GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 7232/1
Permit Holder:	Megatime Pty Ltd
Duration of Permit:	19 November 2016 – 19 November 2021

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 extending an existing firebreak.

2. **Land on which clearing is to be done**
   Lot 130 on Deposited Plan 209388, Bremer Bay
   Cuneo Drive road reserve (PIN 11478312), Bremer Bay

3. **Area of Clearing**
   The Permit Holder must not clear more than 0.54 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 7232/1.

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.

PART II – MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

5. **Dieback and weed control**
   When undertaking any clearing or other activity authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder must take the following steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *weeds* and *dieback*:
   (a) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
   (b) ensure that no *dieback* or *weed*-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill* or other material is brought into the area to be cleared;
   (c) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared; and
   (d) only move soils in *dry conditions*.

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

dieback means the effect of *Phytophthora* species on native vegetation;

dry conditions means when soils (not dust) do not freely adhere to rubber tyres, tracks, vehicle chassis or wheel arches;

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;

weed/s means any plant -

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

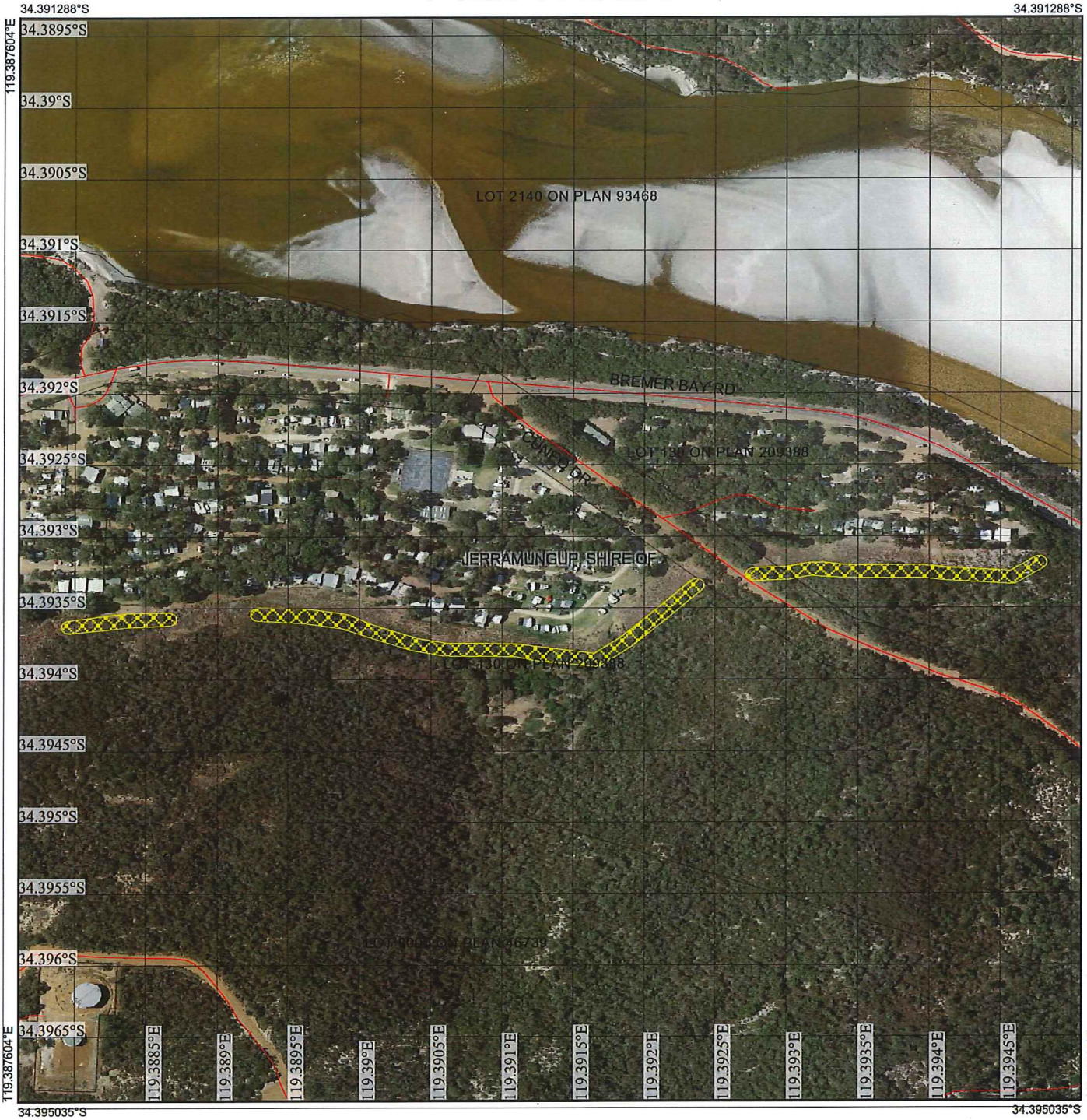
Anne Mathews

Dr Anne Mathews
SENIOR MANAGER
CLEARING REGULATION
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT REGULATION

Officer delegated under Section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

20 October 2016

Plan 7232/1



Legend

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

N

0 200m

1:3,638

(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

GDA 94 (Lat/Long)

Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

Anne Mathews Date 20/10/2016

Anne Mathews

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Government of Western Australia
Department of Environment Regulation

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 7232/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Megatime Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: Lot 130 on Deposited Plan 209388, Bremer Bay
Cuneo Drive road reserve (PIN 11478312), Bremer Bay
Local Government Authority: Shire of Jerramungup
DER Region: South Coast
DPaW District: Albany
LCDC:
Localities: Bremer Bay

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
0.54		Mechanical Removal	Extending an existing firebreak

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 20 October 2016
Reasons for Decision: The clearing permit application received on 16 August 2016 has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with s51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, and had concluded that the proposed clearing is at variance to principle (f) and is not likely to be at variance to the remaining clearing principles.

One watercourse is mapped within the application area.The proposed clearing of vegetation in association with this watercourse is not likely to have any significant environmental impacts.

The Delegated Officer considered that the implementation of suitable weed and dieback management measures was appropriate to address the impacts of the proposed clearing.

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
One Beard vegetation association is mapped within the application area: Beard vegetation association 47 is described as shrublands; tallerack mallee-heath (Shepherd et al., 2001).	The applicant proposes to clear 0.54 hectares of native vegetation for the purpose of extending an existing firebreak.	Degraded; Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery, 1994).	The vegetation condition was determined during a site inspection conducted by the Department of Environment Regulation on 2 August 2016 (DER, 2016). The proposed clearing is to extend the width of the firebreak by 10 metres within three separate locations.

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

The application is to clear 0.54 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 130 on Deposited Plan 209388, Bremer Bay, for the purpose of extending a pre-existing firebreak. The application area is located on the southern boundary of the Bremer Bay caravan park, adjacent to a large section of previously undisturbed native vegetation.

The 'Proteaceae dominated kwongkan shrublands of the southeast coastal floristic province of Western Australia' community has been mapped within the application area. This community is a threatened ecological community (TEC) listed as endangered under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC), and is listed as a priority 3 ecological community by the Department of Parks and Wildlife. This TEC is characterised by a 30 per cent or greater cover of *Proteaceae* species across all layers where they occur or, in disturbed areas, containing two or more diagnostic *Proteaceae* species that are likely to form a significant vegetated component when regenerated (TSSC, 2014).

An inspection conducted by the Department of Environment Regulation (DER) determined the vegetation to be in a degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition, with the understorey dominated by weed species (DER, 2016). Noting the vegetation present within the application area, it is considered that the application area does not have a 30 per cent or greater cover of *Proteaceae* species and is not representative of the *Proteaceae* dominated kwongkan shrublands of the southeast coastal floristic province of Western Australia TEC (DER, 2016).

No declared rare or priority listed flora species have been identified within the application area. Department of Parks and Wildlife (Parks and Wildlife) regional advice indicates the potential for priority flora species *Schoenus* sp. *grey Rhizome* (P1), *Grevillea nivea* (P2), *Hibbertia acrotrichion* (P2), *Chordifex omatus* (P2) and *Xanthosia peduncularis* (P3) to be found within the site (Parks and Wildlife, 2016). However, due to the degraded nature of the understorey, the potential of these species found within the area is considered unlikely.

Due to the disturbed nature of the site and proximity to similar vegetation types, the proposal area is not considered whole or a part of, or necessary for the maintenance of, significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.

The National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation includes a target that prevents the clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30 per cent of that present pre-European settlement (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001). The application area is located within the Esperance Plains Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) bioregion and the Shire of Jerramungup, which retain approximately 52 and 44 per cent of their pre-European vegetation extents, respectively (Government of Western Australia, 2015). It is estimated that 60 per cent of native vegetation is retained within the local area (10 kilometre radius). Given the remaining vegetation in the local area and that the application area does not contain significant habitat for flora and fauna of conservation significance, it is considered that the application area is unlikely to be a significant remnant in an extensively cleared area.

A minor, non-perennial watercourse is located in the central portion of the clearing area. Based on the presence of a mapped watercourse, the proposed clearing is at variance to Principle (f). However, due to the limited size of the application area, the proposed clearing is not considered to result in a significant impact to this watercourse.

The closest conservation area is the Fitzgerald River National Park, located approximately 860 metres north-east of the application area. Noting the distance to this conservation area, and the extent of native vegetation remaining in the local area, it is considered that the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact on this reserve.

The disturbance caused by the proposed clearing is likely to increase the risk of weeds and dieback being introduced into adjacent areas of remnant vegetation. Weed and dieback management practices will assist in mitigating this risk.

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

Methodology

References:

Commonwealth of Australia (2001)
DER (2016)
Government of Western Australia (2015)
Keighery (1994)
Parks and Wildlife (2016)
TSSC (2014)

GIS datasets:

- Hydrography, linear
- Parks and Wildlife Tenure
- SAC Bio datasets (accessed August 2016)

Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

Comments The application was advertised in *The West Australian* newspaper on 26 September 2016 and 10 October 2016 by the Department of Environment Regulation inviting submissions from the public within a 21 day and 7 day period, respectively. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

4. References

Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.

Department of Environment Regulation (DER) (2016) CPS 7232/1 Site Inspection Report. (DER Ref: A1183670).

Department of Parks and Wildlife (Parks and Wildlife) (2016) Advice received from the Department of Parks and Wildlife on 11 October 2016. (DER Ref: A1172236).

Government of Western Australia (2015) 2015 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of June 2015. 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.

Threatened Species Scientific Committee (TSSC) (2014). Approved Conservation Advice for Proteaceae Dominated Kwongkan Shrublands of the southeast coastal floristic province of Western Australia. Canberra: Department of the Environment. Available from: http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/communities/pubs/126-conservation-advice.pdf.