



## CLEARING PERMIT

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

<b>Purpose Permit number:</b>	CPS 5929/1
<b>Permit Holder:</b>	Shire of Laverton
<b>Duration of Permit:</b>	5 April 2014 – 5 April 2019

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 purposes of constructing gravel pits, improving creek course and flow, and road realignment.

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

Lot 351 on Deposited Plan 220213, Neale  
Lots 42 on Deposited Plan 238645, Laverton  
Lots 26 on Deposited Plan 240220, Laverton  
Lot 48 on Deposited Plan 31632, Laverton  
Mount Weld Road reserve (PIN 11713643), Laverton  
Unallocated Crown land (PIN 959971), Laverton  
Unnamed road reserve (PIN 1158885), Laverton  
White Cliffs Road reserve (PIN 1356588), Laverton

**3. Area of Clearing**

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 19.69 hectares of native vegetation within the combined areas hatched yellow on attached Plan 5929/1(a), Plan 5929/1(b), Plan 5929/1(c), Plan 5929/1(d), Plan 5929/1(e), Plan 5929/1(f), and Plan 5929/1(g).

**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. 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:

- avoid the clearing of native vegetation;
- minimise the amount of native vegetation to be cleared; and
- reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.

## 7. 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.

## 8. 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.
- (b) within six months following the completion of extractive activities, *revegetate* and *rehabilitate* the area(s) that are no longer required for the purpose for which they were cleared under this Permit by:
  - (i) re-shaping the surface of the land so that it is consistent with the surrounding 5 metres of uncleared land; and
  - (ii) ripping the pit floor and contour batters within the extraction site; and
  - (iii) laying the vegetative material and topsoil retained under condition 8(a) on the cleared area(s); and
  - (iv) 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
  - (v) ensuring only *local provenance* seeds and propagating material are used to *revegetate* and *rehabilitate* the area.
- (c) within 24 months of undertaking *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* in accordance with condition 8(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 8(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, the Permit Holder must undertake additional *planting* or *direct seeding* of native vegetation in accordance with the requirements of condition 8(b)(v) and 8(b)(vi) of this Permit.
- (d) Where additional *planting* or *direct seeding* of native vegetation is undertaken in accordance with condition 8(c)(ii) of this permit, the Permit Holder shall repeat condition 8(c)(i) and 8(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 8(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 8(c)(ii), the CEO may require the Permit Holder to undertake additional *planting* and *direct seeding* in accordance with the requirements under condition 8(c)(ii).

## PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

### 9. 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 8 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.

## 10. 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 9 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, 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 5 January 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 10(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 20 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.

*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 a Department of Parks and Wildlife Regional Weed Summary, regardless of ranking; or
- (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.



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Jane Clarkson  
A/MANAGER  
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

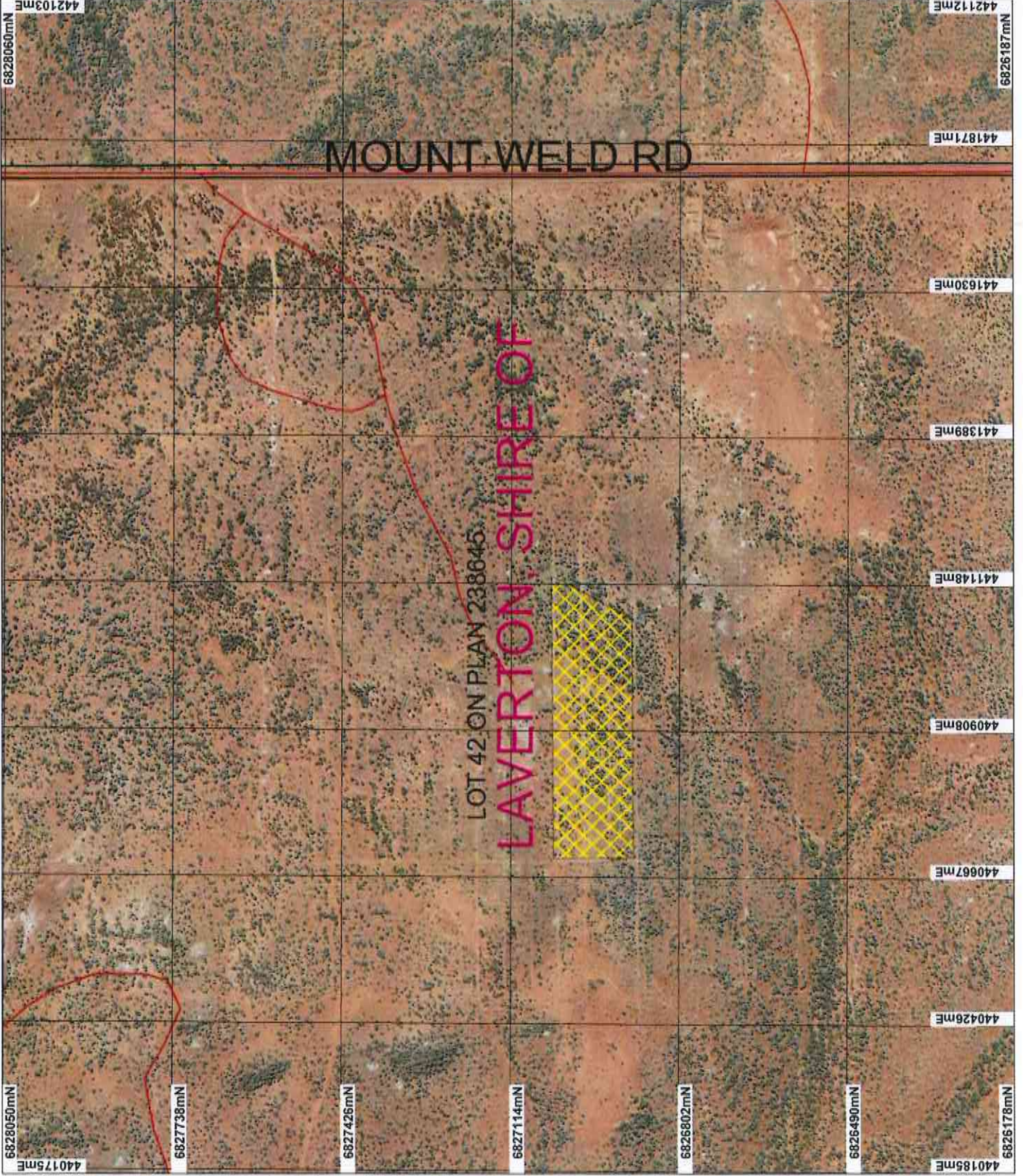
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*Officer delegated under Section 20  
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986*

6 March 2014



# Plan 5929/1 (a)



## LEGEND

- 8380 Copyright
- Local Government / Clearing Instrument
- Areas Approved to Clear
- Laverton 50cm Ortho 2006

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



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Scale 1:9154  
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Geocentric Datum Australia 1994

Note: the data in this map have not been prepared. The map may not be suitable for use in government instruments.

Jane Clarkson Date 03/14

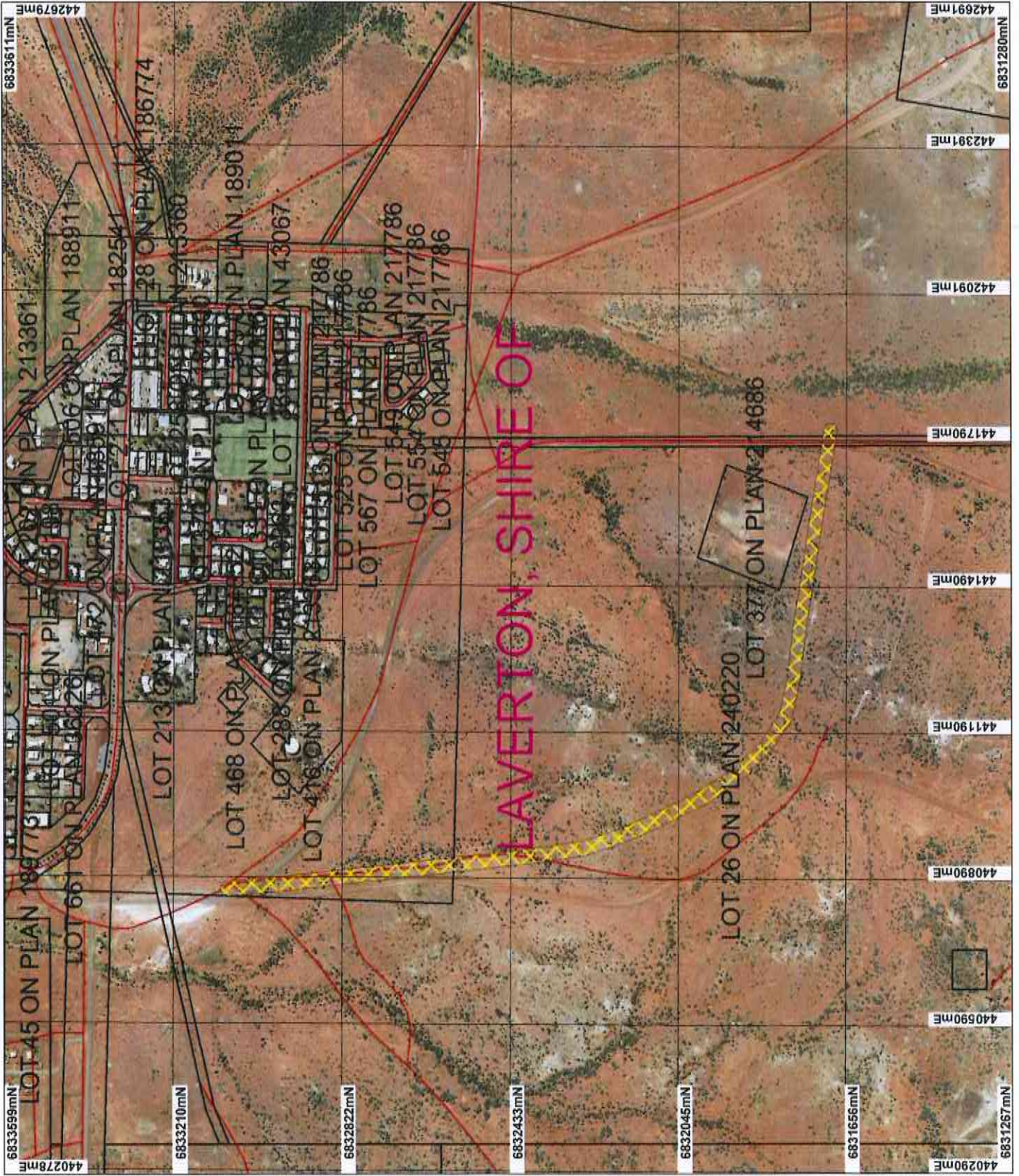
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Department of Environment Regulation  
WA Crown Copyright 2007



# Plan 5929/1 (b)



## LEGEND

- Right-of-Way
- Local Government / Clearing Instrument
- Areas Approved to Clear
- Laverton 50cm Orth 2006

\* Project Data is denoted by asterisk.  
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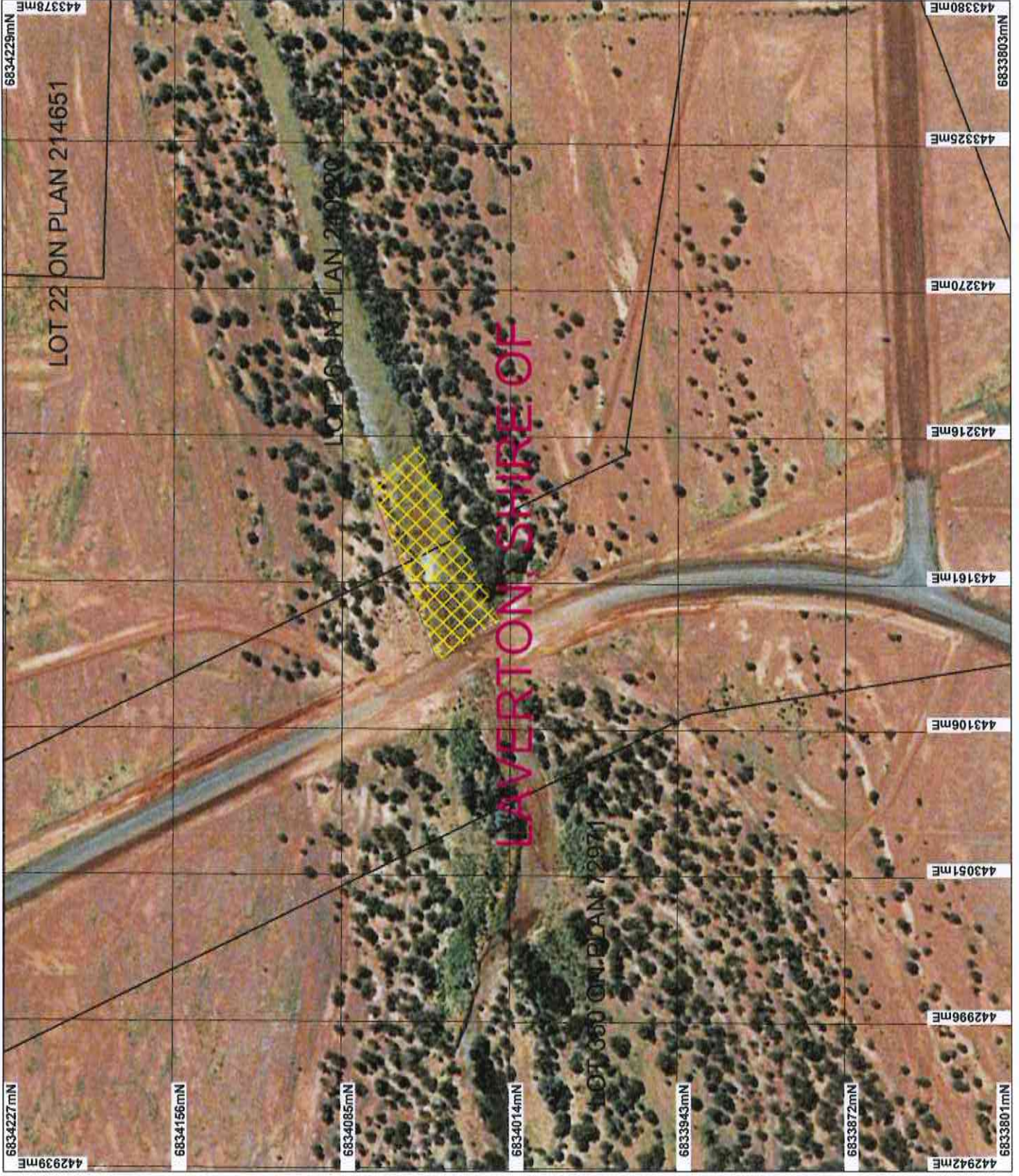
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# Plan 5929/1 (c)



## LEGEND

- Boundaries
- Local Government / Clearing Instrument
- Areas Approved to Clear
- Laverton 50cm Ortho 2005

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*[Signature]* Date 6/3/14  
Jane Clarkson

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by the agency acronym in the legend.





Plan 5929/1 (d)



LEGEND

- Road Centrelines
- Local Government / Clearing Instrument
- Areas Approved to Clear
- Laverton 50cm Orth 2006

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



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 (Approximate when reproduced at A4)

Geocentric Datum Australia 1994

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*Jane Clarkson*  
 Date 6/3/14

Jane Clarkson

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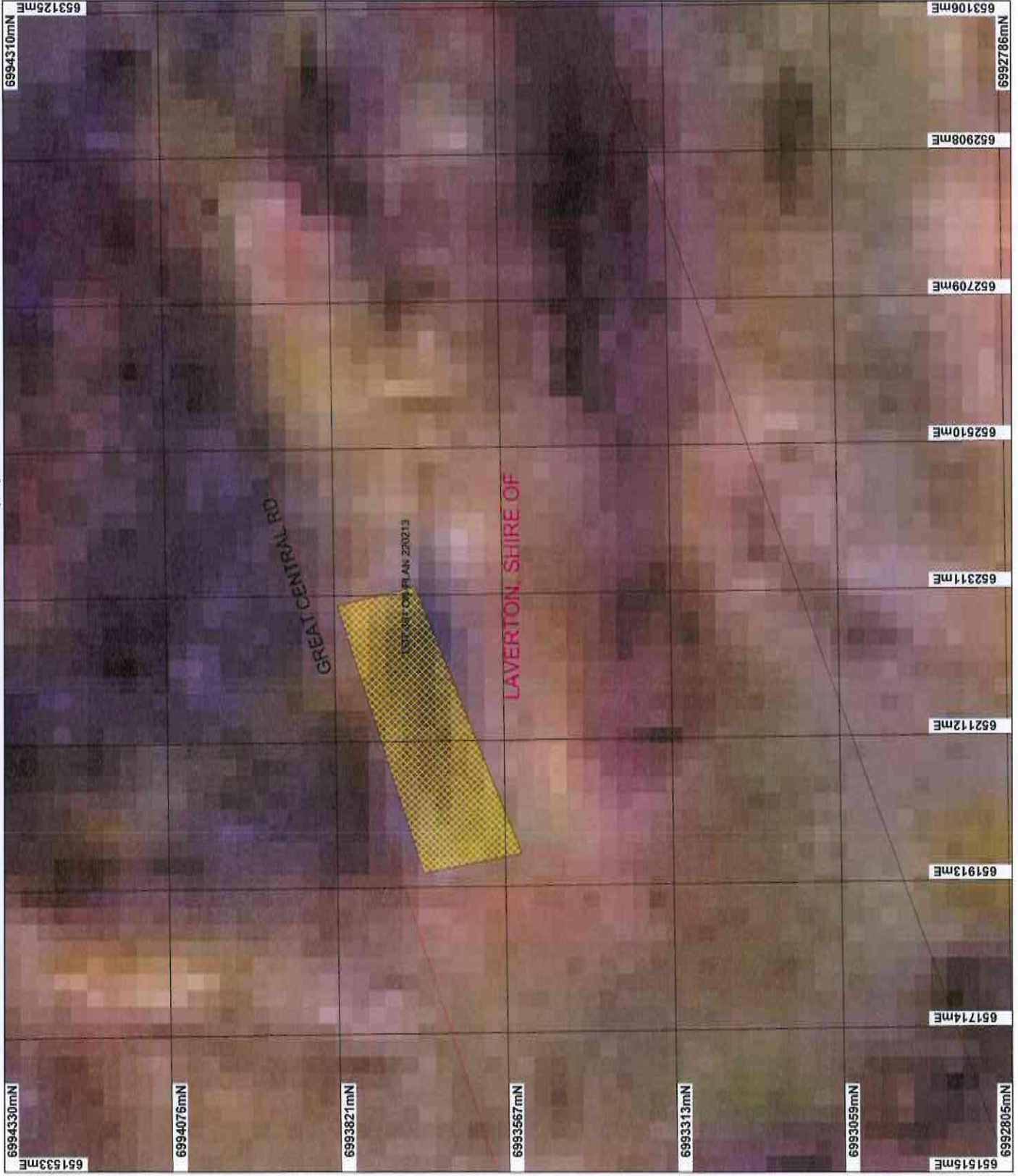
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# Plan 5929/1 (e)



**LEGEND**

- ⬜ Road Centrelines
- ⬜ Local Government / Clearing Instrument
- ⬜ Areas Approved to Clear

Western Australia L  
741 - AGO 2005

\* Project Data is denoted by asterisk.  
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Jana Clarkson Date 6/3/14

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# Plan 5929/1 (f)



**LEGEND**  
 Road Centrelines  
 Cadastre  
 Local Government /  
 Clearing Instrument  
 Areas Approved to Clear

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 This data has not been quality assured.  
 Please contact map author for details.



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Jane Clarkson Date 6/3/17

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 the Environmental Protection Act 1986

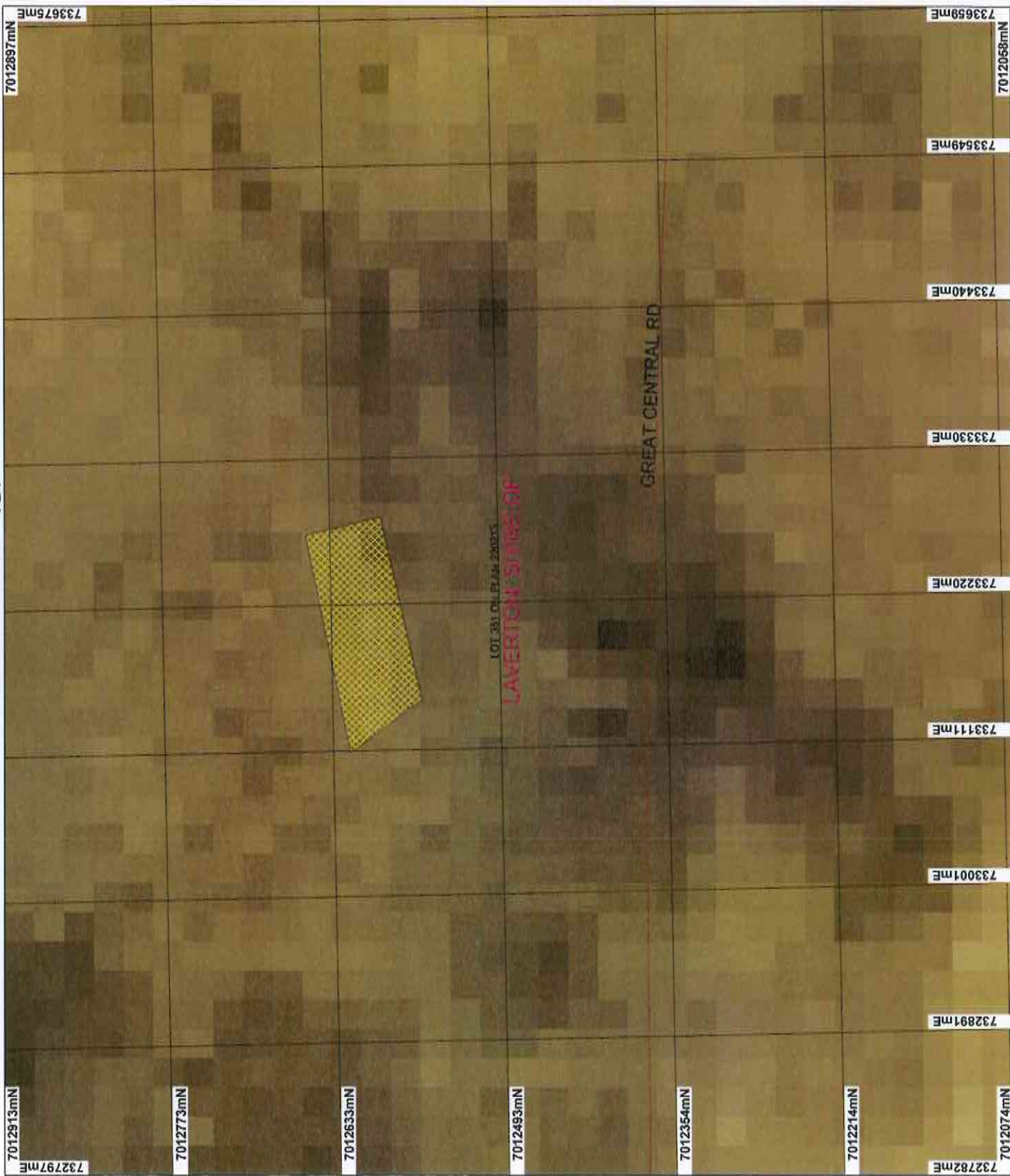
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# Plan 5929/1 (g)



**LEGEND**

- Road Centrelines
- Cadastral
- Local Government /
- Clearing Instrument
- Areas Approved to Clear

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



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 (Approximate when reproduced at A4)

Geocentric Datum Australia 1994

Note: the data in this map have not been  
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 distortion of measurement instruments.

*Jane Clarkson* Date 6/3/14

Office: with delegated authority under Section 20 of  
 the Environmental Protection Act 1986.  
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# Clearing Permit Decision Report

Government of Western Australia  
Department of Environment Regulation

## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 5929/1  
Permit type: Purpose Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Shire of Laverton

### 1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 351 ON PLAN 220213 (NEALE 6440)  
LOT 42 ON PLAN 238645 (House No. 42 MEROLIA LAVERTON 6440)  
ROAD RESERVES (LAVERTON 6440)  
LOT 48 ON PLAN 31632 (LAVERTON 6440)  
LOT 26 ON PLAN 240220 (LAVERTON 6440)  
UNALLOCATED CROWN LAND (LAVERTON 6440)  
Local Government Area: Shire of Laverton

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
19.69		Mechanical Removal	Extractive Industry

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant  
Decision Date: 6 March 2014

## 2. Site Information

### 2.1. Existing environment and information

#### 2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description	Clearing Description	Vegetation Condition	Comment
Mapped Beard Vegetation Association 18 is described as low woodland consisting of Mulga (Shepherd et al, 2001).	The proposed clearing consists of 19.69 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 26 on Deposited Plan 240220, Lot 42 on Deposited Plan 238645, Lot 48 on Deposited Plan 31632, unallocated Crown land, Mount Weld Road reserve, White Cliffs Road reserve and unnamed road reserve, Laverton and Lot 351 on Plan 220213 (Great Central Road), Neale, for the purpose of constructing gravel pits, improving creek course and flow and road realignment.	Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994)	The condition of the vegetation was obtained via aerial imagery (Laverton 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2006).
Mapped Beard Vegetation Association 19 is described as low woodland consisting of Mulga between ridges (Shepherd et al, 2001).			
Mapped Beard Vegetation Association 39 is described as shrublands consisting of mulga scrub (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 is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**  
The proposed clearing consists of 19.69 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 26 on Deposited Plan 240220, Lot 42 on Deposited Plan 238645, Lot 48 on Deposited Plan 31632, unallocated Crown land, Mount Weld Road reserve, White Cliffs Road reserve and unnamed road reserve, Laverton and Lot 351 on Deposited Plan 220213 (Great Central Road), Neale, for the purpose of constructing gravel pits, improving creek course and flow and road realignment.  
  
Five priority flora species (one priority 1, one priority 2 and two priority 3) have been recorded within the local area (20 kilometre radius). Priority 3 species are generally known from collections from several different localities not under imminent threat and the proposed clearing within an extensively vegetated landscape is unlikely to impact on the conservation status of these priority 3 species.



Priority 1 species are known from only a few collections and appear to be under imminent threat from known threatening processes and priority 2 species are known from one or a few collections or sight records that may be comparatively well known from one or more localities but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements. The abovementioned priority 1 and 2 species have been mapped approximately 600 metres east and 8.6 kilometres south of the application areas respectively. These mapped occurrences were recorded in 1931 (priority 1 species) and 1975 (priority 2 species), and it is unlikely that these occurrences would have persisted within the landscape.

The closest priority ecological community (PEC) to the application areas is known as 'Mount Jumbo Range vegetation complex (banded ironstone formation)' mapped approximately three kilometres from the most western application area. The vegetation under application is not representative of this mapped PEC.

The Shire of Laverton is extensively vegetated and retains approximately 99.8 per cent pre-European vegetation (Government of Western Australia, 2013).

Several fauna species of conservation significance have been recorded within the local area (20 kilometre radius), however given that the fauna habitats within the application area are well represented elsewhere within the extensively vegetated local and regional area, no loss of significant habitat for fauna is expected.

The disturbance caused by the proposed clearing will increase the likelihood of weeds spreading into adjacent vegetated areas. Weed management practices will assist in mitigating the risk of spreading weeds.

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

**Methodology** References:  
-Keighery (1994)  
-Government of Western Australia (2013)

GIS Databases:  
-SAC Bio Datasets

**(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**  
Several fauna species of conservation significance have been recorded within the local area (10 kilometre radius), including *Lagostrophus fasciatus* subsp. *fasciatus* (Bernier Is. banded hare-wallaby), *Macrotis lagotis* (bilby), *Myrmecobius fasciatus* (numbat), *Merops ornatus* (rainbow bee-eater), *Polytelis alexandrae* (princess parrot) and *Sminthopsis longicaudata* (long-tailed dunnart) (DEC, 2007- ).

Suitable habitat may be present within the application areas for several of the abovementioned species, however, given that the fauna habitats within the application areas are well represented elsewhere within the extensively vegetated local and regional area, it is not likely that the vegetation under application provides significant habitat for these species.

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

**Methodology** References:  
-DEC (2007- )

**(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 no rare flora mapped within the local area (20 kilometre radius), therefore the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

**Methodology** GIS Databases:  
-SAC Bio Datasets

**(d) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a threatened ecological community.**

**Comments** **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**  
No threatened ecological communities are mapped within the local area (10 kilometre radius), therefore the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

**Methodology** GIS Databases:  
-SAC Bio Datasets



**(e) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.**

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

The 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).

The Great Victoria Desert Bioregion, Shire of Laverton and mapped Beard Vegetation Associations (18, 19 and 39) all retain greater than 99 per cent pre-European vegetation (Government of Western Australia, 2013). This is significantly greater than the abovementioned 30 per cent threshold, therefore the application area is not within an extensively cleared area and is not considered a significant remnant.

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

	Pre-European (ha)	Current Extent (ha)	Remaining (%)	Extent in DEC Managed Lands (%)
<b>IBRA Bioregion*</b>				
Great Victorian Desert	21,794,222	21,784,887	99.96	8.47
<b>Shire*</b>				
Shire of Laverton	17,999,773	17,978,085	99.88	6.6
<b>Beard Vegetation Association</b>				
19	2,866,602	2,866,299	99.99	0
18	12,403,172	12,363,252	99.68	4.97
39	1,183,999	1,183,999	100	2.96

Government of Western Australia (2013)

**Methodology** References:  
-Government of Western Australia (2013)  
-Commonwealth of Australia (2001)

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

**Comments Proposal is at variance to this Principle**

There are no permanent watercourses within the application areas, however several minor non perennial watercourses traverse the application areas, including Skull Creek, which traverses two of the areas under application.

Given the presence of several minor non perennial watercourses on site, the proposed clearing is at variance to this Principle.

**Methodology** GIS Databases:  
-Hydrography, linear  
-Hydrography, hierachy

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

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

The soils within the application areas have been mapped by Northcote et al (1960-68) as shallow earthy loams with shallow red earths and earthy sands, underlain by red-brown hardpan. Associated are soils in sandy areas, sands on dunes and other shallow soils on low silcrete and laterite residuals.

Loams are moderately permeable, and given the low annual rainfall (300 millimetres) of the local area (20 kilometre radius), it is not likely that the proposed clearing will result in water erosion causing appreciable land degradation.

Sandy soils are susceptible to wind erosion and given the size of the area under application there is the potential for the proposed clearing to result in wind erosion post clearing. However, given that the application area falls within an extensively vegetated landscape which will act as a buffer to the application area, it is unlikely that wind erosion will result in appreciable land degradation.

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

**Methodology** References:  
-Northcote et al (1960-68)



GIS Databases:  
-SAC Bio Datasets  
-Rainfall, Mean Annual

**(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 no conservation areas mapped within the local area of the proposed clearing (20 kilometre radius), 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 may be at variance to this Principle**  
There are no permanent watercourses within the application areas, however several minor non perennial watercourses traverse the application areas, including Skull Creek, which traverses two of the areas under application.

Groundwater salinity mapped within the application areas is between 1000 and 3000 milligrams per litre (marginal). Given this relatively low salinity level and that the application areas are within an extensively vegetated landscape, it is considered that the proposed clearing will not lead to a perceptible rise in the watertable and thus an increase in groundwater salinity levels.

The watercourses on site will flow after major rainfall events, therefore the proposed clearing may cause short term issues with surface water sedimentation. However, these issues are likely to be minimal given the non-perennial nature of the watercourses.

The proposed clearing may be at variance to this Principle.

**Methodology** GIS Databases:  
-Hydrography, linear  
-Hydrography, hierachy  
-Groundwater Salinity, Statewide

**(j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.**

**Comments** **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**  
Given the low annual rainfall (300 millimetres) and extensively vegetated landscape, it is unlikely that the proposed clearing will cause or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding.

The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

**Methodology** GIS Databases:  
-Rainfall, Mean Annual

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

**Comments**  
The areas of proposed clearing fall within the Goldfields Groundwater Area proclaimed under the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act (RIWI) 1914. The Department of Water (DoW) were notified of the proposed clearing and advised they had no comment (DoW, 2014).  
A portion of one application area falls within one Aboriginal Site of Significance. It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.  
The application areas are zoned 'Pastoral and Mining' and 'Residential' under the Town Planning Scheme.  
No submissions from the public have been received for the proposed clearing.  
The application areas are within the Central Desert Native Title Services and Goldfields Land and Sea Council Aboriginal Corporation representative areas. Notification of this clearing permit application was made to these representatives and no response has been provided.



**Methodology** GIS Databases:  
-Town Planning Scheme Zones  
-RIWI Groundwater Areas  
-Aboriginal Sites of Significance

#### 4. References

- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.
- DEC (2007 - ) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Parks and Wildlife. URL: <http://naturemap.dec.wa.gov.au/>. Accessed February 2013.
- DoW (2014) Rights in Water and Irrigation 1914 Advice for CPS5929/1. Department of Water, Western Australia. DER Ref A732406
- 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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