



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number: CPS 6810/1
Permit Holder: Shire of Murchison
Duration of Permit: 5 March 2016 to 5 March 2036

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 gravel extraction.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Lot 215 on Deposited Plan 220578, Murchison.

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 26.42 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 6810/1.

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. Type of clearing authorised

The Permit Holder shall not clear any native vegetation after 5 March 2026.

6. 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

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* following clearing authorised under this Permit, *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 ground on the contour to remove soil compaction; and
 - (iii) ripping the pit floor and contour batters within the extraction site; and
 - (iv) 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.

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

8. 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 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); and
 - (iv) the species composition, structure and density of *revegetation* and *rehabilitation*.

9. 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 8 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 year, 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 December 2035, 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 9(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.

local provenance means native vegetation seeds and propagating material from natural sources within 50 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;

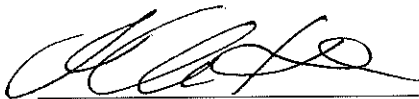
optimal time means the period from April to May for undertaking *direct seeding*, and the period from May to June for undertaking *planting*;

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; and

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.

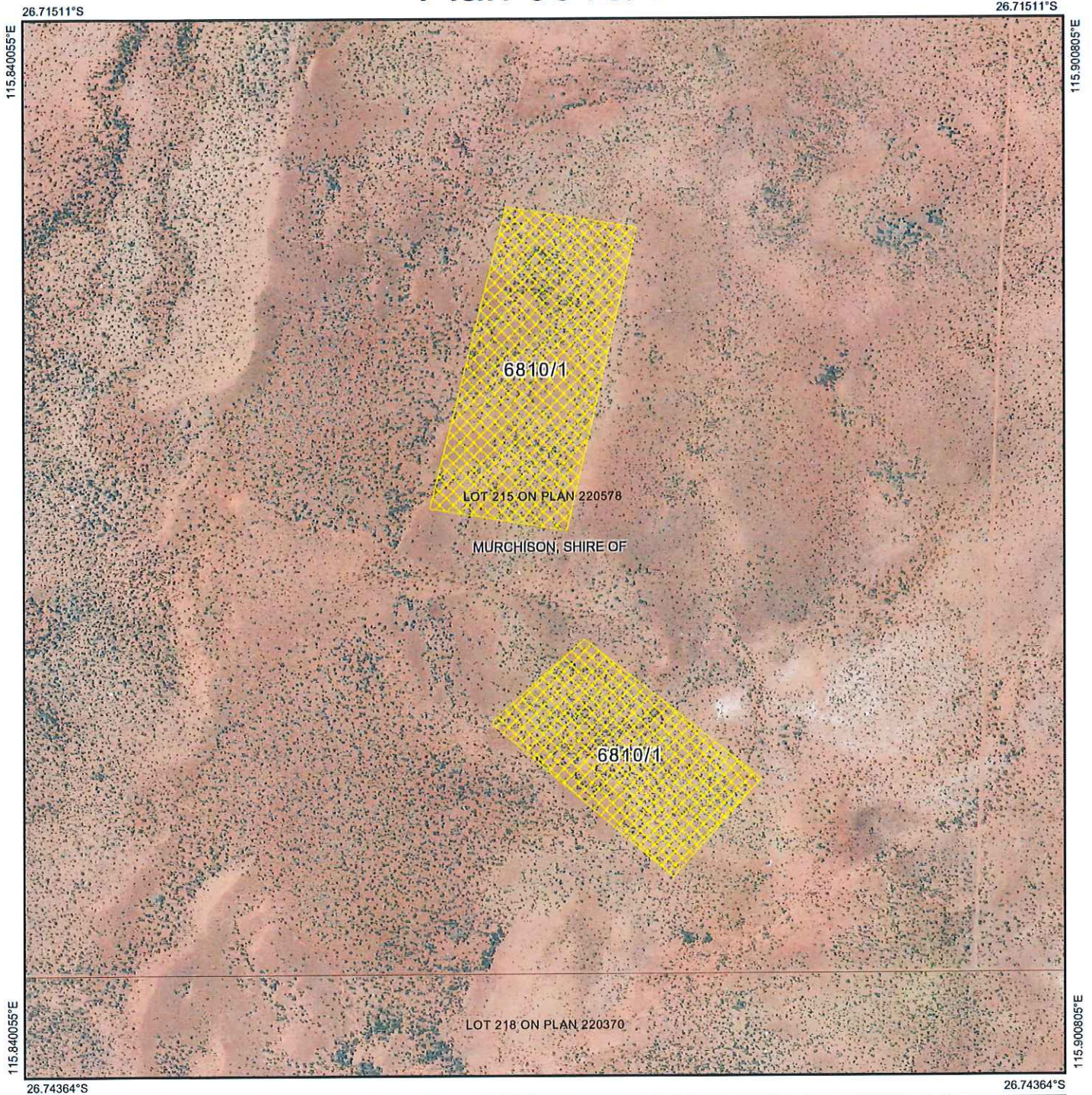


Jane Clarkson
A/SENIOR MANAGER
CLEARING REGULATION

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

4 February 2016

Plan 6810/1



Legend


-  Imagery
-  Clearing Instruments Activities
-  Roads
-  Local Government Authority



(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

GDA 94 (Lat/Long)

Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

 Date 4/2/16

Jane Clarkson

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



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 6810/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Shire of Murchison

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 215 ON DEPOSITED PLAN 220578, MURCHISON
Local Government Authority: MURCHISON, SHIRE OF
DER Region: MIDWEST
DPaW District: GERALDTON
LCDC: MURCHISON
Localities: MURCHISON

1.4. Application

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

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted
Decision Date: 04 February 2016
Reasons for Decision: The clearing application has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with s51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, and it has been concluded that the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to any of the clearing principles.

Through assessment it has been determined that the clearing is unlikely to have any significant environmental impacts. State policies and other relevant policies have been taken into consideration in the decision to grant a clearing permit.

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 29 is described as sparse low woodland; mulga, discontinuous in scattered groups (Shepherd et al. 2001).	The clearing of 26.42 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 215 on Deposited Plan 220578, Murchison, for the purpose gravel extraction.	Excellent; Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery 1994). To	The condition of the vegetation was determined by photos provided by the applicant (Shire of Murchison 2015).
Mapped Beard vegetation association 2081 is described as shrublands; bowgada and associated spp. scrub (Shepherd et al. 2001).		Very Good; Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994).	

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments The application to clear up to 26.42 hectares of native vegetation for the purpose of gravel extraction is unlikely to have any significant environmental impacts. The vegetation is considered to be in excellent to very good (Keighery 1994) condition with some evidence of disturbance by vehicle tracks (Shire of Murchison 2015) and, given the pastoral lease covering the area, grazing effects.

The local area surrounding the application is highly vegetated (retaining approximately 99 per cent native vegetation). The area under application is mapped as Beard vegetation associations 29 and 2081 which retain 100 per cent of their pre-European extents (Government of Western Australia 2014).

Given the extent of native vegetation in the local area, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on rare or priority flora, priority or threatened ecological communities, conservation reserves within the local area or contain significant fauna habitat and is not likely to be classified as clearing a significant remnant within a highly cleared landscape.

As no wetlands or watercourses are mapped within or adjacent to the application area, and the area

surrounding the application is highly vegetated, clearing the vegetation under application is not likely to impact on riparian vegetation, contribute to or cause land degradation, deteriorate the quality of ground water or surface water and is not likely to cause or exacerbate flooding.

Given the above, clearing the vegetation under application is not likely to be at variance to any of the clearing principles.

Methodology References:
Government of Western Australia (2014)
Keighery (1994)
Shire of Murchison (2015)
GIS Databases:
- Hydrography, Hierarchy
- Hydrography, Linear
- Pre European vegetation
- SAC Biodatasets

Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

Comments There are no Aboriginal Sites of Significance mapped within the application area. The Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (2015) advise that there may be unregistered sites within the application area, which are still protected under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 (WA)*. The Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation requests that the applicant consults with traditional owners prior to disturbing the site.

Lot 215 on Deposited Plan 220578 is subject to a pastoral lease. Authority for the Shire of Murchison to access and clear vegetation has been provided by the pastoral leaseholder and the Department of Lands.

No public submissions have been received in relation to this application.

Methodology References:
Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (2015)
GIS Databases:
- Aboriginal Sites Register System

4. References

- 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.
- 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.
- Shire of Murchison (2015) Photos provided for Clearing Permit application CPS 6810/1. Received 15 October 2015. DER REF: A989987.
- Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (2015) Submission received in relation to Clearing Permit application CPS 6810/1. Received 25 November 2015. DER REF: A1012633.