



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 7448/1
Permit Holder:	Regional Power Corporation TA Horizon Power
Duration of Permit:	1 May 2017– 1 May 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 constructing a transmission line.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

LOT 281 ON PLAN 219235, PEEDAMULLA
LOT 280 ON PLAN 219235, TALANDJI
LOT 152 ON PLAN 220265, TALANDJI
LOT 149 ON PLAN 220384, PEEDAMULLA

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 5 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 7448/1.

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 project 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 *project activities* under the *Energy Operators (Powers) Act 1970* 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

- (a) 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*:
 - (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.
- (b) At least once in each 12 month period for the term of this Permit, the Permit Holder must remove or kill any *weeds* growing within areas cleared under this Permit.

8. Fauna management

- (a) In relation to the area cross hatched yellow on attached Plan 7448/1, the Permit Holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to inspect that area immediately prior to, and for the duration of clearing, for the presence of terrestrial fauna listed in the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice and priority fauna*.
- (b) Clearing must cease in any area where any terrestrial fauna listed in the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice and priority fauna* are identified until either:
 - (i) the individual(s) has been removed by a *fauna specialist*; or
 - (ii) the individual(s) has moved on from that area to adjoining suitable habitat.
- (c) Any terrestrial fauna listed in the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice and priority fauna* removed in accordance with condition 3(b)(i) of this Permit must be relocated by a *fauna specialist* to an area of suitable habitat.

DEFINITIONS

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

fauna specialist: means a person who holds a tertiary qualification specializing in environmental science or equivalent, and has a minimum of 2 years work experience in fauna identification and surveys of fauna native to the region being inspected or surveyed, or who is approved by the CEO as a suitable fauna specialist for the bioregion, and who holds a valid fauna licence issued under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*;

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;

priority fauna: means those fauna taxa describes as priority fauna, classes 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 in the *Department of Parks and Wildlife's Threatened and Priority Fauna Rankings List for Western Australia* (as amended);

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.

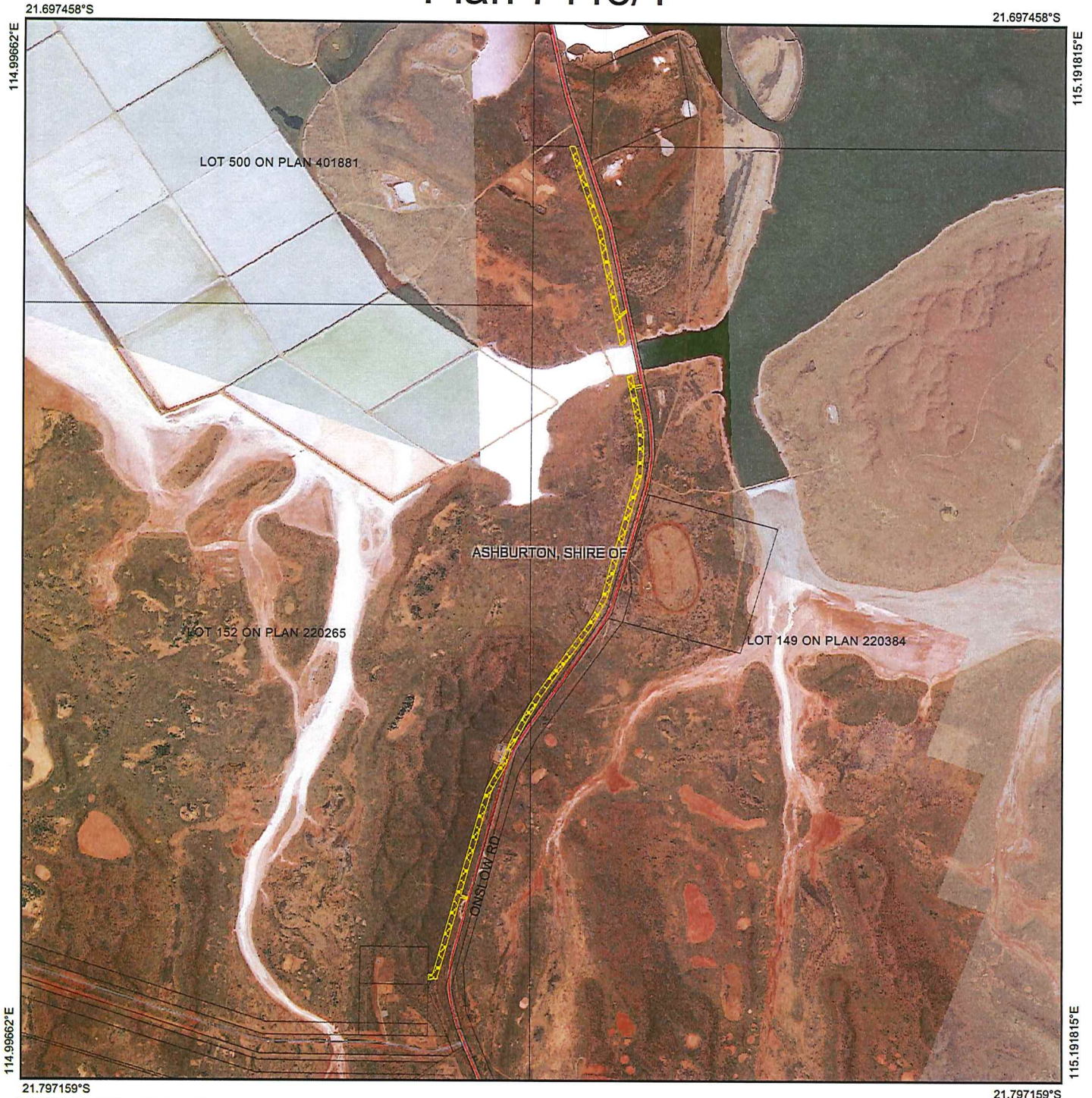
Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice means those fauna taxa gazetted as rare fauna pursuant to section 14(4)(a) of the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* (as amended).

James Widenbar
A/SENIOR MANAGER
CLEARING REGULATION

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

20 April 2017

Plan 7448/1



Legend

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



1:40,000
(Approximate when reproduced at A4)
GDA 94 (Lat/Long)
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

James Wiseman Date 2014/17
JAMES WISEMAN

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



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 7448/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Regional Power Corporation TA Horizon Power

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 281 ON PLAN 219235, PEEDAMULLA
LOT 280 ON PLAN 219235, TALANDJI
LOT 152 ON PLAN 220265, TALANDJI
LOT 149 ON PLAN 220384, PEEDAMULLA

Colloquial name:
Local Government Authority: ASHBURTON, SHIRE OF
DER Region: North West
Localities: PEEDAMULLA and TALANDJI

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
5		Mechanical Removal	constructing a transmission line

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 20 April 2017

Reasons for Decision: The clearing permit application was received on 24 January 2017. This application originally included 0.2 hectares of Tidal mudflats and Tidal creeks which were likely to contain suitable habitat for priority flora *Eleocharis papillosa* (P3). The applicant requested to amend the application to remove this area to avoid potential impacts.

The amended application 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 (f) and is not likely to be at variance to any of the remaining clearing Principles.

The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing may impact the environmental values of adjacent remnant vegetation through the possible introduction or spread of weeds. Weed and management measures will minimise impacts to this remnant vegetation.

The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing is unlikely to have any significant environmental impacts.

In deciding to grant a clearing permit the Delegated Officer took into consideration measures to avoid impacts and specialist advice.

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 associations:	The applicant proposes to clear five hectares of native vegetation within Lot 281 on Plan 219235 and Lot 149 on Plan 220384, Peedamulla, and Lot 152 on Plan 220265 and Lot 280 on Plan 219235, Talandji, for the purpose of constructing a transmission line.	Very Good; Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994). to Completely Degraded; No longer intact, completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery 1994).	The condition and description of the vegetation within the application area was determined via a Flora survey conducted by GHD in December 2016 (GHD 2017; Horizon Power 2017a). The application area is in a very good to completely degraded (Keighery 1994) condition (Horizon Power 2017a).
670: which is described as 'Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; scattered shrubs over <i>Triodia basedowii</i> ';			
127: which is described as 'Bare areas; mud flats'; and			
676: which is described as 'Succulent steppe; samphire' (Shepherd et al. 2001).			

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

- Comments** This application proposes to clear five hectares of native vegetation within Lot 281 on Plan 219235 and Lot 149 on Plan 220384, Peedamulla, and Lot 152 on Plan 220265 and Lot 280 on Plan 219235, Talandji, for the purpose of constructing a transmission line.
- The application area was previously mapped by Biota and comprises eight vegetation units grouped within four vegetation habitats classifications (Horizon Power 2017a).
- Tidal Mudflats and Tidal Creeks (T) – comprised of 'bare' mudflat, with only very scattered shrubs;
 - Inland Sand Dunes (ID) – Numerous low linear sand dunes. Narrow swales between these dunes typically featured scattered tall shrubs and a higher density of *Acacia stellaticeps* low shrubs;
 - Coastal San Plains (CS) – Flat to gently undulating sandy inland plains dominated by Soft Spinifex *Triodia epactica* hummock grasslands with varying degree of invasion by *Cenchrus* species; and
 - Clayey Plains (CP) likely to support tussock grasslands of various native species. Other clayey pockets are expected to support tall shrublands of *Mesquite*.
- The condition of the vegetation in the application area is considered to be in a very good to completely degraded (Keighery 1994) condition (Horizon Power 2017a).
- A total of seven priority flora species and no rare flora species have been recorded within a 30 kilometre radius. The GHD (2017) survey targeted conservation significant flora identified as potentially occurring within the survey area. The flora survey which was undertaken in December 2016 recorded one population of *E. forrestii* subsp. *viridis* within the application area (GHD 2017; Horizon Power 2017a). Twenty two plants were recorded and 12 of those are within the application area and ten individuals are adjacent to the application area (Horizon Power 2017a).
- Eremophila forrestii* subsp. *viridis* (Vulnerable under the *Environmental Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and priority 3 under the Western Australian Priority Flora List), is only known from 5 populations and flowers in August. Most records are south of Onslow and another has been recorded approximately 1000km away on the Canning Stock Route (Parks and Wildlife 2017).
- The Department of Parks and Wildlife (Parks and Wildlife) advised that "it is unlikely that the taking of 12 plants will significantly impact the conservation status of the species. Measures should be undertaken to avoid impacting the 10 plants which occur adjacent to the application area" (Parks and Wildlife 2017).
- No additional conservation significant flora are likely to occur in the application area.
- Forty nine fauna species of conservation significance have been recorded within a 20 kilometre radius (Parks and Wildlife, 2007-). These species have wide distributions and are generally found within a variety of habitats. Given the relatively small size and linear nature of the application area, the vegetation proposed to be cleared is not likely to comprise of significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia given the extent of vegetation remaining in the local area. However, the proposed clearing may result in fauna injuries or deaths during works. Fauna management measures will minimise impacts to fauna indigenous to Western Australia.
- No threatened ecological communities (TEC) and two priority ecological communities (PEC) are mapped within a 30 kilometre radius. No TEC's or PEC's were identified within the various flora studies undertaken on the wider study area (Horizon Power 2017a).
- Parks and Wildlife advised that "the supporting information confirms the presence of *Prosopis pallida* (mesquite), which is a Declared plant under the *Biosecurity and Agricultural Management Act 2007*. Parks and Wildlife recommends strict weed hygiene and control measures are put in place during the clearing to avoid spreading this weed. Where Mesquite is removed, it should be completed in accordance with the relevant protocols and guidelines, and in consultation with the Pilbara Mesquite Management Committee (Ph: 9144 1844)" (Parks and Wildlife 2017).
- The disturbance caused by the proposed clearing may increase the risk of weeds being introduced into adjacent areas of remnant vegetation. Weed management measures will minimise impacts to surrounding native vegetation.
- The vegetation type under application is well represented locally and regionally, with mapped Beard vegetation associations 670, 127 and 676 retain approximately 99 per cent of its pre-European extent with approximately 98 per cent remaining within the Shire of Carnarvon (Government of Western Australia 2016). Given this, the vegetation within the application area is not considered significant as a remnant within an extensively cleared area.
- There are no wetlands, water courses or conservation areas mapped within the application area. An area subject Inundation is mapped adjacent to the application area. Given this, the proposed clearing may impact vegetation associated with a wetland but is not likely to significantly impact wetlands or to deteriorate the quality of groundwater or surface water.

The assessment of the proposed clearing identified that it is not considered likely for the application area to comprise of a high level of biological diversity, contain significant fauna habitat, contain habitat suitable for rare or priority flora species, consist of a threatened ecological community and is not likely to lead to land degradation in the form of wind or water erosion or increase in the incidence or intensity of flooding.

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

- Methodology** References:
- GHD (2017)
 - Government of Western Australia (2016)
 - Horizon Power (2017a)
 - Parks and Wildlife (2007-)
 - Parks and Wildlife (2017)
 - Keighery (1994)
- GIS Databases:
- Hydrography, Linear
 - Pre European vegetation
 - SAC Bio Datasets (Accessed February 2017)

Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

Comments The original application included native vegetation in a very good (Keighery 1994) condition in the mapped vegetation unit T1 – Tidal mudflats and Tidal creeks. Advice from Parks and Wildlife identified that the vegetation in the T1 area may contain suitable habitat for priority flora *Eleocharis papillosa*. In an email of 13 April 2017 the applicant requested to amend the application area and removed the T1 areas from the application and advised these areas will be directionally drilled (Horizon Power 2017b).

The application area falls within the Pilbara groundwater and surface water area which are areas proclaimed under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*. The Department of Water (DoW) has advised that the "application area does not appear to intersect any defined waterways across the various properties and road reserves. All activities associated with the clearing including infrastructure, laydown areas, refuelling, and topsoil storage should be compatible with the Departments Land Use Compatibility Tables. Acceptable activities should be managed using current best practices" (DoW 2017). The DoW "considers the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact on groundwater resources in the area, provided the proponent adhere to the DoWs advice and guidelines" (DoW 2017).

The application was advertised in *The West Australian* newspaper on 13 February 2017 and online on 14 February 2017 by DER inviting submissions from the public within a 21 day period. No submissions from the public were received in relation to this application.

One registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance occur within the application area.

- Methodology** References:
- DoW (2017)
 - Horizon Power (2017b)
 - Keighery (1994)
- GIS Databases:
- Aboriginal Sites Register System
 - RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts
 - RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas

4. References

- Department of Parks and Wildlife (2007-) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Parks and Wildlife. URL: <http://naturemap.dec.wa.gov.au/>. Accessed February 2017.
- Department of Parks and Wildlife (Parks and Wildlife) (2017) Species and Communities flora advice. Additional Information for Clearing Permit Application CPS 7448/1. DER Ref: 1406313.
- Department of Water (DoW) (2017) Clearing Permit Application Cps 7448/1 – Regional Power Corporation TA Horizon Power. DER Ref: A1394537.
- GHD (2017) Onslow Utilities Infrastructure Upgrade Project Targeted Flora Survey. 61-34761-00000-EN-RPT-001. Rev 1. January 2017
- Government of Western Australia (2016). 2016 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of October 2016. WA Department of Parks and Wildlife, Perth.
- Horizon Power (2017a) Onslow Distributes Energy Resources Project: Transmission Line Construction. Native Vegetation Clearing Permit Application Support Document.
- Horizon Power (2017b) Assessment of CPS 7448 – Onslow Transmission Line. DER Ref: A1413090
- 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. Technical Report 249. Department of Agriculture Western Australia, South Perth.