



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 5278/1
Permit Holder:	Alinta Energy Transmission (Roy Hill) Pty Ltd
Duration of Permit:	1 March 2013 – 1 March 2015

The Permit Holder is authorised to clear native vegetation subject to the following conditions of this Permit.

PART I – CLEARING AUTHORISED

1. Purpose for which clearing may be done

Clearing for the purpose of geotechnical investigations and access tracks.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

LOT 16 ON PLAN 194288 (NEWMAN 6753)
LOT 17 ON PLAN 241430 (NEWMAN 6753)
LOT 19 ON PLAN 48921 (NEWMAN 6753)
LOT 72 ON PLAN 216352 (NEWMAN 6753)
LOT 87 ON PLAN 30401 (NEWMAN 6753)
LOT 99 ON PLAN 220355 (NEWMAN 6753)
LOT 104 ON PLAN 30401 (NEWMAN 6753)
LOT 1580 ON PLAN 72910 (NEWMAN 6753)
DE GREY LOCATION 8 (NEWMAN 6753)
UNALLOCATED CROWN LAND (NEWMAN 6753) (PINs 1149861 and 711007)

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 20 hectares of native vegetation within the combined areas shaded yellow on attached Plan 5278/1a and Plan 5278/1b and Plan 5278/1c and Plan 5278/1d and Plan 5278/1e and Plan 5278/1f and Plan 5278/1g and Plan 5278/1h and Plan 5278/1i and Plan 5278/1j.

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:

- (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.

8. 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; and
- (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.

9. Flora management

(a) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder shall engage a *botanist* to inspect that area for the presence of the following *priority flora*:

- (i) *Brachyscome* sp. Wanna Munna Flats (S. van Leeuwen 4662)
- (ii) *Eremophila pilosa*
- (iii) *Eremophila youngii* subsp. *lepidota*
- (iv) *Rhagodia* sp. Hamersley (M. Trudgen 17794)
- (v) *Themeda* sp. Hamersley Station (M.E. Trudgen 11431)

(b) Where *priority flora* are identified in relation to condition 9(a) of this Permit, the Permit Holder shall ensure that:

- (i) no clearing of identified *priority flora* occurs, unless first approved by the CEO; and
- (ii) no clearing occurs within 10 metres of identified *priority flora*, unless first approved by the CEO.

10. Vegetation management

The Permit Holder shall not clear native vegetation within 30 metres of the *riparian vegetation* of any *watercourse* or *wetland* within and/or adjacent to the area shaded yellow on Plan 5278/1a and Plan 5278/1b and Plan 5278/1c and Plan 5278/1d and Plan 5278/1e and Plan 5278/1f and Plan 5278/1g and Plan 5278/1h and Plan 5278/1i and Plan 5278/1j.

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) At an optimal time within 12 months following completion of geotechnical investigations, *revegetate* and *rehabilitate* areas not required for future scheduled and approved development, by:
 - (i) ripping the ground on the contour to remove soil compaction; and
 - (ii) laying the vegetative material and topsoil retained under condition 11(a) on the cleared area(s).

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 flora management pursuant to condition 9 of this Permit:
 - (i) the location of each *priority flora species* 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 *priority flora species* identified; and
 - (iii) a copy of the botanists flora survey 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 July to 30 June of the preceding financial year.
- (b) If no clearing authorised under this Permit was undertaken between 1 July to 30 June of the preceding financial year, a written report confirming that no clearing under this permit has been carried out, must be provided to the CEO on or before 30 June of each year.
- (c) Prior to 1 December 2014, 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:

botanist means a person with specific training and/or experience in the ecology and taxonomy of Western Australian flora;

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;

priority flora means those plant taxa described as priority flora classes 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 in the *Department of Environment and Conservation's Threatened and Priority Flora List for Western Australia* (as amended);

riparian vegetation has the meaning given to it in Regulation 3 of the Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004;

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;

watercourse has the meaning given to it in section 3 of the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*;

weed/s means any plant -

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

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

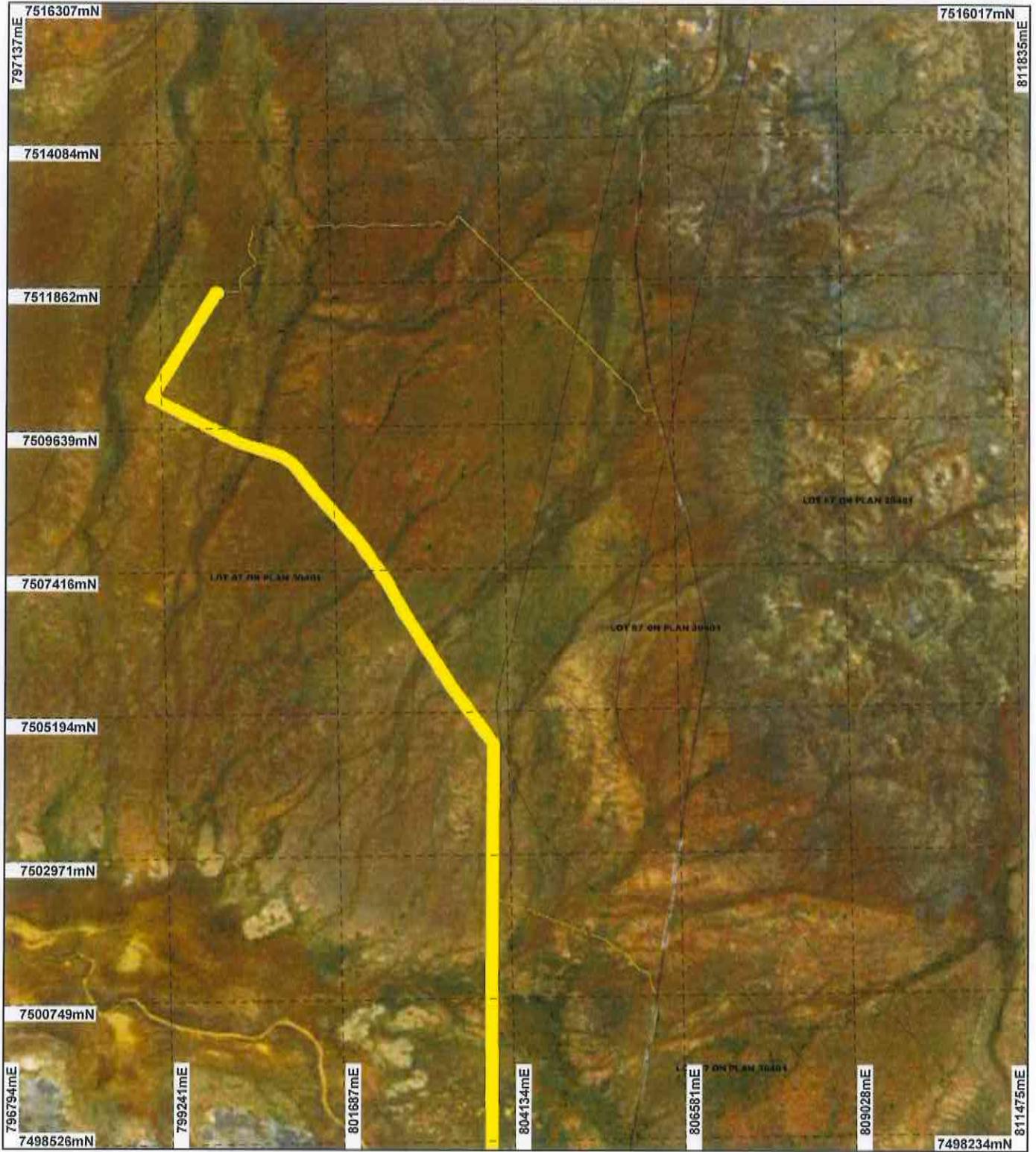


M Warnock
A/Manager
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

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

7 February 2013

Plan 5278/1a



LEGEND

Newman 1.4m Orthomosaic - Landgate 2003
Ethel Creek 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004

Roy Hill 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004
Clearing Instruments
Areas Approved to Clear

Western Australia Landsat Mosaic 25m - AGO 2006
Cadastral for labelling



Scale 1:81472
(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

Geocentric Datum Australia 1994

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

M Warnock Date 7/6/13
M Warnock

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

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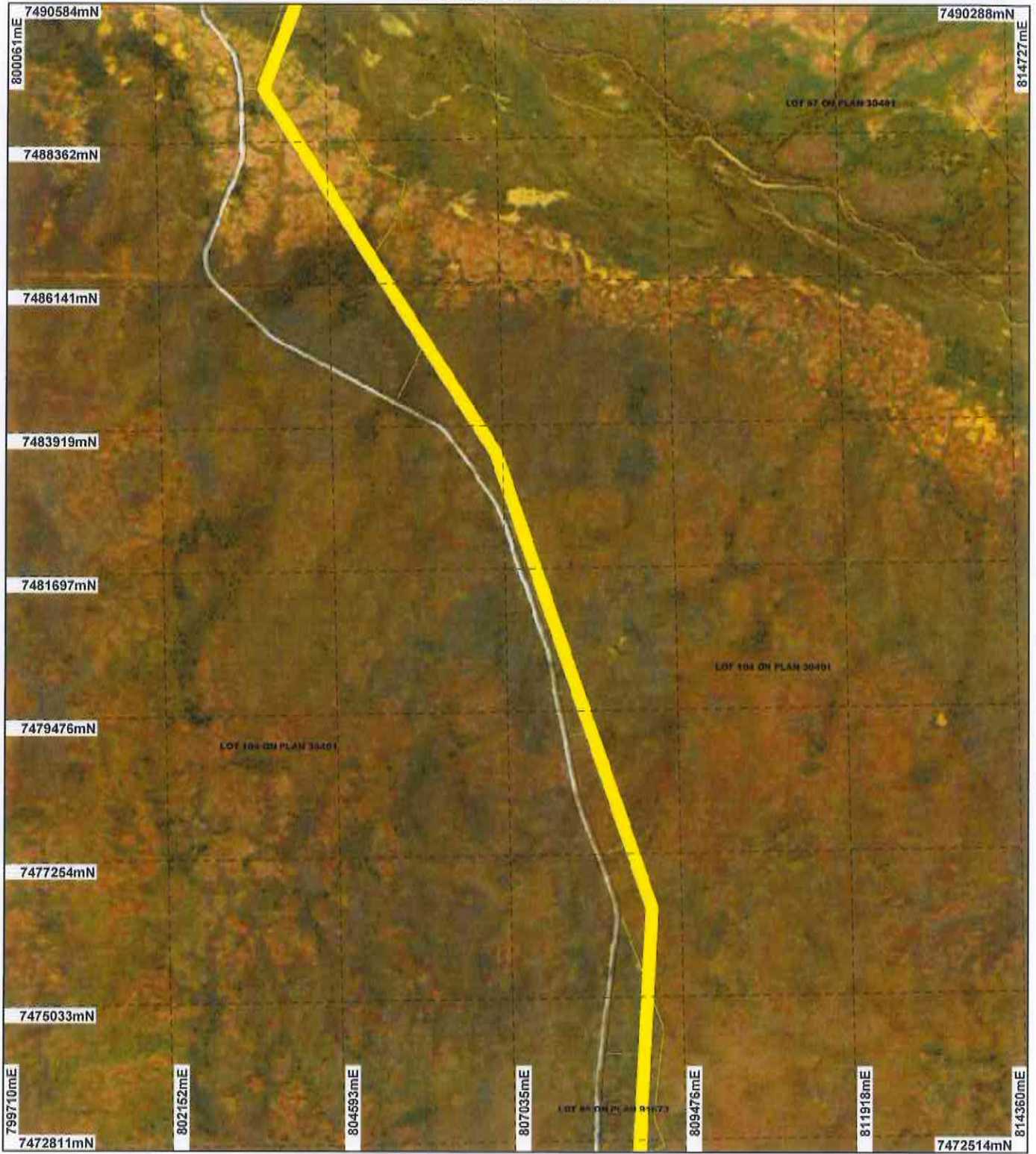


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Plan 5278/1d



LEGEND

Newman 1.4m Orthomosaic - Landgate 2003
 Ethel Creek 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004

Roy Hill 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004
 Clearing Instruments
 ■ Areas Approved to Clear

Western Australia Landsat Mosaic 25m - AGO 2006
 Cadastre for labelling



Scale 1:81379
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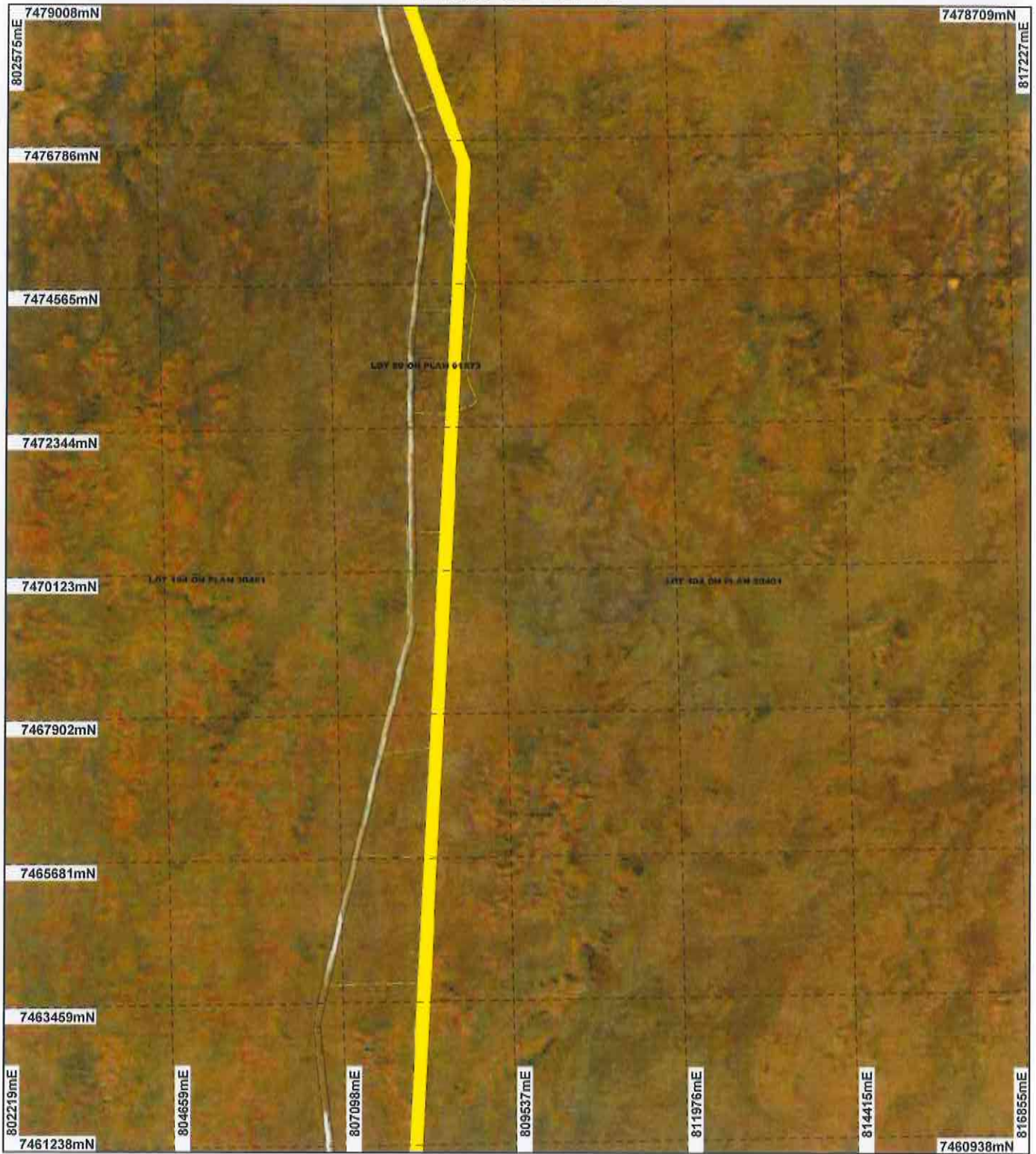


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Plan 5278/1e

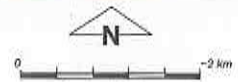


LEGEND

Newman 1.4m Orthomosaic - Landgate 2003
Ethel Creek 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004

Roy Hill 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004
Clearing Instruments
Areas Approved to Clear

Western Australia Landsat Mosaic 25m - AGO 2006
Cadastral for labelling



Scale 1:81336
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M Warnock Date 7/2/13

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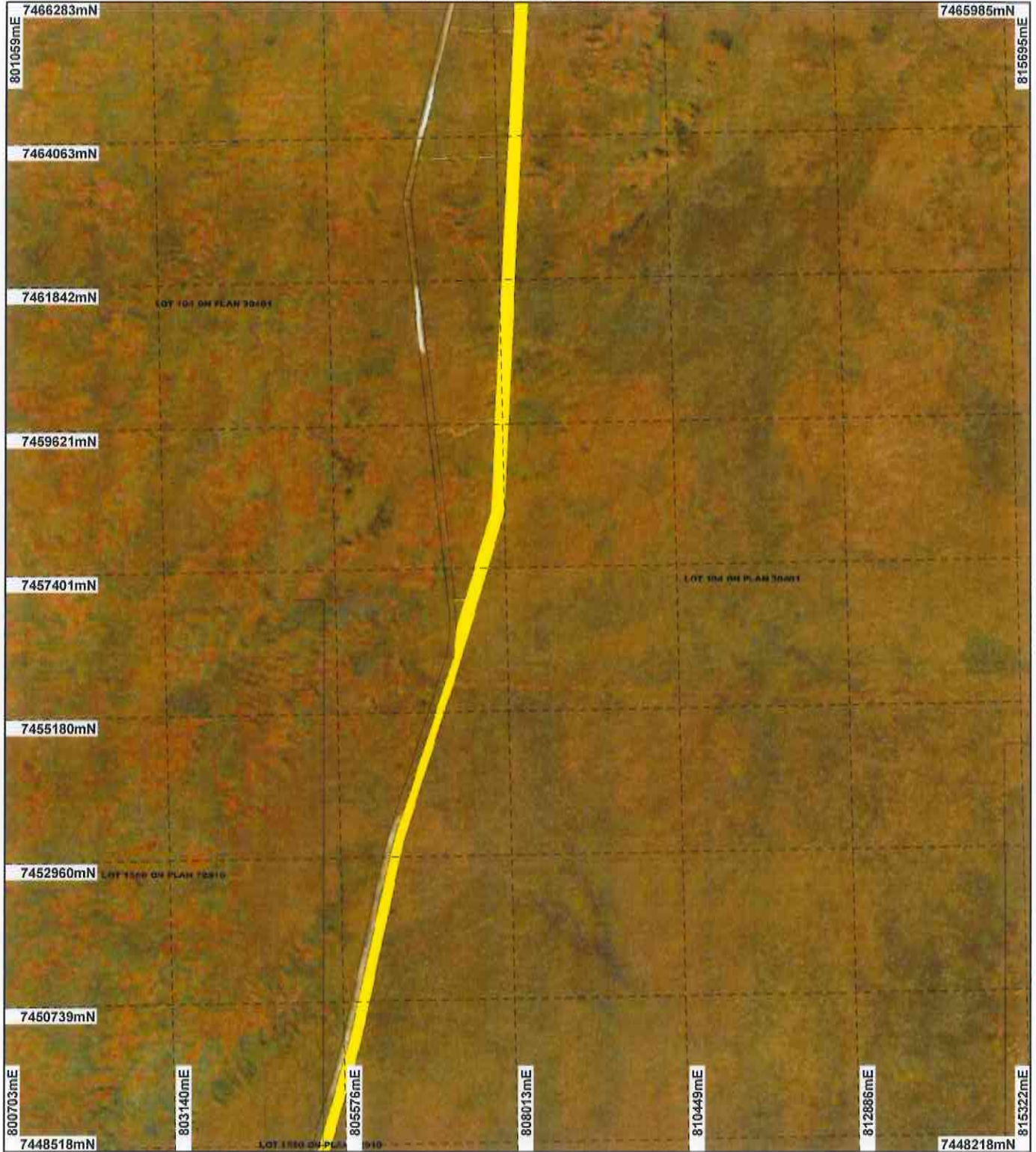


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Plan 5278/1f



LEGEND

Newman 1.4m Orthomosaic - Landgate 2003
Ethel Creek 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004

Roy Hill 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004
Clearing Instruments
Areas Approved to Clear

Western Australia Landsat Mosaic 25m - AGO 2006
Cadastral for labelling



Scale 1:81289
(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

Geocentric Datum Australia 1994
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M Warnock Date *7/2/17*
M Warnock

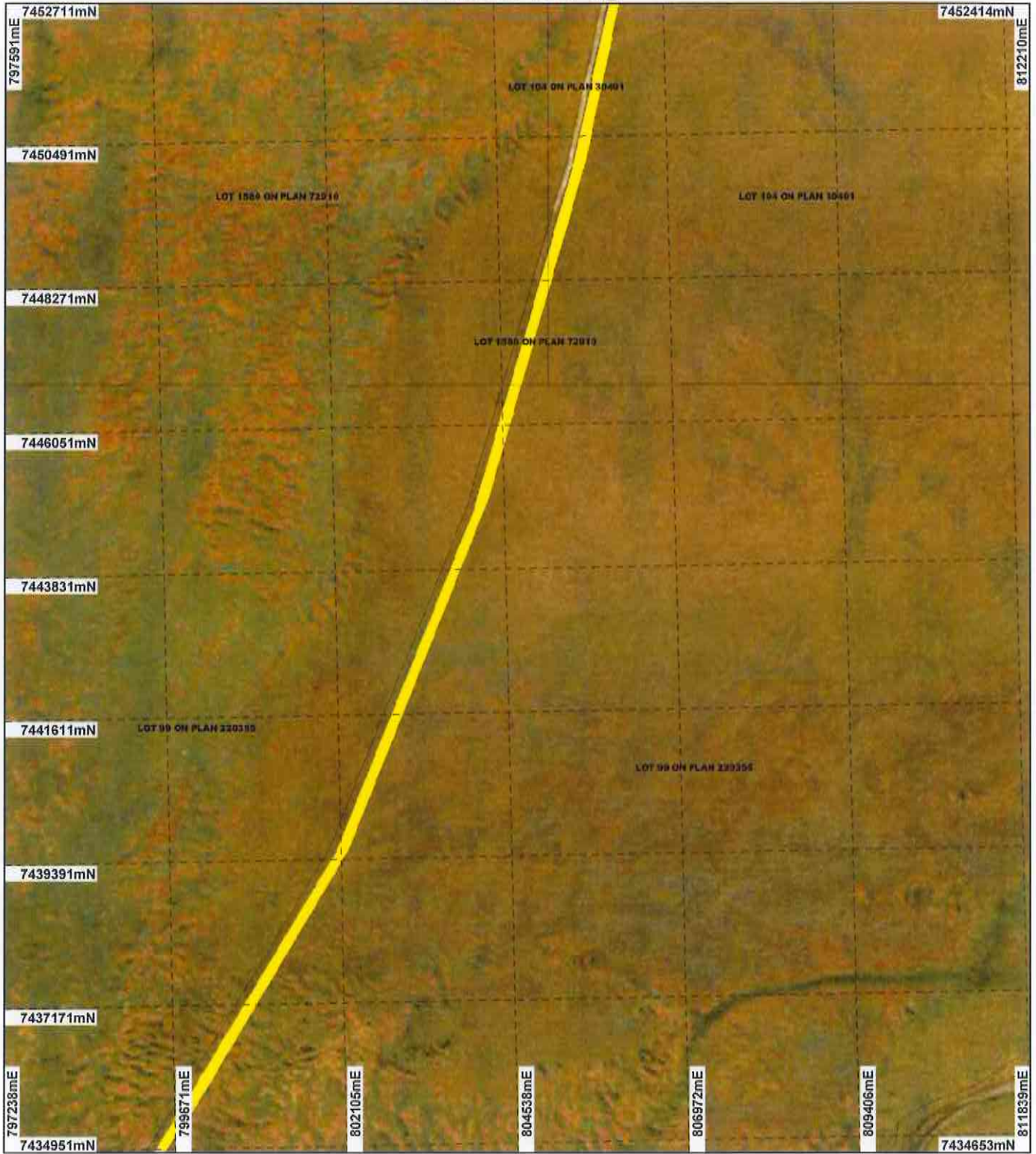
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Plan 5278/1g




LEGEND

Newman 1.4m Orthomosaic - Landgate 2003

Ethel Creek 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004

Roy Hill 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004

Clearing Instruments

 Areas Approved to Clear

Western Australia Landsat Mosaic 25m - AGO 2006

Cadastral for labelling



Scale 1:81239

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M Warnock Date 7/2/13

M Warnock

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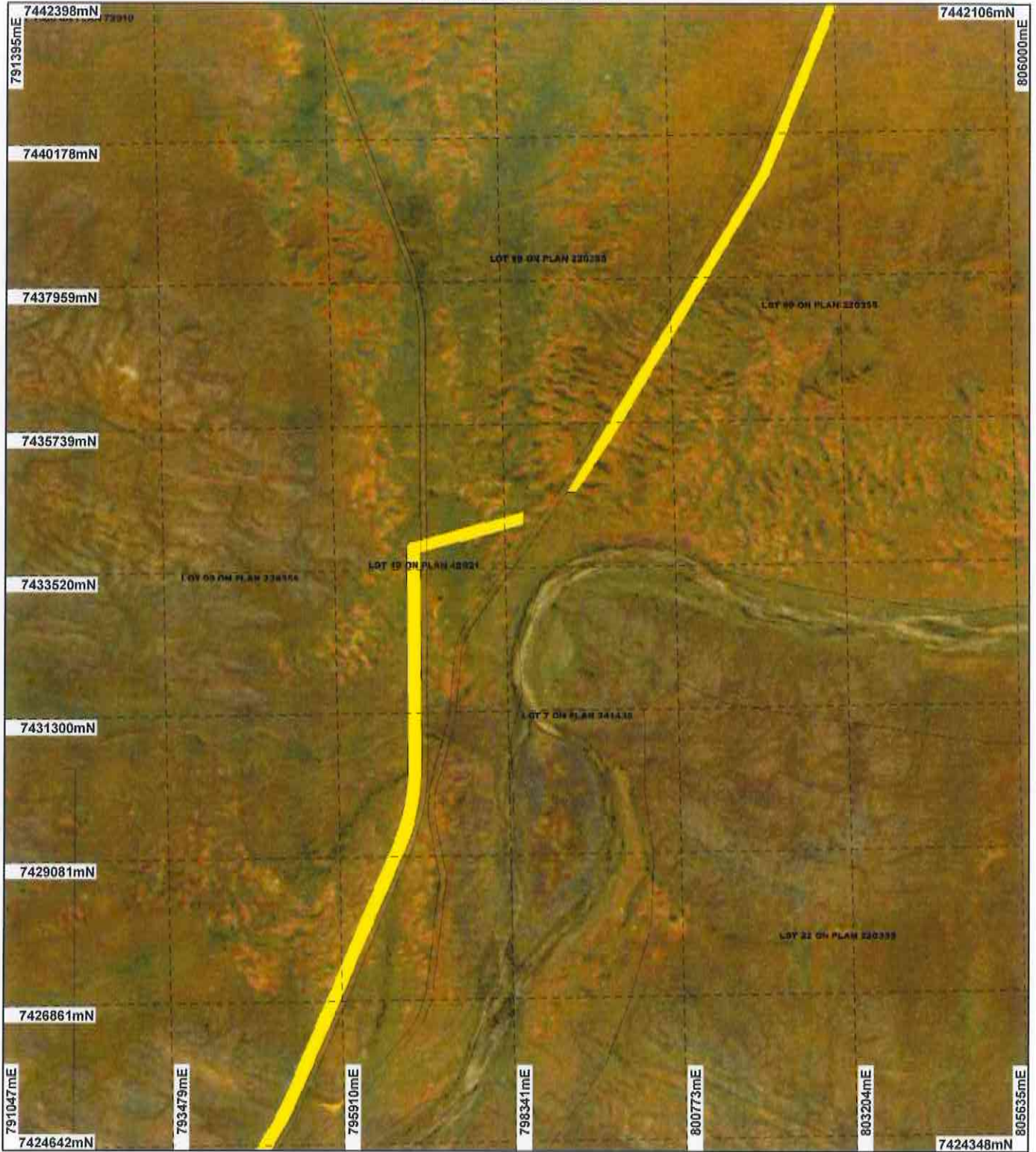


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Plan 5278/1h




LEGEND

Newman 1.4m Orthomosaic - Landgate 2003

Ethel Creek 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004

Roy Hill 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004

Clearing Instruments

 Areas Approved to Clear

Western Australia Landsat Mosaic 25m - AGO 2006

Cadastre for labelling



Scale 1:81200
(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

Geocentric Datum Australia 1994

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M Warnock Date 7/2/13

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

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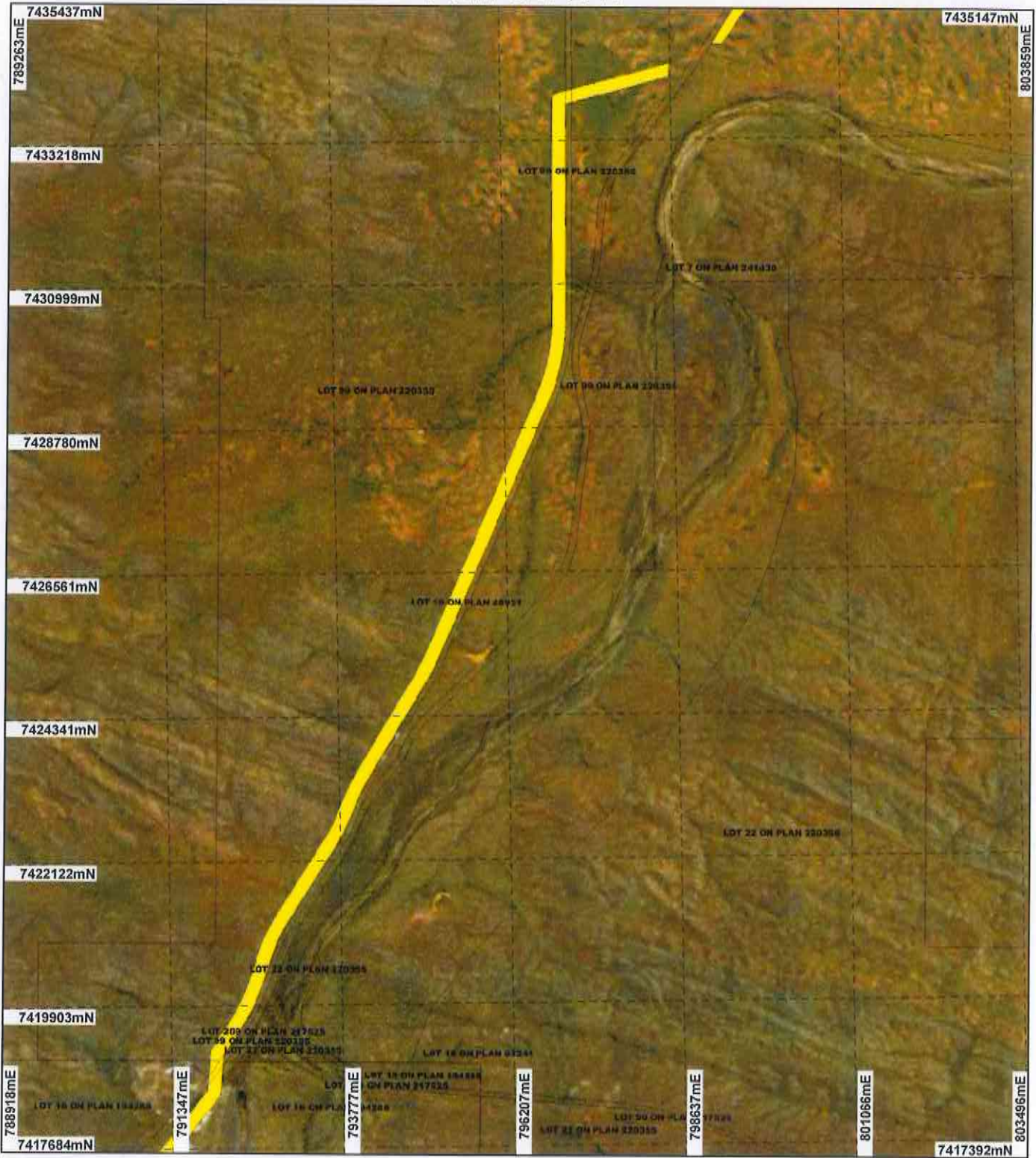


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Plan 5278/1i



LEGEND

Newman 1.4m Orthomosaic - Landgate 2003

Ethel Creek 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004

Roy Hill 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004

Clearing Instruments

■ Areas Approved to Clear

Western Australia Landsat Mosaic 25m - AGO 2006

Cadastre for labelling



0 2 km

Scale 1:81173
(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

Geocentric Datum Australia 1994

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M Warnock Date *7/2/13*

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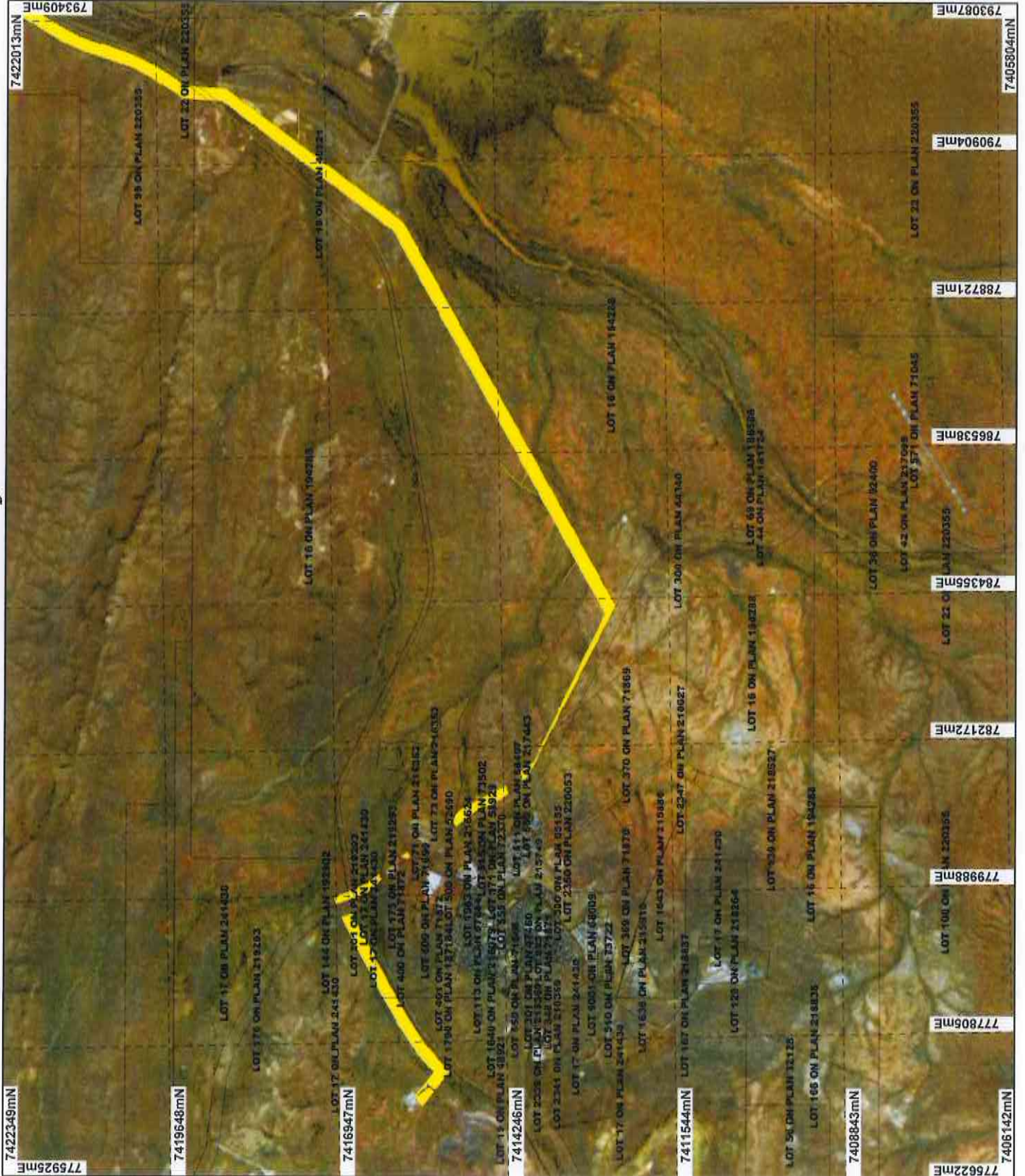


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Plan 5278/1j



LEGEND

- Newman 1.4m Orthomosaic - Landgate 2003
- Ethel Creek 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004
- Roy Hill 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004
- Clearing Instruments
- Areas Approved to Clear
- Western Australia Landstat Mosaic 25m - AGO 2006
- Cadastral for labelling

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



0 2 km

Scale 1:81125

(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

Geocentric Datum Australia 1994

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M. Warlock Date 7/2/13
M Warlock

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

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1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 5278/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Alinta Energy Transmission (Roy Hill) Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 72 ON PLAN 216352 (NEWMAN 6753)
UNALLOCATED CROWN LAND (NEWMAN 6753)
LOT 16 ON PLAN 194288 (NEWMAN 6753)
LOT 17 ON PLAN 241430 (NEWMAN 6753)
LOT 19 ON PLAN 48921 (NEWMAN 6753)
LOT 99 ON PLAN 220355 (NEWMAN 6753)
LOT 1580 ON PLAN 72910 (NEWMAN 6753)
LOT 104 ON PLAN 30401 (NEWMAN 6753)
LOT 87 ON PLAN 30401 (NEWMAN 6753)
DE GREY LOCATION 8 (NEWMAN 6753)

Local Government Area: Shire of East Pilbara

Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

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

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 7 February 2013

2. Site Information

2.1. Existing environment and information

2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description	Clearing Description	Vegetation Condition	Comment
The vegetation under application is mapped as: Beard vegetation association - Fortescue Valley 29 - Sparse low woodland; mulga, discontinuous in scattered groups;	The application to clear for geotechnical investigations will involve clearing 0.16 hectares for a drillpad and 0.18 hectares for an access track to each drill pad at 50 sites over a 200m wide by 123km long corridor from Newman to Roy Hill Iron Ore mine site. The corridor will traverse many differing landforms and vegetation types ranging in condition from degraded to very good (Keighery, 1994) condition.	Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)	Vegetation description and condition obtained from a report supplied with the application (Alinta Energy Transmission Pty Ltd, 2012).
Beard vegetation association - Fortescue Valley 111 - Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; Eucalyptus gamophylla over hard spinifex;	The vegetation associations to be cleared range from low or sparse woodlands (<i>Acacia aneura</i>) and mulga to hummock grasslands and shrub steppe (<i>Eucalyptus gamophylla</i>), sedgelands with scattered trees to mosaic of low woodland of mulga, hummock grasslands and snappy gum to samphire (Alinta Energy Transmission Pty Ltd, 2012).	To Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994)	
Beard vegetation association - Fortescue Valley 197 - Sedgeland; sedges with scattered medium trees; coolabah over various sedges & forbes;			
Beard vegetation association - Fortescue Valley 676 - Succulent steppe; samphire;			
Beard vegetation association - Hammersley 18 - Low woodland; mulga			

(*Acacia aneura*);
Beard vegetation
association - Hammersley
82 - Hummock grasslands,
low tree steppe; snappy
gum over *Triodia wiseana*;
and

Beard vegetation
association - Kumarina
Hills 29 - Sparse low
woodland; mulga,
discontinuous in scattered
groups.

(Shepherd et al, 2001)

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

The application to clear for geotechnical investigations will determine suitable sites to construct transmission towers. The proposed clearing will involve clearing 0.16 hectares of native vegetation per drillpad and 0.18 hectares for an access track to each drill pad at 50 sites over a 200 metre wide by 123 kilometre long transmission line corridor. The corridor will traverse many differing landforms and vegetation types ranging in condition from degraded to very good (Keighery, 1994) condition. The landform and vegetation associations are typical of this area of the Pilbara Region comprising sand plains, stony plains and flood plains amongst hills, ridges and breakaways supporting spinifex grasslands, mulga shrublands and eucalyptus woodlands (Alinta Energy, 2012; Shepherd et al, 2001).

A Priority One flora species, *Eremophila* sp., has been recorded sporadically along a 10 kilometre section of the corridor between proposed transmission towers 161 and 188, in clumps of 10 to 50 individuals (Alinta Energy, 2012a). The spinifex grassland, mallee habitat and loamy soil in which the plants are found is wide spread in the local area and it is likely that the species has a wider distribution beyond the transmission corridor. *Eremophila*'s respond to disturbance activities and regenerates by resprouting and seed germination (DEC, 2012). The geotechnical investigations will attempt to avoid the species known distribution (Alinta Energy, 2012). A flora management condition will assist to minimise any potential impacts to the species conservation status.

Alinta Energy Transmission Pty Ltd provided to the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) in December 2012 an additional flora and fauna survey report which identified the presence of individuals and suitable habitat for four additional priority flora species within the study area from north of Newman to north of Roy Hill (Alinta Energy, 2012b). These species are: *Rhagodia* sp. (Priority Three), *Themeda* sp. (Priority Three), *Eremophila* sp. (Priority Four) and *Goodenia* sp. (Priority Four). Based on the landform and vegetation associations of these species' habitat, it is likely they also occur within the transmission corridor. A flora management condition will assist to minimise any potential impacts to the species conservation status. Given the small amount of clearing proposed over a large, linear clearing footprint, impacts are likely to be minimal.

An additional flora and fauna desktop assessment report covering the corridor between Newman Townsite to Jimblebar Junction was submitted in January 2013 in which one Priority One species, *Brachyscome* sp., is considered likely to occur within this section of the corridor. This is based upon similar landform and associated vegetation types within the corridor which match that of the species known habitat (Alinta Energy, 2013). This species (an annual herb) is recorded from a wide geographical range of approximately 380 kilometre radius. Given the small amount of clearing proposed and the likelihood of its sparse distribution within the corridor, it's conservation status is unlikely to be impacted. A flora management condition will assist to minimise any potential impacts to the species conservation status. Given the small amount of clearing proposed over a large, linear clearing footprint, impacts are likely to be minimal (Alinta Energy, 2013; WA Herbarium, 1998-).

The northern end of the corridor is within the buffer of the Fortescue Marsh Priority Ecological Community (PEC) and is approximately 800m from the PEC's boundary. No direct impacts are expected to occur to this PEC as the equipment used and method of drilling for geotechnical investigations will not intersect groundwater and no groundwater or de-watering is required for this project (Alinta Energy, 2012).

The southern extent (close to Newman Townsite) traverses a threatened ecological community (TEC), the Ethel Gorge Threatened Ecological Community that relates to groundwater biota and not surface vegetation. The applicant has advised that, as the depth to groundwater is 50 meters, that no groundwater or de-watering is required, that the drilling equipment used and method of drilling for geotechnical investigations will not intersect groundwater, no impact to the TEC is anticipated (Alinta Energy, 2012; DEC, 2012).

The vegetation to be cleared is well represented in the local area. The widely spaced and small amount of clearing proposed, per drill pad, is not significant and would not have a detrimental impact on fauna.

There are no records of rare flora species in the vicinity of the project.

The survey corridor traverses six watercourses, however no geotechnical investigations or creation of access tracks will occur within 50 metre of a watercourse, including creeklines (Alinta Energy, 2012a).

Given some of the landforms and soil types within the corridor route (e.g. floodplains, sandplains, ridges), the clearing of vegetation and soil disturbance could cause localised, minor levels of land degradation or water quality issues in the short term at these sites, but no appreciable impact is expected.

Management strategies to avoid and minimise clearing, weed and flora management and revegetation of the geotechnical sites post construction, as required, will mitigate any potential environmental impact at each drill pad site.

The clearing as proposed may be at variance to principle (a) and is unlikely to be at variance to the remaining clearing principles.

Methodology

References

- Alinta Energy (2012a)
- Alinta Energy (2012b)
- Alinta Energy (2013)
- DEC (2012)
- Shepherd et al (2001)
- WA Herbarium (1998-)

GIS database

- SAC Biodata (accessed October 2012)
- Hydrography, linear
- Soils, Statewide

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

Comments

Applicant has provided Department of Regional Development and Lands agreement in principle to grant s.91 Licence and a s.128 Licence granted under the Land Administration Act 1947 for Roy Hill Station.

The application area extends over the Newman Water Reserve, gazetted under the Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947, includes a Drinking Water Source Protection Plan and given a status of Priority 1 (P1) and Priority 3 (P3) as a Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA). Department of Water has advised that the clearing proposal is an acceptable activity under these P1 and P3 areas and has no objection to the clearing proposal (DoW, 2012). The proponent has advised the geotechnical investigations will not require abstracting groundwater, dewatering or drilling into any groundwater aquifers (Alinta Energy, 2012).

No public submissions have been received.

A native title claim exists over the area under application. The Niyiyaparli and Wunna Niyiyaparli People and their representative bodies have been notified of the clearing application. No comments have been received.

Methodology

References:

- Alinta Energy (2012)
- DoW (2012)

4. References

- Alinta Energy (2012a) Clearing Permit Application CPS 5278/1 and Supporting Documentation supplied by Alinta Energy Transmission (Roy Hill) Pty Ltd (DEC Ref: A548607; A560763; A563833)
- Alinta Energy (2012b) Clearing Permit Application CPS 5278/1 and Supporting Documentation supplied by Alinta Energy Transmission (Roy Hill) Pty Ltd (DEC Ref: A586667)
- Alinta Energy (2013) Clearing Permit Application CPS 5278/1 and Supporting Documentation supplied by Alinta Energy Transmission (Roy Hill) Pty Ltd (DEC Ref: A592986)
- DEC (2012) Species and Communities Branch advice for Clearing Permit Application CPS 5278/1, Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (DEC Ref: A560763; A560823).
- DoW (2012) Department of Water advice for Clearing Permit Application CPS 5278/1, (DEC Ref: A563726).
- 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.
- 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.
- Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) FloraBase - The Western Australian Flora. Department of Environment and Conservation. <http://florabase.dec.wa.gov.au/> (Accessed xx/xx/xxxx).

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)