



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 7306/1
Permit Holder:	Shire of Murchison
Duration of Permit:	4 February 2017 to 4 February 2022

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 road realignment and gravel extraction.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Lot 18 on Deposited Plan 220344, South Murchison
Unnamed Road reserve (PIN 11665424), South Murchison
Unnamed Road reserve (PIN 11665425), South Murchison

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 8.07 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 7306/1.

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

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

6. Avoid, minimise etc. clearing

In determining the amount of native vegetation to be cleared authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder must have regard to the following principles, set out in order of preference:

- avoid the clearing of native vegetation;
- minimise the amount of native vegetation to be cleared; and
- reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.

7. 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*:

- (a) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
- (b) ensure that no *weed*-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill* or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and
- (c) 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;

weed/s means any plant -

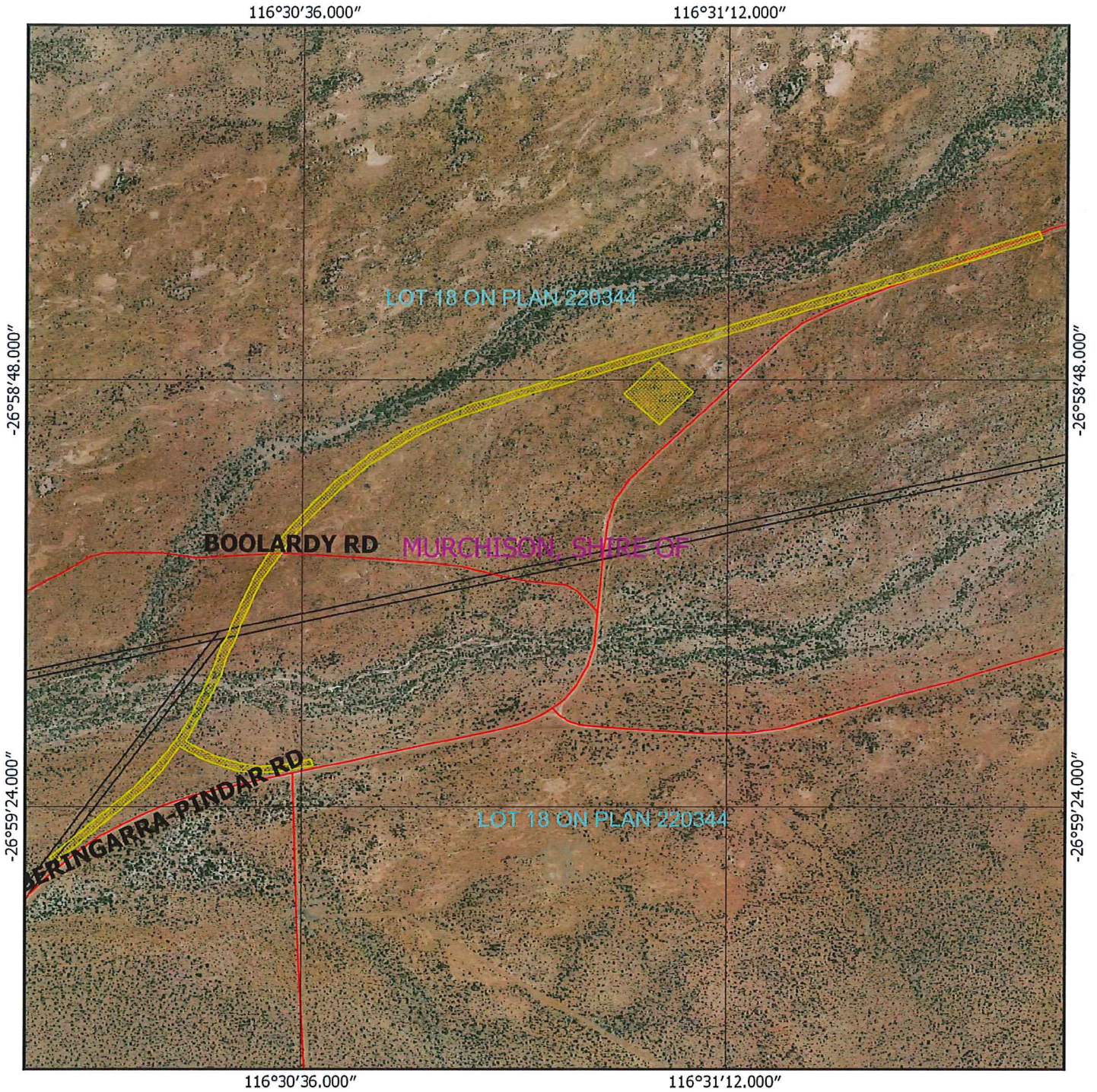
- (a) that is a declared pest under section 22 of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*; or
- (b) published in a Department of Parks and Wildlife Regional Weed Rankings Summary, regardless of ranking; or
- (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.


A/ MANAGER
CLEARING REGULATION

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

5 January 2017

Plan 7306/1



Legend

-  Areas approved to clear
-  Roads
-  LGA
-  Cadastre
- Virtual Mosaic



1:10,039

MGA 94
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

E Bramwell Date *05/01/17*
E Bramwell

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

100 0 100 200 300 400 m



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 7306/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Shire of Murchison

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 18 ON PLAN 220344, SOUTH MURCHISON
UN-NAMED ROAD RESERVE (PINS 11665424 AND 11665425), SOUTH MURCHISON
Local Government Authority: SHIRE OF MURCHISON
DER Region: Midwest
DPaW District: GERALDTON
LCDC: Murchison and Mullewa
Localities: SOUTH MURCHISON

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
8.07		Mechanical Removal	Road realignment and gravel extraction

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted
Decision Date: 05 January 2017
Reasons for Decision: The clearing permit application was received on 4 October 2016 and has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with section 510 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, and it has been concluded that the proposed clearing is at variance to Principle (f), may be at variance to Principles (a) and (i), and is not likely to be at variance to the remaining Principles.

The Delegated Officer determined that the application area may contain suitable habitat for three priority (P) flora species (P1, P2 and P3 priority flora species), however noted the extent of native vegetation surrounding the application area and determined that the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on the conservation status of these species.

The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing may introduce or spread weeds into adjacent areas of remnant vegetation. Weed management practices will assist to minimise this risk.

The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing may result in short term sedimentation of surface water of this watercourse, however noted that these impacts water quality are unlikely to be significant.

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

2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description	Clearing Description	Vegetation Condition	Comment
Beard vegetation association 29 is described as sparse low woodland; mulga, discontinuous in scattered groups (Shepherd et al., 2001).	The applicant has applied to clear 8.07 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 18 on Deposited Plan 220344 and unnamed road reserve (PINS 11665424 and 11665425), South Murchison, for the purpose of road realignment and gravel extraction.	Excellent; Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery, 1994). To Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)	The condition of the vegetation within the application area was determined via aerial imagery.

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments The application is to clear 8.07 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 18 on Deposited Plan 220344 and unnamed road reserve (PINs 11665424 and 11665425), South Murchison, for the purpose of re-alignment of the Beringarra Pindar Road and to open a new pit to provide gravel for this. Aerial photography indicates that the vegetation appears to be in an excellent to degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition.

The local area (50 kilometre radius) retains approximately 99 per cent native vegetation cover. The vegetation within the application area is mapped as Beard vegetation association 29 of which approximately 100 per cent of its pre-European extent remains at a bioregional level (Government of Western Australia, 2015). A review of aerial imagery indicates that the application area does not represent a significant remnant of native vegetation and is not within an area that has been extensively cleared.

According to available databases, a total of fourteen priority (P) flora species have been recorded within the local area. The application area may contain suitable habitat for three of these species.

The P1 flora species *Calandrinia butcherensis* has been recorded approximately 14 kilometres south west of the application area from the same soil type as found within the application area. This species has been recorded on red sandy loam and red sands (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). Given the distance to this record and extent of similar vegetation within the local area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact on the conservation status of this species.

The P2 flora species *Angianthus microcephalus* has been recorded approximately 943 metres south east of the application area from the same soil type as found within the application area. This species has a preference for sandy or clayey soils associated with salt swamps and pans (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). Although this species has been mapped on the same soil type, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact on the conservation status of this species given the species has a wide distribution and there are no salt swamps within the application area (Department of Parks and Wildlife, 2016).

The P3 flora species *Eremophila simulans* subsp. *megacalyx* has been recorded approximately 620 metres east of the application area from the same mapped soil type as found within the application area. This species is a shrub that grows 0.9 to two metres high and flowers between August to September (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). Although suitable habitat is likely to occur within the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact on the conservation status of this species given the extent of native vegetation surrounding the application area and that P3 species are generally known from collections from several different localities not under imminent threat (Department of Parks and Wildlife, 2014).

The vegetation within the application area is not likely to include, or provide supporting habitat for, threatened ecological communities, priority ecological communities or conservation areas listed by the Department of Parks and Wildlife, or rare flora declared under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*.

One non-perennial watercourse intersects the southern portion of the application area, and the proposed clearing is likely to impact on vegetation associated with this watercourse. Noting the non-perennial nature of the watercourse and the extensively vegetated local area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to significantly impact riparian vegetation, contribute to or cause land degradation or cause or exacerbate flooding.

The proposed clearing may result in short term sedimentation of surface water of this watercourse. However, impacts to surface water and ground water quality are not expected to be significant.

The proposed clearing may result in an increased risk of weeds being introduced into adjacent areas of remnant vegetation. Weed management practices will assist in mitigating this risk.

The assessment of this application identified that the proposed clearing is at variance to Principle (f), may be at variance to Principles (a) and (i), and is not likely to be at variance to the remaining Principles.

Methodology

References:
Department of Parks and Wildlife (2014)
Department of Parks and Wildlife (2016)
Government of Western Australia (2015)
Keighery (1994)
Western Australian Herbarium (1998-)

GIS Databases:
Hydrography, Hierarchy
Hydrography, Linear
Parks and Wildlife tenure
Pre European vegetation
SAC Bio Datasets (Accessed January 2016)

Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

Comments The application area is located within a Native Title Claimant area. The native title claimants and representative body have been notified of the proposed clearing pursuant to section 24KA s8 of the *Native Title Act 1993* and invited to provide comments on the application. To date, no comments have been received.

The Department of Water advised that the applicant holds a current groundwater licence GWL182868 to access four bores at various locations for road maintenance and construction purposes, and that DoW has no objection to the proposal (DoW, 2016).

No registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance occur within the application area.

The application was advertised in *The West Australian newspaper* on 31 October 2016 for a 21-day submission period. No public submissions were received in relation to the proposed clearing.

Methodology References:
DoW (2016)

GIS Databases:
Aboriginal Sites of Significance

4. References

- Department of Parks and Wildlife (2014) Threatened and Priority Flora List for Western Australia. WA Department of Environment and Conservation, Perth
- Department of Parks and Wildlife (2016) Regional Advice received in relation to clearing permit application CPS 7306/1, received 20 December 2016. Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia (DER Ref: A1348634).
- Department of Water (DoW) (2016) Advice received in relation to clearing permit application CPS 7306/1, received 16 November 2016. Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia (DER Ref: A1325728).
- 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.
- Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) FloraBase - The Western Australian Flora. Department of Parks and Wildlife. <http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/> (Accessed 03/01/2017).