



## CLEARING PERMIT

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

### PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 6639/1  
File Number: 2015/001541-1  
Duration of Permit: 24 October 2015 to 24 October 2017

### PERMIT HOLDER

Mr Lon Croot

### LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Lot 11 on Plan 16971, Kununurra

### AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 40 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 6639/1.

### CONDITIONS

#### 1. Type of Clearing Authorised

The Permit Holder shall not clear native vegetation unless horticulture activities are commenced within three months of the authorised clearing being undertaken.

#### 2. Mitigation

In determining the amount of native vegetation to be cleared under this Permit, the Permit Holder must have regard to the following principles, set out in 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.

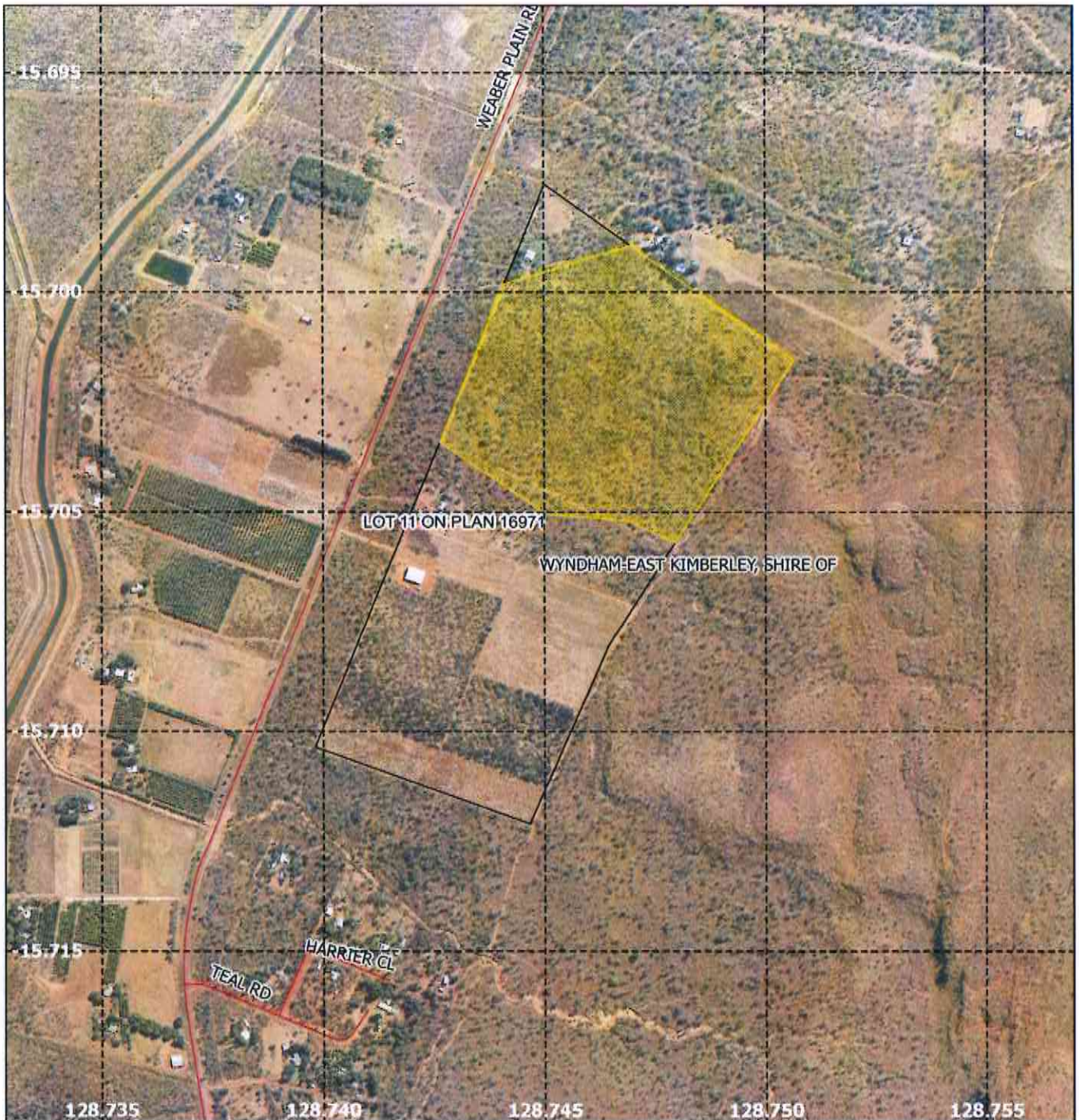
A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "M Warnock".

M Warnock  
SENIOR MANAGER  
CLEARING REGULATION

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

24 September 2015

# Plan 6639/1



## Legend

-  Areas approved to clear
-  Roads
-  Cadastre
-  local\_gov\_authority
- Virtual Mosaic



1:12,000

MGA 94

Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

 Date 24/9/15  
M Warnock

Officer with delegated authority under Section 20  
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986



GOVERNMENT OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA





## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 6639/1  
Permit type: Area Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Mr Lon Croot

### 1.3. Property details

Property: Lot 11 on Plan 16971, Kununurra  
Local Government Authority: Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley  
DER Region: North West  
DPaW District: East Kimberley  
LCDC: Ord River  
Localities: Kununurra

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
40		Mechanical Removal	Horticulture

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant  
Decision Date: 24 September 2015

## 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 909 is described as Grasslands, high grass savanna woodland; bloodwood, stringybark & woollybutt over upland tall grass & curly spinifex on sandplain (Shepherd et al., 2001).	Mr Lon Croot proposes to clear up to 40 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 11 On Plan 16971, Kununurra, for the purpose of horticulture.	Degraded; Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery, 1994).	Vegetation condition was determined based on aerial imagery and images supplied by the applicant (Petty, 2015). The site has been subjected to long-term grazing pressure.

## 3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

**Comments** The clearing of 40 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 11 on Plan 16971 is for the purpose of horticulture. Vegetation within the application area is in a degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition, and is within a corridor of land located along the Ord River that is primarily used for agricultural purposes.

According to available databases, one rare and 36 priority flora species have been recorded within 20 kilometres of the application area (Parks and Wildlife, 2007-). With consideration to vegetation and soil mapping, a total of nine priority flora have the potential to occur within the application area (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). However, these priority flora are grass species and are unlikely to remain within the application area given the degraded condition of vegetation and the long term grazing pressure that has occurred on the property. Given the condition of the vegetation, the application area is not likely to be representative of a priority or threatened ecological community.

One fauna habitat type has been identified within the application area. This habitat, a savannah woodland, is considered to be in a degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition. A review of aerial imagery indicates that habitat within the application area appears to be represented within the surrounding region in a similar or better condition. There are six threatened and eight priority fauna recorded within 20 kilometres of the application area, however none are likely to be dependent on habitat within the application area for foraging, shelter or breeding activities.

Vegetation within the application area is mapped as Beard vegetation association 909. Approximately 99.05 per cent of this vegetation association remains at a bioregional level (Government of Western Australia, 2014). A review of aerial imagery indicates that the application area does not represent a significant remnant of native vegetation within an area that has been extensively cleared.

The nearest conservation area is Mirima National Park, located approximately 4.8 kilometres from the application area. From this distance, it is unlikely that the proposed clearing will impact on the environmental values of this or any other conservation area.

A majority of the application area occurs within the Pago sands land unit, with a small portion to the north-eastern corner of the application area intersecting the Weaber low rises land unit (Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation, 2015). The Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2015) advises that soils associated with the Pago sands land unit are prone to wind and water erosion with the removal of vegetative cover. There are three minor drainage lines mapped within the property under application. Two of these occur within the application area but are not distinguishable on aerial imagery. The third is clearly visible on aerial imagery and is located approximately 50 metres south of the application area.

The applicant has advised that only one drainage line appears to occur on the property, and vegetation associated with this drainage line will not be cleared (Petty, 2015). Clearing the vegetation under application may lead to land degradation through wind and water erosion and lead to an increase in surface water sedimentation. Ensuring horticultural activities commence within three months of clearing are likely to manage the potential for land degradation risk and potential deterioration in surface water quality.

The Kununurra region experiences approximately 800 millimetres of mean annual rainfall and has an annual evapotranspiration rate of 700 millimetres. As a result, temporary flooding following periods of heavy rainfall occurs naturally within the region, and is unlikely to be exacerbated by the proposed clearing activity.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing may be at variance to Principles (f), (g) and (i) and is not likely to be at variance to the remaining Principles.

#### Methodology

References:  
Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2015)  
Government of Western Australia (2014)  
Keighery (1994)  
Parks and Wildlife (2007-)  
Petty (2015)  
Western Australian Herbarium (1998-)

GIS Database:  
- Evapotranspiration, area actual  
- Hydrography, linear  
- Imagery  
- Parks and Wildlife tenure  
- Rainfall, Mean Annual  
-

#### Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

**Comments** The current application proposes to clear up to 40 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 11 on Plan 16971 for the purpose of horticulture.

Advice was received from the Department of Water (DoW) on 20 August 2015 in relation to the current application. It was advised that an application to take groundwater and a licence to construct or alter a well must be submitted to DoW if a groundwater supply bore is to be drilled for horticulture or agricultural purposes (DoW, 2015).

The applicant has advised that the crops will not be irrigated, and therefore a permit to take groundwater is not required. It is the proponent's responsibility to liaise with the Department of Water to determine whether a Bed and Banks Permit or any other licence or approval is required for the proposed works.

Clearing permit, CPS 2423/1, was granted over the application area on 31 July 2008. No conditions were placed on this permit. This permit expired on 31 August 2010 with no clearing being undertaken.

There are no Sites of Aboriginal Significance mapped within the area applied to clear.

The clearing permit application was advertised on 20 July 2015 by the Department of Environment Regulation inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received.

#### Methodology

References:  
DoW (2015)

#### 4. References

- Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2015) Advice received from the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation on 15 September 2015. DER REF: A971182.
- DoW (2015) Advice provided to the assessing officer on 20 August 2015. DER REF: A955203.
- Government of Western Australia (2014) 2014 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of June 2014. 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.
- Parks and Wildlife (2007-) Naturemap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Parks and Wildlife, Perth. <http://naturemap.dpaw.wa.gov.au/default.aspx> (Accessed August 2015).
- Petty, S. (2015) Further information provided by Steven Petty on behalf of Mr Lon Croot. DER REF: A972422.
- Shepherd, D.P., Beeston, G.R. and Hopkins, A.J.M. (2001) Native Vegetation in Western Australia, Extent, Type and Status. Resource Management Technical Report 249. Department of Agriculture, Western Australia.
- Western Australian Herbarium (1998- ) FloraBase - The Western Australian Flora. Department of Parks and Wildlife. <http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>