



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 6199/1
Permit Holder:	DDG Ashburton Pty Ltd
Duration of Permit:	1 November 2014 – 1 November 2024

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 facilitating the construction and operation of a gas pipeline.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Lot 561 on Deposited Plan 71346, Talandji

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 31.8 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross hatched yellow on attached Plan 6199/1.

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. Period in which clearing is authorised

The Permit Holder shall not clear any native vegetation after 1 November 2019.

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*:

- clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
- ensure that no *weed*-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill* or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and
- 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 clearing authorised under this Permit, *revegetate* and *rehabilitate* areas no longer required for the purpose for which they were cleared under this Permit, 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.
- (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).

8. Construction Environmental Plan

- (a) The Permit Holder must prepare a Construction Environment Plan;
- (b) The final Construction Environment Plan must be approved by the CEO prior to commencing works; and
- (c) Prior to clearing the Permit Holder must implement the approved Construction Environment Plan.

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

9. 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.

10. Reporting

- (a) The Permit Holder must provide to the CEO on or before 31 December 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 year.
- (b) If no clearing authorised under this Permit was undertaken between 1 January to 31 December of the preceding year, a written report confirming that no clearing under this permit has been carried out, must be provided to the CEO on or before 31 December of each year.
- (c) Prior to 1 August 2024, the Permit Holder must provide to the CEO a written report of records required under condition 9 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 is engaged by the Permit Holder for the purpose of providing environmental advice, 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;

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 50 kilometres 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;

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 *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 Rankings Summary, regardless of ranking; or
- (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.

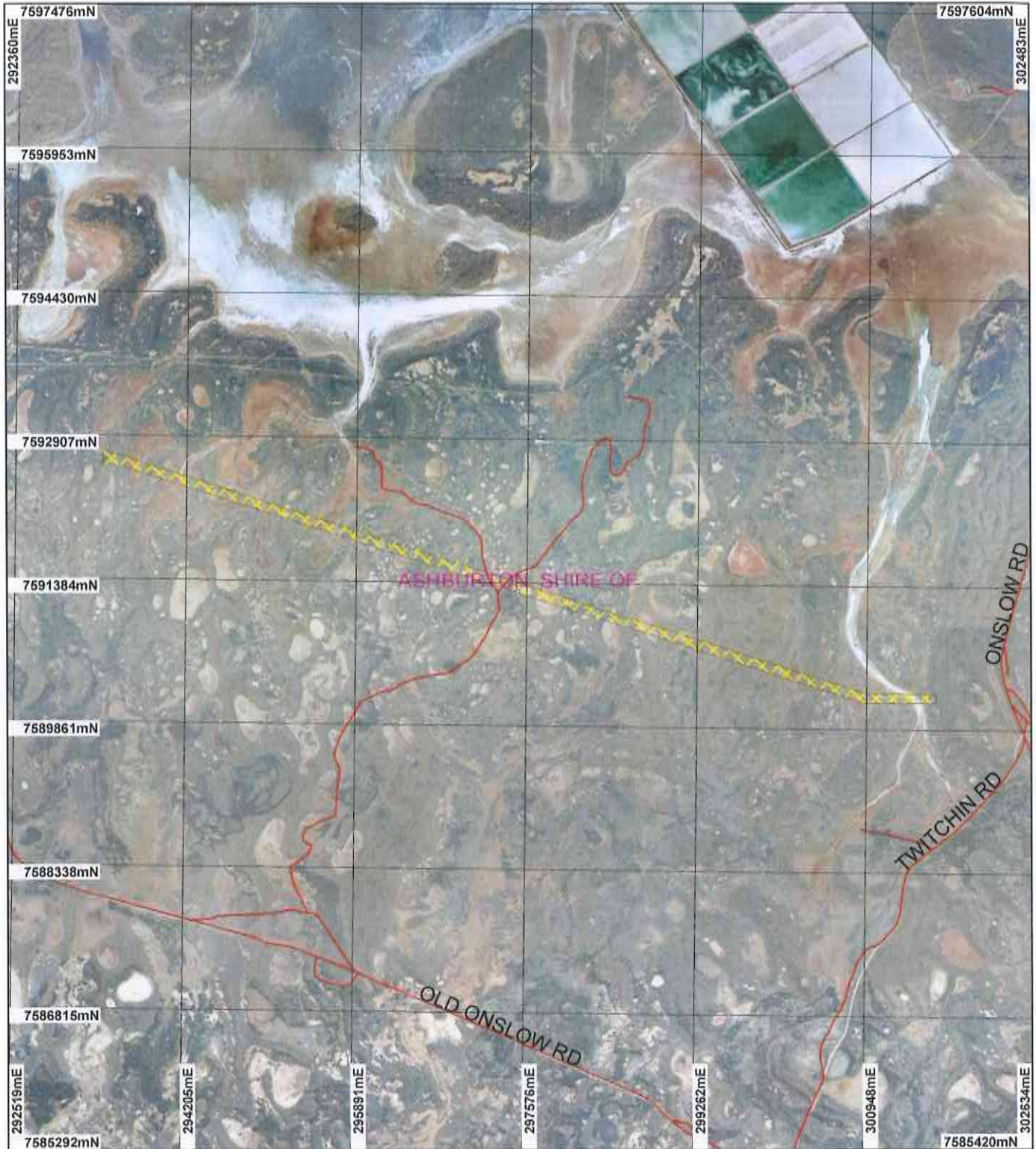


Jane Clarkson
A/SENIOR MANAGER
CLEARING REGULATION

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

2 October 2014

Plan 6199/1



LEGEND

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Clearing Instruments | Local Government Authorities |
| Areas Approved to Clear | Onslow 1.4m Orthomosaic - Landgate 2001 |
| Road Centrelines | |
| Cadastre | |
| Towns | |



Scale 1:55972
(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.

Jane Clarkson Date 2.10.14

Jane Clarkson
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.



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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.: 6199/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: DDG Ashburton Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 561 ON PLAN 71346 (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:
31.8		Mechanical Removal	Water/gas/cable/pipeline/power installation

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 2 October 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
Beard vegetation association 589: Mosaic: Short bunch grassland - savanna / grass plain (Pilbara) / Hummock grasslands, grass steppe; soft spinifex (Shepherd et al, 2001).	The application is to clear 31.8 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 561 on Plan 71346, Talandji, Shire of Ashburton for the purpose of facilitating the construction and operation of a gas pipeline.	Pristine: No obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994) To Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)	A Flora and Vegetation Survey undertaken by Mattiske Consulting 2014 recorded 54 plant taxa within the Ashburton North Gas Pipeline Project Area. The vegetation under application is in a degraded to pristine (Keighery, 1994) condition (Mattiske Consulting, 2014) with the majority being in an excellent condition. The structure and condition of the vegetation under application was determined from a Level 1 Flora and Vegetation Survey undertaken by Mattiske Consulting in April 2014.
Beard vegetation association 670: Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; scattered shrubs over <i>Triodia basedowii</i> (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 application is to clear 31.8 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 561 on Plan 71346, Talandji, Shire of Ashburton for the purpose of facilitating the construction and operation of a gas pipeline.

The proposed clearing will be undertaken within a clearing footprint of 90 hectares at a linear length of nine kilometres (DDG Ashburton, 2014). The width of the proposed clearing will be between 25 - 30 metres (DDG Ashburton, 2014). The vegetation under application is in a degraded to pristine (Keighery, 1994) condition, with the majority being in an excellent condition (Mattiske Consulting, 2014).

A total of four priority flora species have been recorded within 20 kilometres of the application area, three of these species are mapped within the same vegetation and soil type as the application area. A Flora and Vegetation Survey of the application and surrounding areas identified two priority 3 flora species (Mattiske

Consulting, 2014). Of the two species recorded one occurs within the application area.

Eight individual taxa of a priority 3 species were recorded within the proposed clearing area (Mattiske Consulting, 2014). The species is described as much-branded shrub, 0.5 to 1.5 metres high, producing pale pink flowers from June to August (Mattiske Consulting, 2014). There have been five records of this species across three IBRA Regions (WA Herbarium, 1998). The species has been previously recorded within the local area but these records have not been recorded with the Western Australian Herbarium (Mattiske Consulting, 2014). Therefore, it is likely the species has been under collected and the current records of this species represents a minor range extension.

The applicant has advised that the priority flora species recorded within the application area may be impacted from the proposal. However, the applicant will try to mitigate this impact through its internal application of standard conservation techniques (DDG Ashburton, 2014).

Priority 3 species are generally known from collections from several different localities not under imminent threat but could be if circumstances change.

A fauna survey of the application area determined that several conservation significant fauna species have the potential to occur within the application area (Ninox Wildlife Consulting, 2014). Given the linear shape of the application area and that the landscape surrounding the application area is extensively vegetated, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on significant habitat for indigenous fauna, as comparable fauna habitat is likely to occur immediately adjacent to the proposed pipeline alignment.

The proposed clearing has the potential to spread weeds into areas outside of the clearing footprint and degrade the condition of the vegetation within these areas. Weed management practices will help mitigate this risk.

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

Methodology

References:

- DDG Ashburton, 2014
- Mattiske Consulting (2014)
- Keighery (1994)
- Ninox Wildlife Consulting (2014)
- Western Australian Herbarium (1998)

GIS Databases:

- SAC Bio Datasets (Accessed September 2014)

(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 20 kilometres of the area under application, including the Pilbara olive python (*Liasis olivaceous barroni*), Northern quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*), Western barred bandicoot (*Perameles bougainville*) and Fairy tern (*Sterna nereis subsp. nereis*) (DEC, 2007-).

A fauna assessment of the proposed Ashburton North Gas Pipeline identified seven fauna habitats that range from shrublands on red sands dunes and swales, to bare claypans (Ninox Wildlife Consulting, 2014). However there is a large degree of overlap between some of these habitats and none of these habitats are considered to be of conservation significance (Ninox Wildlife Consulting, 2014).

Approximately 95 per cent of vegetation within a 20 kilometre radius of the application area remains. Additionally the fauna habitats present within the proposed clearing area are widespread in the area (Ninox Wildlife Consulting, 2014). Considering this and the linear nature of the proposed clearing, the application is not likely to impact on significant fauna habitat.

The application is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

The most significant potential impact to conservation significant fauna is likely to be entrapment within the open gas pipeline trench, resulting in death or injury. Open trenches can have a significant impact on terrestrial fauna as they inadvertently become pit traps and may result in rapid dehydration, starvation and predation by larger, more mobile fauna (Ninox Wildlife Consulting, 2014).

The proponent has provided a Draft Construction Environment Plan (CEP) with the application which outlines a commitment to rescue fauna that have become trapped in the trench twice daily, within three hours of sunrise and prior to sunset, by a trained fauna handler with a licence to take fauna. The draft CEP states that no part of the trench shall remain open for more than 14 days, fauna shelters will be placed in open trenches, trench plugs and fauna exit ramps will be installed at both ends of the trenches and construction will be planned to avoid open trenching during November to March to minimise fauna stress in hotter months (DDG Ashburton, 2014). The proponent will be required to submit a final copy of the CEP for approval before any clearing is undertaken.

Methodology References:
 - DDG Ashburton, 2014
 - DEC (2007-)
 - Ninnox Wildlife Consulting (2014)

(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 has been no rare flora species recorded within a 20 kilometre radius of the proposed clearing area. A Flora and Vegetation Survey undertaken of the proposed clearing area did not identify any rare flora within the proposed clearing area (Mattiske Consulting, 2014).
 Considering the above, the application is not at variance to this principle.

Methodology References:
 - Mattiske Consulting (2014)
 GIS Databases:
 - SAC Bio Datasets (Accessed September 2014)

(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 have been no threatened ecological communities (TEC's) recorded within a 20 kilometre radius of the area under application. A Flora and Vegetation Survey undertaken of the proposed clearing area recorded seven vegetation communities within the proposed clearing area (Mattiske Consulting, 2014). Of the recorded vegetation communities, none were a representation of a TEC.
 Considering the above, the application is not at variance to this principle.

Methodology References:
 - Mattiske Consulting (2013)
 GIS Databases:
 - SAC Bio Datasets (Accessed September 2014)

(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 area under application is represented by Beard vegetation associations 589 and 670 which both have 99 per cent of their pre-European vegetation remaining in the Carnarvon IBRA Bioregion.
 The National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation include a target that prevents the clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30 per cent of that present pre-European settlement (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001). The vegetation types located within the area under application are above this level.
 Approximately 95 per cent of pre-European vegetation remains within 20 kilometres of the area under application. Considering this and that the vegetation types mapped in the application area are well represented within the IBRA Bioregion, the vegetation under application is not significant as a remnant in an extensively cleared landscape.
 The application is not a variance to this principle.

	Pre-European (ha)	Current Extent (ha)	Remaining (%)	Extent in DPaW Managed Lands (%)
IBRA Bioregion				
Carnarvon	8,382,890	8,360,803	99	12
Shire				
Shire of Ashburton	10,086,657	10,059,961	99	16
Beard Vegetation Association in Bioregion				
589	78,100	77,834	99	0
670	147,808	147,792	99	12

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

The area under application intersects seasonally inundated wetlands, numerous drainage lines and Quick Mud Creek which are subject to inundation during the wet season. The applicant has advised the planned construction is to be carried out in the dry season, when these watercourses are typically dry (DDG Ashburton, 2014).

Wetland vegetation will be impacted upon from the proposed clearing however, given the linear nature of the proposed clearing it is unlikely any significant impacts will occur to the watercourses.

The application is at variance to this principle.

Methodology

References:

- DDG Ashburton (2014)

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 area under application consists of two soil types.

Soils Oc58 is described 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 (Northcote et al, 1960-68)

Soil SV8 salt flats, tidal swamps, and coastal dune sands, chief soils are saline loams with shelly sands (Northcote et al, 1960-68)

The proposed clearing is of a linear nature at a width of 25 to 30 metres over a distance of nine kilometres (DDG Ashburton, 2014). Given the nature of the proposed clearing and that the landscape surrounding the application area is extensively vegetated it is unlikely the proposed clearing will cause appreciable land degradation.

The application it not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology

References:

- DDG Ashburton (2014)

- Northcote et al (1960-68)

(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 likely to be at variance to this Principle

There has been no conservation areas recorded within 20 kilometres of the proposed clearing area.

The application is not at variance to this principle.

Methodology

GIS Databases:

- DPaW 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 likely to be at variance to this Principle

The area under application intersects with seasonally inundated wetlands, numerous drainage lines and Quick Mud Creek which are subject to inundation during the wet season. The proposed clearing may increase sedimentation within the watercourses that intersect with the clearing footprint however, this is considered to be short term and have minimal impacts.

Groundwater salinity mapped within the application area is between 500 and 3000 milligrams per litre (marginal to brackish). Given this relatively low salinity level, linear shape of the application area and extensively vegetated landscape, it is considered that the proposed clearing will not lead to a perceptible rise in the water table and thus an increase in groundwater salinity levels.

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

Methodology GIS Databases:
-Hydrography, linear
-Hydrography, hierachy
- Salinty, Groundwater

(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 linear nature of the proposed clearing, low annual rainfall (400 millimetres), flat topography and extensively vegetated landscape, it is not likely 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 Databses:
-Rainfall, Mean Annual

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

Comments
There have been no submissions received from the general public in response to the proposed clearing.

The applicant has advised more than 90 per cent of the disturbance footprint will be progressively rehabilitated as the construction activity moves along the alignment. Only a five metre access track will be retained for ongoing operational access to the pipeline (DDG Ashburton, 2014).

Methodology References:
- DDG Ashburton (2014)

4. References

- DDG Ashburton Pty Ltd (2014) Onslow Lateral Native Vegetation Clearing Permit Application for the Onslow Lateral Pipeline Project. Clearing Permit Application CPS 6199/1 (DER Ref:A785603).
- DEC (2007 -) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Environment and Conservation. URL: <http://naturemap.dec.wa.gov.au/>. Accessed September 2014
- 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.
- Mattiske Consulting Pty Ltd (2014) Level 1 Flora and Vegetation Survey of the Ashburton North Gas Pipeline Project Area. Clearing Permit Application CPS 6199/1 (DER Ref:A785603).
- Ninox Wildlife Consulting (2014) A Level 1 Vertebrate Fauna Assessment of the Proposed Ashburton North Gas Pipeline, Western Australia. Clearing Permit Application CPS 6199/1 (DER Ref:A785603).
- 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.
- Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) FloraBase - The Western Australian Flora. Department of Parks and Wildlife. <http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/> (Accessed September 2014).