



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 7859/2
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Pilbara Ports Authority
Application received date: 21 November 2019

1.3. Property details

Property: Lot 370 on Deposited Plan 35619, Wedgefield
Lot 556 on Deposited Plan 60836, Wedgefield
Local Government Authority: Town of Port Hedland
Localities: Boodarie

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	Purpose category:
55.7416		Mechanical	Road maintenance

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted
Decision Date: 24 February 2020
Reasons for Decision: The application to amend clearing permit CPS 7859/1 to extend the duration has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with section 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. It has been concluded that the previous assessment for Clearing Permit CPS 7859/1 is still relevant.

The Delegated Officer noted that the amendment relates only to extending the duration of Clearing Permit CPS 7859/1 for 2 years, and therefore the proposed clearing is unlikely to lead to any unacceptable impact to the environment.

The Delegated Officer decided to grant Clearing Permit CPS 7859/2 subject to dieback and weed management, record keeping and reporting conditions.

2. Site Information

Clearing Description: The application is for the proposed clearing of up to 55.7416 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 370 on Deposited Plan 35619 and Lot 556 on Deposited Plan 60836, Wedgefield, for the purpose of road maintenance.

Vegetation Description The vegetation within the application area is mapped within the following Beard vegetation associations:

- 647, described as hummock grasslands, dwarf-shrub steppe; *Acacia translucens* over soft spinifex;
- 127, described as bare areas, mud flats; and
- 43, described as Low forest; mangroves (Kimberley) or thicket; mangroves (Pilbara) (Shepherd et al, 2001).

A desktop assessment and past surveys of the Utah, Point Berth development area identified the terrestrial vegetation type within the project area as grassland on sandy islands scattered within the bare mudflats (Pilbara Ports Authority, 2017).

Vegetation Condition The condition of the vegetation within the application area ranges from 'Good' to 'Completely Degraded' (Keighery, 1994) condition, defined as:

- Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery, 1994).
- Completely Degraded: No longer intact, completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994).

The majority of the application has been subject to a high level of disturbance from previous clearing activities in the local area. These activities were for infrastructure such as roads, powerlines, drains, buildings and tracks. There was also a number of weed species within the application area.

Soil Type

The soil type within the application area is mapped within the following Pilbara soil landscape subsystems:

- Littoral Land System (286Li), described as Bare coastal mudflats with mangroves on seaward fringes, samphire flats, sandy islands coastal dunes and beaches; and
- Uaroo Land System (281Ua), described as Broad sandy plains supporting shrubby hard and soft spinifex grasses (Schoknecht et al., 2004).

Local Area

The local area referred to in the assessment of this application is defined as a 50 kilometre (km) radius measured from the perimeter of the application area.



Figure 1. Application area (outlined in blue).

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles and planning instruments and other matters

The applicant applied to amend Clearing Permit CPS 7859/1, to extend the duration of the permit for 2 years until 4 May 2022.

The assessment against the clearing principles outlined in Schedule 5 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* is unchanged and can be found in the Decision Report prepared for Clearing Permit CPS 7859/1.

Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

The Town of Port Hedland advised that they had no objections to the proposed extension of CPS 7859/1 (Town of Port Hedland, 2020).

The remaining assessments against Planning and Other Matters are still relevant and can be found in the Decision Report prepared for Clearing Permit CPS 7859/1.

4. References

- Keighery, B.J. (1994) *Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community*. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Pilbara Ports Authority (2017) Supporting Information received in relation to Clearing Permit Application CPS 7859/1 Pilbara Ports Authority (DWER Ref: A1566600)

Schoknecht, N., Tille, P. and Purdie, B. (2004) Soil-landscape mapping in South-Western Australia – Overview of Methodology and outputs' Resource Management Technical Report No. 280. Department of Agriculture.

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.

Town of Port Hedland (2020) Comment received in relation to Clearing Permit Application CPS 7859/2 (DWER Ref: A1870387).

GIS Databases:

- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
- DBCA Managed Estate
- Directory of Important Wetlands
- Geomorphic Wetlands Swan Coastal Plain
- Hydrography, hierarchy
- Hydrography, linear
- Land Degradation datasets
- NatureMap
- SAC Bio Datasets
- Soils, Statewide
- TPFL Data
- Vegetation Complexes Swan Coastal Plain
- WA Herbarium Data
- WA TEC/PEC Boundaries