



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 7539/1
File Number: DER2017/000449
Duration of Permit: 29 July 2017 to 29 July 2022

PERMIT HOLDER

Hassad-Australia Pty Ltd

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Lot 450 on Deposited Plan 212363, Beaumont

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 6.36 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross hatched yellow on attached Plan 7539/1.

CONDITIONS

1. Dieback and weed control

- (a) When undertaking any clearing 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*:
- (i) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
 - (ii) ensure that no *dieback* or *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.

DEFINITIONS

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

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

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 -

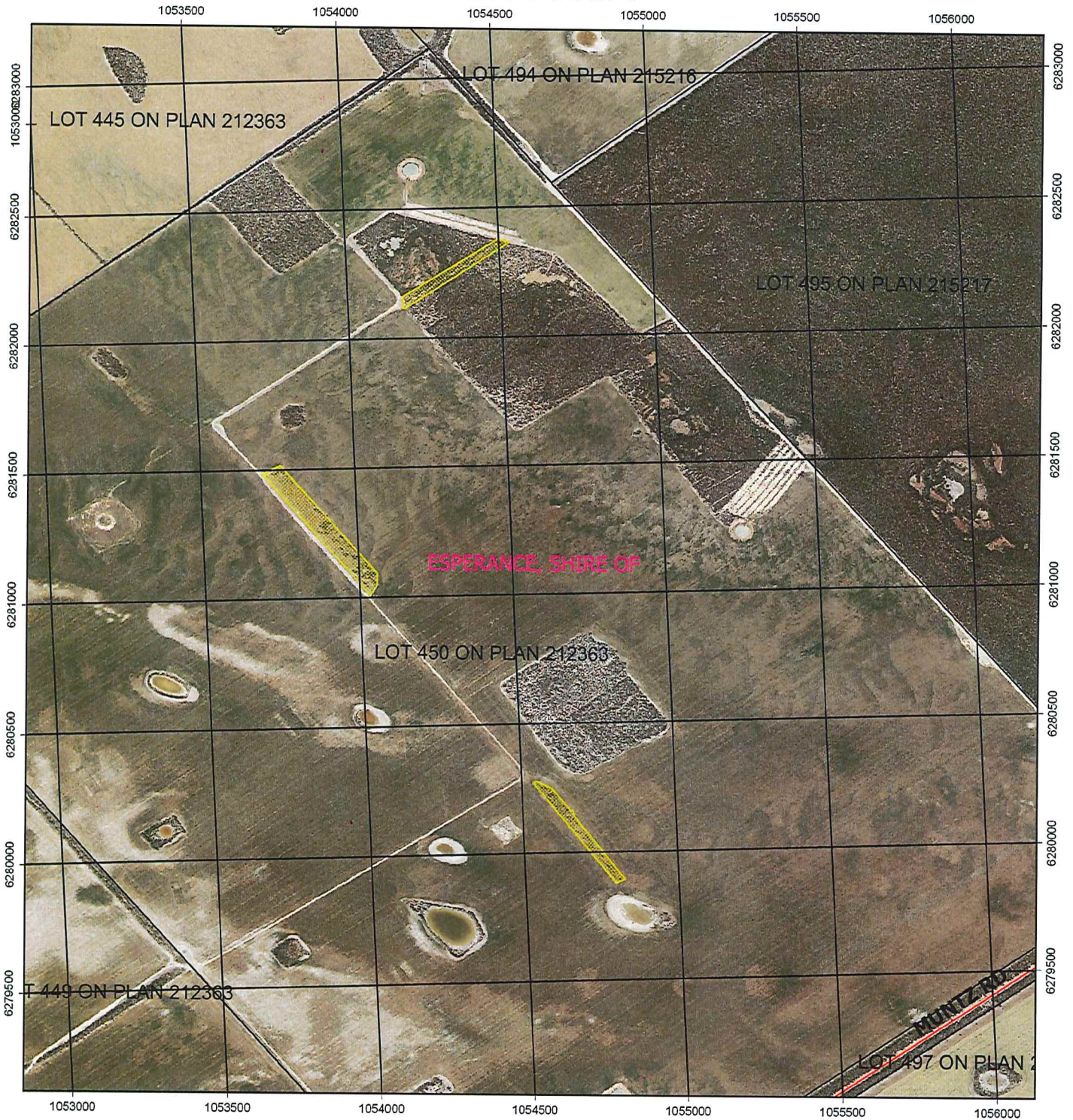
- (a) that is a declared pest under section 22 of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*; or
- (b) published in a Department of Parks and Wildlife Regional Weed Rankings Summary, regardless of ranking; or
- (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.

Simon Weighell
A/MANAGER
CLEARING REGULATION


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

29 June 2017

Plan 7539/1



Legend

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



1:13,330

MGA 94
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

S. Weifhell
SIMON WEIFHELL Date *29/6/17*

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





1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 7539/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Hassad-Australia Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 450 ON PLAN 212363, BEAUMONT
Local Government Authority: ESPERANCE, SHIRE OF
DER Region: Goldfields
DPaW District: ESPERANCE
Localities: BEAUMONT

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
6.36		Mechanical Removal	Cropping

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 29 June 2017
Reasons for Decision: The clearing permit application was received on 24 March 2017 and has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with s51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, and it has been concluded that the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to any of the clearing principles.

The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing may impact the environmental values of adjacent vegetation through the possible introduction or spread of weeds and dieback, however, hygiene management measures will minimise impacts.

The Delegated Officer has determined that the proposed clearing is not likely to result in 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
Beard Vegetation Association 516 is described as Shrublands; mallee scrub, black marlock (Shepherd et al, 2001)	The application is to clear 6.36 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 450 on Deposited Plan 212363, Beaumont, for the purpose of increasing farming efficiency.	Degraded; Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery, 1994).	The condition of the vegetation cleared was determined via Department of Agriculture and Food WA (DAFWA) site inspection photos taken 5 May 2017 (DAFWA, 2017) and through aerial imagery.
		to	
		Good; Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery, 1994)	

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments The application is to clear 6.36 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 450 on Deposited Plan 212363, Beaumont, for the purpose of increasing farming efficiency.

The vegetation within the application area comprises mallee; *Eucalyptus redunca*, *Eucalyptus uncinata*, *Eucalyptus oleosa* and *Eucalyptus eremophila*. The vegetation within the two southern portions of the application area has little understorey present and is in degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition. The northern portion of the application area shows evidence of historical disturbance but natural regeneration is occurring. This area is considered to be in good (Keighery, 1994) condition (DAFWA, 2017).

According to available databases, three priority flora species have been mapped within the local area (10 kilometre radius). Of the three priority flora species, one priority one species was considered likely to occur within the northern portion of the application area based on the species optimal habitat being similar to the application area soil and vegetation type. It is considered unlikely that the priority species would be present in the two southern portions of the application area due to vegetation condition.

Officer level advice has been received from the Department of Parks and Wildlife (Parks and Wildlife) outlining potential impacts to the priority one flora species from the proposed clearing is unlikely to be significant. Given the local representation of the species within the conservation estate 300 metres to the east and the relatively small area to be cleared, if the species were present in the application area it is not likely the proposed clearing would significantly impact the conservation of this species (Parks and Wildlife, 2017).

No rare flora species were mapped within the local area.

Noting the above, and that the condition of the vegetation is predominantly degraded (Keighery, 1994), the proposed clearing of 6.36 hectares is not expected to significantly impact any populations of conservation significant flora.

One threatened ecological community (TEC) was mapped within the northern portion of the application area, the 'Proteaceae Dominated Kwongkan Shrubland'. The vegetation under application does not meet the key diagnostic characteristics outlined in the Approved Conservation Advice for this TEC (Threatened Species Scientific Committee, 2014).

One fauna species listed as rare or likely to become extinct under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* has been recorded within the local area; Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*) (Department of Parks and Wildlife, 2007-).

Noting the linear and narrow nature of the application area, the local area having approximately 33 per cent native vegetation remaining, the majority of the application area being in degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition, and the substantial area of remnant vegetation in similar or better condition located 300 metres to the east in the Niblick Nature Reserve, the application area is not likely to contain significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.

The application area is located within the Mallee Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) bioregion and the Shire of Esperance which retain approximately 56 and 72 per cent of their pre-European vegetation extents respectively (Government of Western Australia, 2016).

The application area is mapped as Beard vegetation association 516, of which approximately 39 per cent of the pre-European extent remains within the Mallee IBRA bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2016). The local area (37 687 hectares) contains approximately 33 per cent (12 446 hectares) remnant native vegetation.

The national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation includes a target to prevent the clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30 per cent of that present pre-European settlement (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001). Noting the above, the application area is not considered likely to be significant as a remnant within an extensively cleared area.

According to available databases, no watercourses or wetlands have been mapped within the application area.

The application area does not intersect with any conservation area. Niblick Nature Reserve lies approximately 300 metres east of the application area. The clearing of the application area will not result in any severances of ecological linkages to the Niblick Nature Reserve.

The Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (Commissioner) advised land degradation risks associated with the proposed land clearing is low (DAFWA, 2017).

The proposed clearing is not likely to deteriorate the quality of groundwater or surface water, cause or exacerbate flooding or cause appreciable land degradation.

Noting the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to the clearing principles. Implementing hygiene management practices will limit the risk of weeds and dieback spreading within adjacent vegetation.

Methodology

References:

Commonwealth of Australia (2001)
DAFWA (2017)
Government of Western Australia (2016)
Keighery (1994)
Parks and Wildlife (2007-)
Parks and Wildlife (2017)
Threatened Species Scientific Committee (2014)

GIS Datasets:

SAC Bio datasets (accessed June 2017)

Pre-European vegetation
NLWRA, Current Extent of Native Vegetation
Hydrography, linear
Land degradation risk
Geomorphic wetlands

Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

Comments The application was advertised on the Department of Environment Regulation's website on 5 April 2017 for a 14 day submission period. No public submissions have been received in relation to this application.

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

Methodology GIS Datasets:
Aboriginal sites of significance

4. References

- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.
- Department of Agriculture and Food WA (DAFWA) (2017) Advice received for CPS 7539/1. Site inspection undertaken 15 May 2017. DER REF: A1446043
- Department of Parks and Wildlife (Parks and Wildlife) (2007-) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Parks and Wildlife. URL: <http://naturemap.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>.
- Department of Parks and Wildlife (2017), Species and Communities Advice for CPS 7539/1, 11 May 2017 DER REF: A1457189.
- 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) (2014). Approved Conservation Advice for Proteaceae Dominated Kwongkan Shrublands of the southeast coastal floristic province of Western Australia. Canberra: Department of the Environment. Available from: <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/communities/pubs/126-conservation-advice.pdf>. In effect under the EPBC Act from 01-Feb-2014.