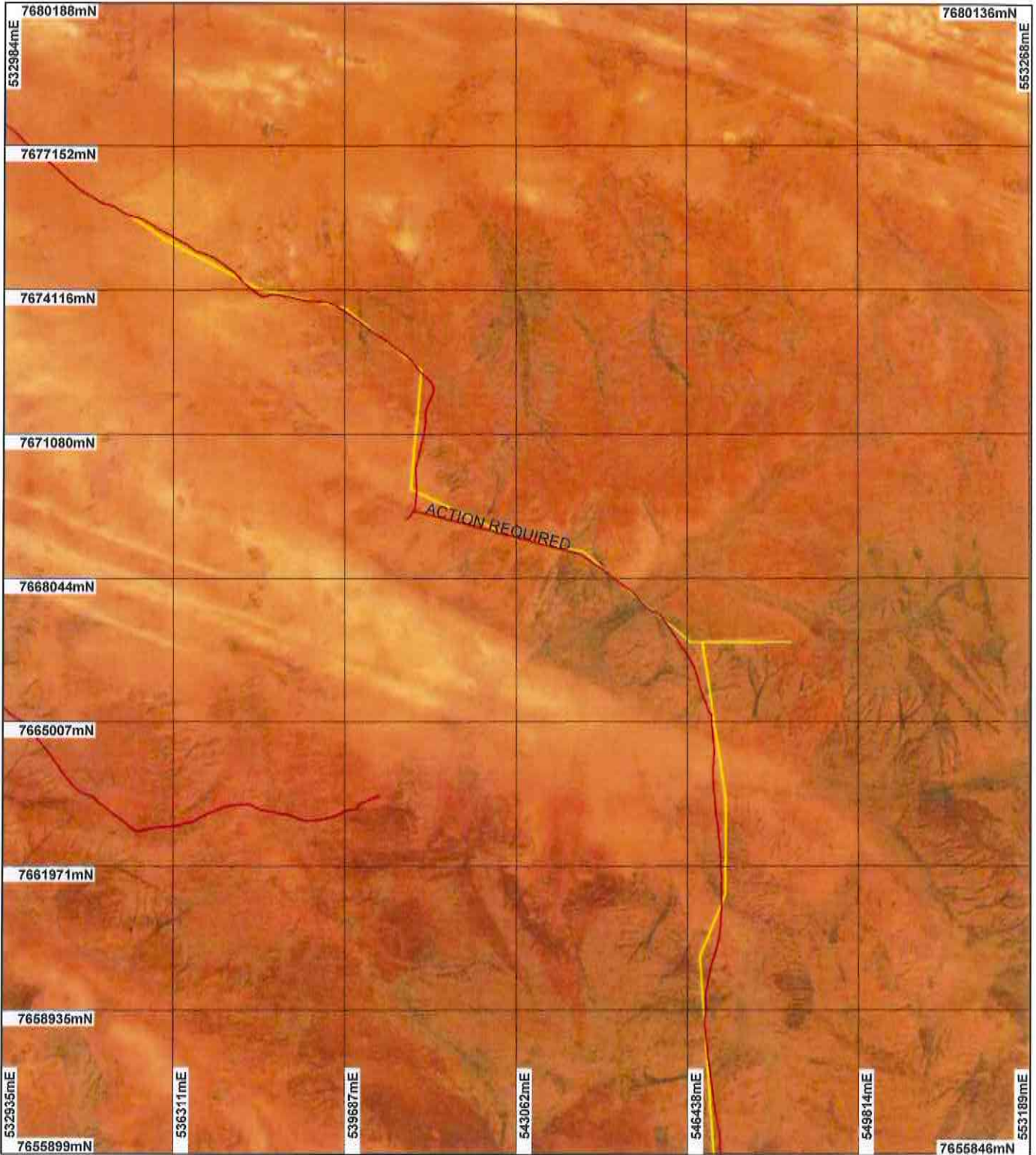


M Warnock  
A/MANAGER  
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

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

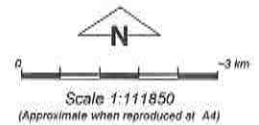
30 August 2012

# Plan 5113/1a



## LEGEND

- Clearing instruments**
- Areas Approved to Clear
  - Road Centrelines
  - Cadastre
- Western Australia ETM 25m  
543 - AGO 2004



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 30/8/12  
M Warnock

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

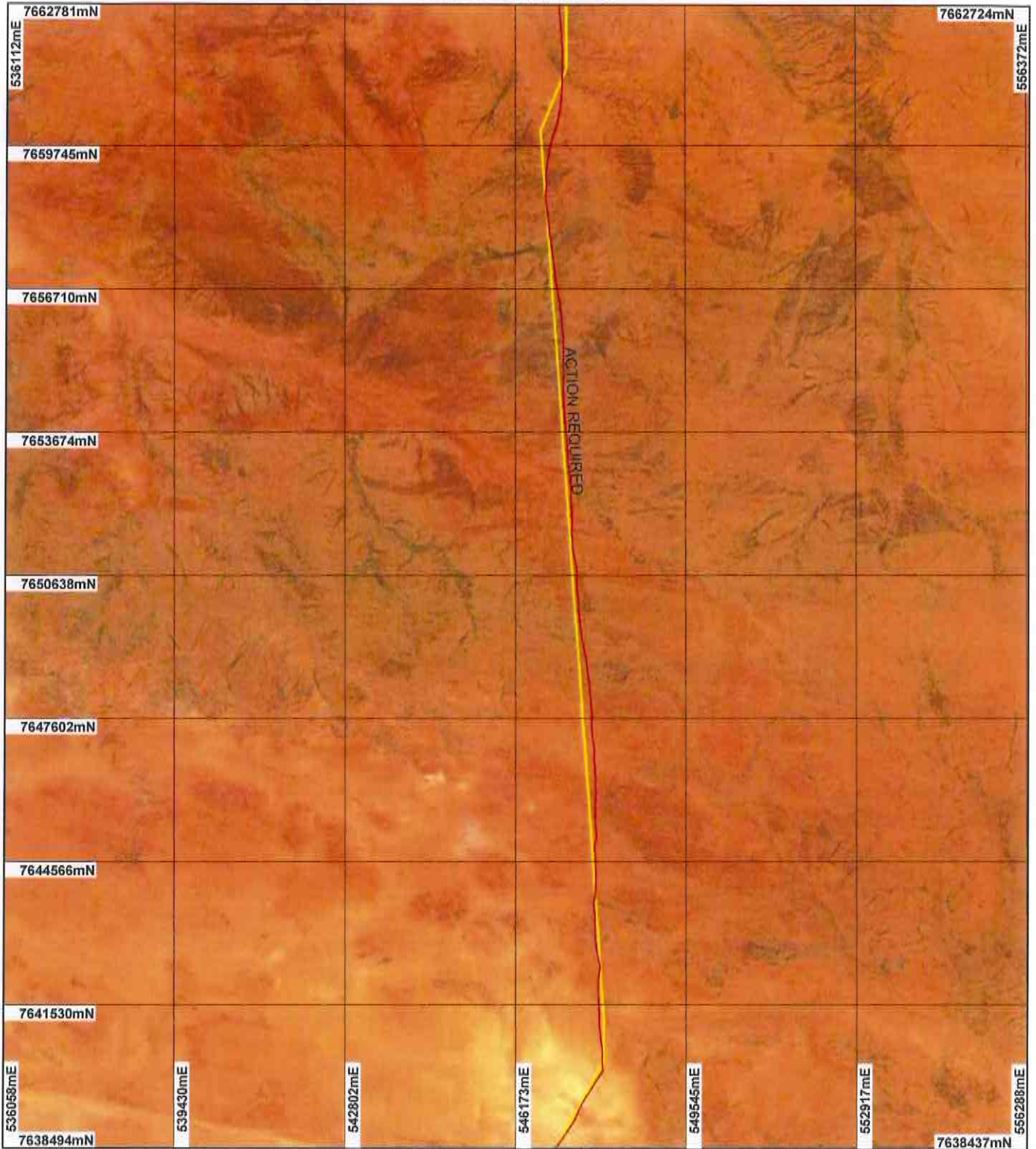


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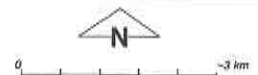


# Plan 5113/1b



## LEGEND

- Clearing Instruments
- Areas Approved to Clear
- Road Centrelines
- Cadastral
- Western Australia ETM 25m  
543 - AGO 2004



Scale 1:111788  
(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

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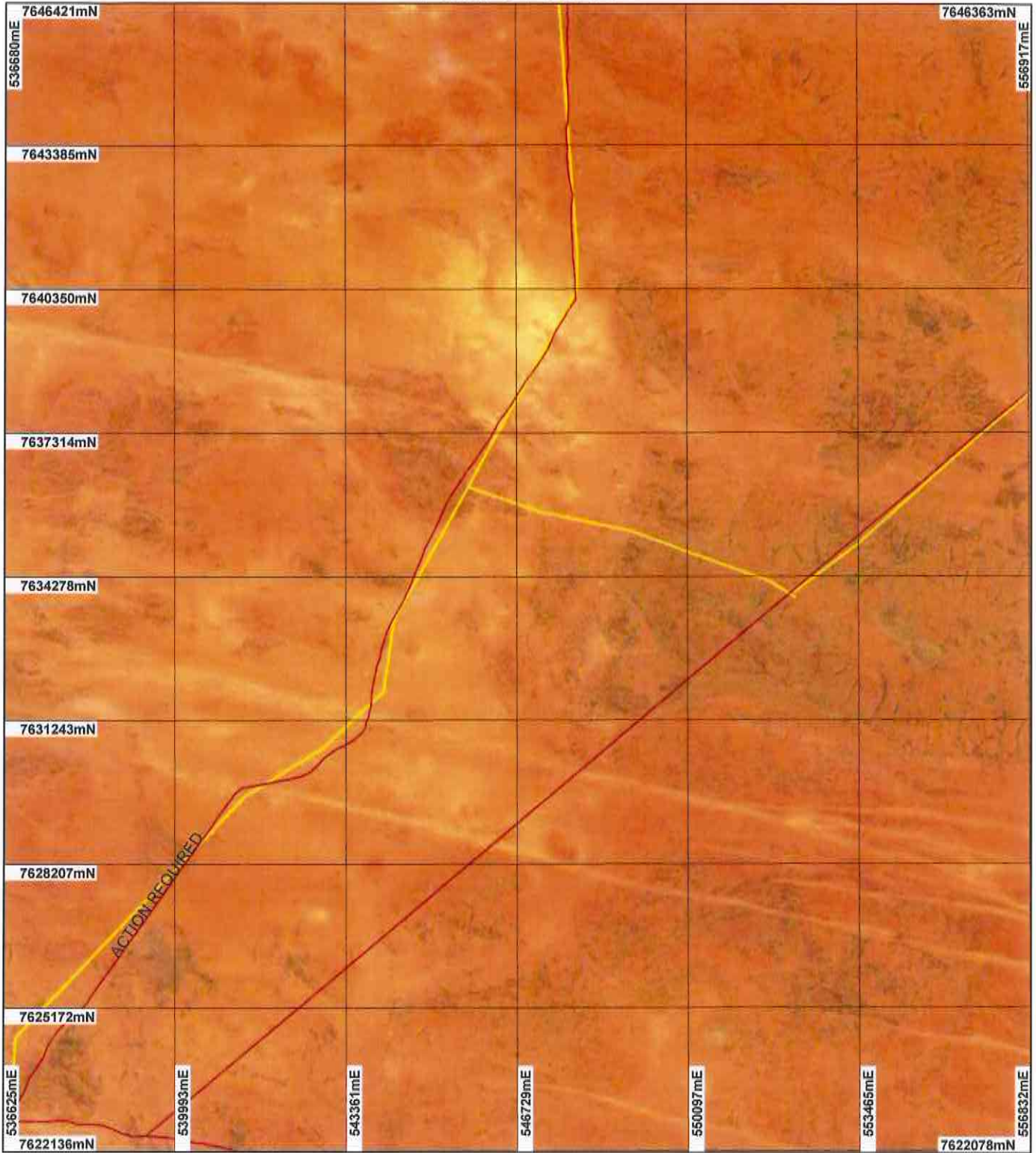


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# Plan 5113/1c



## LEGEND

- Clearing Instruments**
- Areas Approved to Clear
  - Road Centralines
  - Cadastre
- Western Australia ETM 25m  
543 - AGO 2004



Scale 1:111729  
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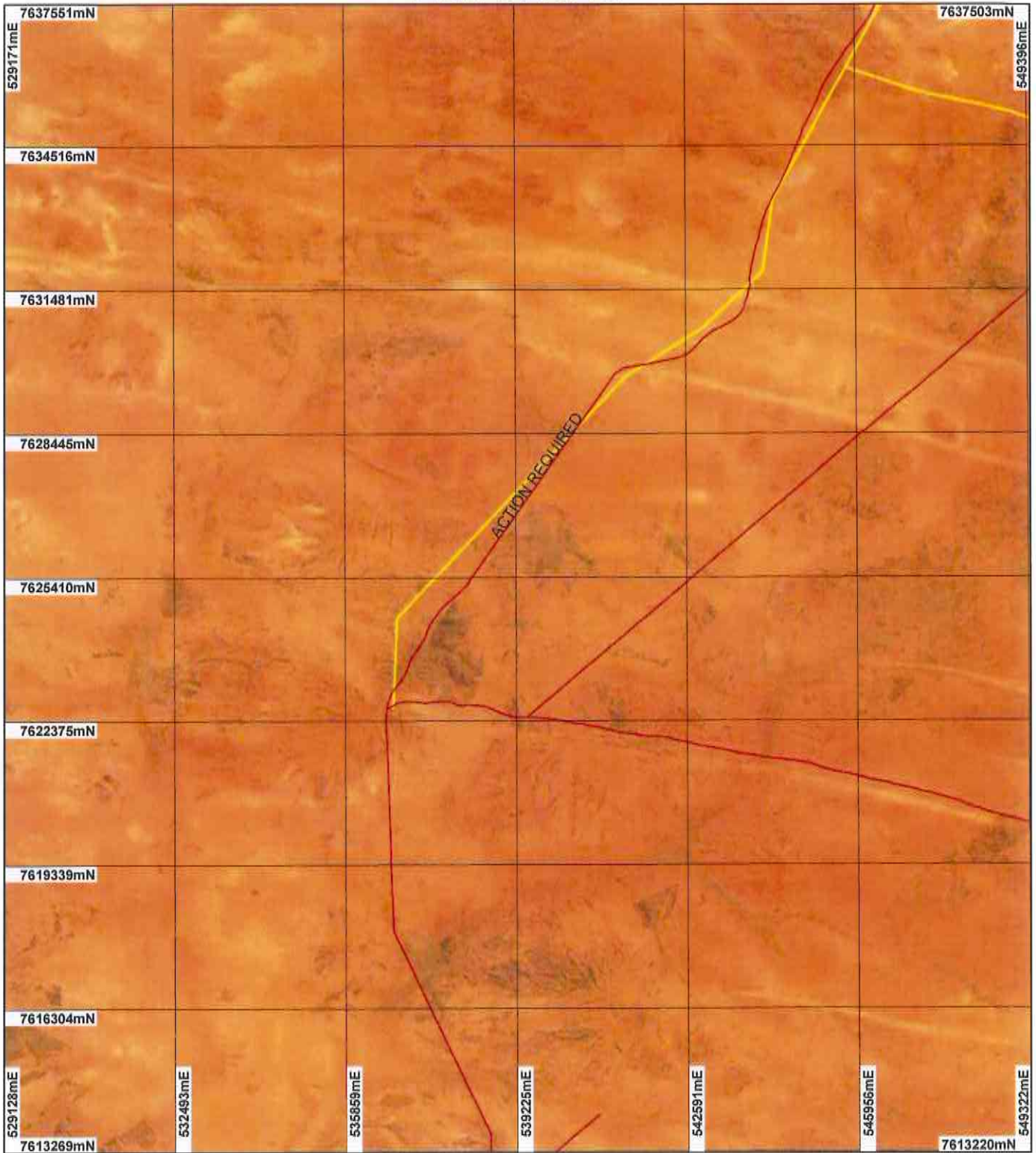


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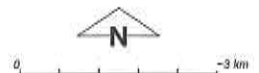


# Plan 5113/1d



## LEGEND

- Clearing Instruments
- Area Approved to Clear
- Road Centrelines
- Cadastral
- Western Australia ETM 25m  
543 - AGO 2004



Geocentric Datum Australia 1994

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*M Warnock* Date 30/8/12  
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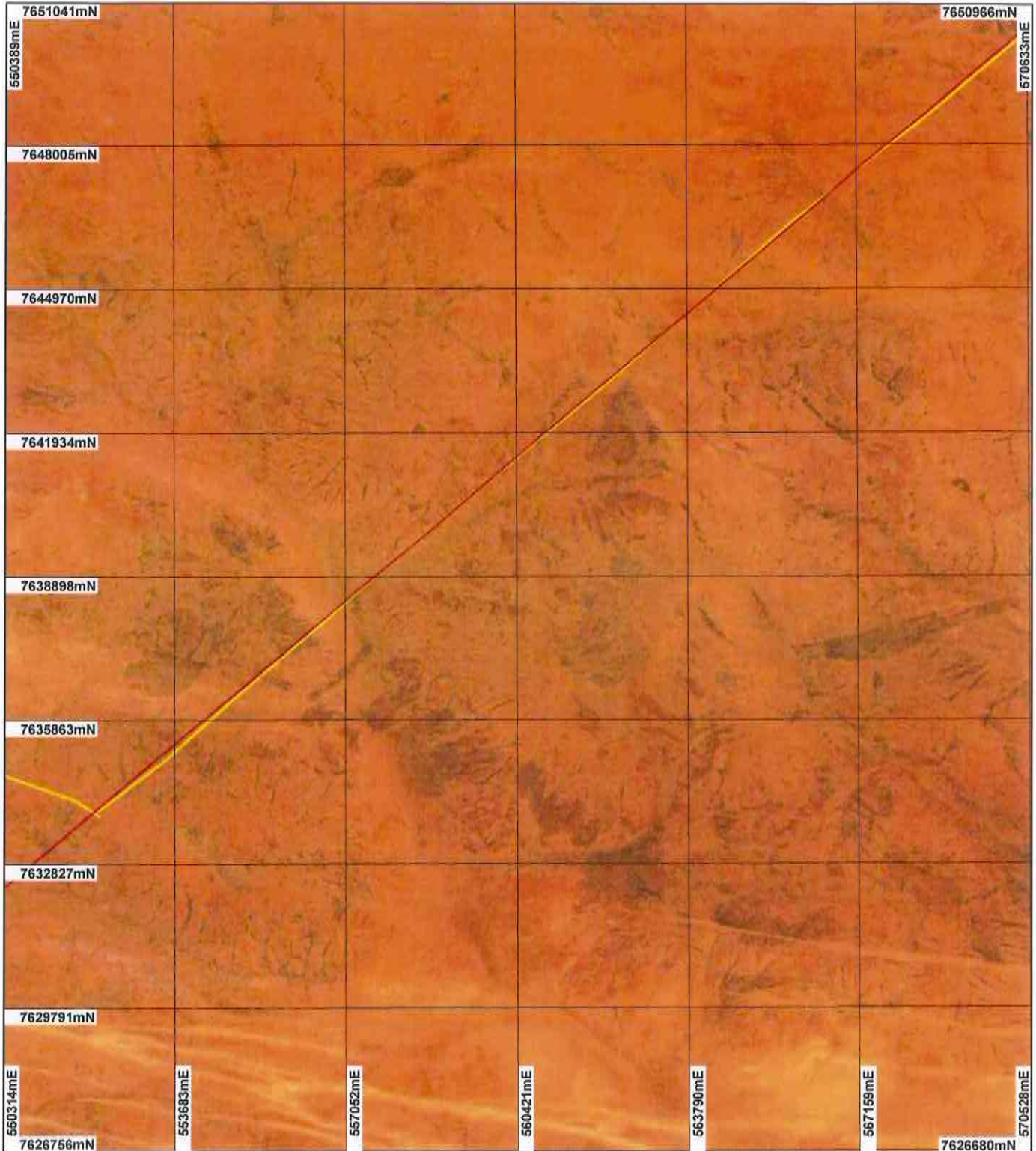
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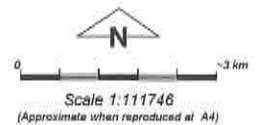
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# Plan 5113/1e



## LEGEND

- Clearing Instruments**
  - Areas Approved to Clear
  - Road Centrelines
  - Cadastre
- Western Australia ETM 25m  
543 - AGO 2004



Geocentric Datum Australia 1994  
 Note: the data in this map have not been projected. This may result in geometric distortion or measurement inaccuracies.

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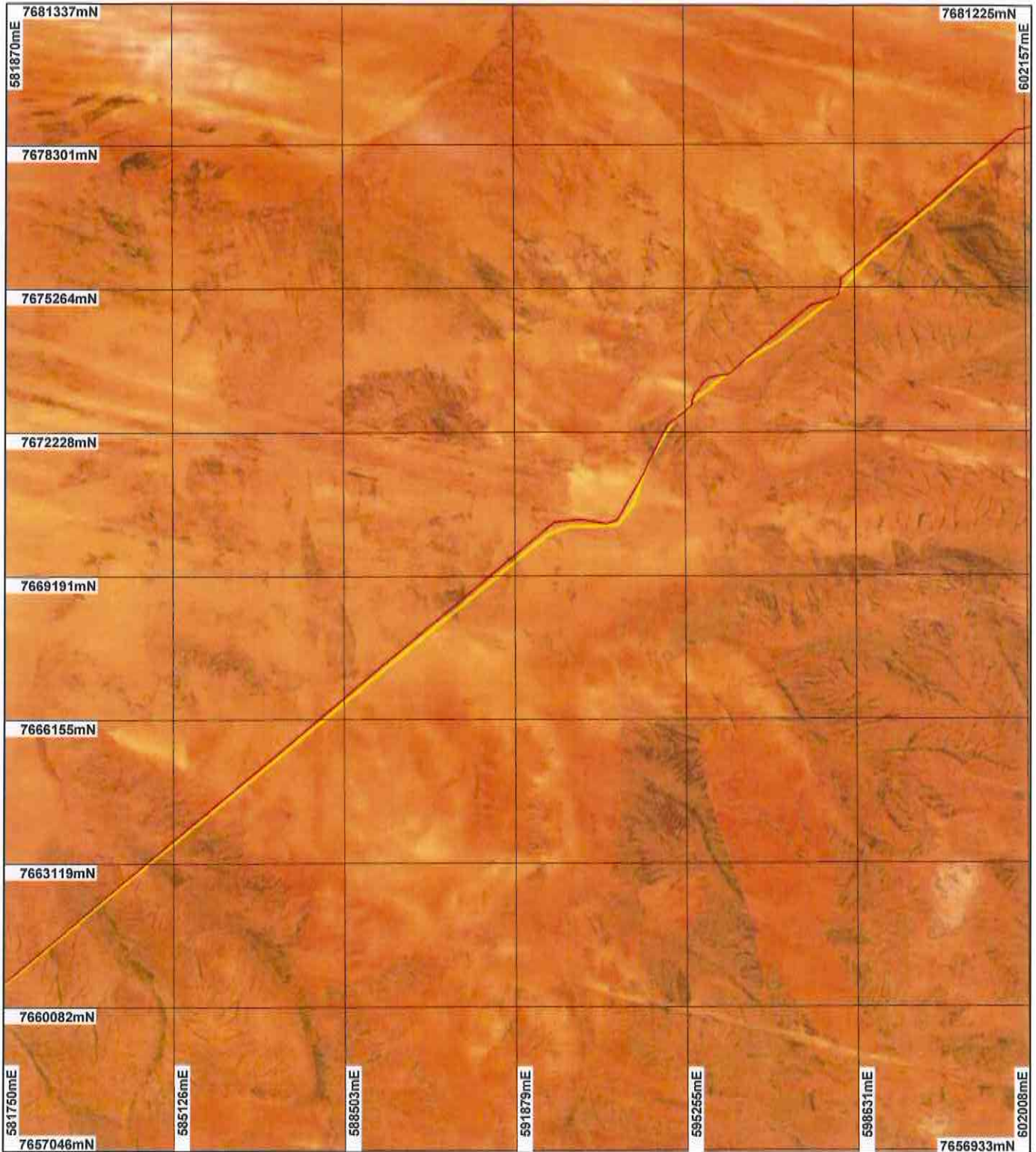


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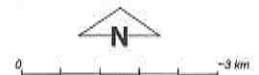


# Plan 5113/1f



## LEGEND

- Clearing instruments
  - Areas Approved to Clear
  - Road Centrelines
  - Cadastre
- Western Australia ETM 25m  
543 - AGO 2004



Geocentric Datum Australia 1994

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## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 5113/1  
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: Kidson/Wapet Track and Gwenneth Lakes Track

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
21		Mechanical Removal	Road construction or maintenance Maintenance of water bores Establishments of campsites and gravel pits

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant  
Decision Date: 30 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
Mapped Beard vegetation association 125: bare areas; salt lakes (Shepherd et al, 2001).	The application is to clear 21 hectares of native vegetation for the purpose of low impact re-installment work along Kidson and Gwenneth tracks, including the maintenance of water bores, establishment of campsites and gravel pits.	Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)	The condition of the vegetation under application was obtained via aerial imagery.
Mapped Beard vegetation association 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).	The vegetation under application is considered to be in degraded to excellent (Keighery, 1994) condition.	To	
Mapped Beard vegetation association 138: Mosaic: Hummock grasslands, low tree steppe; eucalypts over feathertop between dunes / Hummock grasslands, patchy shrub steppe; Acacia pachycarpa over soft spinifex on lateritic rises (Shepherd et al, 2001).		Excellent: Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (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 up to 21 hectares of native vegetation over a linear distance of approximately 240km for the purpose of low impact re-installment work along Kidson and Gwenneth tracks, including the maintenance of water bores, establishment of campsites and gravel pits. The vegetation under application is considered to be



in a degraded to excellent (Keighery, 1994) condition.

Within 40km of the area under application two priority flora species have been recorded. Priority 3 species *Comesperma pallidum* has been mapped as occurring 13.6km north of the area under application and priority 3 species *Glycine falcata* mapped approximately 18.5km from the area under application. These species have been mapped as occurring within the same soil and vegetation association to the application area.

Given that the proposed clearing of 21 hectares is scattered along a long and linear area (240km) 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.

Two 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 Mulgara and Bilby within 1-2km of the proposed clearing area. As these species are known to occur in the local area, the proposed clearing may impact on habitat, specifically burrows these species dwell in. Fauna management practices will assist in mitigating potential impacts to conservation significant fauna.

Given that the application footprint includes areas known to support conservation significant fauna, the proposed clearing may be at variance to this principle.

**Methodology**    **References**  
Keighery (1994)  
GIS Database:  
- 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**

Two fauna species of conservation significance are known to occur in the local area. The two species are the Mulgara (*Dasyurus cristicauda*) and Bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*). Both species are listed as specially protected fauna under the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950 and listed as vulnerable under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. Fauna surveys undertaken by DEC and the traditional owners of the land have recorded the Mulgara and Bilby within 1-2 km of the southern section of the clearing footprint. In the southern portion of the clearing application, 20 fauna plots were located within 1km of the proposed clearing. Of these 20 monitoring sites, 17 of those sites contained evidence of Bilbys and four showed evidence of Mulgara.

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 habitat for the Mulgara and Bilby. However the clearing may impact on burrows occupied by these species. Fauna management practices will assist in mitigating potential impacts to conservation significant fauna.

The application may be at variance to this principle.

**Methodology**    **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 species within 40km of the area under application. The closest mapped rare flora is approximately 230km away.

Considering 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 has been no threatened ecological communities (TEC) mapped within 40km from the area under application. The closest mapped TEC is approximately 140km away.

The application is not likely to be at 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 retain 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 approximately 99 percent of its pre-European vegetation (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 Remaining (ha)	Remaining (%)	Extent in DEC Managed Lands (%)
IBRA Bioregion				
Great Sandy Desert	29,538,800	29,535,815	99.99	2.67
Shire				
Shire of East Pilbara	37,183,051	37,155,255	99.93	4.04
Beard Vegetation Association in Bioregion				
125	706,024	705,758	99.96	6.44
134	13,595,887	13,593,951	99.99	4.97
138	1,008,692	1,008,692	100	0

**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**

The area under application intersects numerous seasonal creeks and drainage lines. The southern section of the application area falls within a number of unnamed significant streams and lakes.

Considering that the application intersects numerous water courses, the clearing as proposed is likely to impact on vegetation that is associated with these water courses.

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

Therefore the application is at variance to this principle.

**Methodology** GIS Database:  
- 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 gently undulating plain dominated by longitudinal dunes, many exposures of ironstone gravels and some breakaways capped by ironstone (laterite) duricrust and salt lakes, salt pans, and clay pans mostly devoid of true soils, covered with clays, silts, sodium chloride, calcium sulphate, and sodium sulphate, and underlain by brine (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 35km southwest 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 within the clearing footprint. The known watercourses consist of lakes, significant streams, 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 application is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

**Methodology** GIS Databases:  
- 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 the incidence or intensity of 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 area under application is subject to one native title claim. Both the claimants and their representing body have been notified of the application. To date no response has been received.

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

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

**Methodology** 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.
- 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)