



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: CPS 7003/1
Duration of Permit: From 02 July 2016 to 02 July 2018

PERMIT HOLDER

Mount Pierre Pastoral Aboriginal Corporation

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

LOT 510 ON DEPOSITED PLAN 59883, MUELLER RANGES
LOT 1564 ON DEPOSITED PLAN 403064, MUELLER RANGES

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

1. Type of Clearing Authorised

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 1 hectare of native vegetation within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 7003/1.

2. Weed Management

When undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder must take the following steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *weeds*:

- (i) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
- (ii) ensure that no *weed*-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill* or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and
- (iii) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.

Definitions

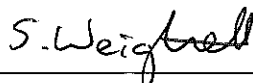
The following meanings are given to terms used in this Permit:

fill means material used to increase the ground level, or fill a hollow;

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; and

weed/s means any plant

- that is a declared pest under section 22 of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*; or
- published in a Department of Parks and Wildlife Regional Weed Rankings Summary, regardless of ranking; or
- not indigenous to the area concerned.

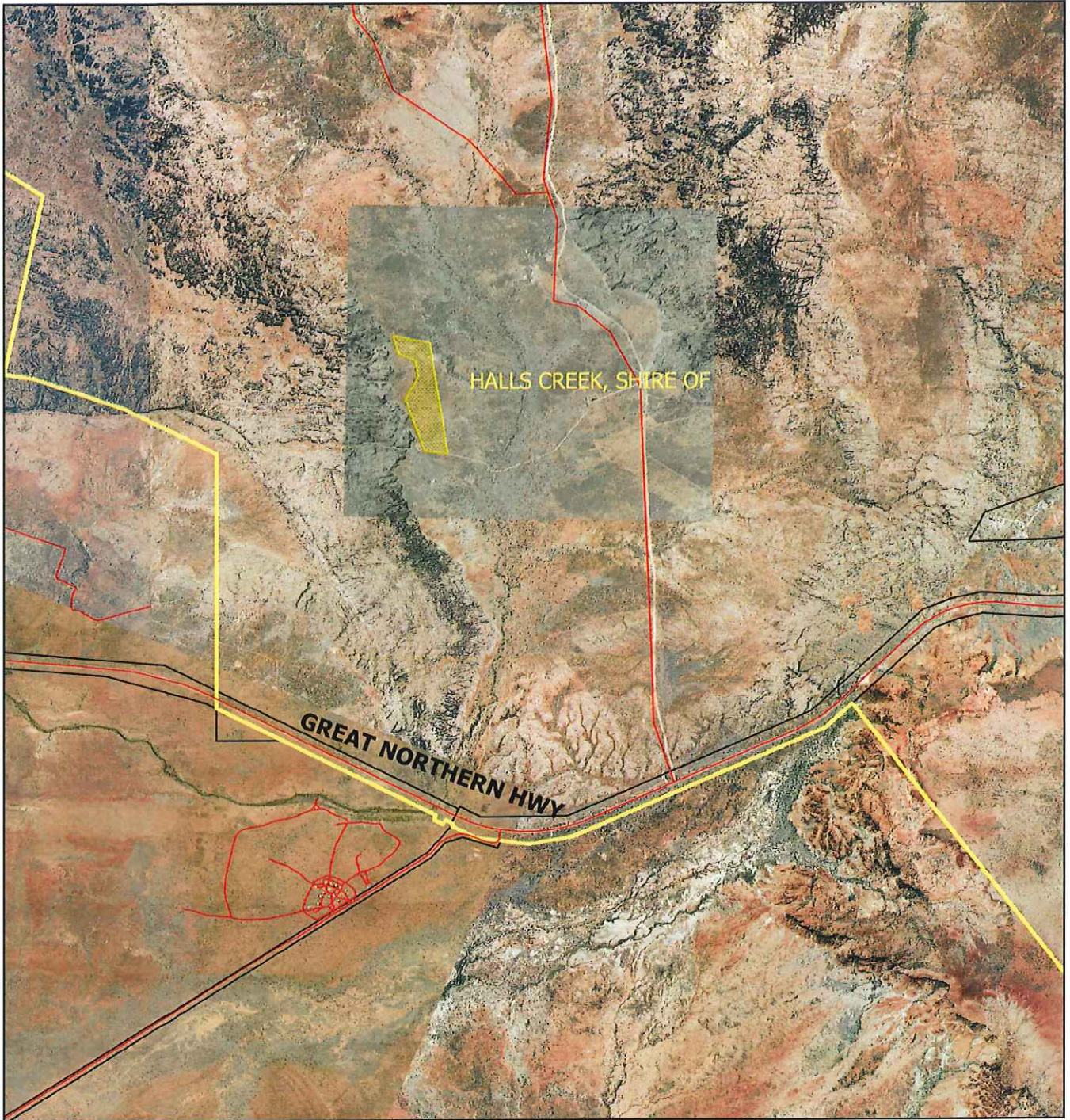


SIMON WEIGHELL
A/MANAGER
CLEARING REGULATION
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT REGULATION

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

02 June 2016

Plan 7003/1



Legend

-  Areas approved to clear
 -  Roads
 -  LGA
 -  Cadastre
- Virtual Mosaic (LGATE-V001)



1:43,333

MGA 94
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

S. Weighell Date *2/6/16*
Simon Weighell

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.: 7003/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Mount Pierre Pastoral Aboriginal Corporation

1.3. Property details

Property: Lot 510 on Deposited Plan 59883, Lot 1564 on Deposited Plan 403064, Mueller Ranges
Local Government Authority: HALLS CREEK, SHIRE OF
DER Region: North West
DPaW District: EAST KIMBERLEY
Localities: MUELLER RANGES

1.4. Application

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

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted
Decision Date: 2 June 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 may be at variance to clearing principle (f) and is not likely to be at variance to the remaining 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
The application area includes two Beard vegetation units (Shepherd et al., 2001); Unit 746: Hummock grasslands, low tree steppe; bloodwood over <i>Triodia wiseana</i> Unit 116: Hummock grasslands, sparse low tree steppe; mixed low trees over <i>Triodia wiseana</i>	The application is to clear 1 hectare of native vegetation within a 25.74 hectare area for the purpose of establishing a tourism campground.	Excellent; Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery, 1994).	The vegetation condition was determined through a flora and fauna survey of the application area (Biota, 2015).

A survey of the project area also identified:
Unit 878; isolated trees of Snappy Gum (*Eucalyptus brevifolia*) and the bloodwood *Corymbia dichromophloia* over an open hummock grassland of Soft Spinifex (*Triodia pungens*) and Lobed Spinifex (*Triodia intermedia*).

Based on the finer-scale vegetation types recorded during surveys Beard vegetation unit 746 is considered to most accurately represent the vegetation occurring within the application area.

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments The application to clear up to 1 hectare of native vegetation within a 25.74 hectare area for the purpose of campground construction is unlikely to have any significant residual environmental impacts. The vegetation is considered to be mostly in excellent (Keighery, 1994) condition however some areas have weed infestations (Biota, 2015).

206 native flora species were recorded during a flora survey of the project area and surrounds. Of those flora species found none are considered to be rare and four have priority conservation rankings; *Triodia pascoeana* (Priority 1), *Ipomoea racemigera* (Priority 2), *Fimbristylis sieberiana* (Priority 3), *Pterocaulon xenicum* (Priority 3). None of these occurrences of priority flora occur within the proposed campground area.

Six conservation significant fauna species were recorded within the project area and surrounds by Biota in 2015:

- Bare-rumped Sheath-tail-bat, *Saccolaimus saccolaimus nudicluniatu*s (Federal: Critically Endangered);
- Orange Leaf-nosed Bat, *Rhinonicteris aurantius* (State: Schedule 1, Federal: Vulnerable);
- Yellow-lipped Cave Bat, *Vespadelus douglasorum* (Department of Parks and Wildlife: Priority 2);
- Ghost Bat, *Macroderma gigas* (Department of Parks and Wildlife: Priority 4);
- Rainbow Bee-eater, *Merops ornatus* (State: Schedule 3, Federal: Migratory); and
- Star Finch, *Neochmia ruficauda subclarescens* (State: Priority 4).

Given the extent of native vegetation in the local area in similar or better condition it is unlikely that 1 hectare (within the 25.74 hectare area) is significant for native fauna. Clearing of hollow bearing trees may be significant for local populations of the Bare-rumped Sheath-tail-bat, *Saccolaimus saccolaimus nudicluniatu*s (Parks and Wildlife, 2016). The National Recovery Plan for this species states that, in Australia, all confirmed roosting records are from long deep tree hollows in the poplar gum, *Eucalyptus platyphylla*, Darwin woollybutt, *E. miniata* and Darwin stringybark, *E. tetradonta* (Schultz and Thomson, 2007). A flora survey of the applied area did not identify any of these species within the application area (Biota, 2015).

The application area intersects one minor, non-perennial watercourse in the northern most corner of the application area. The proposal is to clear one hectare within a 25.74 hectare area for a campground. Given this it is unlikely that the clearing will result in significant impacts to the watercourse.

Given the size of the proposed clearing within an extensively vegetated local area, clearing the vegetation under application is not likely to contribute to or cause land degradation, deteriorate the quality of ground water or surface water and is not likely to cause or exacerbate flooding.

16 weed species were recorded in a flora survey (Biota, 2015). Clearing of these species may increase or exacerbate their dispersal within nearby excellent condition vegetation. Weed management conditions will mitigate the potential for clearing to indirectly degrade areas of excellent condition vegetation outside of the clearing footprint.

Given the above, clearing the vegetation under application may be at variance to principle (f) and is not likely to be at variance to the remaining clearing principles.

Methodology

References:

Biota (2015)
Keighery (1994)
Parks and Wildlife (2016)

GIS datasets:

SAC Bio datasets accessed June 2016
Hydrography linear
Parks and Wildlife tenure

Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

Comments

The application area falls within the Canning-Kimberley Groundwater Area and the Fitzroy River and Tributaries Surfacewater Area both of which are proclaimed under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act* 1914. The Department of Water has confirmed that the applicant has a current groundwater licence to supply the campsite. Should the proponent require additional bores they should contact the Department of Water for assessment of the requirement for additional licences.

The applicant has advised that a Tourism Diversification Permit is held with the Pastoral Lease that permits development of the camp ground.

Native Title notification was sent to Gooniyandi native title claimants with no submissions received.

4. References

- Biota (2015) Mimbi Extension Camping Grounds Rare Flora Survey and Level I Fauna Survey, prepared by Biota Environmental Services for Tourism WA June 2015. Ref A1069235.
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Schulz, M. and Thomson, B. 2007. National recovery plan for the bare-rumped sheath-tail bat *Saccolaimus saccolaimus nudicluniatu*s. Report to Department of the Environment and Water Resources, Canberra. Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Brisbane.
- 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.