



## CLEARING PERMIT

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

### PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: CPS 7638/1

Duration of Permit: From 9 September 2017 to 9 September 2019

### PERMIT HOLDER

Pilbara Ports Authority

### LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Lot 370 on Plan 35619, Boodarie

### AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 4.7 hectares of native vegetation within the areas cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 7638/1.

### CONDITIONS

#### 1. 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*:

- (a) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
- (b) ensure that no *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.

### DEFINITIONS

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

*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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James Widenbar", written over a horizontal line.

James Widenbar  
MANAGER  
CLEARING REGULATION

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

8 August 2017



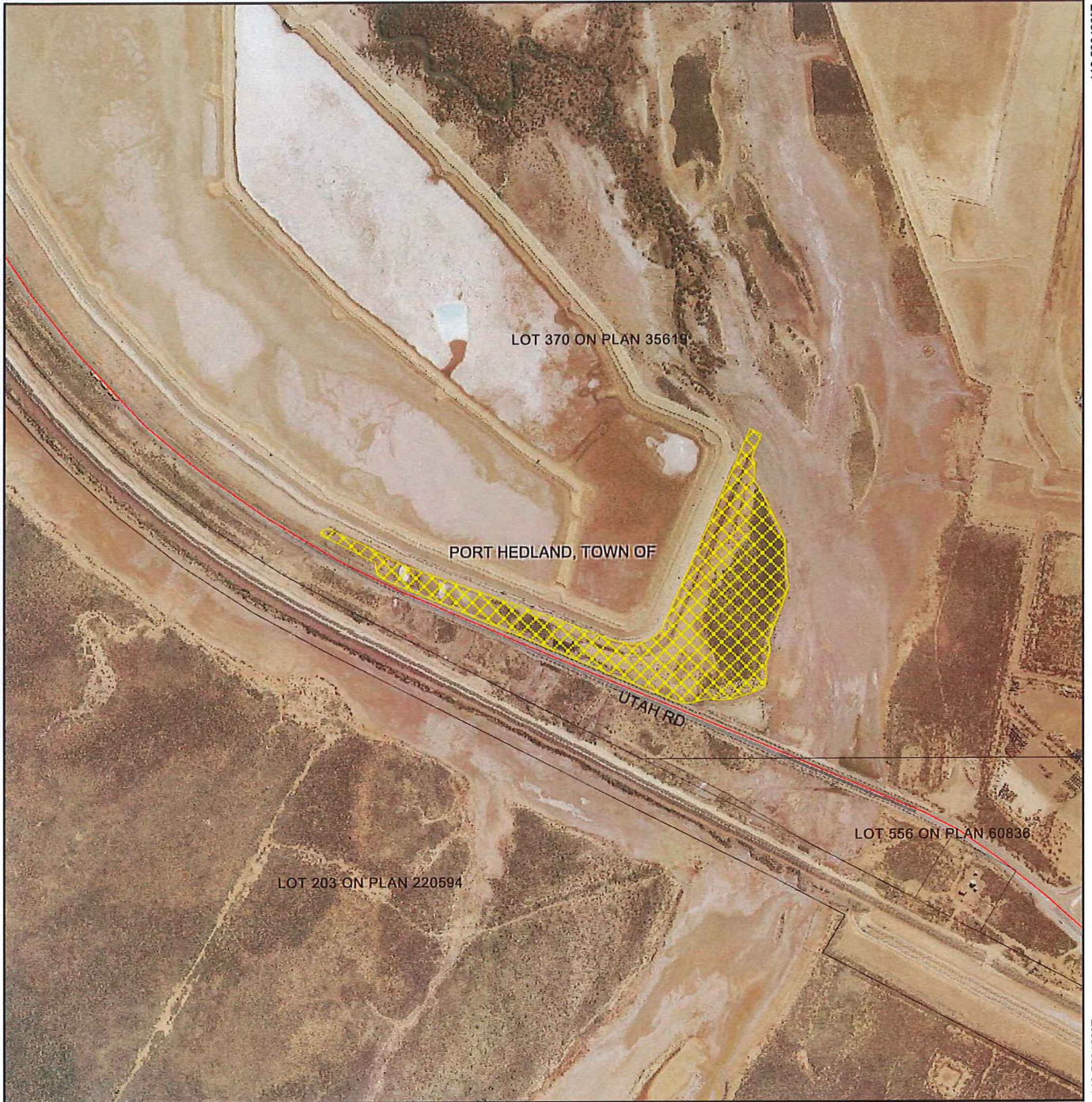
# Plan 7638/1

20.360298°S

20.360298°S

118.547794°E

118.560423°E



118.547794°E

118.560423°E

20.366636°S

20.366636°S

## Legend

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



1:6,986

(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

GDA 94 (Lat/Long)

Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

*[Signature]* Date 8/8/17

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.: 7638/1  
Permit type: Purpose Permit

### 1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Pilbara Ports Authority

### 1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 370 ON PLAN 35619, WEDGEFIELD  
Local Government Authority: PORT HEDLAND, TOWN OF  
DER Region: North West  
DPaW District: Area administered from Regional Office (Karratha)  
LCDC:  
Localities: BOODARIE

### 1.4. Application

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

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted  
Decision Date: 8 August 2017  
Reasons for Decision: The clearing permit application was received on 9 June 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 at variance to Principle (f) and not likely to be at variance to the remaining clearing principles.

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
The application area is mapped as Beard vegetation association 127 described as "Bare areas; mud flats" and Beard vegetation association 647 described as "Hummock grasslands, dwarf-shrub steppe; <i>Acacia translucens</i> over soft spinifex" (Shepherd et al., 2001)	The application is to clear 4.7 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 370 on Deposited Plan 35619, Boodarie, for the purpose of drainage upgrades.	Very Good; Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery, 1994).  To  Good; Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery, 1994)	The condition of the vegetation within the application area was determined via a review of aerial imagery and photographs provided by the applicant.

### 3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

**Comments** The application is to clear 4.7 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 370 on Deposited Plan 35619, Boodarie, for the purpose of drainage upgrades

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) Pilbara region advised they have no issues with the proposed clearing (DBCA, 2017). According to available databases, eight priority flora species have been mapped within the local area (10 kilometre radius). Of the eight priority flora species, three priority 3 species were considered likely to occur within the application area based on the species optimal habitat being similar to the application area soil and vegetation type. Priority 3 flora species are species that are known from several locations, and the species do not appear to be under imminent threat, or from few but widespread locations with either large population size or significant remaining areas of apparently suitable habitat, much of it not under imminent threat (Smith, 2017).

No rare flora species were mapped within the local area. Noting the above the proposed clearing of 4.7 hectares is not expected to significantly impact any populations of conservation significant flora.

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

According to available databases, 12 fauna species listed as rare or likely to become extinct under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* has been recorded within the local area. Additionally, 37 fauna species protected under international agreement, two other specially protected fauna and three Priority 4 fauna species were recorded within the local area (Department of Parks and Wildlife, 2007-). A number of these fauna species are associated with marine environments, and the proposed clearing of the application area will not impact upon them.

Many of the fauna species, especially the migratory birds, are associated with wetlands or watercourses. The application area intersects with one minor, non-perennial water course. These birds are all highly mobile and the habitats are well represented in the landscape in the local area and in the broader region with the local area retaining approximately 63 per cent native vegetation.

The application area is a discrete patch of remnant vegetation that has limited linkage or stepping stone value to the vegetation in the surrounding area. The application area is currently surrounded by disturbed areas that are used to support the Pilbara Port. The application area does not intersect with any conservation areas.

Noting the above and the size of the application area, it is considered unlikely the remnant vegetation contains significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.

The application area is located within the Pilbara Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) bioregion and the Town of Port Hedland which retain approximately 99 and 98 per cent of their pre-European vegetation extents respectively (Government of Western Australia, 2016).

The application area is mapped as Beard vegetation associations 127 and 647, of which there is approximately 89 and 97 per cent of the pre-European extents remaining respectively within the Pilbara IBRA bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2016).

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 size of the application area and the extent of vegetation remaining in the local area, the vegetation under application is not likely to be significant as a remnant in an area that has been highly cleared.

According to available databases, no wetlands have been mapped within the application area. One minor, non-perennial water course runs north south through the application area. No significant residual impacts are expected due to the vegetation associated with the water course is contiguous in the area and likely to be represented in very good (Keighery, 1994) condition or better outside the proposed clearing area.

Given the proposed clearings purpose is for drainage improvements the clearing is not considered 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 at variance to Principle (f) and not likely to be at variance to the remaining clearing principles.

The disturbance caused by the proposed clearing may increase the risk of weeds being introduced into surrounding areas of remnant vegetation. Weed management practices will assist in mitigating this risk.

#### Methodology

References:  
DBCA (2017)  
Commonwealth of Australia (2001)  
Department of Parks and Wildlife (2007-)  
Government of Western Australia (2016)  
Smith (2017)

- GIS datasets:
- Hydrography linear
  - Parks and Wildlife Tenure
  - SAC Bio datasets accessed July 2017

## Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

**Comments** The application was advertised on the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's website on 6 July 2017 for a 21 day submission period.

No public submissions were received in relation to this application.

The Town of Port Hedland advised they have no objection to the proposed clearing.

The Land Use Planning / Approvals of the North West Water region advised that Pilbara Ports Authority had a previous (expired) permit to obstruct/interfere with the bed and banks of South-West Creek (PMB167967) (DWER,2017a). The Pilbara Ports Authority have since been issued with a permit to obstruct or interfere from 28 July 2017 to 28 July 2019 (DWER,2017b).

The application area intersects with one registered Aboriginal Site of Significance, named Boodarie (Place ID 15903).

**Methodology** References:  
DWER (2017a)  
DWER (2017b)

GIS datasets:  
Aboriginal Sites of Significance

## 4. References

- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.
- 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/>. Accessed June 2017
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) (2017) Regional advice for Clearing Permit Application CPS 7638/1, 24 July 2017, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. DWER Ref: A1489616.
- Department of Water and Environmental Regulation(DWER)(2017a) North west Water Advice for Clearing Permit Application CPS 7638/1, 17 July 2017, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation. DWER ref: A1477292.
- Department of Water and Environmental Regulation(DWER)(2017b) Permit to Obstruct of Interfere, 28 July 2017, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation. DWER ref: A1491653 and A1491659
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- 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.
- 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.
- Smith M.G. (2017) Threatened and Priority Flora List, 26 July 2017. Department of Parks and Wildlife: Kensington, WA.