

Attachment 1 – Supporting Information

Introduction

The Pilbara Ports Authority is looking to undertake the filling of a portion of land (~13.5ha) adjacent to the Wheatstone Gas Plant development site, Onslow (Figure 5). This work is required to lift an existing portion of low lying land above the nominal flood/storm surge level, thus making it viable to support Port-related industries. Once developed, that land will be used for port-related activities, such as laydown to support the adjacent Materials Offloading Facility (MOF).

This is a staged development, with the Application area addressing the full 13.5Ha of the final area. The first stage is approximately 7Ha. All works are expected to be completed within three years, subject to demand for land. A five year permit period has been requested to allow for flexibility in that schedule.

It should be noted that the subject area is part of Ministerial Approval 873 for Chevron's Wheatstone development, and clearing of the native vegetation is approved under that process. However, as the proposal is for a different purpose, advice from the Department of Environmental Regulation (DER) has indicated that a stand-alone permit over the subject can be provided for the proposed works by the Pilbara Ports Authority (Attachment 2).

Existing Situation

The subject area was surveyed as part of the Wheatstone project by Biota Environmental Services (February 2010). The resultant reports have been used as a basis for this application, and are available on-line¹. Despite significant development of the Wheatstone site in adjacent areas, comparison of aerial photography demonstrates that the subject area has remained stable, and thus these reports are valid.

The landforms are mapped as Coastal Sandy Plains, Inland Sand Plains and Claypan (Figure 6). The vegetation of the subject area was mapped as *Acacia tetragonophylla* scattered shrubs over *Triodia epacita* (Spinifex) hummock grasslands. The site also intersects in the southern portion an area mapped as *Tecticornia species* low shrubland, and to the north a small area mapped as *Sporobolus mitchellii*, *Eriachne* aff. *Benthamii*, *E.benthamii*, *Eulalia aurea* tussock Grassland. The boundaries of the subject site have been placed over the Biota vegetation mapping (Figure 7).

Importantly, no Threatened Flora listed under the *EPBC Act 1999*, Declared Rare (*Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*) or Priority listed species were recorded within or immediately adjacent the Proposed Fill Area (Biota 2010).

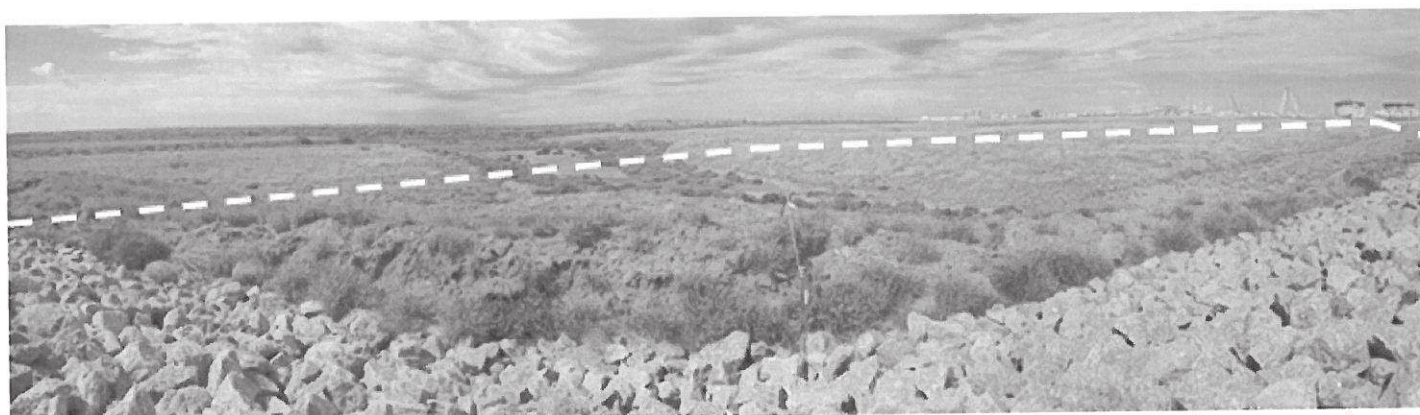


Figure 1: Existing Vegetation on Southern Section of the Proposed Fill Area (March 2015). Dashed line shows approximate boundary of application.

¹ Accessed from <http://www.chevronaustralia.com/docs/default-source/default-document-library/wheatstone-draft-eis-erm-technical-appendices-g1-h1-i1-i2E8A7E557848.pdf?sfvrsn=0>



Figure 2: View within southern portion of proposed fill area, facing south (captured 21 July 2015).



Figure 3: View within southern portion of proposed fill area, facing west (captured 21 July 2015).



Figure 4: View within northern portion of proposed fill area, facing south (captured 21 July 2015).

Proposed Works

The proposal is to fill the land parcel to the desired finished height with material sourced from off-site. The existing rock armour on the northern portion of the site will be stripped off and stockpiled. If required, the vegetation on the subject land area will be grubbed, stockpiled and removed off-site. If geotechnical advice is this is not required for the stability of the final design, the vegetation will remain *in situ* and fill placed directly over top. The fill will be placed and compacted in layers to achieve the required compaction. The area will be over filled, then trimmed back to the design height and profile. The stockpiled armour rock, plus additional similar rock as required, will then be placed on the outer site margins to ensure long-term stability and resistance to storm surge events.

The works will be undertaken in stages, as demand for the land area is realised. The Application Area addresses the total fill area. Stage 1 of these works (shown as the design linework on Figure 6) covers an area of approximately 7Ha. It is anticipated the entire area will be filled over three years in response to project demand, while a five year permit period has been requested to allow for flexibility.

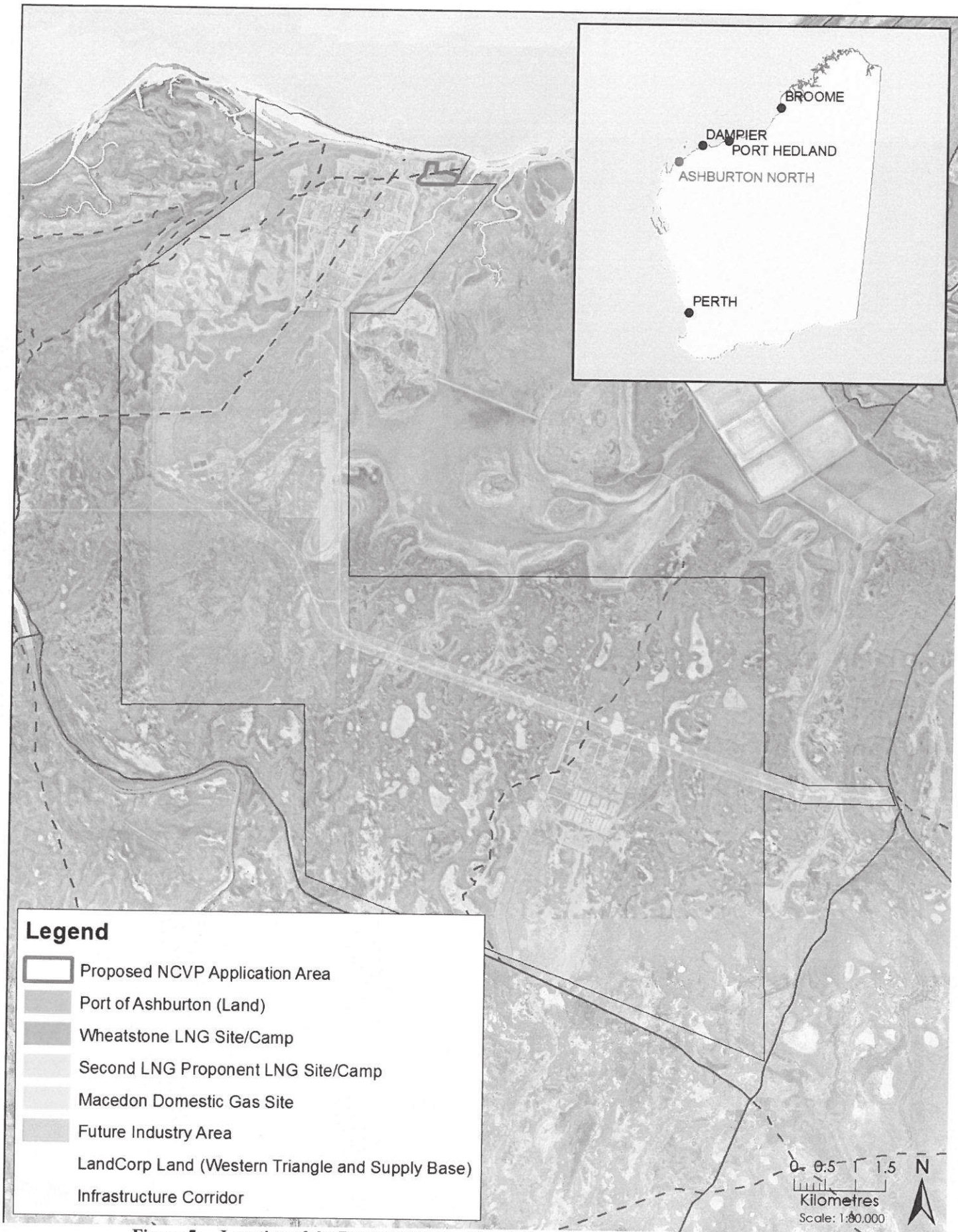


Figure 5: – Location of the Proposed Native Vegetation Clearing Permit Application Area.



Figure 6: Landforms Within and Adjacent to the Proposed Native Vegetation Clearing Permit Application Area (Adapted from Biota 2010)

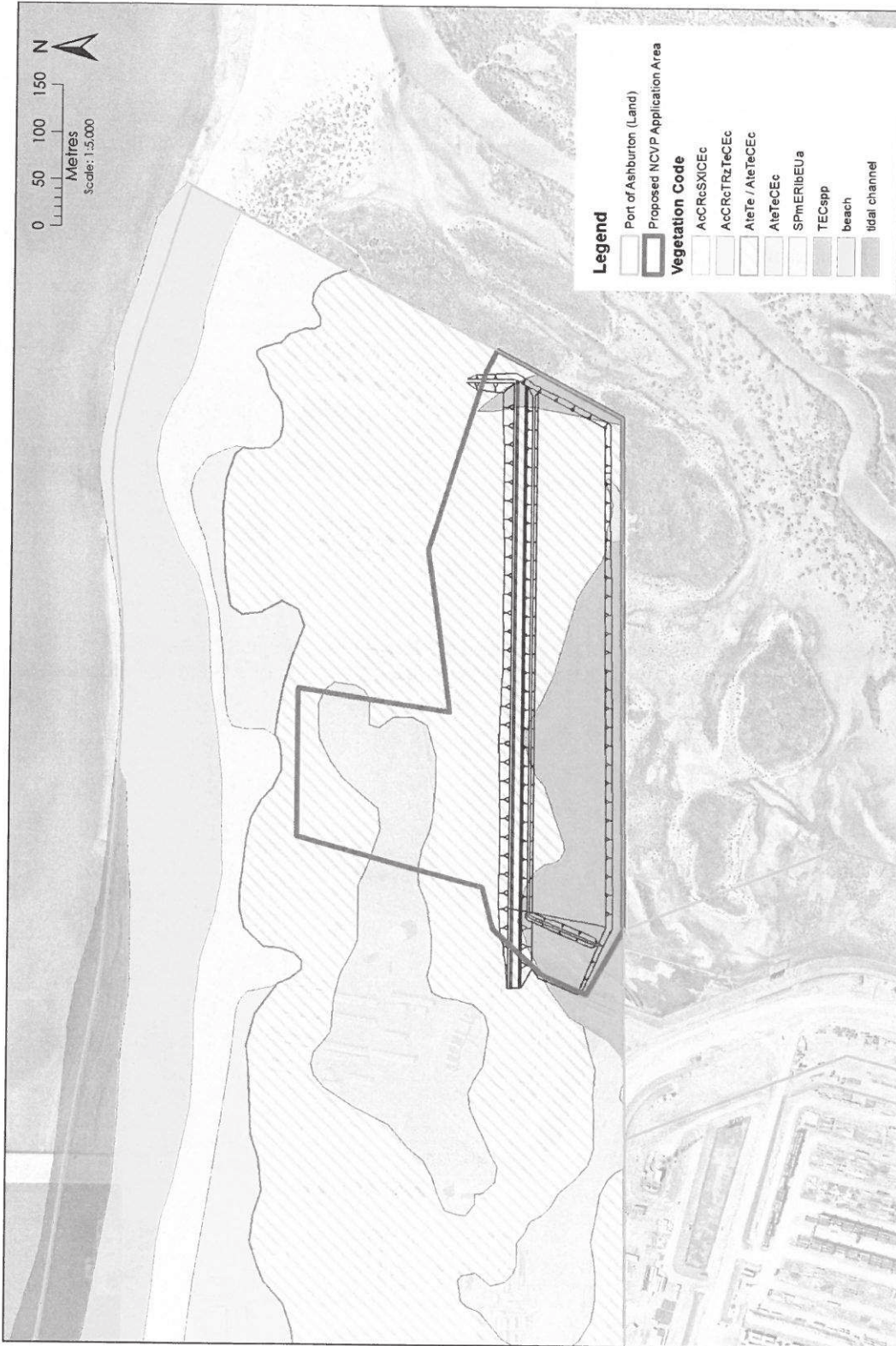


Figure 7: Vegetation Mapping Within and Adjacent to the Proposed Native Vegetation Clearing Permit Application Area (Adapted from Biota 2010)

	ACCRcXICEc	<i>Acacia coriacea</i> subsp. <i>coriacea</i> , <i>Crotalaria cunninghamii</i> tall shrubland over <i>Spinifex longifolius</i> , (<i>Conchurus cilensis</i>) open tussock grassland		ANtTs / ANtTeCEc	<i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> scattered shrubs over <i>Triodia epactia</i> hummock grassland with <i>Conchurus cilensis</i> open tussock grassland
	ACCRcTRzTeCEc	<i>Acacia coriacea</i> subsp. <i>coriacea</i> tall shrubland over <i>Crotalaria cunninghamii</i> , <i>Trichodesma zeylanicum</i> var. <i>grandiflorum</i> open shrubland over <i>Triodia epactia</i> open hummock grassland with <i>Conchurus cilensis</i> open tussock grassland		ANtTs / SPmERIBEUa	
	TECcapp	<i>Tecticornia</i> spp. low shrubland		ANtTeCEc	
	SPmERIBEUa	<i>Sporobolus mitchellii</i> , <i>Enachne</i> aff. <i>berthamii</i> , <i>E. berthamii</i> , <i>Eulalia aenea</i> tussock grassland			

Legend

- Port of Ashburton (Land)
- Proposed NCVP Application Area

Vegetation Code

- ACCRcXICEc
- ACCRcTRzTeCEc
- ANtTs / ANtTeCEc
- ANtTeCEc
- SPmERIBEUa
- TECcapp
- beach
- tidal channel