



## CLEARING PERMIT

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

<b>Purpose Permit number:</b>	CPS 5736/1
<b>Permit Holder:</b>	Chevron Australia Pty Ltd
<b>Duration of Permit:</b>	16 November 2013 – 16 November 2023

### ADVICE NOTE:

This Permit does not confer upon the Permit Holder authorisation to access the land to which the Permit relates.

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 performing geotechnical and contaminated site investigations for the Onslow Power and Water Upgrade Project.

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

LOT 15 ON PLAN 144118, Onslow	LOT 306 ON PLAN 45640, Peedamulla
LOT 16 ON PLAN 161140, Onslow	LOT 524 ON PLAN 69198, Talandji
LOT 81 ON PLAN 184611, Onslow	LOT 555 ON PLAN 61416, Onslow
LOT 85 ON PLAN 215492, Onslow	LOT 558 ON PLAN 71346, Talandji
LOT 86 ON PLAN 215492, Onslow	Onslow Road reserve (PIN 11730565), Talandji
LOT 87 ON PLAN 215492, Onslow	Onslow Road reserve (PIN 11732966), Talandji
LOT 88 ON PLAN 215492, Onslow	Onslow Road reserve (PIN 11732965), Peedamulla
LOT 132 ON PLAN 168861, Onslow	Onslow Road reserve (PIN 11732962), Onslow
LOT 149 ON PLAN 220384, Peedamulla	Onslow Road reserve (PIN 11788844), Onslow
LOT 152 ON PLAN 220265, Talandji	Unallocated Crown Land (PIN 701682), Onslow
LOT 173 ON PLAN 240367, Onslow	Unallocated Crown Land (PIN 11953190), Onslow
LOT 185 ON PLAN 219197, Onslow	Unallocated Crown Land (PIN 11953189), Onslow
LOT 186 ON PLAN 219155, Talandji	Unallocated Crown Land (PIN 11953192), Onslow
LOT 279 ON PLAN 219235, Peedamulla	Unallocated Crown Land (PIN 11953196), Onslow
LOT 280 ON PLAN 219235, Talandji	Unallocated Crown Land (PIN 11866150), Onslow
LOT 281 ON PLAN 219235, Peedamulla	Unallocated Crown Land (PIN 11953195), Onslow
LOT 282 ON PLAN 219235, Onslow	Water Feature (PIN 11953180), Onslow
LOT 283 ON PLAN 219235, Onslow	Water Feature (PIN 11953178), Onslow
LOT 303 ON PLAN 49430, Onslow	Water Feature (PIN 11953179), Onslow
LOT 305 ON PLAN 49430, Onslow	

#### 3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 30 hectares of native vegetation within the area shaded yellow on attached Plan 5736/1.

#### 4. Period in which clearing is authorised

The Permit Holder shall not clear any native vegetation after 16 November 2018.

#### 5. 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.

### **PART II – MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS**

#### 6. 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.

#### 7. 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 7(a) on the cleared area(s).
- (c) Within 24 months of laying the vegetative material and topsoil on the cleared area in accordance with condition 7(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 7(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.

### **PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING**

#### 8. Records to be kept

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

- (a) In relation to the clearing of native vegetation authorised under this Permit:
  - (i) the species composition, structure and density of the cleared area;
  - (ii) the location where the clearing occurred, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;
  - (iii) the date that the area was cleared; and
  - (iv) the size of the area cleared (in hectares).
- (b) In relation to the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* of areas pursuant to condition 7 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.

## 9. 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 8 of this Permit; and
  - (ii) concerning activities done by the Permit Holder under this Permit between 1 January to 31 December of the preceding calendar year.
- (b) If no clearing authorised under this Permit was undertaken between 1 January to 31 December of the preceding calendar 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 16 August 2023, the Permit Holder must provide to the CEO a written report of records required under condition 8 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under condition 9(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 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, or who is approved by the CEO as a suitable environmental specialist.

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

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

**mulch** means the use of organic matter, wood chips or rocks to slow the movement of water across the soil surface and to reduce evaporation;

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

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

**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 any plant -

- (a) that is a declared pest under section 22 of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*; or
- (b) published in the former Department of Environment and Conservation Regional Weed Assessments, regardless of ranking; or
- (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.



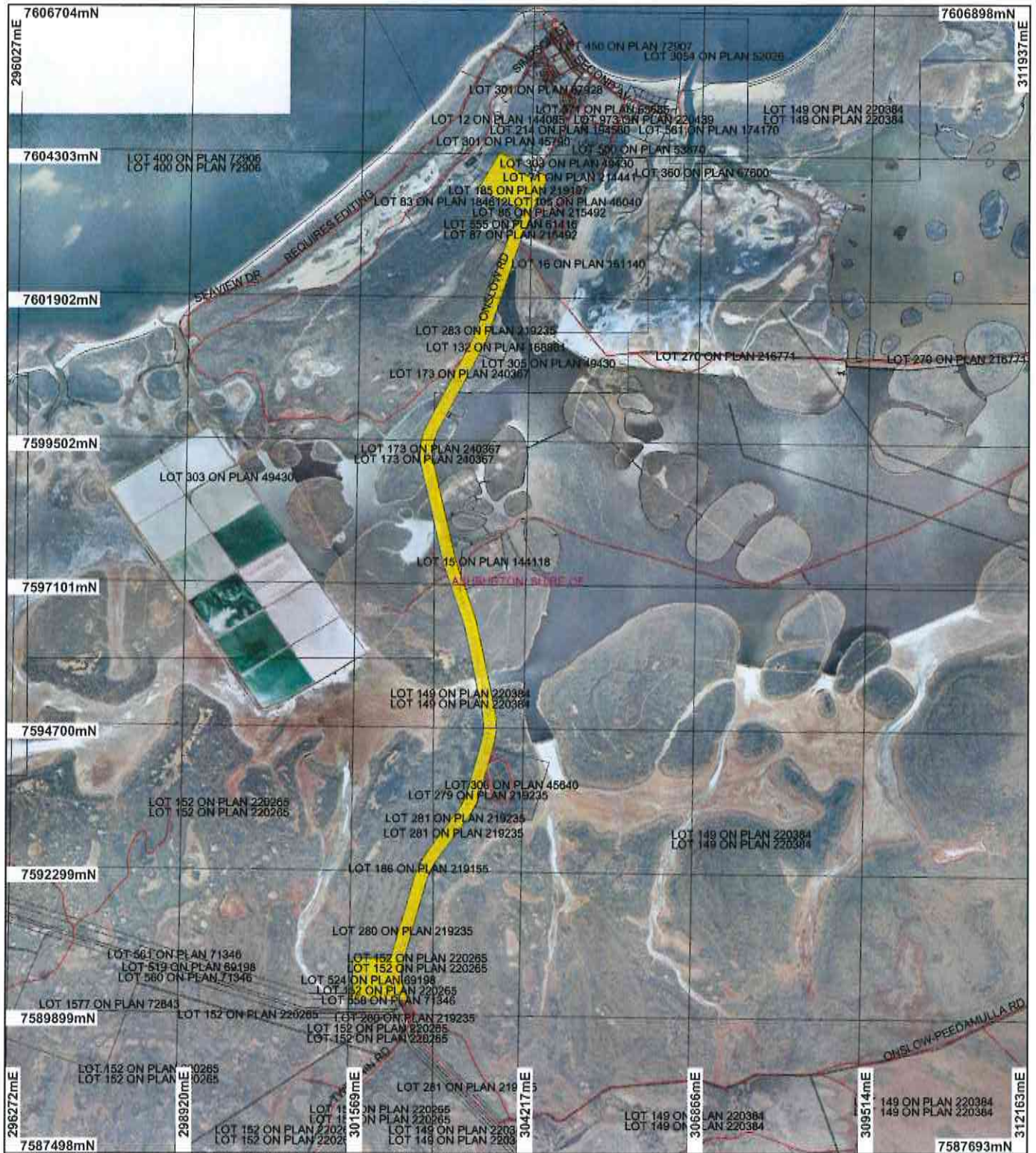
M Warnock  
MANAGER  
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

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

17 October 2013



# Plan 5736/1

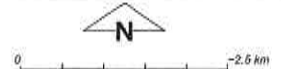


## LEGEND

- ☐ Cadastre
- ☐ Local Government Authorities
- Road Centrelines

### Clearing Instruments

- Areas Approved to Clear
- Onslow 1:4m Orthomosaic - Landgate 2001



Scale 1:88001

(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.

*ambert* 17/10/13 Date

M Warnock

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.



Government of Western Australia  
Department of Environment Regulation

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# Clearing Permit Decision Report

## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 5736/1  
Permit type: Purpose Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Chevron Australia Pty Ltd

### 1.3. Property details

Property:

LOT 185 ON PLAN 219197 (Lot No. 185 ONSLOW ONSLOW 6710)  
 LOT 85 ON PLAN 215492 (Lot No. 85 ONSLOW ONSLOW 6710)  
 LOT 303 ON PLAN 49430 (Lot No. 303 ONSLOW ONSLOW 6710)  
 LOT 86 ON PLAN 215492 (Lot No. 86 ONSLOW ONSLOW 6710)  
 LOT 87 ON PLAN 215492 (Lot No. 87 ONSLOW ONSLOW 6710)  
 LOT 555 ON PLAN 61416 (Lot No. 555 ONSLOW ONSLOW 6710)  
 LOT 16 ON PLAN 161140 (House No. 16 ONSLOW ONSLOW 6710)  
 LOT 81 ON PLAN 184611 (Lot No. 81 ONSLOW ONSLOW 6710)  
 LOT 88 ON PLAN 215492 (Lot No. 88 ONSLOW ONSLOW 6710)  
 LOT 282 ON PLAN 219235 (ONSLOW 6710)  
 LOT 132 ON PLAN 168861 (Lot No. 132 ONSLOW ONSLOW 6710)  
 LOT 283 ON PLAN 219235 (ONSLOW 6710)  
 LOT 305 ON PLAN 49430 (Lot No. 305 ONSLOW ONSLOW 6710)  
 LOT 173 ON PLAN 240367 (ONSLOW 6710)  
 UNALLOCATED CROWN LAND (ONSLOW 6710)  
 WATER FEATURE (ONSLOW 6710)  
 LOT 15 ON PLAN 144118 (ONSLOW 6710)  
 LOT 149 ON PLAN 220384 (PEEDAMULLA 6710)  
 LOT 306 ON PLAN 45640 (Lot No. 306 ONSLOW PEEDAMULLA 6710)  
 LOT 279 ON PLAN 219235 (PEEDAMULLA 6710)  
 LOT 281 ON PLAN 219235 (PEEDAMULLA 6710)  
 LOT 280 ON PLAN 219235 (TALANDJI 6710)  
 LOT 186 ON PLAN 219155 (TALANDJI 6710)  
 LOT 524 ON PLAN 69198 (TALANDJI 6710)  
 LOT 152 ON PLAN 220265 (TALANDJI 6710)  
 LOT 558 ON PLAN 71346 (TALANDJI 6710)  
 ROAD RESERVE (PEEDAMULLA 6710)  
 ROAD RESERVE (ONSLOW 6710)  
 ROAD RESERVE (TALANDJI 6710)

Local Government Area: Shire of Ashburton  
 Colloquial name:

### 1.4. Application

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

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant  
 Decision Date: 17 October 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 application area is mapped as Beard vegetation associations 670, 127, 676 and 117 (Shepherd et al. 2001).	Geotechnical and contaminated site investigations for the	Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost	Vegetation description and condition were determined from aerial imagery (Onslow 1.4cm



Vegetation association 670 is mapped within approximately 40 per cent of the application area and is described as: Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; scattered shrubs over <i>Triodia basedowii</i> (Shepherd et al. 2001).	Onslow Power and Water Upgrade Project.	completely without native species (Keighery 1994).	Orthomosaic - Landgate 2001).
Vegetation association 127 is mapped within approximately 30 per cent of the application area and is described as: Mosaic; Saltbush & bluebush/samphire (Shepherd et al. 2001).	This application is to clear 30 hectares of native vegetation within various properties in Onslow, Peedamulla and Talandji, within the Shire of Ashburton.	To  Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994).	The applicant has advised that the application area is comprised of six vegetation habitat classifications:  Tidal Mudflats and Tidal Creeks, Coastal Sand Dunes, Inland Sand Dunes, Coastal Sand Plains, Claypans, Clayey Plains (Chevron Australia Pty Ltd 2013).
Vegetation association 676 is mapped within approximately 30 per cent of the application area and is described as: Succulent steppe; samphire. (Shepherd et al. 2001)			
Vegetation association 117 is mapped within approximately 2 per cent of the application area and is described as: Hummock grasslands, grass steppe; soft spinifex (Shepherd et al. 2001).			

### 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 30 hectares of native vegetation for the purpose of geotechnical and contaminated site investigations for the Onslow Power and Water Upgrade Project. The application area is approximately 14.4 kilometres in length, with a total footprint area of approximately 372 hectares. The northern section of the application area is located approximately 2 kilometres from the Onslow town site. The vegetation under application is considered to be in a completely degraded (Keighery 1994) condition in the northern sections closest to the town site to very good (Keighery 1994) condition within the southern sections.

There are five species of priority flora recorded within the local area (50 kilometre radius):

- A Priority 3 species has been identified within the southern section of the application area (Chevron Australia Pty Ltd 2013).
- A Priority 3 species is mapped on the same mapped vegetation and soil type as the application area. This species occurs on red sands, and shallow, gravelly sandy clay loam soils (WA Herbarium 2013).
- A Priority 2 species is mapped on the same soil and vegetation type as the application area. This species occurs on brown and red soils (WA Herbarium 2013).
- A Priority 2 species is mapped on the same soil and vegetation type as the application area. This species occurs on dune tops and within disturbed areas (WA Herbarium 2013).
- A Priority 1 species is mapped on the same soil and vegetation type as the application area. This species occurs on red sand and on flat plains (WA Herbarium 2013).

The application area may therefore contain suitable habitat for these priority flora species. The Priority 3 species found within the application area and the Priority 1 species are known only from the Shire of Ashburton and have a relatively restricted distribution. The remaining three Priority species have large distributions. Given the temporary and patchy type of clearing proposed, the proposed clearing is not likely to significantly impact these species.

There is one Priority Ecological Community mapped within the local area (50 kilometre radius), Peedamulla (Cane River) Swamp Community (Priority 1). The buffer of this community is mapped approximately 24.8 kilometres east of the application area.

The disturbance caused by the proposed clearing will increase the risk of weeds being introduced into the remaining adjacent vegetation. Weed management practices will assist in mitigating this risk.

Given that the application area contains one species of priority flora, and may contain habitat suitable for four other species of priority flora, the proposed clearing may be at variance to this clearing principle.

##### Methodology

##### References:

Keighery 1994

WA Herbarium 2013

GIS Databases:

- Onslow 1.4cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2001

- SAC Biodatasets

- Towns

**(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**

Sixteen fauna species listed as rare or likely to become extinct under the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950 are recorded within the local area (50 kilometre radius). Of these fauna species, three are marine species, and eight are shorebirds. Aerial imagery indicates that the application area is unlikely to contain suitable habitat for these species. The remaining fauna species include the Northern Quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*), Pilbara Olive Python (*Liasis olivaceus* subsp. *barroni*), Western Barred Bandicoot (*Perameles bougainville*), Night Parrot (*Pezoporus occidentalis*), and Dwarf Bearded Dragon (*Pogona minor* subsp. *minima*) (DPaW 2007-).

Rocky areas and offshore islands have been identified as habitat critical to the survival of the Northern Quoll (Hill and Ward 2010). The Pilbara Olive Python prefers deep gorges and water holes, inhabits caves and rock crevices during winter, and tends to stay close to water and rock outcrops during summer (TSSC 2008a). Rocky areas do not appear to be present within the application area.

There are two known wild populations of the Western Barred Bandicoot, which are found on Dorre and Bernier Islands in Shark Bay. They were last recorded on mainland Australia in 1906. There are now translocated populations of Western Barred Bandicoots on the mainland, however these are not within the application area (Richards 2012).

The Night Parrot inhabits Spinifex (*Triodia* sp.) grasslands on stony or sandy terrain; Samphire (*Sarcocornia* sp.) and Chenopod shrublands on claypans, floodplains or the margins of saltlakes, and creeks or other water bodies (TSSC 2008b). Confirmed sightings of this species within the Pilbara region have been further inland within the eastern Pilbara, however the Night Parrot is a cryptic species (TSSC 2008b). Suitable habitat for this species may be present within the application area. The degraded condition of much of the application area, and the temporary and patchy type of clearing proposed, indicate that the proposed clearing is unlikely to remove habitat significant for the persistence of this species.

The known distribution of the Dwarf Bearded Dragon is restricted to the Wallabi Islands of the Houtman Abrolhos (Storr 1982).

Given the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

**Methodology** References:  
DPaW 2007-  
Hill and Ward 2010  
Richards 2012  
Storr 1982  
TSSC 2008a  
TSSC 2008b

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

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

There are no rare flora species mapped within the local area (50 kilometre radius). The closest recorded rare flora species occurs over 250 kilometres from the application area.

Therefore, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this principle.

**Methodology** GIS Databases:  
- SAC Biodatasets

**(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 threatened ecological communities within the local area (50 kilometre radius). The proposed clearing is therefore not at variance to this clearing principle.

**Methodology** GIS Databases:  
- SAC Biodatasets

**(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**

Aerial imagery indicates the local area (50 kilometre radius) retains approximately 95 percent vegetation cover.

The IBRA Bioregion (Carnarvon) and the local government agency (Shire of Ashburton) retain approximately 100 percent of their Pre-European extents (Government of Western Australia 2013).

The vegetation under application is mapped as Beard Vegetation Associations 670, 127, 676, and 117, which retain between approximately 97 - 100 percent of their Pre-European extents within the Carnarvon IBRA Bioregion (Government of Western Australia 2013).

The national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia has a target to prevent clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30 per cent of that present pre-1750, below which species loss appears to accelerate exponentially at an ecosystem level (Commonwealth of Australia 2001).

Given the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this clearing principle.

	Pre-European (ha)	Current Extent Remaining (ha)	(%)	Extent in DEC Managed Lands (%)
IBRA Bioregion*				
Carnarvon	8 382 890	8 360 803	100	12
Shire*				
Shire of Ashburton	10 086 658	10 059 963	100	16
Beard Vegetation Association in Bioregion*				
670	147 809	147 792	100	12
127	102 781	101 490	99	2
676	51 984	51 233	99	29
117	64 408	62 141	97	29

\* Government of Western Australia (2013)

<b>Methodology</b>	References:
	Commonwealth of Australia 2001
	Government of Western Australia 2013
	GIS Databases:
	- IBRA Australia
	- Local Government Areas
	- NLWRA Current Extent of Vegetation
	- Onslow 1.4cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2001
	- 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.**

<b>Comments</b>	<b>Proposal is at variance to this Principle</b>
	The application area is mapped within an estuarine tidal flat, with numerous areas subject to inundation intersecting the application area. There is a non-perennial lake mapped within the southern section of the application area, and a number of other non-perennial lakes mapped within close proximity to the application area. Two of the Beard Vegetation Associations mapped within the application area contain vegetation associated with watercourses (Shepherd et al. 2001).
	The application area is within a tidal flat system, therefore the proposed clearing is at variance to this clearing principle.
	The applicant has advised that clearing will not occur within these watercourses (Chevron Australia Pty Ltd 2013).

<b>Methodology</b>	References:
	Chevron Australia Pty Ltd 2013
	Shepherd et al. 2001
	GIS Databases:
	- Hydrography, Linear
	- Onslow 1.4cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2001
	- Pre-European Vegetation

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

<b>Comments</b>	<b>Proposal is not at variance to this Principle</b>
	Approximately 60 percent of the application area has soil mapped as SV8, which Northcote et al. (1960-1968) describes as salt flats, tidal swamps, and coastal dune sands: chief soils are saline loams with shelly sands.



Small areas of calcareous earths and shallow loams are associated with marls.

Approximately 40 percent of the application area has soil mapped as Oc58, which Northcote et al. (1960-1968) describes as broad alluvial plains with a few clay pans and red sand dunes; some areas of cracking clays along creek lines: chief soils are hard alkaline red soils. Associated are soils in clay pans; red sands on dunes; and areas of cracking clays along creeks.

The mean annual rainfall for the application area is 400 millimetres.

Given the clearing will occur in relatively small patches distributed over a large application area, it is unlikely that the proposed clearing will cause appreciable land degradation.

Therefore, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this principle.

**Methodology**    References:  
Northcote et al. 1960-1968  
GIS Databases:  
- Mean annual rainfall  
- 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 at variance to this Principle**  
There are several Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPAW) managed lands within the local area (50 kilometre radius). The closest of these is Mount Minnie, former leasehold land, which is located approximately 7.5 kilometres from the application area. The remaining DPAW managed lands are nature reserves on various islands.

Therefore the proposed clearing is not at variance to this principle.

**Methodology**    GIS Databases:  
- 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 at variance to this Principle**  
The application area is mapped within an estuarine tidal flat, with numerous areas subject to inundation intersecting the application area. There is a non-perennial lake mapped within the southern section of the application area, and a number of other non-perennial lakes mapped within close proximity to the application area. Clearing of vegetation along these watercourses may cause water quality issues, such as localised surface water sedimentation.

The applicant has advised that clearing will not occur within these watercourses (Chevron Australia Pty Ltd 2013).

The groundwater salinity within the application area is mapped as 7 000 - 14 000mg/L Total Dissolved Solids. This level of salinity is considered saline to highly saline. Given the clearing will occur in relatively small patches distributed over a large application area, it is unlikely that the proposed clearing will cause deterioration in groundwater quality.

Therefore, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this principle.

**Methodology**    References:  
Chevron Australia Pty Ltd 2013  
GIS Databases:  
- Groundwater, Salinity  
- 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 at variance to this Principle**  
The application is to clear 30 hectares of native vegetation within a larger footprint area. Natural flood events do occur in the Pilbara region following cyclonic activity, however the proposed clearing is not expected to increase the incidence or intensity of such events.

As the clearing will be spread over a large area it is not likely the proposed clearing will cause or exacerbate the

intensity of flooding, the proposed clearing is therefore is not at variance to this principle.

**Methodology** GIS Databases:  
- Hydrography, Linear

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

#### Comments

The application area is within the Pilbara Surface Water and Groundwater Areas covered by the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914 (RIWI Act). The Department of Water (DoW) has advised that the application area does not interfere with any waterways assessed under the RIWI Act and therefore a surface water licence and/or bed and banks permit will not be required (DoW 2013). DoW has advised that groundwater abstraction will require a licence (DoW 2013). The applicant has advised that no taking of groundwater is required.

There are four Aboriginal Sites of Significance which intersect the application area. The applicant will be notified of their responsibilities under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972.

The application area is located within a Native Title claim area determined by the Federal Court. The claimants (Thalanji People) were given the opportunity to make comment on the application under s24MD of the Native Title Act 1993 (NT Act). On behalf of the claimants, Desert Management Pty Ltd objected to the granting of CPS 5736/1 (Desert Management Pty Ltd 2013). The objectors believe that the proposed clearing will interfere with the community life of the claimants and with areas or sites of significance, will cause disturbance to the land and that the level of protection provided by the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 is not sufficient. The applicant has been notified of this objection.

The application area occurs within land parcels vested with the Shire of Ashburton, Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia, Water Corporation and Main Roads Western Australia. The applicant has advised they are in the process of acquiring authority to access the land in the form of a Section 91 licence and through written authority.

**Methodology** References:  
Desert Management Pty Ltd 2013  
DoW 2013  
GIS Databases:  
- Aboriginal Sites of Significance  
- Native Title Determinations  
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas  
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas

## 4. References

- Chevron Australia Pty Ltd (2013) Clearing Permit Application - Various properties within the Shire of Ashburton. Received 6/08/2013. Chevron Pty Ltd, Australia. DER REF: A656655.
- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.
- DEC (2007 - ) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Environment and Conservation. URL: <http://naturemap.dec.wa.gov.au/>.
- Desert Management Pty Ltd (2013) Advice received in relation to Clearing Permit Application CPS 5736/1. Received 4/10/2013. Desert Management Pty Ltd, Western Australia. DER REF: A681060.
- DoW (2013) Advice received in relation to Clearing Permit Application CPS 5736/1. Received 17/09/2013. Department of Water, Western Australia. DER REF: A675138.
- Government of Western Australia. (2013). 2012 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of October 2012. WA Department of Environment and Conservation, Perth.
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## 5. Glossary

Term	Meaning
DRF	Declared Rare Flora
EPP	Environmental Protection Policy
GIS	Geographical Information System
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community