



GOVERNMENT OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## CLEARING PERMIT

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

<b>Purpose Permit number:</b>	CPS 7183/1
<b>Permit Holder:</b>	Midwest Sand Supplies
<b>Duration of Permit:</b>	From 24 September 2016 to 24 September 2021

The Permit Holder is authorised to clear native vegetation subject to the following conditions of this Permit.

- 1. Purpose for which clearing may be done**  
Clearing for the purpose of sand extraction.
- 2. Land on which clearing may be done**  
Lot 2453 on Deposited Plan 248687, Cape Burney
- 3. Area of clearing**  
Within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 7183/1, the Permit Holder may clear:
  - (a) buried native vegetation; and
  - (b) up to 0.4 hectares of non-buried native vegetation.
- 4. Application**  
This Permit allows the Permit Holder to authorise persons, including employees, contractors and agents of the Permit Holder, to clear native vegetation authorised under this Permit subject to compliance with the conditions of this Permit and approval from the Permit Holder.

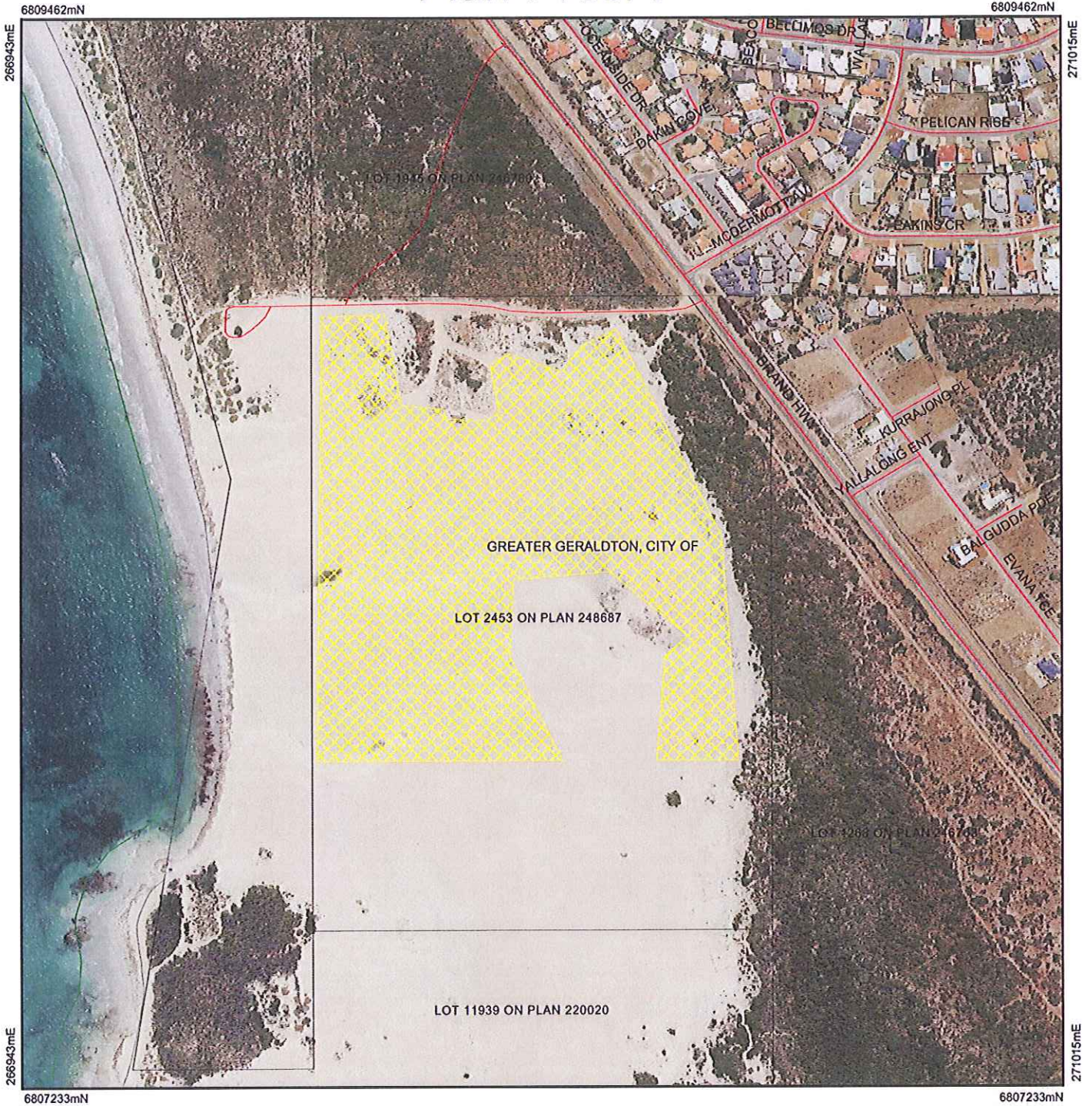
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E Bramwell', written over a horizontal line.

Emma Bramwell  
A/ MANAGER  
CLEARING REGULATION

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

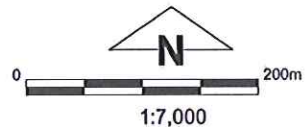
25 August 2016

# Plan 7183/1



## Legend

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



(Approximate when reproduced at A4)  
UTM Zone 50S  
World Geodetic System 1984

*Emma Bramwell* ..... Date *25/08/16*  
Emma Bramwell

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



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## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 7183/1  
Permit type: Purpose Permit

### 1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Midwest Sand Supplies

### 1.3. Property details

Property: Lot 2453 on Deposited Plan 248687, Cape Burney  
Colloquial name: Southgate Dunes  
Local Government Authority: City of Greater Geraldton  
DER Region: Midwest

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
0.4		Mechanical Removal	Sand extraction

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted  
Decision Date: 25 August 2016  
Reasons for Decision: The clearing permit application received on 21 July 2016 has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with s51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. It has been concluded that the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to any of the clearing principles.

The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed 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

Vegetation Description	Clearing Description	Vegetation Condition	Comment
The application area predominantly comprises bare sand dunes with a few small pockets of dune vegetation.	The application is for the clearing of up to 0.4 hectares of dune vegetation as well as any native vegetation within the application area that has historically been buried as a result of sand dune migration. The clearing is for the purpose of sand extraction operations on Lot 2453 on Deposited Plan 248687, Cape Burney.	Completely degraded; no longer intact, completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994).	The description and condition of the vegetation was determined based on a review of aerial imagery.
Two Beard vegetation associations (Shepherd et al., 2001) are mapped over the application area:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>129: Bare areas; rock outcrops</li> <li>371: Low forest; <i>Acacia rostellifera</i></li> </ul>			

## 3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

**Comments** The application area predominantly comprises bare sand dunes with a few small pockets of dune vegetation. 0.4 hectares of dune vegetation is proposed to be cleared as well as any native vegetation buried beneath the sand dunes in the event that such vegetation is required to be cleared as part of sand extraction operations. The total size of the application area is approximately 18 hectares.

The application area is considered to be in a completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition.

The vegetation under application is considered unlikely to include, or form supporting habitat for, priority flora or threatened ecological communities listed by the Department of Parks and Wildlife, or rare flora declared under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*.

A priority ecological community (PEC) known as 'Coastal sands dominated by *Acacia rostellifera*, *Eucalyptus oraria* and *Eucalyptus obtusiflora* (Geraldton area)' (Priority 1) is mapped immediately north of the application area. It is considered that the proposed clearing is unlikely to result in significant impacts to this PEC. The existing sand dunes are migrating in a northerly direction, with analysis of aerial photography between 2001 and 2010 indicating a rate of migration of approximately 11 metres per year (M P Rogers & Associates PL, 2016). It is considered that the proposed sand extraction is likely to slow the rate of migration, and help prevent the burial of portions of the mapped PEC.

Noting the completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the vegetation, it is considered that the application area is unlikely to comprise significant habitat for fauna or a significant remnant of native vegetation in a highly cleared landscape, and that the vegetation within the application is unlikely to be performing a significant dune stabilisation function.

According to available databases, no wetlands or watercourses are located within or immediately adjacent to the application area, and the application area does not form part of a conservation area nor does it form part of a significant ecological linkage.

On the basis of the above, it is considered that the proposed clearing is unlikely to cause appreciable land degradation or result in the deterioration of surface or underground water quality, and is unlikely to be of a scale that would result in flooding.

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

#### Methodology

##### References:

- Keighery (1994)
- M P Rogers & Associates PL (2016)

##### GIS datasets:

- SAC Bio Datasets (accessed 25 August 2016)
- Hydrology
- Pre-European Vegetation
- Parks and Wildlife Managed Lands

#### Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

**Comments** The application was advertised for a 21-day public comment period in the *West Australian* newspaper on 25 July 2016. No public submissions were received.

Comment on the application was sought from the City of Greater Geraldton (City). Officer-level advice was received indicating that the City has no objection to the clearing permit application providing that a number of items are addressed including:

- more detailed demarcation of the 0.4 hectares proposed to be cleared;
- a statement of how live vegetation will be protected and provision of a rehabilitation/offset plan; and
- a statement of how Ministerial Statement 1024 relating to the assessment of the 'City of Greater Geraldton Town Planning Scheme No. 1A Amendment 4 – Brand Highway, Cape Burney' under Part IV of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* has been considered (City of Greater Geraldton, 2016).

Further demarcation of the proposed clearing is not considered necessary nor is a rehabilitation/offset plan considered necessary given that the application area is almost entirely devoid of native vegetation. The clearing permit will not authorise the clearing of live native vegetation outside the application area.

Ministerial Statement 1024 requires the establishment of both a Foreshore Area and a Conservation Area including the development and approval of associated management plans. The Conservation Area is made up of remnant native vegetation located immediately north and east of the application area. The Foreshore Area includes land along the coast including an approximately 100 metre wide portion of the western extent of the application area. The intended purpose of the Foreshore Area is described as 'foreshore management, public access, recreation and conservation'. It is considered that the proposed clearing and associated sand extraction will not prevent this land from being used for its ultimate intended purpose. The applicant advised that sand is to be extracted above the +3m AHD contour across the site consistent with the approximate level of vegetation to the west with recent excavations only extending to a depth of around +5m AHD (M P Rogers & Associates PL, 2016).

The applicant advised that the dune front is likely to continue moving northwards unless the sand is removed, and that that without management the dune may impact the Brand Highway within 10 years (M P Rogers & Associates PL, 2016).

#### Methodology

##### References:

- City of Greater Geraldton (2016)
- M P Rogers & Associates PL (2016)

#### 4. References

- Keighery, B.J. (1994), *Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community*. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- M P Rogers & Associates PL (2016), *Mid West Sands – Southgate Dunes Management & Decommissioning Plan*, R784 Rev 1, July 2016 (DER Ref: A1137478).
- 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.
- City of Greater Geraldton (2016), *Direct interest comment received in relation to CPS 7183/1*. Received 18 August 2016 (DER Ref: A1150077).