



## CLEARING PERMIT

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

**Purpose Permit number:** CPS 7825/1  
**Permit Holder:** Alcoa of Australia Limited  
**Duration of Permit:** 24 February 2018 to 24 February 2023

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 bauxite export facility.

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

Lot 2 on Plan 23101 and Lot 963 on Deposited Plan 220558, Vittoria

**3. Area of Clearing**

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 2.5 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 7825/1.

**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.

### PART II – MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

**5. Avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and extent of 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:

- (a) avoid the clearing of native vegetation;
- (b) minimise the amount of native vegetation to be cleared; and
- (c) reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.

**6. Records must be kept**

The Permit Holder must maintain the following records for activities done pursuant to this Permit, in relation to the clearing of native vegetation authorised under this Permit:

- (a) 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;
- (b) the date that the area was cleared;
- (c) the size of the area cleared (in hectares); and
- (d) actions taken to avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing in accordance with condition 5 of this Permit.

**7. Reporting**

The Permit Holder must provide to the CEO the records required under condition 6 of this Permit, when requested by the CEO or Delegated Officer.

**DEFINITIONS**

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

**CEO:** means the Chief Executive Officer of the Department responsible for the administration of the clearing provisions under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.

**Delegated Officer:** means the person appointed by the CEO to administer the clearing provisions under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.



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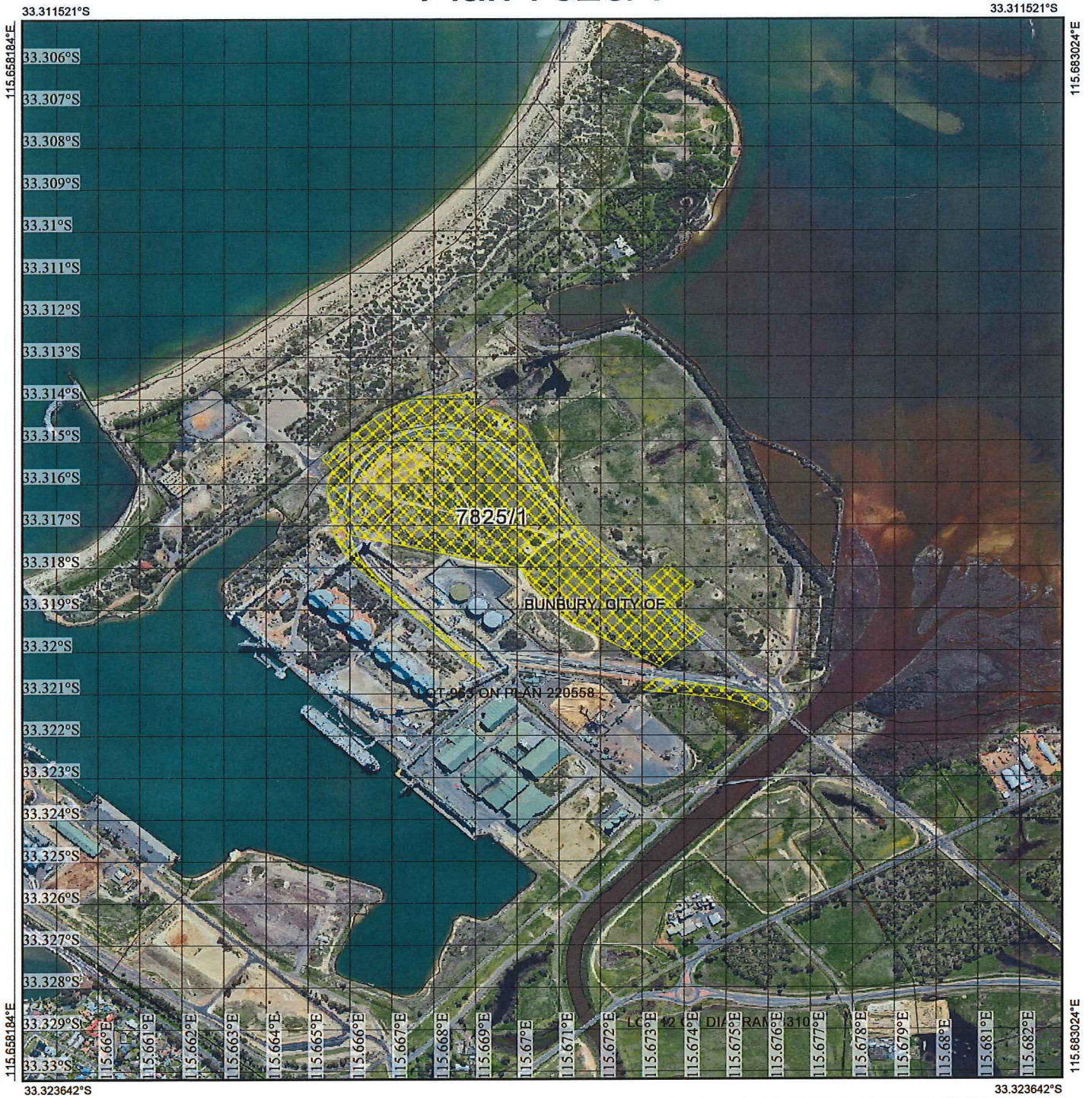
Mathew Gannaway  
MANAGER  
CLEARING REGULATION

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

24 January 2018



# Plan 7825/1



## Legend

-  Imagery
-  Clearing Instruments Activities
-  Local Government Authority



(Approximate when reproduced at A4)  
GDA 94 (Lat/Long)  
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

*Matthew Conway* Date 24/01/2018

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





## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 7825/1  
Permit type: Purpose Permit

### 1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Alcoa of Australia Limited  
Application received date: 17 October 2017

### 1.3. Property details

Property: Lot 963 on Deposited Plan 220558, Vittoria  
Lot 2 on Plan 23101, Vittoria  
Local Government Authority: Bunbury, City of  
Localities: Vittoria

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	Purpose category:
2.5		Mechanical Removal	Building or structure

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant  
Decision Date: 24 January 2018  
Reasons for Decision: The clearing permit application has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with section 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). It has been concluded that the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to any of the clearing principles.

Through assessment it has been determined that the clearing is unlikely to have any significant environmental impacts.

Given the above, the Delegated Officer decided to grant a clearing permit.

## 2. Site Information

**Clearing Description:** To clear 2.5 hectares of native vegetation (in a footprint area of 27.8 hectares) within Lot 2 on Plan 23101 and Lot 963 on Deposited Plan 220558, Vittoria, for the purpose of constructing a bauxite export facility as part of the expansion of the Port of Bunbury.

**Vegetation Description** Two vegetation complexes are mapped within the application area (GWA, 2017):

- Quindalup Complex: Coastal dune complex – Low closed forest and closed scrub; and
- Yoongarillup Complex: Woodland to tall woodland and open forest (GWA, 2017).

A flora and vegetation survey of the application area was conducted by Alcoa of Australia Limited (Alcoa). The vegetation within the application area is comprised of a matrix of invasive pasture species with a mix of emergent native and non-native trees and shrubs (Alcoa, 2017).

**Vegetation Condition** Degraded; Basic vegetation structure severely impacted by disturbance. Scope for regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management (Keighery, 1994).

## 3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

The application to clear is for 2.5 hectares of native vegetation (in a footprint area of 27.8 hectares) within the abovementioned Lots for the purpose of constructing a bauxite export facility as part of the expansion of the Port of Bunbury.

The application area and its surrounds have been historically used by the Port of Bunbury for port activities. The basic vegetation structure has been severely impacted by disturbances by these port activities. These disturbances include clearing, reclaiming land, depositing dredge spoil and the introduction of weeds (Alcoa, 2017). As a result of this development and end land use, and as noted during a flora survey, the application area is highly disturbed and is extensively degraded by weeds. The small amount of remaining native vegetation has most likely established by natural self-seeding from surrounding remnant vegetation; it does not represent the mapped Quindalup and Yoongarillup vegetation complexes. The application area and vegetation under application is considered to be in a Degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition (Alcoa, 2017).



The flora survey recorded 47 vascular plant taxa; of these 27 were invasive and 20 indigenous taxa (Alcoa, 2017). The application area is covered with a range of pasture weeds, non-native grasses and is mostly void of trees. The invasive *Leptospermum laevigatum* is the dominant bush or tree in the area. The survey did not record any rare or priority listed flora species, and none of the vegetation fragments resemble any listed threatened or priority listed ecological communities. This includes the nearby priority ecological community (PEC) 'Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh' mapped approximately 60 metres south east of the application area. The proposed clearing is not likely to impact upon the occurrence of this PEC.

The soils within the application area have been mapped as 'Vasse Disturbed, landfill Phase described as landfill, disturbed soils' (DPIRD, 2017). As noted in the flora survey report (Alcoa, 2017) and advice received from the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's (DWER) Contaminated Sites, Science and Planning (DWER, 2017a), the soil structure is not natural and constitutes land that has been reclaimed by the placement of dredge spoil following previous works by the Port of Bunbury.

Noting the application area's Degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition, that the vegetation under application is comprised of a matrix of invasive pasture species with a mix of emergent native and non-native trees and shrubs (Alcoa, 2017), the application area is not considered to be representative of the mapped vegetation complexes and is not considered significant as a remnant within the local area (10 kilometre radius).

Consideration has also been given to impacts to biodiversity, significant fauna habitat, wetlands and watercourses, land degradation, conservation areas, surface water quality, groundwater quality and flooding. Noting the historical development and land use of the application area, the deposition of dredge spoil, the high presence of weeds and the Degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the remaining vegetation types, the assessment has found that the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to any of the clearing principles.

## Planning instruments and other relevant matters

### Requirements under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*

The area under application is surrounded by the water bodies of the Leschenault Inlet, Leschenault Estuary and Preston River. and is located within the boundaries of the proclaimed Bunbury Groundwater Area, Bunbury East sub area. DWER has assessed the clearing to have a low to moderate risk to the water resources within the area. Any taking and use of water is subject to assessment and licencing by DWER – South West Region. The applicant has received a licence to construct dewatering spears and a licence to take ground water for dewatering purposes (DWER, 2017b).

### Acid sulphate soils

Lot 2 on Plan 23101 and Lot 963 on Deposited Plan 220558, Vittoria are mapped as representing a high risk of encountering acid sulphate soil within 3 meters of the natural ground surface. The application indicates that these lots are comprised of made ground. The site is likely to have been raised from the natural ground surface with the use of dredge spoil and possibly imported fill. Dredge material within the made ground has the potential to contain acid sulphate soil characteristics.

It is noted that the clearing of vegetation alone generally represents a minimal risk of detrimentally disturbing acid sulphate soils.

Development and operation of the proposed facility is likely to include a greater degree of ground disturbance and therefore may warrant formal investigation and, if required, management of acid sulphate soils. Such requirements are typically administered through conditions on relevant planning approvals, or through the requirements of works approvals/licence under Part V of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. However, it is noted that the application states that a works approval is not required for the construction of the proposed facilities (DWER, 2017a).

### Contaminated Sites

Lot 963 on Deposited Plan 220558 was classified in May 2009 under the *Contaminated Sites Act 2003* as *contaminated – remediation required*. Known contamination within Lot 963 appears to be largely associated with caustic and fuel storage related operations and infrastructure at the site. Soil and groundwater quality investigations at the site do not appear to have extended to within the proposed clearing area. Given the minimal and shallow-rooted nature of the vegetation proposed to be cleared, it is unlikely that clearing operations will intercept identified groundwater contamination beneath the site. However, given the lack of information relating to soil quality at the site, it is recommended that the applicant develop and implement a site-specific health and safety plan for the proposed works to manage potential risks during clearing. It is noted however, that in accordance with Section 58(6) of the *Contaminated Sites Act 2003*, that any planning authority is required to seek and take into account DWER's advice prior to granting approval for any development of Lot 963 (DWER, 2017a).

The applicant has advised that works approval is not required for the construction of the proposed facilities (Alcoa, 2017).

The application area falls within land reserved under the Greater Bunbury Region Scheme for port installations. The proposed use for bauxite export facilities is in keeping with the purpose of this reservation.

The clearing permit application was advertised on DWER's website on 17 November 2017 with a 21 day submission period. No public submissions have been received in relation to this application.

## 4. References

- Alcoa of Australia (Alcoa) (2017) Application for clearing permit. Alcoa bauxite export facilities Bunbury Port. Supporting documentation and Flora assessment of bauxite export facilities proposal area. Alcoa of Australia (August 2017) (DWER Ref: A1546500)
- Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2017). NRInfo Digital Mapping. Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development. Government of Western Australia. URL: <https://maps.agric.wa.gov.au/nrm-info/> (accessed November 2017).

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (2017a) Advice received from Contaminated Sites, Science and Planning (DWER Ref: A1592638)  
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (2017b) Advice received from Land Use Planning/CAWS - South West Region (DWER Ref: A1600278)  
Government of Western Australia. (GWA) (2017). 2016 South West Vegetation Complex Statistics. Current as of December 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.