



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 5887/4
Permit Holder:	Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd
Duration of Permit:	From 28 June 2014 to 28 June 2029

The permit holder is authorised to clear *native vegetation* subject to the following conditions of this permit.

PART I – CLEARING AUTHORISED

1. Clearing authorised (purpose)

The permit holder is authorised to clear *native vegetation* for the purpose of transmission line maintenance, access track maintenance, safety and fire hazard reduction.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Unallocated Crown Land PIN 1017652, Fortescue
 Roebourne-Wittenoom Road reserve PIN 11733933, Millstream
 Lot 13 on Deposited Plan 47815, Fortescue
 Lot 24 on Deposited Plan 242287, Millstream
 Lot 33 on Deposited Plan 240249, Fortescue
 Lot 150 on Deposited Plan 242287, Millstream
 Lot 182 on Deposited Plan 241670, Millstream
 Lot 502 on Deposited Plan 61847, Millstream
 Lot 503 on Deposited Plan 61847, Millstream
 Lot 504 on Deposited Plan 61847, Millstream
 Lot 505 on Deposited Plan 61847, Millstream
 Lot 510 on Deposited Plan 61847, Millstream
 Lot 511 on Deposited Plan 61847, Millstream

3. Clearing authorised

The permit holder must not clear more than 26.592 hectares of *native vegetation* within the area cross-hatched yellow in Schedule 1.

PART II – MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

4. Avoid, minimise, and reduce impacts and extent of clearing

In determining the *native vegetation* authorised to be cleared under this permit, the permit holder must apply the following principles, set out in descending 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.

5. Weed management

When undertaking any clearing authorised under this permit, the permit holder must implement and adhere to the following weed management conditions specified ‘Rio Tinto Iron Ore, Environmental Management Plan, Native Vegetation Clearing Permit CPS 5887/1, Dampier to Paraburdoo Transmission Line (RTIO-HSE-0221249)’, May 2014;

- (a) When undertaking any clearing or other activity authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder must take the following measures to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *weeds*:
 - (i) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
 - (ii) ensure that no *weed*-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill*, or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and
 - (iii) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.
- (b) At least once in each 12 month period for the term of this Permit, the Permit Holder must inspect the application area and remove or kill any *weeds* spread as a result of clearing.

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

6. Records that must be kept

The permit holder must maintain records relating to the listed relevant matters in accordance with the specifications detailed in Table 1.

Table 1: Records that must be kept

No.	Relevant matter	Specifications
1.	In relation to the authorised clearing activities generally	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the location where the clearing occurred, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 2020 (GDA2020), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings; (b) the date that the area was cleared;

No.	Relevant matter	Specifications
		(c) the size of the area cleared (in hectares); (d) actions taken to avoid, minimise, and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing in accordance with condition 4; and (e) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of <i>weeds</i> in accordance with condition 5.

7. Reporting

The permit holder must provide to the *CEO* the records required under condition 6 of this permit when requested by the *CEO*.

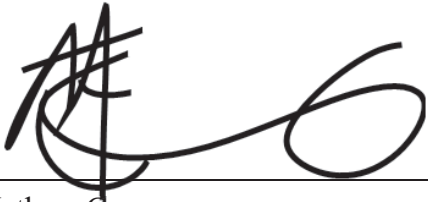
DEFINITIONS

In this permit, the terms in Table 2 have the meanings defined.

Table 2: Definitions

Term	Definition
CEO	Chief Executive Officer of the department responsible for the administration of the clearing provisions under the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> .
clearing	has the meaning given under section 3(1) of the EP Act.
condition	a condition to which this clearing permit is subject under section 51H of the EP Act.
EP Act	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> (WA)
fill	means material used to increase the ground level, or to fill a depression.
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.
native vegetation	has the meaning given under section 3(1) and section 51A of the EP Act.
weeds	means any plant – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) that is a declared pest under section 22 of the <i>Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007</i>; or (b) published in a Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions species-led ecological impact and invasiveness ranking summary, regardless of ranking; or (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.

END OF CONDITIONS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Gannaway', written over a horizontal line.

Mathew Gannaway
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

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

27 June 2024

Schedule 1
Plan 5887/4

The boundary of the area authorised to be cleared is shown in the maps below (Figure 1-6).

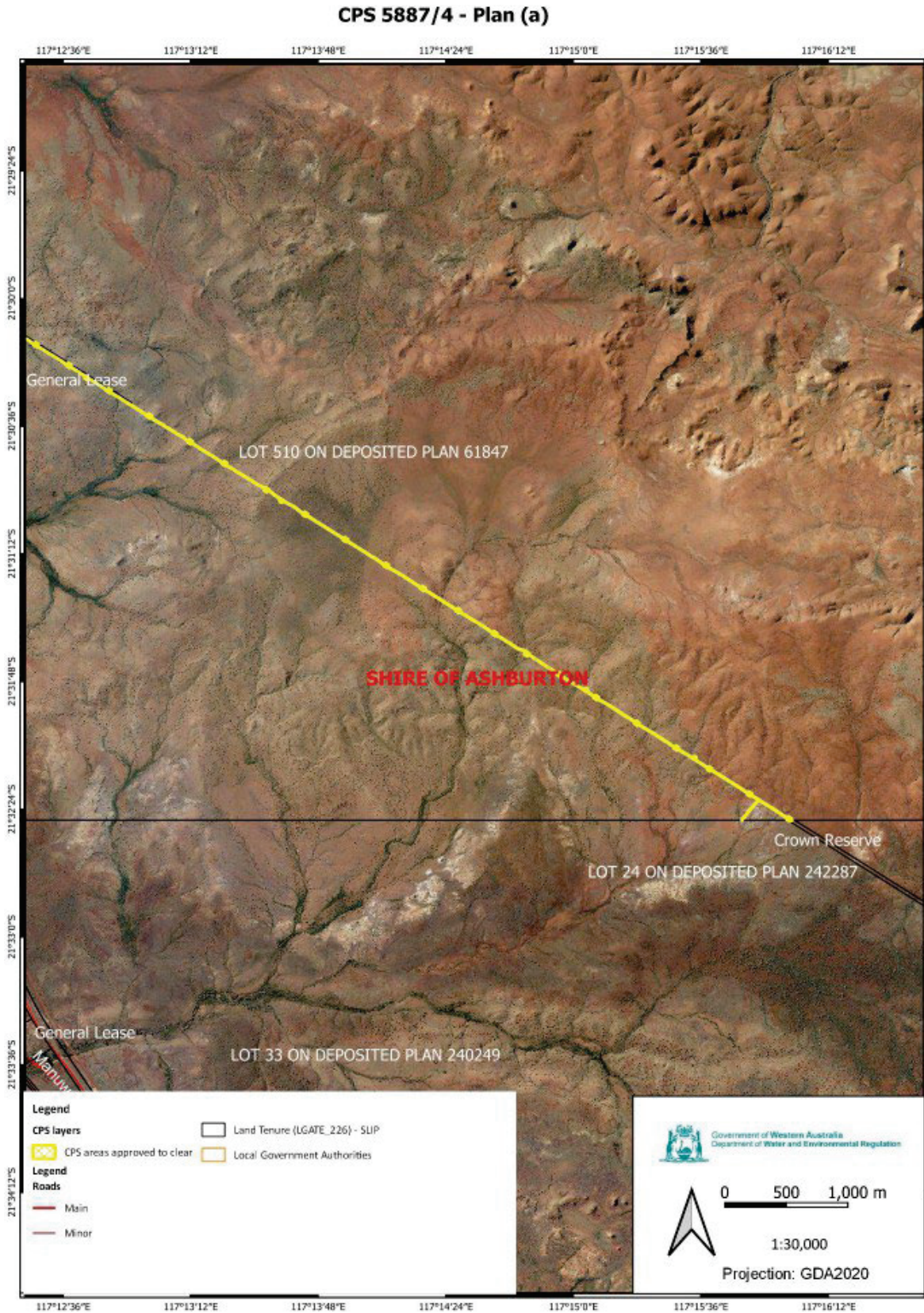


Figure 1: Map (a) of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur

CPS 5887/4 - Plan (b)

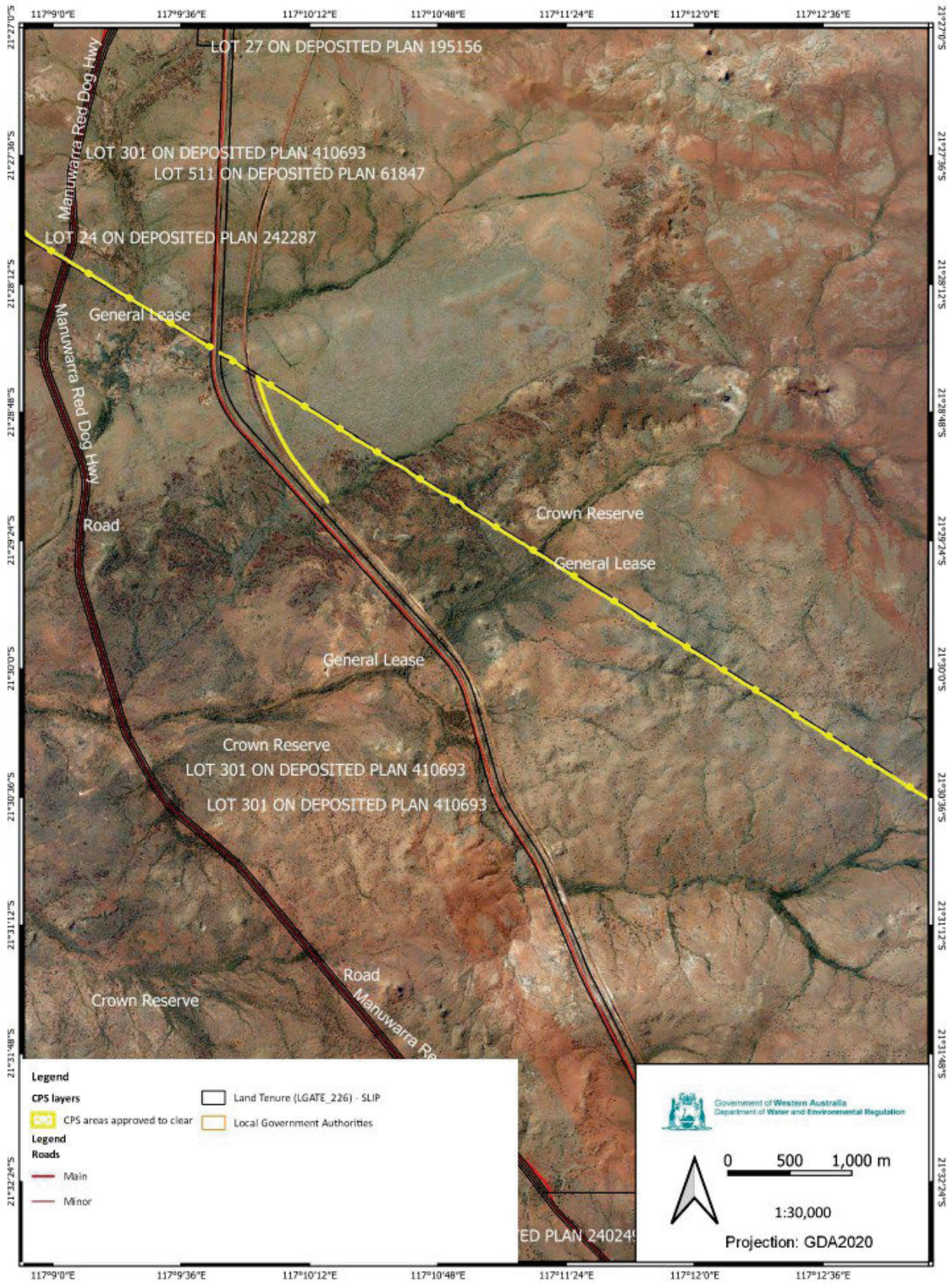


Figure 2 : Map (b) of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur

CPS 5887/4 - Plan (c)

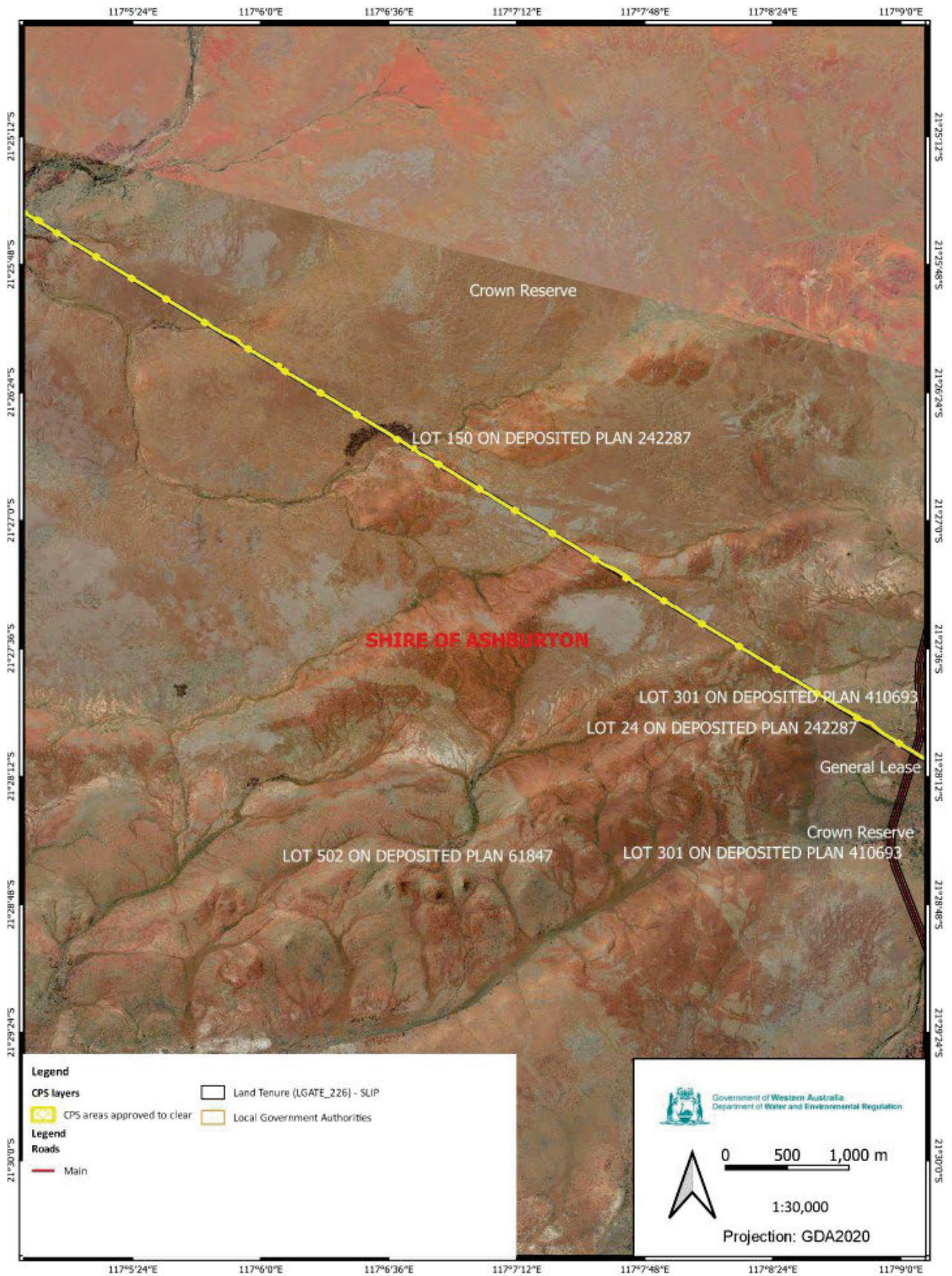


Figure 3 : Map (c) of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur

CPS 5887/4 - Plan (d)

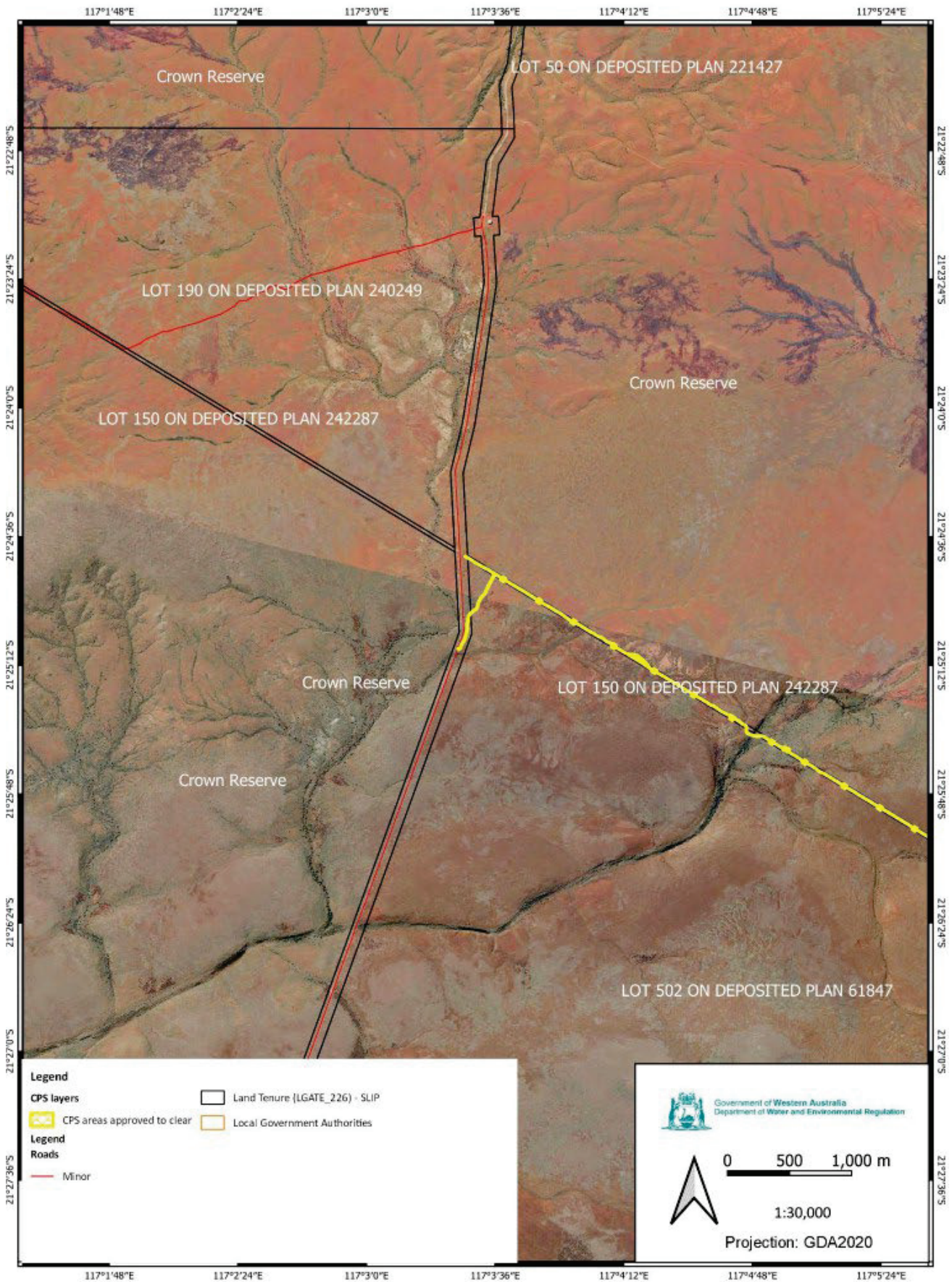


Figure 4 : Map (d) of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur

CPS 5887/4 - Plan (e)

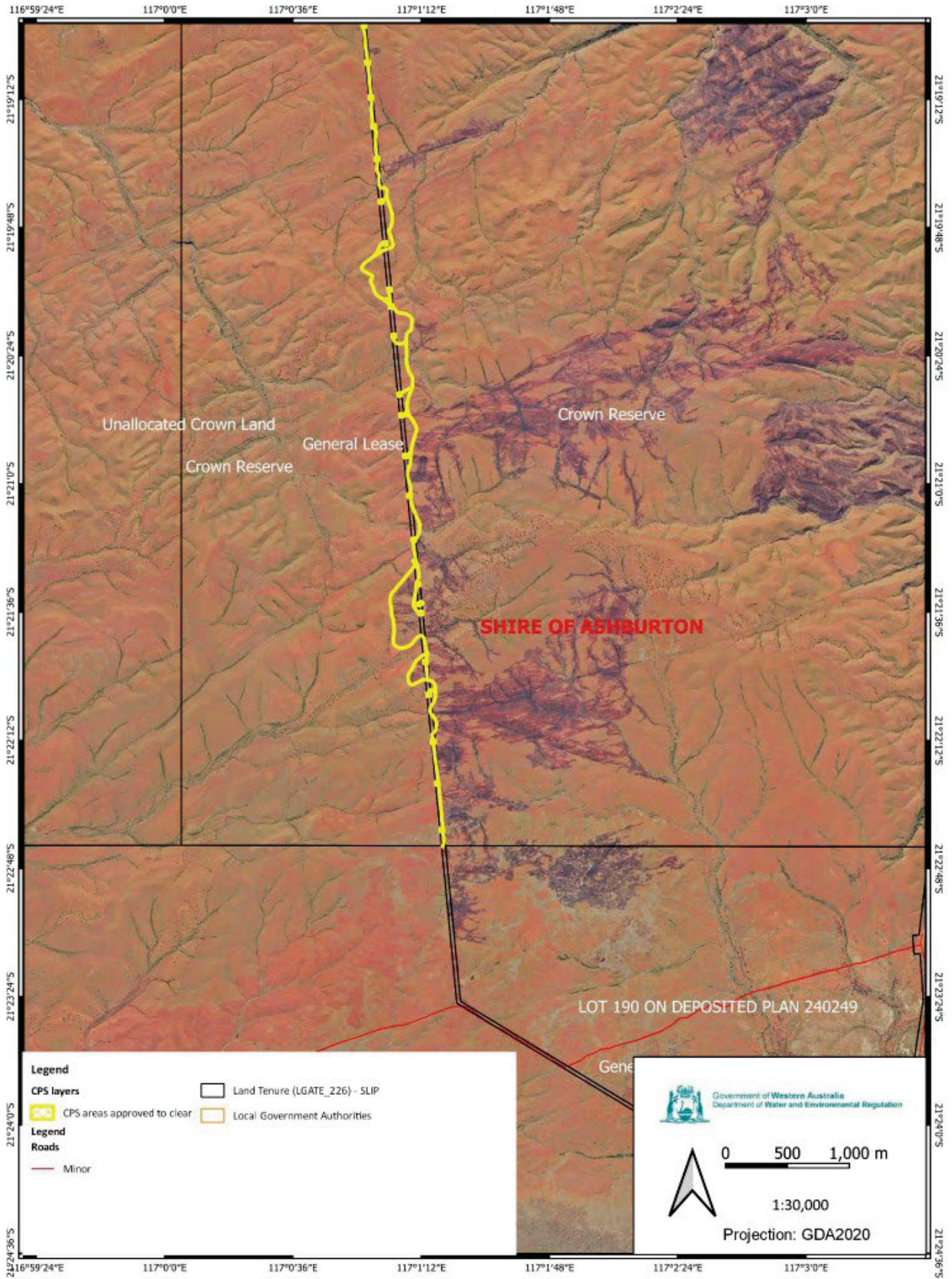


Figure 5 : Map (e) of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur

CPS 5887/4 - Plan (f)

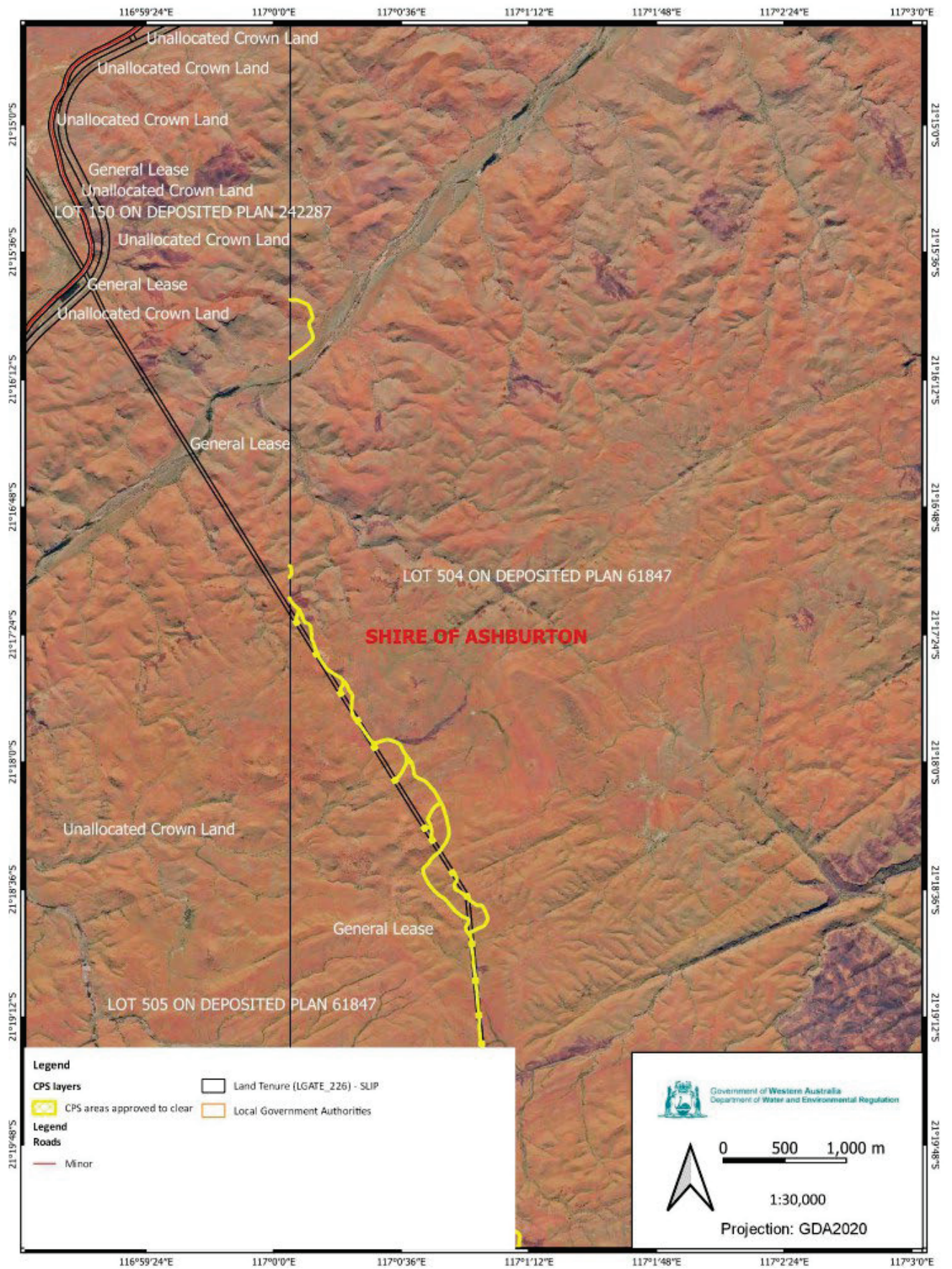


Figure 6 : Map (f) of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 5887/4
Permit type: Purpose permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd
Application received date: 7 March 2024

1.3. Property details

Property: Lot 504 on Deposited Plan 61847, Millstream
Lot 13 on Deposited Plan 47815, Fortescue
Lot 150 on Deposited Plan 242287, Millstream
Lot 182 on Deposited Plan 241670, Millstream
Lot 24 on Deposited Plan 242287, Millstream
Lot 33 on Deposited Plan 240249, Fortescue
Lot 502 on Deposited Plan 61847, Millstream
Lot 503 on Deposited Plan 61847, Millstream
Lot 505 on Deposited Plan 61847, Millstream
Lot 510 on Deposited Plan 61847, Millstream
Lot 511 on Deposited Plan 61847, Millstream
Roebourne-Wittenoom Road Reserve PIN 11733933, Millstream
Unallocated Crown Land PIN 1017652, Fortescue
Local Government Authority: Shire of Ashburton
Localities: Fortescue, Millstream

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	Purpose category:
26.592		Mechanical Removal	Transmission line maintenance, access track maintenance, safety and fire hazard reduction.

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted
Decision Date: 27 June 2024
Reasons for Decision: The clearing permit amendment application was received on 7 March 2024 and has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with section 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. It has been concluded that the assessment against the clearing principles is unchanged since the assessment for clearing Permit CPS 5887/3 and the proposed clearing may be at variance to clearing principles (f) and (h), is not at variance to principle (e) and is not likely to be at variance to the remaining principles.

The Delegated Officer took into consideration that the proposed amendment relates only to extending the permit duration by five years to 28 June 2029. With this amendment, it is unlikely to present any significant changes to the environmental values identified through the previous assessments of the permit.

In considering the above, the Delegated Officer determined that the extent to which the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological, conservation, or land and water resource values remains unchanged from the original assessments and can be found in the Decision Report prepared for Clearing Permit CPS 5887/1 and CPS 5887/3. The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing can be managed with the existing avoid and minimise and weed control conditions.

2. Site Information

Clearing Description: To clear up to 26.592 hectares of native vegetation within various Lots at Fortescue and Millstream in the Shire of Ashburton, for the purposes of transmission line maintenance including access track maintenance and safety and fire hazard reduction.

Vegetation Description	<p>Mapped Beard vegetation association 173 is described as hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; kanji over soft spinifex and <i>Triodia wiseana</i> on basalt (Shepherd et al 2001).</p> <p>Mapped Beard vegetation association 175 is described as short bunch grassland - savanna/grass plain (Pilbara) (Shepherd et al 2001).</p> <p>Mapped Beard vegetation association 587 is described as mosaic: Hummock grasslands, open low tree-steppe; snappy gum over <i>Triodia wiseana</i> / Hummock grasslands, shrub-steppe; kanji over <i>Triodia pungens</i> (Shepherd et al 2001).</p> <p>Mapped Beard vegetation association 607 is described as hummock grasslands, low tree steppe; snappy gum and bloodwood over soft spinifex and <i>Triodia wiseana</i> (Shepherd et al 2001).</p>
Vegetation Condition	<p>Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery 1994)</p> <p>To</p> <p>Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994).</p>
Comments	<p>The application is to clear up to 26.592 hectares of regrowth vegetation along a transmission line access track and transmission tower service pads, for ease of access and fire hazard reduction.</p> <p>The vegetation under application has been previously cleared and consists of regrowth in a completely degraded to good (Keighery 1994) condition.</p> <p>The description and condition of the vegetation was determined using a biological survey provided by the applicant (Astron Environmental Services 2013).</p>

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles and planning instruments and other matters

The application is to clear up to 26.592 hectares of native vegetation along a transmission line access track and transmission tower service pads, for ease of access and fire hazard reduction. The proposed amendment to CPS 5887/3 relates to extending the permit duration by five years to 28 June 2029 to allow for ongoing approved activities and maintenance of the area. The original clearing area consisted of regrowth vegetation, with the purpose of the permit is to maintain those areas. No new areas for clearing are required as part of this permit extension. A review of current environmental information indicates that the environmental values present within the existing permit area remain largely unchanged from the previous assessments of the permit.

An update to the permit has occurred to reflect the current departmental procedures.

Given the nature of the proposed amendment, the Delegate Officer determined that the extent of impacts remains unchanged from the previous assessments of the permit and can be found in the Decision Report prepared for Clearing Permit CPS 5887/1 and CPS 5887/3.

Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

The clearing permit amendment application was advertised on the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's (DWER's) website on 10 June 2024, inviting submissions from the public within a 7-day period. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

The application is to clear up to 26.592 hectares of native vegetation along a transmission line access track and transmission tower service pads, for ease of access and fire hazard reduction.

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Parks and Wildlife Service – Pilbara Region have been advised of this amendment application due to the proximity of the clearing permit to the Millstream Chichester National Park. No advice has been received in objection to the amendment.

Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd has access rights to Lot 502, 503, 504, 505, 510 and 511 through DBCA lease 2086/101 to enable the ongoing operation of a 220Kw powerline through a couple of sections of the Millstream Chichester National Park. The lease 2086/101 has been in place since 2004 and was renewed after the initial 10 year term for a further 10 years. The current term is due to expire in July 2024. Hamersley Iron has provided evidence that the lease will be extended for another 10 years. DWER considers that it is Hamersley Iron's responsibility to ensure lease 2086/101 is valid to undertake any clearing authorised under this permit and the extension to the period in which clearing is authorised under CPS 5887/4 aligns with the proposed new expiry date of the lease 2086/101 (Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd, 2024).

DWER notes that Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd has access rights to Lot 24 and Lot 150 through lease 123646 and Lot 13 through lease 195323. The current lease term is due to expire on 31 December 2027. Hamersley Iron has communicated that the lease will be extended for another 21 years. DWER considers that it is Hamersley Iron's responsibility to ensure lease 123646 and 195323 are extended to the period in which clearing is authorised under CPS 5887/4 (Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd, 2024).

The application area is within the Harding Dam Catchment Area, gazetted under the *Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947* (CAWS Act) and assigned as Priority 1 under the Water Source Protection Planning (WSPP). WSPP has assessed this amendment clearing application for the purposes of transmission line maintenance, access track maintenance and found the proposed activities to be compatible with conditions in the priority 1 (P1) area of the Harding Dam Catchment Area. DWER seeks that the required best practice management is implemented during the works within the Harding Dam Catchment Area for the protection of water quality and public health (DWER, 2024a).

In consideration of the purpose being clearing for access tracks, under the Land Use Compatibility Tables (LUCT) for Public Drinking Water Source Areas (PDWSAs), roads are compatible with conditions (condition 37) in P1 areas. The best practice condition that the department would seek in the P1 area for access track maintenance is no 37. In consideration of the purposes being clearing for transmission line maintenance. Under the LUCT for PDWSAs, powerlines are compatible with conditions in P1 area (conditions 6, 10 and 24) (DWER, 2024a).

Drinking Water Source Protection Plans and Water Quality Protection Notices have been developed in relation to the protection of both catchment areas and are available from DWER's website. It is Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd's responsibility to ensure compliance with all guidelines and obligations under the CAWS Act (DWER, 2024a).

The application area is within the Pilbara Surface Water Area and Pilbara Ground Water Area as proclaimed under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (RIWI Act). The department received the advice from the North West Planning Advice team and their initial advice remains unchanged and can be found from the previous decision reports (DWER, 2024b; DWER 2019).

4. References

Astron Environmental Services (2013) Millstream Transmission Corridor Level 1 Vegetation, Flora and Fauna Survey, prepared for Rio Tinto Iron Ore Ltd, September 2013 (DER Ref: A711863).

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (2019) CPS 5887/3 Decision Report (DWER Ref: DWERDT160979). Available from: [Index of /permit/5887 \(dwer.wa.gov.au\)](https://www.dwer.wa.gov.au/index-of/permit/5887)

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (Regulatory Services – Water) (2024a) *Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947* advice for clearing permit application CPS 5887/4, received 12 June 2024 (DWER Ref: DWERDT968032).

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (Regulatory Services – Water) (2024b) *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* advice for clearing permit application CPS 5887/4, received 17 June 2024 (DWER Ref: DWERDT968036).

Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd (2024) Clearing Permit Amendment Application CPS 5887/4, Received 7 March 2024 (DWER Ref: DWERDT917621).

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.