

1. BACKGROUND

Pilbara Ports Authority (PPA) intends to undertake rehabilitation works to the Utah Road pavement. Utah Road connects the Great Northern Highway with the Utah Point Bulk Handling Facility (Utah Point) and was constructed in 2009. The alignment was altered in 2014 to accommodate the realignment of the Great Northern Highway. The Utah Road is approximately 9km in length, 8.1km of which is a PPA asset.

The Utah Road pavement is inadequate to accommodate the current traffic loading and will not meet its design life. The throughput at Utah Point has increased significantly from what was originally envisaged for the facility during its design. As such, the pavement is carrying well in excess of its design traffic loading. This has caused rapid deterioration and pavement failures (Figure 1). Significant reconstruction and maintenance works have been undertaken since 2009, but major defects persist which will manifest as further failures without intervention.

The aim of this project is to rehabilitate the Utah Road pavement to ensure it can accommodate the current traffic loading and meet its design life.



Figure 1: Typical pavement rutting on Utah Road.

Also included in this package of pavement rehabilitation works is the installation of an additional 12 culverts under Utah Road at the South West Creek crossing. These works are a recommendation from the Utah Road Flood Immunity and Mitigation Study completed in 2014. Other works recommended in the study have recently been completed under the Utah Road Drainage Upgrade – Native Vegetation Clearing Permit CPS 7638/1.

A clearing permit (area permit) is being sought by PPA for this project. PPA will undertake all works including re-profiling of the area to establish a stable and non-erodible surface.

2. EXEMPTION

Utah Road is a private road with public access maintained by PPA on land vested with the Port Authority. PPA is of the view that most of the works outlined above are exempt from the requirements of a clearing permit (Regulation 5, Item 22). Nevertheless, PPA is applying for a clearing permit encompassing the entire project area.

3. EXISTING ENVIRONMENT

A desktop assessment and past surveys of the vegetation was conducted and identified the terrestrial vegetation type within the project area as grassland on sandy islands scattered within the bare mudflats (Figures 2 to 32).

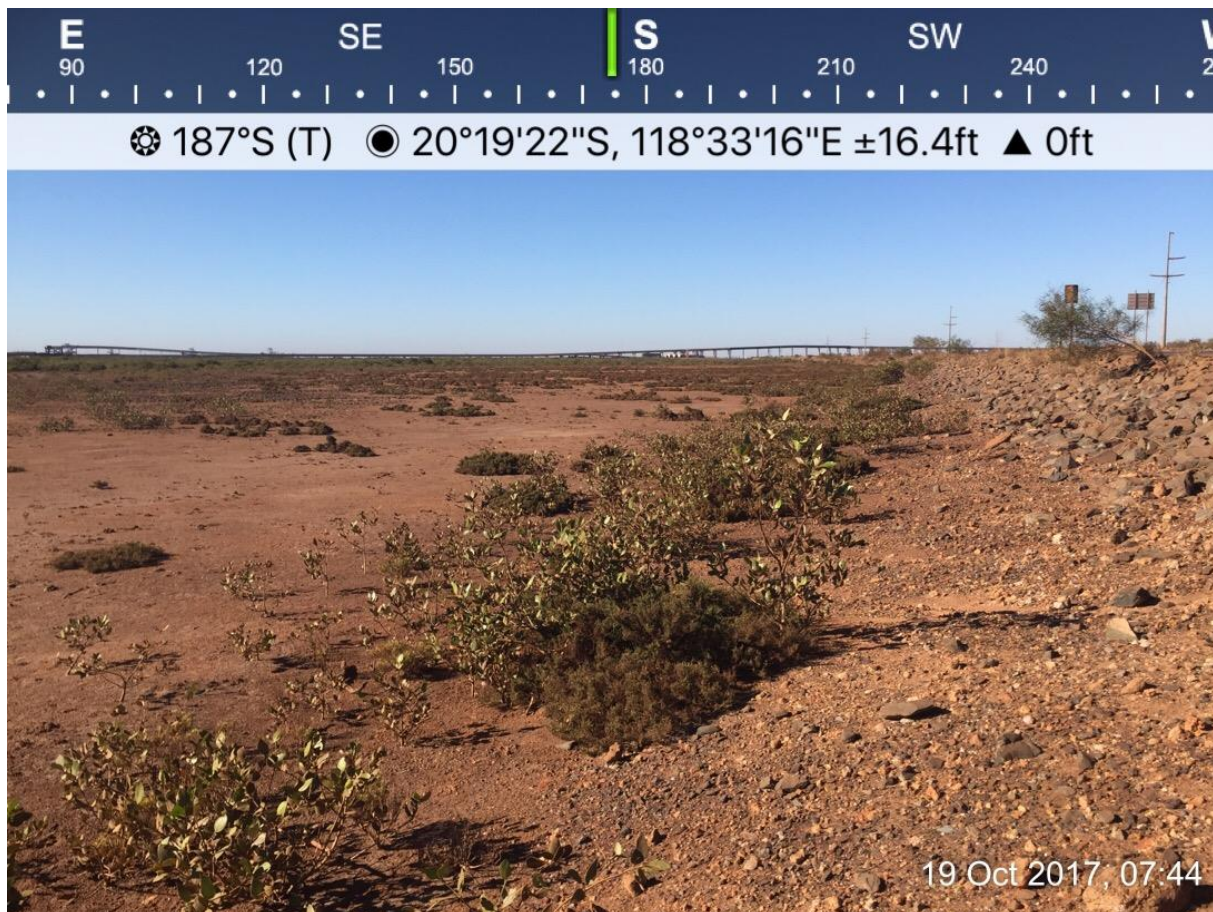


Figure 2: Photo Point 1 vegetation within the proposed clearing area.

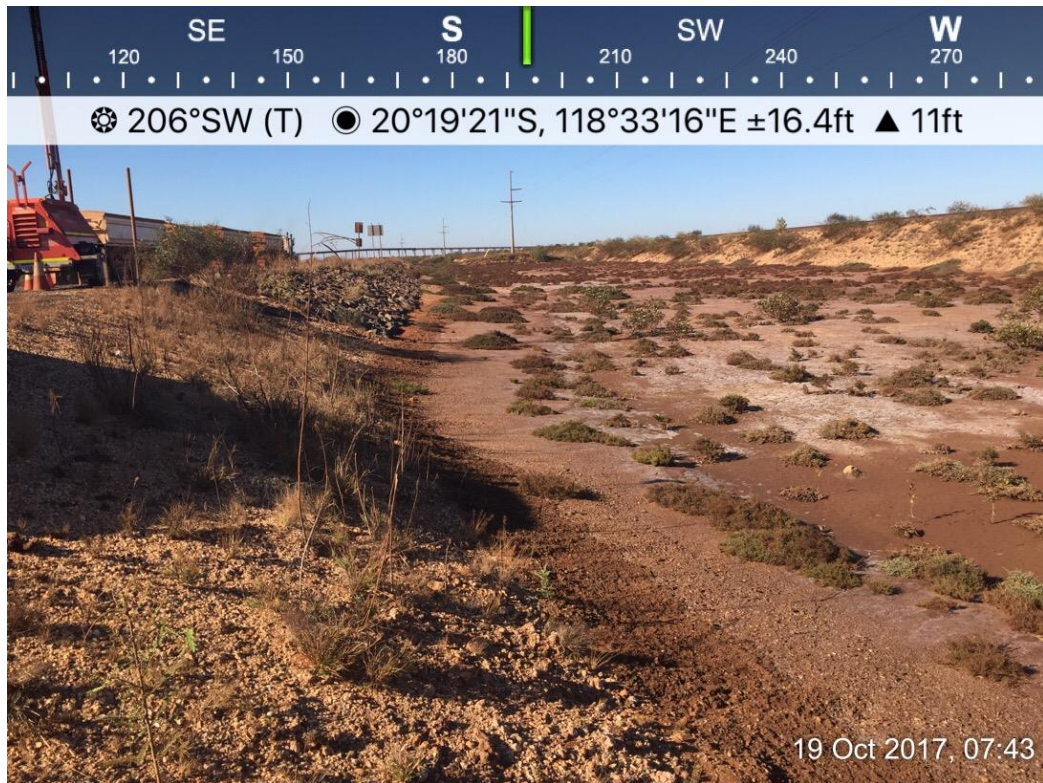


Figure 3: Photo Point 1 vegetation within the proposed clearing area.



Figure 4: Photo Point 2 vegetation within the proposed clearing area.



Figure 5: Photo Point 2 vegetation within the proposed clearing area.

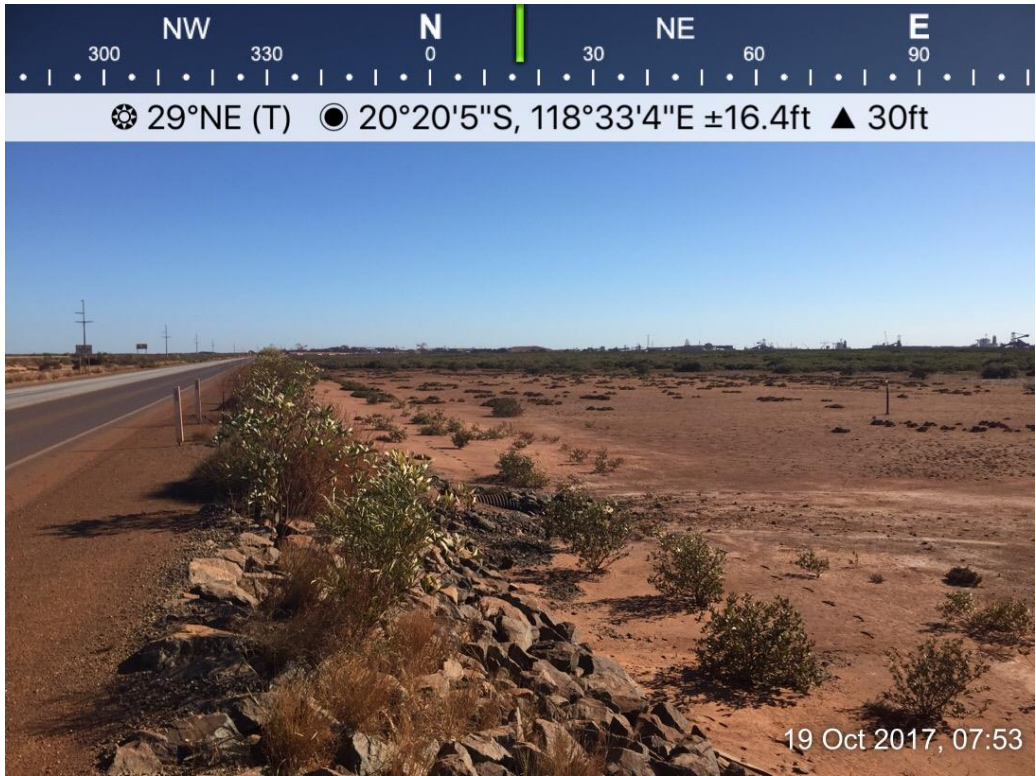


Figure 6: Photo Point 3 vegetation within the proposed clearing area.



Figure 7: Photo Point 3 vegetation within the proposed clearing area.



Figure 8: Photo Point 3 vegetation within the proposed clearing area.



Figure 9: Photo Point 3 vegetation within the proposed clearing area.



Figure 10: Photo Point 4 vegetation within the proposed clearing area.



Figure 11: Photo Point 4 vegetation within the proposed clearing area.



Figure 12: Photo Point 4 vegetation within the proposed clearing area.



Figure 13: Photo Point 4 vegetation within the proposed clearing area.

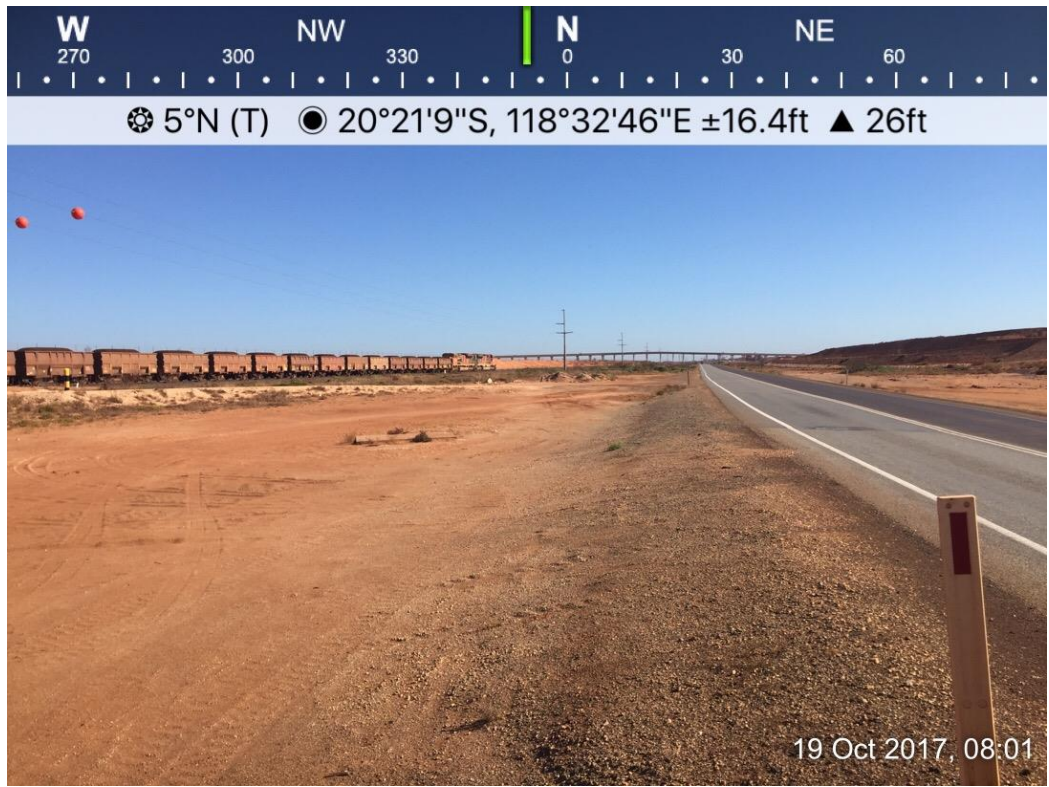


Figure 14: Photo Point 5 vegetation within the proposed clearing area.



Figure 15: Photo Point 5 vegetation within the proposed clearing area.

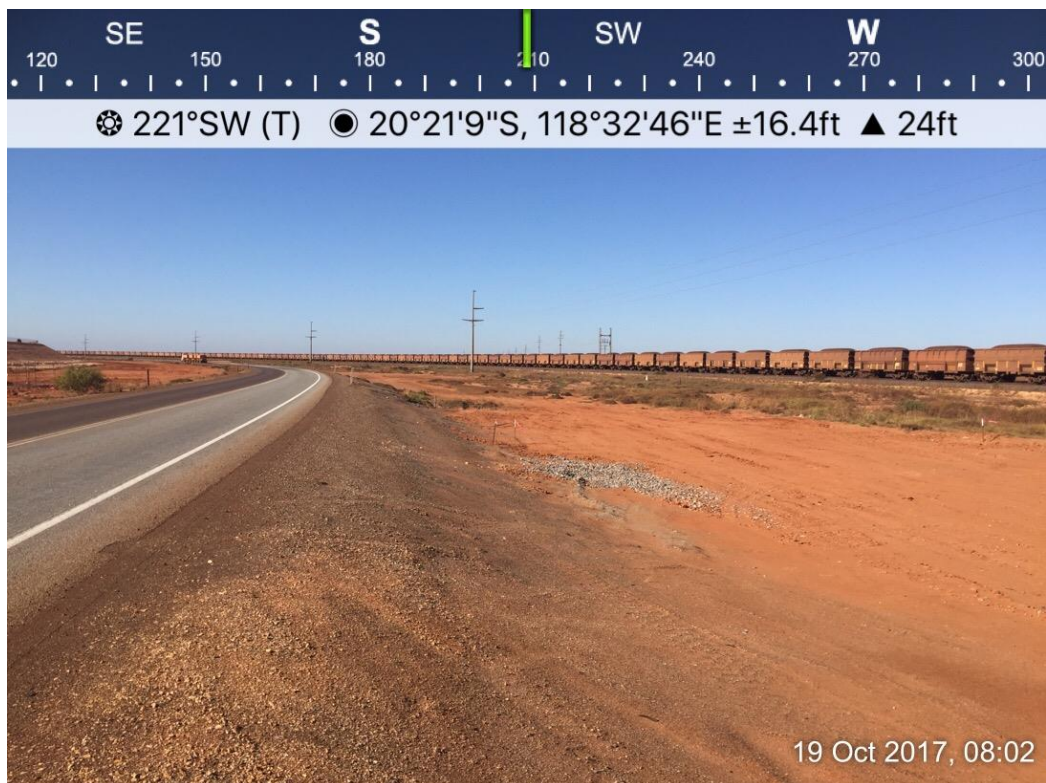


Figure 16: Photo Point 5 vegetation within the proposed clearing area.



Figure 17: Photo Point 5 vegetation within the proposed clearing area.



Figure 18: Photo Point 6 vegetation within the proposed clearing area.



Figure 19: Photo Point 6 vegetation within the proposed clearing area.



Figure 20: Photo Point 6 vegetation within the proposed clearing area.



Figure 21: Photo Point 6 vegetation within the proposed clearing area.

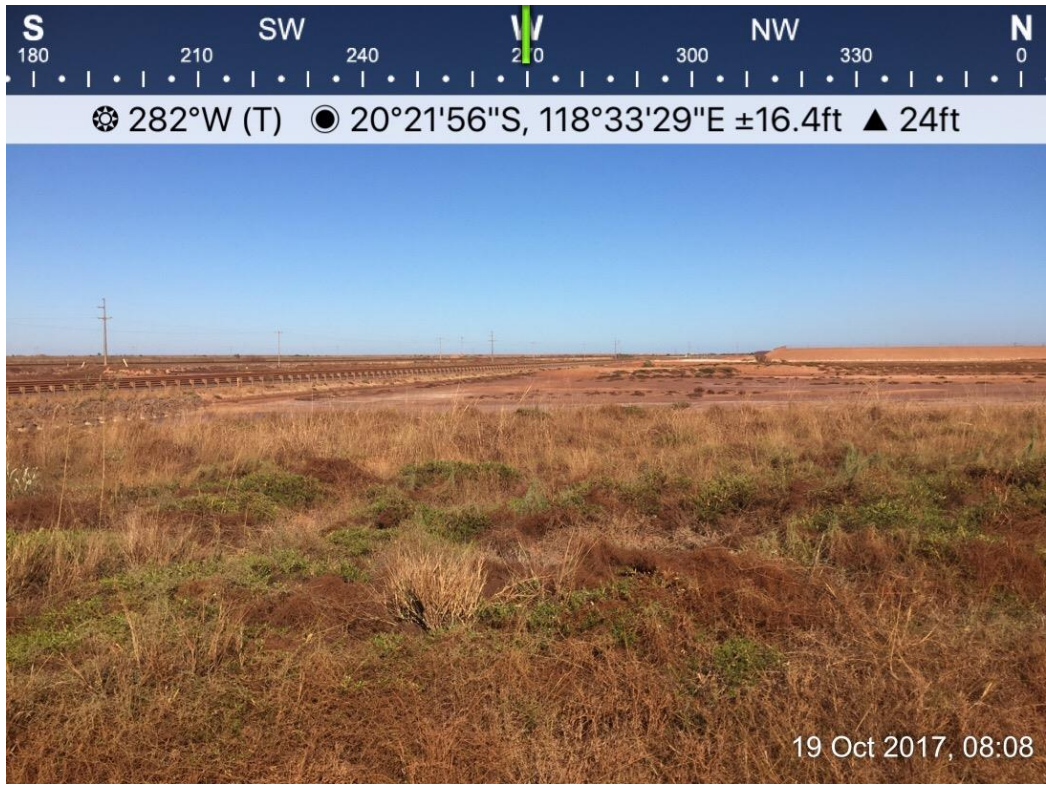


Figure 22: Photo Point 7 vegetation within the proposed clearing area.

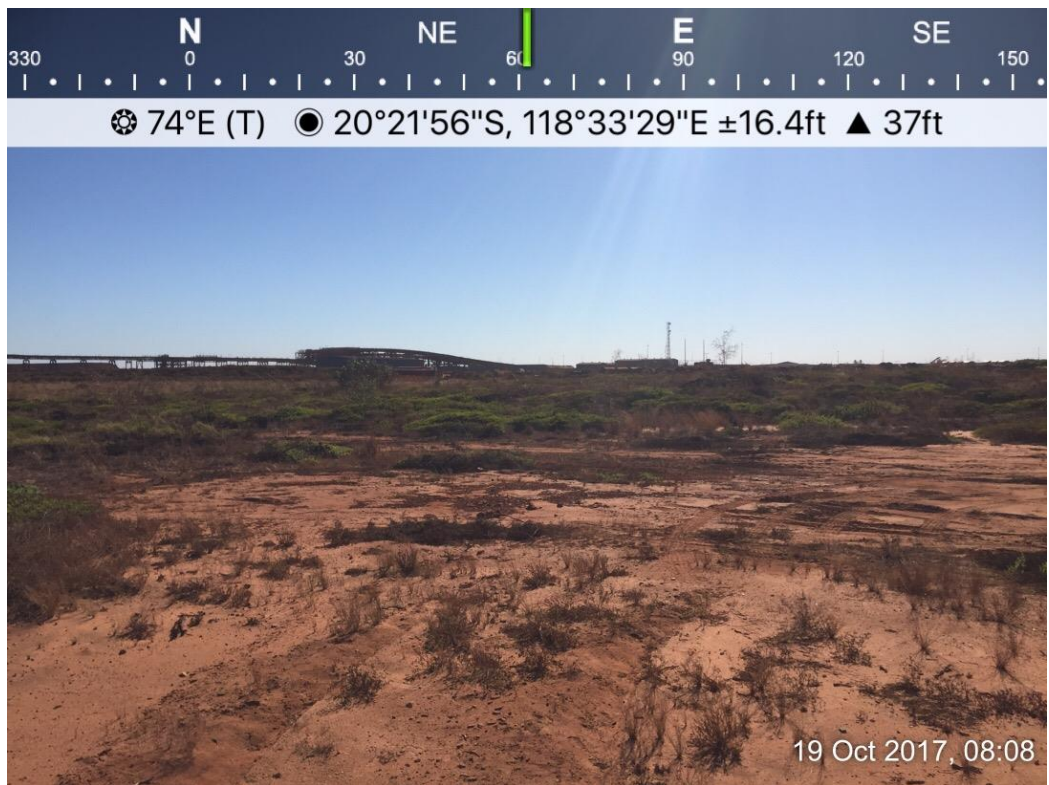


Figure 23: Photo Point 7 vegetation within the proposed clearing area.



Figure 24: Photo Point 7 vegetation within the proposed clearing area.



Figure 25: Photo Point 8 vegetation within the proposed clearing area.



Figure 26: Photo Point 8 vegetation within the proposed clearing area.



Figure 27: Photo Point 9 vegetation within the proposed clearing area.



Figure 28: Photo Point 9 vegetation within the proposed clearing area.



Figure 29: Photo Point 10 vegetation within the proposed clearing area.



Figure 30: Photo Point 10 vegetation within the proposed clearing area.

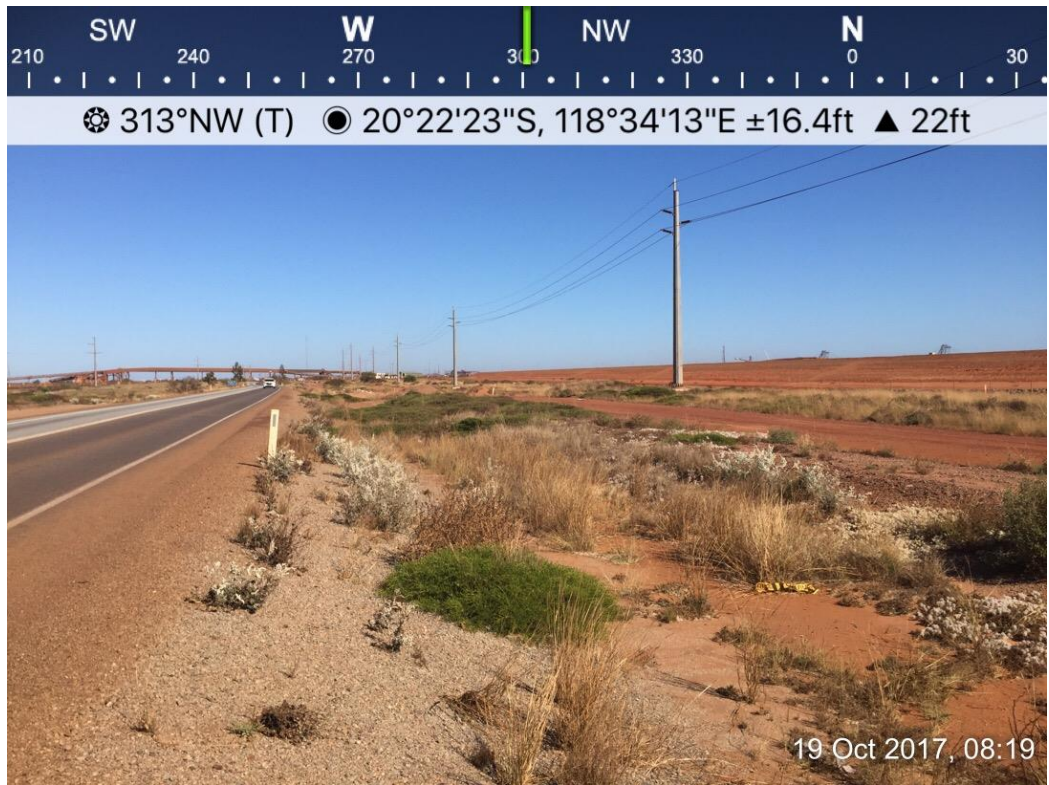


Figure 31: Photo Point 11 vegetation within the proposed clearing area.



Figure 32: Photo Point 11 vegetation within the proposed clearing area.