



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 5758/1
Permit Holder:	Shire of Northampton
Duration of Permit:	30 November 2013 – 30 November 2018

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 road realignment.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Ogilvie Road reserve, Ogilvie (PIN 1327643).

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 0.36 hectares of native vegetation within the area shaded yellow on attached Plan 5758/1.

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 the activities described in condition 1 of this Permit to the extent that the Permit Holder has the power to carry out works involving clearing for those activities under the *Local Government Act 1995* or any other written law.

PART II – MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

6. Land on which revegetation and rehabilitation is to be done

The Permit Holder must revegetate and rehabilitate within Ogilvie Road reserve, Ogilvie (PIN 1327643), in accordance with condition 7 of this permit.

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) within 12 months following clearing authorised under this permit, *revegetate* and *rehabilitate* the area shaded red on attached Plan 5758/1 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 7(a) on the red shaded area.
- (c) within 18 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.
- (d) Where additional *planting* or *direct seeding* of native vegetation is undertaken in accordance with condition 7(c)(ii) of this permit, the Permit Holder shall repeat condition 7(c)(i) and 7(c)(ii) within 24 months of undertaking the additional *planting* or *direct seeding* of native vegetation.
- (e) Where a determination by an *environmental specialist* that the composition, structure and density within areas *revegetated* and *rehabilitated* will result in a similar species composition, structure and density to that of pre-clearing vegetation types in that area, as determined in condition 7(c)(i) and (ii) of this permit, that determination shall be submitted for the CEO's consideration. If the CEO does not agree with the determination made under condition 7(c)(ii), the CEO may require the Permit Holder to undertake additional *planting* and *direct seeding* in accordance with the requirements under condition 7(c)(ii).

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

8. Records must be kept

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

- (a) In relation to the clearing of native vegetation authorised under this Permit:
 - (i) the species composition, structure and density of the cleared area;
 - (ii) the location where the clearing occurred, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings;
 - (iii) the date that the area was cleared; and
 - (iv) the size of the area cleared (in hectares).
- (b) In relation to the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* of areas pursuant to condition 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 30 August 2018, 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.

local provenance means native vegetation seeds and propagating material from natural sources within 50 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;

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.

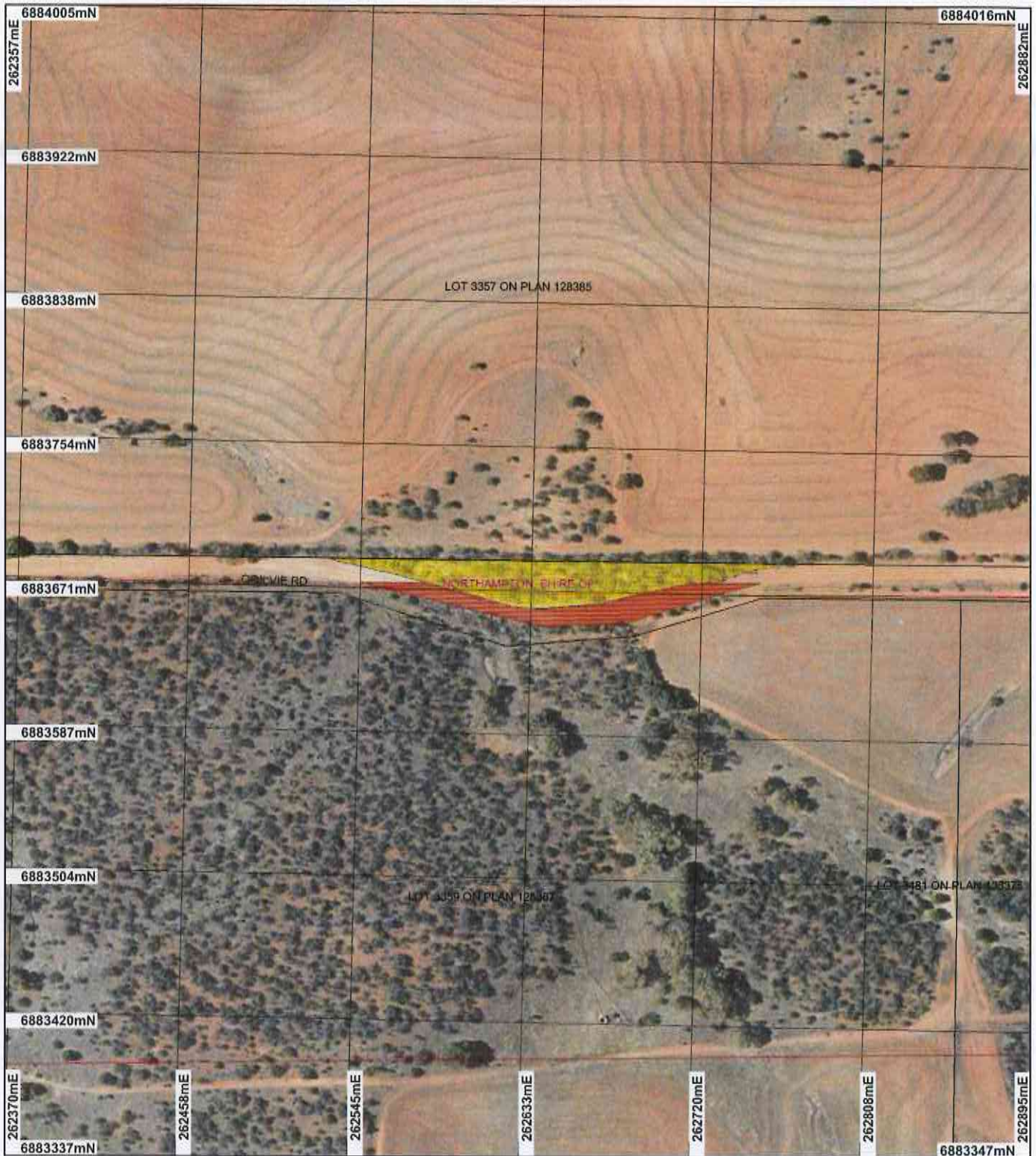


M Warnock
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

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

31 October 2013

Plan 5758/1



LEGEND

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Cadastral | Areas Subject to Conditions |
| Local Government Authorities | Areas Approved to Clear |
| Road Centrelines | Northampton 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2006 |
| Clearing Instruments (cont) | |



Scale 1:3000
(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 31/10/13
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.: 5758/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Shire of Northampton

1.3. Property details

Property: ROAD RESERVE (OGILVIE 6535)
Local Government Area: Shire of Northampton
Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

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

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 31 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
Beard Vegetation Association: 35 - Shrublands; jam scrub with scattered York Gum (Shepherd et al. 2001).	The application is to clear up to 0.36 hectares of native vegetation for the purpose of road realignment, within the Ogilvie Road reserve (PIN 1327643), Ogilvie, within the Shire of Northampton.	Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994). To Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994).	Vegetation condition and description were determined through aerial imagery (Northampton 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2006).

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 is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The application is to clear up to 0.36 hectares of native vegetation for the purpose of road realignment, within the Ogilvie Road reserve (PIN 1327643), Ogilvie. The vegetation to be cleared is in good (Keighery 1994) to degraded (Keighery 1994) condition.

Numerous priority flora species are recorded within the local area (10 kilometre radius) on the same mapped soil and vegetation type as the application area. The closest record is located approximately 5 kilometres from the application area. Given the distance to the nearest record and the small size of the proposed clearing (0.36 hectares), the application area is not likely to include habitat for these species.

The local area (10 kilometre radius) is extensively cleared for agriculture and supports approximately 15 percent native vegetation cover. The application area has been mapped as Beard Vegetation Associations 35, which has approximately 17 percent of its pre-European extent remaining in the Geraldton Sand plains bioregion (Government of Western Australia 2013).

The application area is within close proximity to a large remnant of native vegetation. Given this, and the relatively small size of the proposed clearing, the application area is not likely to contain a significant level of biodiversity.

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

Methodology References:
Government of Western Australia 2013
Keighery 1994
GIS Databases:
- Northampton 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2006
- NWLRA, extent of vegetation
- Pre-European Vegetation
- SAC Biodatasets
- Soils, Statewide

(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**
There is one recorded conservation significant fauna species within the local area (10 kilometre radius); the Rainbow Bee-Eater (*Merops ornatus*; Migratory, Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999)(DPaW 2007-). The Rainbow Bee-eater is a migratory bird with a distribution across most of mainland Australia (DSEWPC 2013). The total population size has not been estimated, but is assumed to be reasonably large (DSEWPC 2013). The proposed clearing is unlikely to provide significant habitat for this species.

The local area (10 kilometre radius) is extensively cleared, with approximately 15 percent pre-European vegetation remaining. Within a highly cleared landscape, vegetation along road reserves is likely to act as a biological corridor for fauna movement. Given the local area has been extensively cleared, all remaining vegetation may be important as wildlife habitat and linkages between patches of remnant vegetation.

The application area is within close proximity to a larger remnant of vegetation and therefore the proposed clearing is not likely to significantly impact on ecological linkages.

Given this, the vegetation under application is not likely to form significant habitat for indigenous fauna. The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology References:
DPaW 2007-
DSEWPC 2013
GIS Databases:
- Northampton 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2006
- NWLRA, extent of vegetation

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

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
There is one recorded rare flora species within the local area (10 kilometre radius). The closest record of this species occurring on the same mapped soil and vegetation type as the application area is located approximately 100 metres from the application area.

The application area is separated from this population by land cleared for agriculture. Given this, the proposed clearing will not impact this population.

The road reserve under application has been inspected for the presence of this rare flora species (DPaW 2013). No plants of this species have been found (DPaW 2013).

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

Methodology References:
DPaW 2013
GIS Databases:
- Northampton 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2006
- Pre-European Vegetation
- SAC Biodatasets
- Soils, Statewide

(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 records of threatened ecological communities (TEC) within the local area (10 kilometre radius). The closest mapped TEC is over 100 kilometres from the application area.

Therefore, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this 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 at variance to this Principle**
Aerial photography (Northampton 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2006) indicates the local area (10 kilometre radius) is approximately 15 percent vegetated.

The IBRA Bioregion (Geraldton Sandplains) and the local government agency (Shire of Northampton) retain approximately 45 percent and 74 percent of their respective pre-European extents (Government of Western Australia 2013).

The application area is mapped as Beard Vegetation Association 35, which retains approximately 184 502 hectares (17 percent) of its pre-European extent within the Geraldton Sandplains IBRA Bioregion.

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

The vegetation association mapped over the application area has less than 30 percent of its pre-European extent remaining. A small percentage of the vegetation remaining in this vegetation association is held in secure Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW) tenure.

As the application falls within a highly cleared vegetation community and is within an area that has been extensively cleared, the proposed clearing is at variance to this principle. Revegetation of the former road alignment will ensure that there is no net loss of vegetation.

	Pre-European (ha)	Current Extent (ha)	Remaining (%)	Extent in DPaW Managed Lands (%)
IBRA Bioregion*				
Geraldton Sandplains	3 136 038	1 408 729	45	40
Shire*				
Shire of Northampton	1 258 431	930 131	74	25
Beard Vegetation Association in Bioregion*				
35	184 502	31 397	17	2

* Government of Western Australia 2013

Methodology References:
Commonwealth of Australia 2001
Government of Western Australia 2013
GIS Databases:
- IBRA regions
- Northampton 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2006
- NLWRA, Current extent of Native Vegetation
- Pre-European Vegetation

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

Comments **Proposal may be at variance to this Principle**
There are numerous watercourses located within the local area (10 kilometre radius).

A minor, non-perennial watercourse has been mapped within to the application area. Therefore the proposed clearing may be at variance to this principle.

Methodology GIS Databases:
- Hydrography, Linear

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

Comments **Proposal is not at variance to this Principle**
The soil within the application area is mapped as Pb29, which Northcote et al (1960 - 1968) describes as generally rolling but sometimes undulating or hilly terrain on granulite; some rock outcrops; some mesas and buttes: chief soils are hard acidic red soils and neutral red soils.

The mean annual rainfall mapped over the application area is 500mm.

Given the small, linear area under application and as the land will be compacted and maintained as a road, the proposed clearing will not result in 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 DPaW managed lands within the local area (10 kilometre radius). The closest of these is Chilimony Nature Reserve, which is located approximately 5 kilometres from the application area. Given the distance to this nature reserve the proposed clearing will not impact upon the environmental values of this conservation area.

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**
There is one minor, non-perennial watercourse intersecting the application area. During the works, the proposed clearing may cause short term water quality issues, such as localised surface water sedimentation. However, these issues are likely to be minimal.

The groundwater salinity within the application area is mapped as moderate at between 1000 - 3000 mg/L of Total Dissolved Solids. Given the small, linear area under application, deterioration in underground water is likely to be negligible.

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

Methodology 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**
Although a minor, non-perennial watercourse intersects the application area, given the small, linear area, the proposed clearing will not cause or exacerbate flooding. Therefore, the proposed clearing 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 is to clear up to 0.36 hectares of native vegetation for the purpose of road realignment, within Ogilvie Road reserve (PIN 1327643), Ogilvie, within the Shire of Northampton. The applicant has advised they intend to rehabilitate the old road alignment using the vegetation and topsoil removed from the clearing area (Shire of Northampton 2013).

The application area is located within the Gascoyne Groundwater Area covered by the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914.

No public submissions have been received in regards to the proposed clearing.

Methodology References:
Shire of Northampton 2013

4. References

- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.
- DPaW (2007 -) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Parks and Wildlife. URL: <http://naturemap.der.wa.gov.au/>. Accessed 07/10/2013.
- DPaW (2013) Advice received for Clearing Permit Application CPS 5758/1. Received 23/10/2013. Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia. DER REF: A687225.
- DSEWPC (2013) Merops ornatus in Species Profile and Threats Database. Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, Canberra.
- 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.
- 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.
- Shire of Northampton (2013) Clearing Permit Application for Ogilvie Road, Ogilvie. Received 19/08/2013. Shire of Northampton, Western Australia. DER REF: A663418.

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