



# Clearing Permit Decision Report

## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 6181/2  
Permit type: Purpose Permit

### 1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: BMT Oceanica Pty Ltd  
Application received date: 15 February 2019

### 1.3. Property details

Property: Lot 1225 on Deposited Plan 219775  
Local Government Authority: Shire of Dandaragan  
Localities: Jurien Bay

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	Purpose category:
14.223		Mechanical Removal	Dredge material disposal

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted  
Decision Date: 21 June 2019

Reasons for Decision: The clearing permit application was assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with s.51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. It has been concluded that the proposed clearing may be at variance to principle (g), and is not likely to be at variance to any of the remaining clearing principles.

In determining to grant a clearing permit subject to conditions, the Delegated Officer considered that the proposed clearing is not likely to lead to an unacceptable risk to the environment.

## 2. Site Information

<b>Clearing Description</b>	The application is to clear 14.223 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 1225 on Deposited Plan 219775 for the purpose of disposing of dredge material.
<b>Vegetation Description</b>	Based on available datasets, the vegetation within the application area is mapped as Beard Vegetation Association 1026: Mosaic: Shrublands; <i>Acacia rostellifera</i> , <i>A. cyclops</i> (in the south) & <i>Melaleuca cardiophylla</i> (in the north) thicket / Shrublands; <i>Acacia lasiocarpa</i> & <i>Melaleuca acerosa</i> heath (Shepherd et al, 2001).
<b>Vegetation Condition</b>	Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994)  to  Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery, 1994).
<b>Soil type</b>	Soils mapped within the area under application are described as coastal dune formations backed by the low-lying deposits of inlets and estuaries: chief soils are calcareous sands on the dunes (Northcote et al, 1960-68).
<b>Comment</b>	The condition of the vegetation has been determined by aerial imagery. There are vehicular tracks within the application area with these areas considered to be in completely degraded condition.

## 3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

This amendment has been made to increase the application area to 14.223 hectares and to extend the permit duration by 10 years. The application area has been extended to increase the capacity of the onshore disposal area at the Jurien Bay Boat Harbour (JBBH).

Figure 1 below indicates the area previously approved under CPS 6181/1 and Figure 2 represents the amended area under this application.

A re-assessment against the clearing principles determined that the outcomes of the previous assessment largely remained the same. The application area is not considered to comprise a high level of biodiversity, and is unlikely to comprise the whole or a part of, or be necessary for the maintenance of a priority ecological community or threatened ecological community. A Priority 2 flora species recorded within the local area (10 kilometre radius) at the time of the assessment of the original clearing permit application (CPS 6181/1), has been downgraded to Priority 3 (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). Priority 3 species are known from several locations and these species do not appear to be under imminent threat (DBCA, 2019). The proposed clearing is not likely to have a significant impact on the conservation status of priority flora species recorded within the local area.

The proposed clearing is not likely to significantly impact on the habitat of fauna due to the large extent of the pre-European vegetation remaining within the surroundings.

The vegetation proposed to be cleared is mapped as Beard Vegetation Association 1026 (Shepherd et al, 2001) which retains approximately 94 per cent of its original extent of native vegetation within the Swan Coastal Plain IBRA Bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2018). The Shire of Dandaragan retains approximately 40 per cent of its original vegetation extent (Government of Western Australia, 2018). The proposed clearing is not likely to be considered a significant remnant within an extensively cleared area.

The application area does not intersect any watercourses or wetlands, however, it is in close proximity to the coastline. Soils mapped within the area under application are described as coastal dune formations backed by the low-lying deposits of inlets and estuaries: chief soils are calcareous sands on the dunes (Northcote et al, 1960-68). Given the soil type and the exposure of the application area to strong winds, the proposed clearing renders the area susceptible to wind erosion. However, the applicant has advised that this is managed by spreading topsoil over the area to reduce wind erosion and historical monitoring of the existing onshore disposal area indicated wind erosion has not presented as an impact (BMT Oceanica, 2019a). Therefore the risk of appreciable land degradation is low as the risk is minimised by appropriate management practices.

Jurien Bay Marine Park is situated approximately 20 metres west of the application area. However, the proposed clearing is for the onshore disposal of dredged material at JBBH to avoid impacts to the Jurien Bay Marine Park from ocean disposal. It is not likely that the proposed clearing will have a significant impact to the conservation values of the Jurien Bay Marine Park.

Noting the extent of the amended application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to deteriorate the quality of ground water, or cause or exacerbate the potential for flooding within the application area and surrounds.



Figure 1: Area approved for clearing under CPS 6181/1 (outlined in yellow)

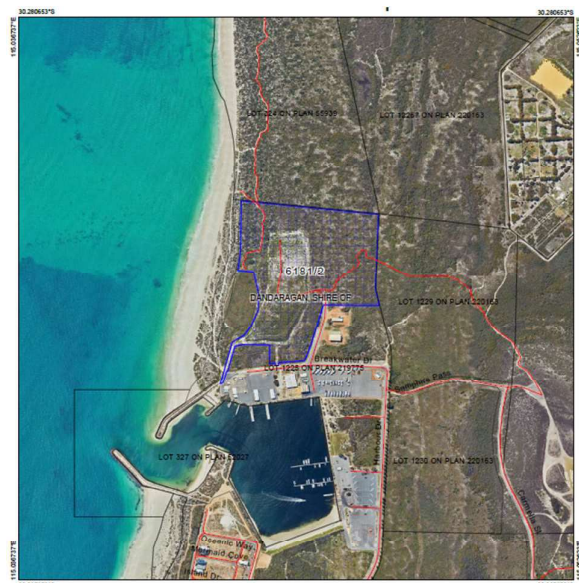


Figure 2: Amended area under application (outlined in blue)

### Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

The Department of Transport is required to undertake ongoing maintenance dredging of JBBH to maintain navigability for vessel access as required by the *Marine and Harbours Act 1981*, and has given authority for BMT Oceanica Pty Ltd to access the application area and undertake the proposed clearing (BMT Oceanica, 2019b).

The Shire of Dandaragan has no objection to the amendment of clearing permit CPS 6181/1 (Shire of Dandaragan, 2019).

The assessment of planning instruments and other relevant matters has not changed and can be found in Clearing Permit Decision Report CPS 6181/1.

#### 4. References

- BMT Oceanica Pty Ltd (2019a) Comments in relation to application for an amendment to clearing permit CPS 6181/1. (DWER ref: A1791535)
- BMT Oceanica Pty Ltd (2019b) Application for an amendment to clearing permit CPS 6181/1. (DWER ref: A1765476)
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) (2019) Conservation codes for Western Australia flora and fauna, last updated 3 January 2019.
- Government of Western Australia (2018) 2017 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of February 2018. WA Department of Parks and Wildlife, 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 Dandaragan (2019) Comments in relation to application for an amendment to CPS 6181/1. Received 1 March 2019. (DWER ref: A1769221).
- Western Australian Herbarium (1998- ) FloraBase - The Western Australian Flora. Department of Parks and Wildlife. <http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/> (Accessed 14/05/2019).

#### 5. GIS databases

- Aboriginal sites of significance
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
- Hydrography, Linear
- Sac bio datasets (accessed March 2019)