



## CLEARING PERMIT

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

<b>Purpose Permit number:</b>	CPS 7483/1
<b>Permit Holder:</b>	Outback Aviation Logistics Pty Ltd
<b>Duration of Permit:</b>	21 July 2017 – 21 July 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 irrigated agriculture.

**2. Land on which clearing is to be done**

Lot 63 on Deposited Plan 238486, Leonora

**3. Area of Clearing**

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 61.34 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross hatched yellow on attached Plan 7483/1.

**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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "S. Weighell".

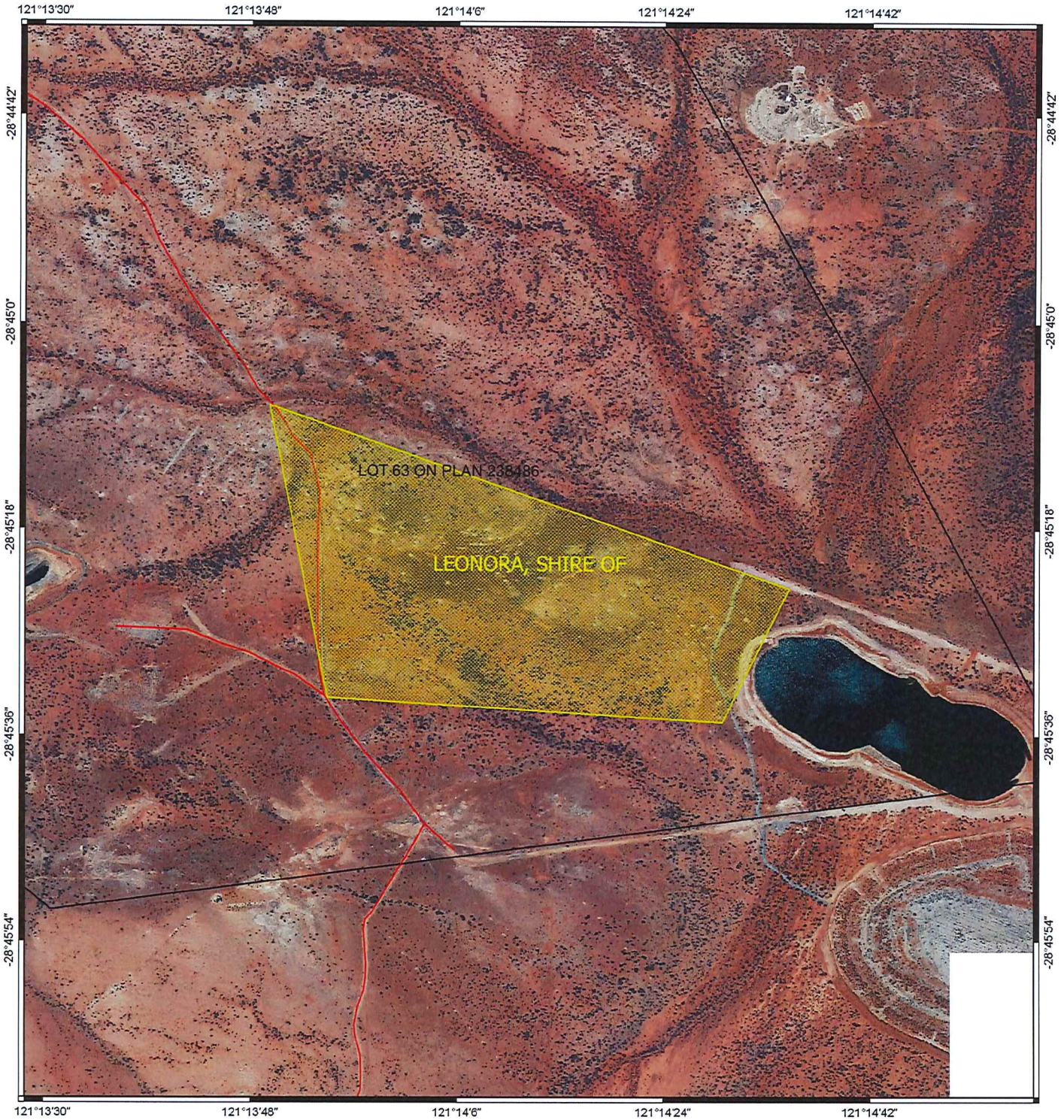
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Simon Weighell  
A/MANAGER  
CLEARING REGULATION

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

21 June 2017

# Plan 7483/1



## Legend

-  Areas approved to clear
  -  Roads
  -  LGA
  -  Cadastre
- Virtual Mosaic (LGATE-V001)



1:10,000  
MGA 94  
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

*S. Weighell* Date *21/6/17*  
SIMON WEIGHELL

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



GOVERNMENT OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 7483/1  
Permit type: Purpose Permit

### 1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Outback Aviation Logistics Pty Ltd

### 1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 63 ON PLAN 238486, LEONORA  
Local Government Authority: LEONORA, SHIRE OF  
DER Region: Goldfields  
Localities: LEONORA

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
61.34	-	Mechanical Removal	Irrigated agriculture

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted  
Decision Date: 21 June 2017  
Reasons for Decision: This application was received on 10 February 2017.

The clearing application has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with section 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, and it has been concluded that the proposed clearing may be at variance to principle (f) and is not likely to be at variance to the remaining clearing principles.

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

## 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 vegetation under application has been mapped as Beard vegetation associations (Shepherd et al., 2001): - 18 which is described as "Low woodland, mulga ( <i>Acacia aneura</i> )"; and - 39 which is described as "Shrublands, mulga scrub".	The application is to clear 61.34 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 63 on Deposited Plan 238486, Leonora for the purpose of irrigated agriculture.	Degraded; Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery, 1994).  TO  Very Good; Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994).	The condition of the vegetation was determined by digital aerial imagery. The application area is located adjacent to mine pit voids and evidence of mining activities and associated disturbance is apparent across the majority of the application area.

## 3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

**Comments** The application is to clear up to 61.34 hectares of native vegetation for the purpose of irrigated agriculture. The vegetation under application falls within the Murchison Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) bioregion which retains above 99 per cent native vegetation cover (Government of Western Australia, 2016). The application area has been mapped as mulga (*Acacia aneura*) shrublands and woodlands which are well represented within the local area (20 kilometre radius surrounding the application area). The local area retains 87 per cent native vegetation.

No fauna or flora species listed as rare or likely to become extinct under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* have been recorded within the local area. No fauna species listed as Priority by the Department of Parks and Wildlife have been recorded within the local area. Although one Priority 1 flora species has been recorded in the local area (13 kilometres from the application area), as its required habitat type is not present within the application area, it is not likely to be impacted.

No threatened or priority ecological communities are mapped over the application area.

No conservation areas occur in the local area.

Given the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on rare or priority flora, a priority or threatened ecological community, conservation reserves, significant fauna habitat or significant remnant vegetation within a highly cleared landscape.

One minor non-perennial watercourse is mapped as intersecting the north western corner of the application area before continuing parallel to and immediately adjacent to the northern border of the application area. Immediately east of the application area the watercourse is mapped as flowing into a mine pit void. The application area may contain vegetation growing in association with a watercourse however impacts are unlikely to be significant given the watercourse has already been modified by mining activities.

Giving consideration to the soil types mapped over the application area, the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (CSLC) has advised that the proposed clearing is not likely to cause appreciable land degradation (CSLC, 2017).

Given the local area is highly vegetated and that the closest watercourse has already been modified by mining activities, the proposed clearing is not likely to deteriorate the quality of ground water or surface water and is not likely to cause or exacerbate flooding.

Given the above, clearing the vegetation under application may be at variance to principle (f) and is not likely to be at variance to the remaining clearing principles.

#### Methodology

##### References:

Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2017)  
Government of Western Australia (2016)  
Keighery, B.J. (1994)

##### GIS Datasets:

SAC Bio Datasets (accessed June 2017)  
Hydrography, linear  
NLWRA, Current Extent of Native Vegetation  
IBRA Australia  
Aerial Imagery  
DPaW Tenure

#### Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

**Comments** The clearing permit application was advertised on the Department of Environment Regulation website on 3 March 2017 with a 21 day submission period. No public submissions have been received in relation to this application.

An Aboriginal Site of Significance has been mapped within the application area. The applicant will be advised of their responsibilities under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*.

The Shire of Leonora has advised that they do not have any objections to the proposed clearing, subject to the Department of Mines and Petroleum having no objections (Shire of Leonora, 2017).

A Pastoral Diversification Permit is required from the Department of Lands (DoL) in order to utilise the area for irrigated agriculture. A Pastoral Diversification Permit application is currently under consideration by DoL. Pastoral Diversification Permits cannot be granted prior to a decision on the clearing permit application.

The CSLC has advised that soil depth may be a limiting factor for irrigated plant production and recommended that the applicant undertake a detailed soil survey prior to clearing (CSLC, 2017). As noted by the CSLC, this risk is an economic risk and not a land degradation risk.

#### Methodology

##### References:

Shire of Leonora (2017)  
CSLC (2017)

##### GIS Datasets:

Aboriginal Sites Register System

#### 4. References

Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2017) Land Degradation Advice and Assessment Report for clearing permit application CPS 7483/1 received 29 March 2017; Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia (DER ref: A1403446).

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.

Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

Shire of Leonora (2017) Advice received in relation to clearing permit Application CPS 7483/1. Received 22 March 2017 (DER ref: A1437679).