



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 7432/1
Permit Holder:	Central Earthmoving Company Pty Ltd
Duration of Permit:	30 September 2017 to 30 September 2032

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 limestone extraction and geotechnical investigations.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Lot 5000 on Deposited Plan 54812, Greenough

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 7 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 7432/1.

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. Period in which clearing is authorised

(a) The Permit Holder shall not clear any native vegetation after 30 September 2022.

(b) The Permit Holder shall not clear native vegetation unless actively extracting within 3 months of the authorised clearing being undertaken.

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:

(a) avoid the clearing of native vegetation;

(b) minimise the amount of native vegetation to be cleared; and

(c) reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.

7. 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; and
- (c) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.

8. 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 and is protected from prevailing wind and away from drainage lines;
- (b) stored topsoil should be no more than two metres in height;
- (c) at any one time no more than one, two hectare quarry section can be actively extracted;
- (d) progressively rehabilitate the two hectare quarry sections that are no longer required for extraction by;
 - (i) re-shaping the surface of the land so that it is consistent with the surrounding 5 metres of uncleared land;
 - (ii) ripping the site to remove soil compaction; and
 - (iii) laying the vegetative material and topsoil retained under condition 8(a) on the cleared area at a minimal depth of 50 millimetres on 3:1 or steeper slopes and a minimum of 150 millimetres on flatter slopes.
- (e) Fence the rehabilitated areas to exclude stock;
- (f) *Revegetation* and *rehabilitation* must commence within 12 months following the completion of the extractive activities for each quarry section;
- (g) establish one 10x10 metre quadrat within each two hectare quarry section, and monitor vegetation condition, plant species diversity, plant density, plant cover and abundance, weed cover and plant structure. Monitoring must be undertaken for ten years, with annual monitoring occurring in the first five years and twice in the last five years;
- (h) achieve the following completion criteria after the 10 year monitoring period for areas *revegetated* and *rehabilitated* under this Permit;

Criteria	Target
Plant Species Diversity	Minimum of six species per 10x10 metre quadrat and must include <i>Melaleuca cardiophylla</i>
Plant Density	1,500 stems per hectare
Plant Structure	Vegetation structure consists of 20% overstorey, 50% midstorey and 30% understorey
Weed Cover	Less than 20% weed cover per quadrat

- (i) undertake remedial actions for areas *revegetated* and *rehabilitated* where monitoring indicates that revegetation has not met the completion criteria, outlined in 8(h), including;
 - (i) *revegetate* the area by deliberately *planting* and/or *direct seeding* native vegetation that will result in the minimum target in 8(h) and ensuring only *local provenance* seeds and propagating material are used;
 - (ii) undertake further weed control activities; and
 - (iii) annual monitoring of each two hectare quarry section, until the completion criteria, outlined in 8(h) are met.

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

9. Records must 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 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;
 - (ii) the date that the area was cleared; and
 - (iii) the size of the area cleared (in hectares).

- (b) In relation to the revegetation of areas pursuant to condition 8 of this Permit:
- (i) the location of any area *revegetated* and *rehabilitated* recorded as a *shapefile*;
 - (ii) a description of the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* activities undertaken;
 - (iii) the size of the area *revegetated* and *rehabilitated* (in hectares); and
 - (iv) the date that the area was *revegetated* and *rehabilitated*.

10. 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 9 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 30 June 2032, the Permit Holder must provide to the CEO a written report of records required under condition 9 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under condition 10(a) of this Permit.

DEFINITIONS

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

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

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;

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

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;

planting means the re-establishment of vegetation by creating favourable soil conditions and planting seedlings of the desired species;

rehabilitate/ed/ion means actively managing an area containing native vegetation in order to improve the ecological function of that area;

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.

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.



James Widenbar
MANAGER
CLEARING REGULATION

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

29 August 2017

Plan 7432/1



Legend

-  Imagery
-  Clearing Instruments Activities
-  Local Government Authority



1:8,497

(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

GDA 94 (Lat/Long)

Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

S. J. ... Date *29/8/2017*

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



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Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 7432/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Central Earthmoving Company Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 5000 ON PLAN 54812, GREENOUGH
Local Government Authority: GREATER GERALDTON, CITY OF
DER Region: Midwest
DPaW District: GERALDTON
Localities: GREENOUGH

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
7		Mechanical Removal	Geotechnical investigations and extractive industry

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant

Decision Date: 29 August 2017

Reasons for Decision: The clearing permit application received on 30 December 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 at variance to Principle (e), may be at variance to Principles (b) and (g) and is not likely to be at variance to any of the remaining clearing principles.

Through assessment it has been determined that the application area forms part of an ecological linkage which is important for the movement of fauna across an extensively cleared landscape. The Delegated Officer considers that a requirement to revegetate areas proposed to be cleared will ensure that the application area is brought back to a comparable condition post extraction and will assist in mitigating the environmental risk of long term impacts to the ecological linkage.

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 has been mapped as Beard vegetation association 359 which has been described as 'Shrublands; <i>Acacia</i> and <i>Banksia</i> scrub' (Shepherd et al., 2001).	The applicant proposes to clear seven hectares of native vegetation within Lot 5000 on Plan 54812, Greenough, for the purpose of limestone extraction and geotechnical investigations.	Degraded; Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery, 1994).	The vegetation condition and description was determined via photographs provided by the applicant and aerial imagery.

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

(a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.

Comments **Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
The applicant proposes to clear seven hectares of native vegetation within Lot 5000 on Plan 54812, Greenough, for the purpose of limestone extraction and geotechnical investigation. Two hectares of the application area is for limestone extraction and the remaining area is for geotechnical drilling to investigate the extent of the limestone resource on site.

The local area considered in the assessment of this application is defined as a 10 kilometre radius measured from the perimeter of the application area.

Six priority flora species have been recorded within the local area. Priority 1 species *Leucopogon psammophilus* has been recorded on hillsides and breakaways, with most records recorded on laterite (Parks and Wildlife, 2017). Aerial photography and photos of the application area indicate that the application is in a degraded condition with evidence of tree deaths and little to no understory present aside from grass species. The site photos show scattered trees amongst a rocky surface, assumed to be outcropping limestone. Given the above information and the degraded condition of the application area it is unlikely that the habitat is suitable for *Leucopogon psammophilus* (Parks and Wildlife, 2017).

The remaining five flora species are listed as Priority 3 and 4. Priority 3 species are generally known from collections from several different localities not under imminent threat and priority 4 species are considered to have been adequately surveyed and not in need of special protection, but could be if circumstances change. The proposed clearing is unlikely to impact on the conservation status of these species.

Two priority ecological communities (PEC) have been recorded within the local area: 'Coastal sands dominated by *Acacia rostellifera*, *Eucalyptus oraria* and *Eucalyptus obtusiflora*' and 'Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh'. The closest PEC is the 'Coastal sands dominated by *Acacia rostellifera*, *Eucalyptus oraria* and *Eucalyptus obtusiflora*' which has been mapped approximately 3.4 kilometres south west of the application area. Suitable habitat for these communities is not located within the application area.

As discussed under principle (b), two terrestrial fauna species listed as rare or likely to become extinct under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* (WC Act) have been recorded within the local area. Significant habitat for indigenous fauna is not located within the application area.

As discussed under principle (e), the application area is within the Geraldton Sandplains Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) bioregion and Beard vegetation association 359. This IBRA bioregion and vegetation association contain approximately 45 per cent and 24 per cent their pre-European extents (Government of Western Australia, 2016). The local area (10 kilometre radius) retains approximately 12 per cent native vegetation.

The Geraldton Local Biodiversity Strategy states that maintenance of biodiversity of a fragmented landscape is dependent on the distribution of its remaining natural areas. Ecological function can potentially be maintained through a series of linkages or connected patches of remnant vegetation of suitable size. This connectivity is important in assisting with facilitating movement of animals, seeds and pollen and providing resilience to disturbances such as fires and climate change (Department of Environment and Conservation, 2010).

The Geraldton Local Biodiversity Strategy maps the application area within a Regional Ecological Linkage.

Although the application area forms part of an ecological community it does not contain a high level of biodiversity. Therefore the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

References:

Department of Environment and Conservation (2010)
Government of Western Australia (2015)
Parks and Wildlife (2007-)
Parks and Wildlife (2017)

GIS Datasets:

SAC Bio Datasets – accessed December 2016

(b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.

Comments

Proposed clearing may be at variance to this Principle

Two terrestrial fauna species listed as rare or likely to become extinct under the WC Act have been recorded within the local area (10 kilometre radius): Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*) and curlew sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*) (Parks and Wildlife, 2007-).

Carnaby's cockatoo is listed as endangered under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). Carnaby's cockatoo breeds in large hollow-bearing trees, generally within woodlands or forests or in isolated trees (Commonwealth of Australia, 2012). This species nests in hollows in live or dead trees of *Eucalyptus diversicolor* (karrri), *Corymbia calophylla* (marri), *Eucalyptus wandoo* (wandoo), *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* (tuart), *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* (salmon gum), *Eucalyptus marginata* (jarrah), *Eucalyptus rudis* (flooded gum), *Eucalyptus loxophleba* (York gum), *Eucalyptus accedens* (powder bark), *Eucalyptus megacarpa* (bullich) and *Eucalyptus patens* (blackbutt) (Commonwealth of Australia, 2012). The application area is mapped outside of the known breeding range of this species.

Carnaby's cockatoo has a preference for foraging habitat that includes jarrah and marri woodlands and forest heathland and woodland dominated by proteaceous plant species such as *Banksia* sp., *Hakea* sp. and *Grevillea* sp. (Commonwealth of Australia, 2012). Photos provided by the applicant indicate that suitable

foraging habitat for this species is not present within the application area.

The curlew sandpiper mainly occurs on intertidal mudflats in sheltered coastal areas (TSSC, 2015). This type of habitat is not found within the application area.

As discussed under principle (a), the Geraldton Local Biodiversity Strategy maps the application area within a Regional Ecological Linkage (Department of Environment and Conservation, 2010). This ecological linkage is important in maintaining connectivity across a fragmented landscape facilitating the movement of fauna.

The application area does not provide significant breeding or foraging habitat for indigenous fauna, however it is part of an ecological linkage which is important for the movement of fauna across an extensively cleared landscape. Therefore, the proposed clearing may be at variance to this Principle.

Revegetation of the site following extraction to a comparable condition, representative of Community 12 'Limestone Ridge: *Melaleuca cardiophylla*' (as mapped in the Geraldton Regional Flora and Vegetation Survey), will ensure no permanent loss of vegetation in this linkage occurs.

Methodology References:
Commonwealth of Australia (2012)
Department of Environment and Conservation (2010)
Keighery (1994)
Parks and Wildlife (2007-)
TSSC (2015)

GIS Datasets:
SAC Bio Datasets – accessed December 2016

(c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora.

Comments **Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
Two rare flora species have been recorded within the local area (10 kilometre radius).

The first species is a perennial herb within is found growing in association with river banks and seasonally wet places (WA Herbarium, 1998-).

The second species is mainly found in swampy flats (WA Herbarium, 1998-).

No watercourses or wetlands have been recorded in the vicinity of the application area and therefore suitable habitat for the above species is not recorded within the application area.

Given the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology References:
Western Australian Herbarium (1998-)

GIS Datasets:
SAC Bio Datasets – accessed December 2016

(d) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a threatened ecological community.

Comments **Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
No threatened ecological communities (TEC) have been recorded within the local area (10 kilometre radius). Therefore, the application area is not likely to comprise the whole or part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a TEC.

The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology GIS Datasets:
SAC Bio Datasets – accessed December 2016

(e) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.

Comments **Proposed clearing is at variance to this Principle**
The area under application is located within the Geraldton Sandplains Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) bioregion. This IBRA bioregion has approximately 45 per cent of its pre-European vegetation extent remaining (Government of Western Australia, 2016).

The vegetation under application is mapped as Beard vegetation association 359 of which there is approximately 24 per cent of its pre-European extent remaining within the Geraldton Sandplains bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2016).

Beard vegetation association is described as 'Shrublands; *Acacia* and *Banksia* scrub' (Shepherd et al., 2001). The vegetation observed within the application area was 'closed heath, consisting predominately of *Melaleuca cardiophylla* and *Acacia* sp.' (DER, 2017). Therefore the vegetation present does not fit the description of this vegetation association, this could be due to the broad scale of Beard's mapping (Parks and Wildlife, 2017a). The Geraldton Regional Flora and Vegetation Survey maps the application area as Community 12 'Limestone Ridge: *Melaleuca cardiophylla*'. Community 12 is one of the more widespread communities in the survey area and this community is considered of conservation significance where the condition is better because most areas are grazed and degraded (Parks and Wildlife, 2017a).

The area under application is located within the City of Greater Geraldton, within which there is approximately 43 per cent pre-European extent remaining (Government of Western Australia, 2016).

The local area (10 kilometre radius) retains approximately 12 per cent native vegetation.

The national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia have a target to prevent clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30 percent of that present pre-1750, below which species loss appears to accelerate exponentially at an ecosystem level (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001). The local area retain less than the threshold level of 30 per cent and therefore the application area is considered to occur within an extensively cleared area.

As discussed in principle (a) the Geraldton Local Biodiversity Strategy maps the application area within a Regional Ecological Linkage. This strategy states that the distribution of natural areas across the landscape becomes critically important for maintaining biodiversity once a habitat type is reduced to less than 30 per cent of its original extent (Department of Environment Regulation, 2010). Therefore, the application area is a significant remnant as it forms part of a Regional Ecological Linkage.

Given the above, the proposed clearing is at variance to this principle.

Revegetation of the site following extraction to a comparable condition, representative of Community 12 'Limestone Ridge: *Melaleuca cardiophylla*' (as mapped in the Geraldton Regional Flora and Vegetation Survey), will ensure no permanent loss of extensively cleared vegetation types occurs. Management measures limiting extraction to a two hectare area at any one time and the progressive rehabilitation of quarried areas will assist in minimising the impact to extensively cleared vegetation types.

	Pre-European (ha)	Current Extent (ha)	Remaining (%)	Extent of lands managed by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (%)
IBRA Bioregion*				
Geraldton Sandplains	3,316,038	1,404,373	45	40
Local Government Authority*				
City of Greater Geraldton	988,399	428,564	43	16
Beard Vegetation Association in Bioregion*				
359	44,418	10,761	24	4

Methodology References:
Commonwealth of Australia (2001)
Department of Environment and Conservation (2010)
Government of Western Australia (2015)
Keighery (1994)

GIS Datasets:
Remnant vegetation – Mid West

(f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.

Comments **Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
No watercourses or wetlands have been recorded within the vicinity of the application area. The closest watercourse to the application area is Greenough River, which is located approximately 2.7 kilometres west of the application area.

Given the distance to the closest watercourse, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology GIS Databases:
Hydrology, linear

(g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.

Comments Proposed clearing may be at variance to this Principle

The Department of Food and Agriculture WA has mapped the soil within the application area as Tamala South 5 shallow sand Phase, which is described as 'Undulating to gently undulating relict dune crests with shallow sand and common limestone rock outcrop. Shallow red and brown sand' (Schoknecht et al., 2004).

The following land degradation risks have been mapped within the application area:

Land Degradation Risk Category	Tamala South 5 shallow sand Phase
Water Erosion	10-30% of map unit has a high to extreme water erosion risk
Wind Erosion	>70% of the map unit has a high to extreme wind erosion risk
Waterlogging	<3% of map unit has a moderate to very high waterlogging risk
Flooding	<3% of the map unit has a moderate to high flood risk
Salinity Risk	30-50% of map unit has a moderate to high salinity risk or is presently saline

Based on the mapped land degradation risk outlined above, the application area has a relatively low likelihood of water erosion, waterlogging and flooding (Schoknecht et al., 2004).

Wind erosion is mapped at greater than 70 per cent of the map unit having a high to extreme risk of wind erosion. Given the sandy nature of the soils and mapped land degradation risk, the proposed clearing may lead to appreciable land degradation through wind erosion. Management measures requiring extraction to commence within three months of clearing, along with the requirement to progressively rehabilitate will assist in mitigating the risk of appreciable land degradation occurring.

As discussed in principle (e) the Geraldton Sandplains has approximately 45 per cent of native vegetation remaining. The Geraldton Local Biodiversity Strategy states that this remaining 45 per cent is highly fragmented, degraded and susceptible to dryland salinity (Department of Environment and Conservation, 2010). Given the application area is located on a ridge with raised elevation, is not in close proximity to a watercourse and contains well-drained soils, the proposed clearing is not likely to cause land degradation via salinity.

Given the potential for wind erosion, the proposed clearing may be at variance to this Principle. The risk of wind erosion will be minimised through staged clearing and progressive clearing.

Methodology References:
Department of Environment and Conservation (2010)
Keighery (1994)

(h) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.

Comments Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

No conservation areas have been recorded within the local area (10 kilometre radius). The closest conservation area is Cutubury Nature Reserve, which is located approximately 15.5 kilometres north of the application area.

As discussed in principle (a), the Geraldton Local Biodiversity Strategy maps the application area within a Regional Ecological Linkage (Department of Environment and Conservation, 2010). The application area forms part of a significant ecological corridor which facilitates the movement of fauna between remnant patches of vegetation.

Given the distance to the nearest conservation area, it is unlikely that the proposed clearing will impact upon the values of conservation areas.

The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology References:
Department of Environment and Conservation (2010)

GIS Datasets:
Department of Parks and Wildlife Tenure

(i) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.

Comments Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

No watercourses or wetlands are mapped within the application area. The nearest watercourse is approximately 2.7 kilometres from the application area. Noting this, the proposed clearing is not likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface water entering waterways.

Groundwater salinity within the application area is mapped as 3,000-7,000 total dissolved solids, milligrams per litre. This level of groundwater salinity is considered to be moderately saline to saline. Given the application area is located on a ridge with raised elevation, is not in close proximity to a watercourse and contains well-drained soils, the proposed clearing is not likely to cause land degradation via salinity.

Given the above the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology References:
Keighery (1994)

GIS Datasets:
Groundwater Salinity Statewide
Hydrography linear

(j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.

Comments Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

Given the porous nature of the mapped soils and the low mapped (<3 per cent) flood risk, the proposed clearing is not likely to increase the incidence or intensity of flooding.

The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology GIS Databases:
Annual rainfall - Statewide
Soils, statewide
Hydrology, linear

Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

Comments On 3 February 2017, the City of Greater Geraldton issued Development Approval to the applicant for the purpose of Extractive Industry (Limestone) (City of Great Geraldton, 2017a). This approval relates to a two hectare extraction pit.

The City of Greater Geraldton advised that the application area forms part of the Geraldton Local Ecological Linkages, and therefore an equivalent area of seven hectares should be revegetated within the same ecological linkage (City of Great Geraldton, 2017b).

On 22 May 2017 the former Department of Environment Regulation (DER) wrote to the applicant requesting a comprehensive revegetation plan. In response to this letter the applicant provided a copy of the company's Borrow Pit Management Plan which contained details of the proposed rehabilitation and revegetation. A condition has been added to the permit including elements of the information contained in the Borrow Pit Management Plan.

The application was advertised in *The West Australian* newspaper on 30 January 2017 by DER, inviting submissions from the public within a 21 day period. No submissions were received in relation to this application. The application was re-advertised on DER's website on 14 March 2017 to notify of the change in purpose to include geotechnical investigations.

No Aboriginal Sites of Significance have been recorded within the application area.

Methodology References:
City of Greater Geraldton (2017a)
City of Greater Geraldton (2017b)

GIS Databases:
Aboriginal Register System Sites

4. References

- City of Greater Geraldton (2017a) Notice of Determination on Application for Development Approval. Approval No: TP16/316 (DER Ref: A1390423).
- City of Greater Geraldton (2017b) Planning and Environmental Advice for Clearing Permit Application CPS 7432/1. Received on 1 February 2017 (DER Ref: A1371588).
- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.
- Commonwealth of Australia (2012) EPBC Act referral guidelines for three threatened black cockatoo species. Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Populations and Communities, Canberra.
- Department of Environment and Conservation (2010) Regional and Local Ecological Linkages for the Geraldton Local Biodiversity Strategy. A preliminary investigation of Ecological Linkages for the Geraldton Regional Flora and Vegetation Study area. Nadine Guthrie. Perth Biodiversity Project. November 2010.
- Department of Parks and Wildlife (2007-) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Parks and Wildlife. URL: <http://naturemap.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>. Accessed January 2017.
- Department of Parks and Wildlife (2017) Species and Communities flora advice for Clearing Permit Application CPS 7432/1 (DER Ref: A1407245)
- Department of Parks and Wildlife (2017) Species and Communities flora advice for Clearing Permit Application CPS 7432/1 (DER Ref: A1407245)
- 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) (2015). Approved Conservation Advice for *Calidris ferruginea* (Curlew Sandpiper). Canberra: Department of the Environment. Available from: <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/species/pubs/856-conservation-advice.pdf>. In effect under the EPBC Act from 26-May-2015.
- Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) FloraBase - The Western Australian Flora. Department of Parks and Wildlife. <http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/> (Accessed November 2016).