



## CLEARING PERMIT

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

<b>Purpose Permit number:</b>	CPS 7503/1
<b>Permit Holder:</b>	Shire of Murchison
<b>Duration of Permit:</b>	21 June 2017 – 21 June 2027

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 gravel extraction.

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

Lot 11810 on Deposited Plan 220399, Woolgorong

**3. Area of Clearing**

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 10.56 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 7503/1.

**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**

The Permit Holder shall not clear any native vegetation after 25 May 2022.

**6. 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

**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) Prior to leaving the area cross-hatched red on attached Plan 7503/1, the Permit Holder must clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation.

#### **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.
- (b) At an *optimal time* following clearing authorised under this Permit, *revegetate* and *rehabilitate* the area(s) that are no longer required for the purpose for which they were cleared under this Permit by:
  - (i) re-shaping the surface of the land so that it is consistent with the surrounding 5 metres of uncleared land; and
  - (ii) ripping the ground on the contour to remove soil compaction; and
  - (iii) ripping the pit floor and contour batters within the extraction site; and
  - (iv) laying the vegetative material and topsoil retained under condition 8(a) on the cleared area(s).
- (c) Within 24 months of laying the vegetative material and topsoil on the cleared area in accordance with condition 8(b) of this Permit:
  - (i) engage an environmental specialist to determine the species composition, structure and density of the area revegetated and rehabilitated; and
  - (ii) where, in the opinion of an *environmental specialist*, the composition structure and density determined under condition 8(c)(i) of this Permit will not result in a similar species composition, structure and density to that of pre-clearing vegetation types in that area, *revegetate* the area by deliberately *planting* and/or *direct seeding* native vegetation that will result in a similar species composition, structure and density of native vegetation to pre-clearing vegetation types in that area and ensuring only *local provenance* seeds and propagating material are used.

#### **9. Fauna management**

Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder shall obtain a fauna licence issued pursuant to Regulation 15 of the *Wildlife Conservation Regulations 1970*.

### **PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING**

#### **10. Records to 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 species composition, structure and density of the cleared area;
  - (ii) 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 or decimal degrees;
  - (iii) the date that the area was cleared; and
  - (iv) the size of the area cleared (in hectares).
- (b) In relation to the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* of areas pursuant to condition 8 of this Permit:
  - (i) the location of any areas *revegetated* and *rehabilitated*, recorded using a GPS unit set to GDA94, expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;
  - (ii) a description of the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* activities undertaken;
  - (iii) the size of the area *revegetated* and *rehabilitated* (in hectares); and
  - (iv) the species composition, structure and density of *revegetation* and *rehabilitation*.

## 9. 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 8 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 25 December 2026, the Permit Holder must provide to the CEO a written report of records required under condition 8 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:

**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;

**environmental specialist:** means a person who holds a tertiary qualification in environmental science or equivalent, and has experience relevant to the type of environmental advice that an environmental specialist is required to provide under this Permit, or who is approved by the CEO as a suitable environmental specialist.

**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;

**optimal time** means the period from April to May for undertaking *direct seeding*, and the period from May to June for undertaking *planting*;

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

**regenerate/ed/ion** means re-establishment of vegetation from in situ seed banks and propagating material (such as lignotubers, bulbs, rhizomes) contained either within the topsoil or seed-bearing *mulch*;

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

**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.



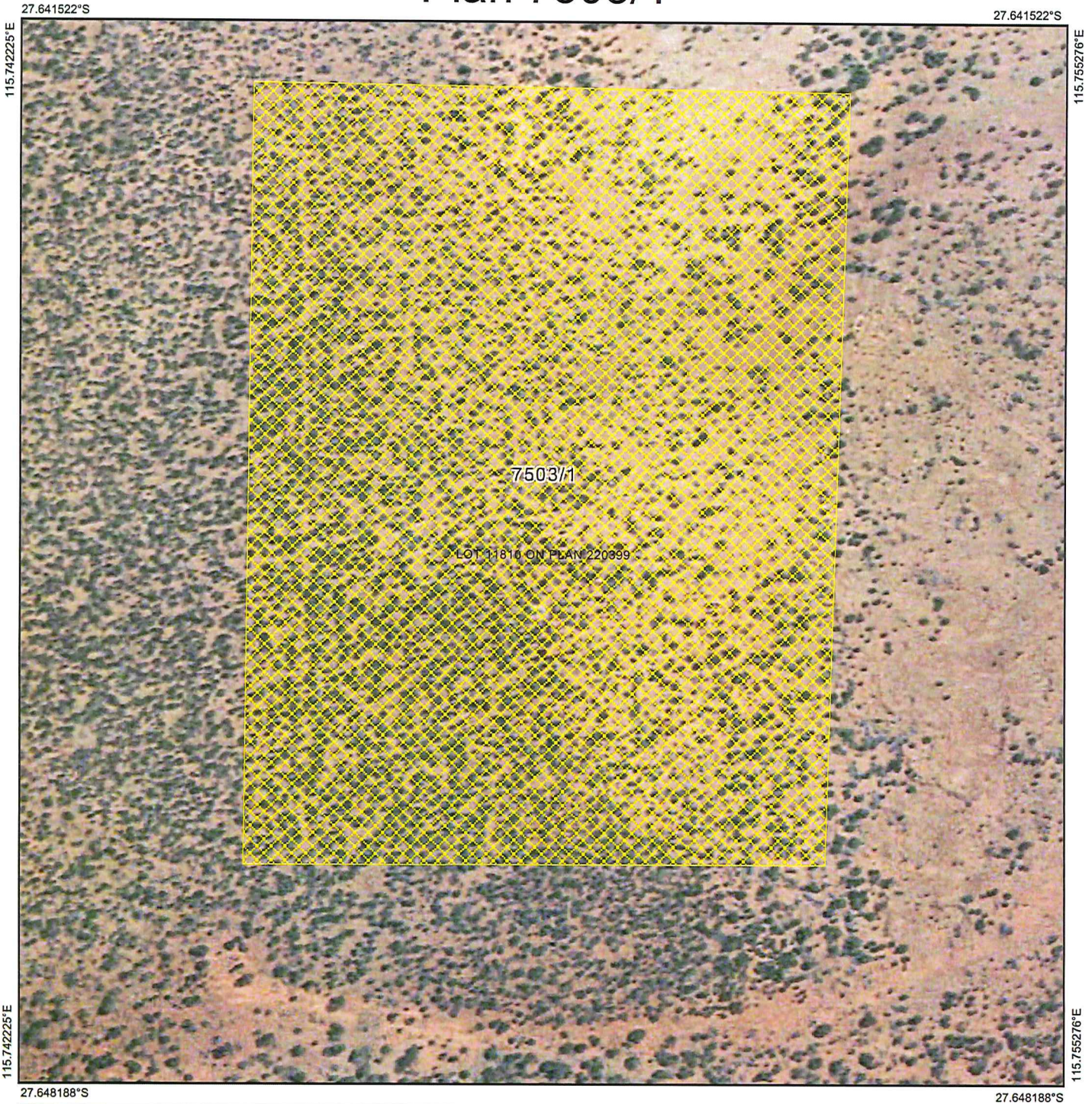
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Mathew Gannaway  
MANAGER  
CLEARING REGULATION




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

29 May 2017

# Plan 7503/1

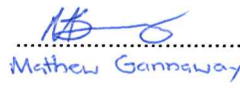


## Legend

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



1:2,500  
(Approximate when reproduced at A4)  
GDA 94 (Lat/Long)  
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

 Date 29/05/2017

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



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## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 7503/1  
Permit type: Purpose Permit

### 1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Shire of Murchison

### 1.3. Property details

Property: Lot 11810 on Deposited Plan 220399, Woolgorong  
Colloquial name:  
Local Government Authority: Murchison, Shire of  
DER Region: Midwest  
DPaW District: Geraldton  
LCDC:  
Localities: Woolgorong

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
10.56		Mechanical Removal	Gravel extraction

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant  
Decision Date: 29 May 2017

Reasons for Decision: The clearing permit application was received on 1 March 2017 and 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 (b) and is not likely to be at variance to the remaining Principles.

The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing may impact habitat for the Shield-back trapdoor spider and the environmental values of adjacent remnant vegetation through the possible introduction or spread of weeds. Fauna management and Weed management measures will minimise impacts to the Shield-back trapdoor spider and remnant vegetation.

The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing is not likely 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 application area is mapped as Beard vegetation association 326 which is described as Low woodland over scrub; mulga over bowgada and miniritchie scrub (Shepherd et al., 2001).	The applicant has applied to clear 10.56 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 11810 on Deposited Plan 220399, Woolgorong, for the purpose of 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 photographs provided by the applicants consultant (GHD, 2017).

### 3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

**Comments** The application is to clear 10.56 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 11810 on Deposited Plan 220399, Woolgorong, for the purpose of gravel extraction. Photographs of the vegetation within the application area indicates that the vegetation appears to be in an excellent to degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition with some evidence of disturbance.

The local area surrounding the application is highly vegetated (retaining approximately 99 per cent native vegetation). The vegetation within the application area is mapped as Beard vegetation association 326 of which approximately 100 per cent of its pre-European extent remains at a bioregional level (Government of Western Australia, 2016). Given the surrounding native vegetation, the application area is not within an area that has been extensively cleared.

Five conservation significant fauna species have been mapped within the local area (Parks and Wildlife, 2007-). The Department of Parks and Wildlife (Parks and Wildlife) advised that a fauna survey in 2015 identified seven burrows of the shield-backed trapdoor spider (*Idiosoma nigrum*) in the vicinity of the clearing area (Parks and Wildlife, 2017a). The shield-backed trapdoor spider is listed as vulnerable under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and listed as vulnerable under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* (Threatened Species Scientific Committee, 2013).

Parks and Wildlife advised that "the proposed clearing will remove the lids from the trapdoor spider burrows and may infill the burrows which would then cause the death of the spiders, whilst the gravel extraction will remove the entire burrow which will cause the death of those individual spiders present in the application area" (Parks and Wildlife, 2017b). Given this, the proposed clearing will impact the shield-backed trapdoor spiders that are present within the application area. Parks and Wildlife further advised "that the surrounding area is highly vegetated and is known to comprise of suitable habitat for the trapdoor spider, and the species is known from across a large geographic area and the proposed clearing is not likely to have a significant impact on this species. Noting that the proposed clearing will impact individuals of a threatened species, the applicant is required to obtain a fauna licence issued pursuant to Regulation 15 of the *Wildlife Conservation Regulations 1970*" (Parks and Wildlife, 2017b). Given the application area contains shield-backed trapdoor spider burrows, the application area may comprise of significant habitat for fauna and may be at variance to Principle (b). A fauna management condition will minimise impacts to significant habitat for the shield-backed trapdoor spider.

According to available databases, a total of eleven priority flora species have been recorded within the local area (20 kilometre radius). No rare flora or priority or threatened ecological communities (TEC) have been recorded within the local area. The closest mapped priority flora record is located over 5.2 kilometres from the application area. Given the distance of the application area from mapped conservation flora and threatened and priority ecological communities and the extent of similar vegetation within the local area, the proposed clearing is not likely to compose a high level of biological diversity or be necessary for the maintenance of a TEC or rare flora.

One minor non-perennial watercourse is located 60 metres south of the application area. Noting the non-perennial nature of the watercourse and the extensively vegetated local area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to significantly impact vegetation associated with a wetland or watercourse, 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 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 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 TEC 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 this application identified that the proposed clearing may be at variance to Principle (b) and is not likely to be at variance to any of the remaining clearing Principles.

**Methodology** References:  
Government of Western Australia (2016)  
Keighery (1994)  
Parks and Wildlife (2017a)  
Parks and Wildlife (2017b)  
Threatened Species Scientific Committee (2013)

GIS Databases:  
Hydrography, Hierarchy  
Hydrography, Linear  
Parks and Wildlife tenure  
Pre European vegetation  
SAC Bio Datasets (Accessed April 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 (DoW) advised that the applicant "has several in force groundwater licenses which authorise the taking of water from a number of bores throughout the Shire, for road works and construction. It would not be necessary for the Shire to need to develop a bore at the proposed gravel pit itself" (DoW, 2017). DoW also recommended the proposed clearing should not occur inside a 100 [metre] buffer to the mapped seasonal watercourse which lies south of the proposed area" (DoW, 2017). A review of data layers indicates that the proposed clearing is located more than 50 metres away from a mapped watercourse. Wetlands that are conserved require a buffer to protect them from potential adverse impacts and the width of the buffer should be based on the values of the wetland to be protected (Department of Environment and Conservation, 2008). DER determined that a 50 metre buffer is sufficient.

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

The application was advertised in *The West Australian newspaper* on 13 March 2017 and online on 10 March 2017 for a 21-day submission period. No public submissions were received in relation to the proposed clearing.

Parks and Wildlife advised that "the applicant is required to obtain a fauna licence issued pursuant to Regulation 15 of the *Wildlife Conservation Regulations 1970*" (Parks and Wildlife, 2017b).

**Methodology** References:  
Department of Environment and Conservation (2008)  
DoW (2017)  
Parks and Wildlife (2017b)

GIS Databases:  
Aboriginal Sites of Significance  
Hydrography, linear

## 4. References

- Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) (2008) Memo re Standard Wetlands Advice for Native Vegetation Conservation Branch. Dated 17/07/2008. Species and Communities Branch, Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (TRIM Ref. DOC59490).
- Department of Parks and Wildlife (2017a) Regional Advice received in relation to clearing permit application CPS 7503/1, received 22 May 2017. Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia (DER Ref: A1437176).
- Department of Parks and Wildlife (2017b) Fauna Advice received in relation to clearing permit application CPS 7503/1, received 25 May 2017. Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia (DER Ref: A1439744).
- Department of Water (DoW) (2017) Advice received in relation to clearing permit application CPS 7503/1, received 13 April 2017 (DER Ref: A1412900).
- GHD (2017) Photos of Woolgorong Gravel Pit. GHD April 2017. (DER Ref: A1409535).
- 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.
- 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) (2013). *Commonwealth Conservation Advice on Idiosoma nigrum (shield-back trapdoor spider)*. Canberra: Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities. Available from: <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/species/pubs/66798-conservation-advice.pdf>.