



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 7879/2
Permit Holder:	Merredin Solar Farm Nominee Pty Ltd
Duration of Permit:	25 April 2018 – 25 April 2023

ADVICE NOTE

The funds referred to in condition 7 of this permit are intended for contributing towards the purchase of 16 hectares of native vegetation with similar environmental values including Carnaby's cockatoo habitat within the South West or Wheatbelt South areas of Western Australia.

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 a solar energy facility.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Lot 194 on Deposited Plan 72480, Merredin
Lot 19444 on Deposited Plan 229756, Merredin

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 4.32 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 7879/2.

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:

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

6. Fauna management

- (a) Prior to undertaking clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to identify *habitat tree(s)* suitable to be utilised by Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*);
- (b) Prior to clearing any *habitat tree(s)* identified by condition 6(a), the *habitat tree(s)* shall be inspected by a *fauna specialist* for the presence of fauna listed in condition 6(a);
- (c) Where fauna are identified in relation to condition 6(b) of this Permit, the Permit Holder shall ensure that no clearing of the identified *habitat tree(s)* occurs until such time that the fauna listed in condition 6(a) are no longer utilising the *habitat tree(s)*, and that the CEO is notified.

7. Monetary contributions to a fund maintained for the purpose of establishing or maintaining vegetation (offset)

Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit and no later than 23 September 2018, the Permit Holder shall provide documentary evidence to the CEO that funding of \$31, 200 has been transferred to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation for the purpose of establishing or maintaining native vegetation.

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

8. 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
- (e) fauna management measures in accordance with condition 6 of this Permit.

9. Reporting

The Permit Holder must provide to the CEO the records required under condition 8 of this Permit, when requested by the CEO.

DEFINITIONS

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

habitat tree/s: means trees that have a diameter, measured at 1.5 metres from the base of the tree, of 50 centimetres or greater, or 30 centimetres or greater for all *Eucalyptus wandoo* species;

fauna specialist: means a person who holds a tertiary qualification specializing in environmental science or equivalent, and has a minimum of 2 years work experience in fauna identification and surveys of fauna native to the region being inspected or surveyed, or who is approved by the CEO as a suitable fauna specialist for the bioregion, and who holds a valid fauna licence issued under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*.

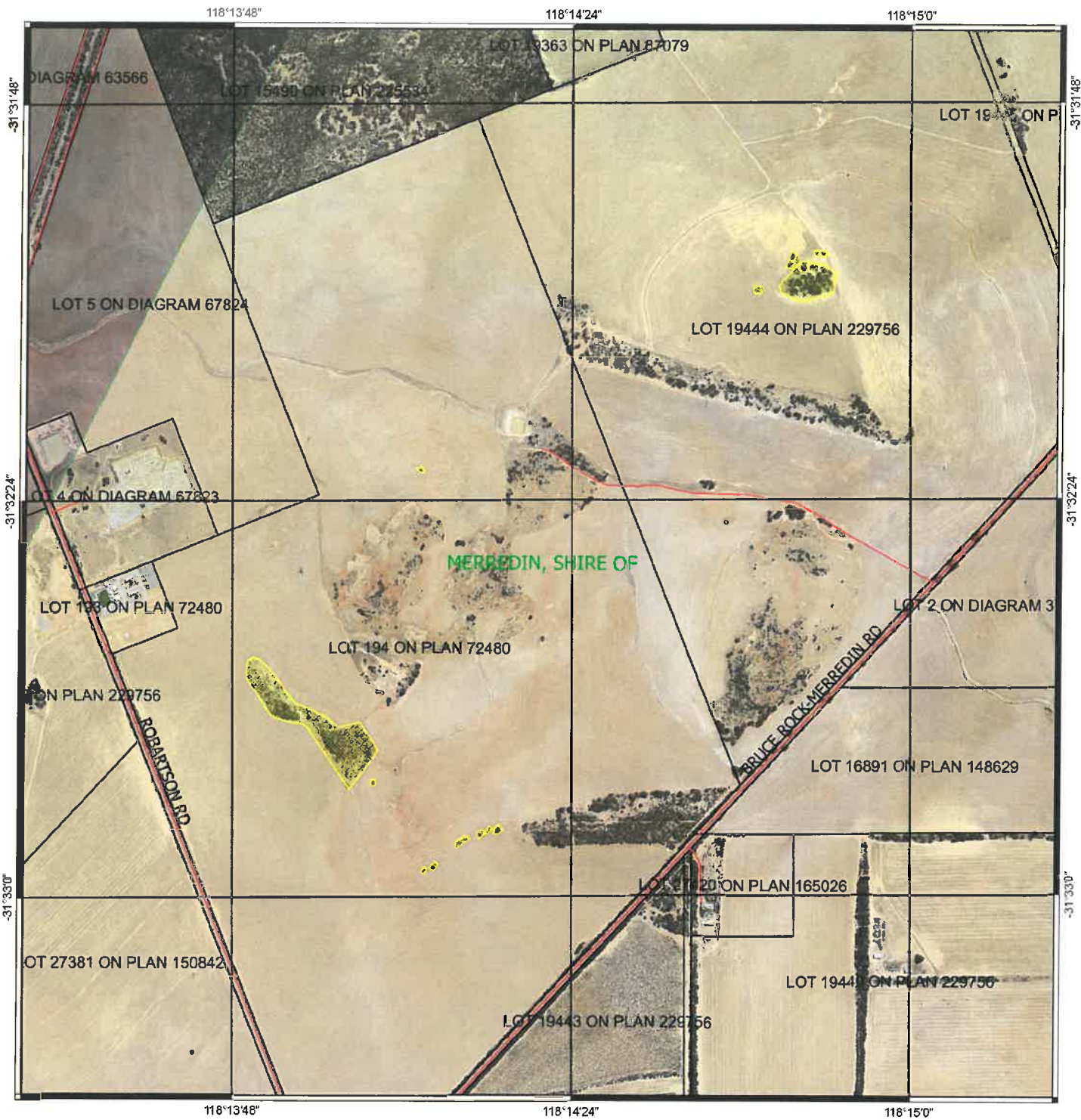


Mathew Gannaway
CLEARING REGULATION

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

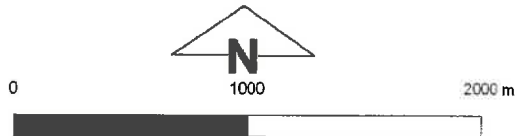
18 June 2018

Plan 7879/2



Legend

- Areas approved to clear
- Roads
- Local Government Authority cadastre
- Cadastre
- WANow_Imagery



MGA94
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994
MB Date 13/06/2018
Mathew Gannaway

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



**GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 7879/2
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Merredin Solar Farm Nominee Pty Ltd
Application received date: 15 May 2018

1.3. Property details

Property: Lot 194 on Deposited Plan 72480, Merredin
Lot 19444 on Deposited Plan 229756, Merredin
Local Government Authority: Shire of Merredin
Localities: Merredin

1.4. Application

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

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted
Decision Date: 18 June 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*, and has concluded that the findings from the previous assessment for CPS 7879/2 are still relevant.

This amendment has been made to amend condition (7) to extend the due date for providing documentary evidence of the monetary offset to 23 September 2018.

2. Site Information

Clearing Description The application is to clear 4.32 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 194 on Deposited Plan 72480 and Lot 19444 on Deposited Plan 229756, Merredin, for the purpose of constructing a solar energy facility.

The applicant has advised that clearing of vegetation is required to reduce shading on the solar panels.

Vegetation Description Two Beard vegetation associations are mapped within the application area (Shepherd et al., 2001):

- **36:** Shrublands; thicket, acacia-casuarina alliance
- **1055:** Shrublands; York gum & *Eucalyptus sheathiana* mallee scrub

A flora and vegetation survey identified two vegetation communities within the application area (Del Botanics, 2017):

- ***Eucalyptus burracoppinensis* Forest with grass understorey (approximately one hectare):** Low Closed Forest of *Eucalyptus burracoppinensis* over very open grassland of introduced species; and
- ***Grevillea* Shrubland (approximately 3 hectares):** Tall shrubland of *Hakea francisiana* over open shrubland of *Acacia neurophylla* subsp. *erugata* over open grassland of *Amphipogon caricinus* var. *caricinus*.

Vegetation Condition Very Good; Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery, 1994).

To

Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994)

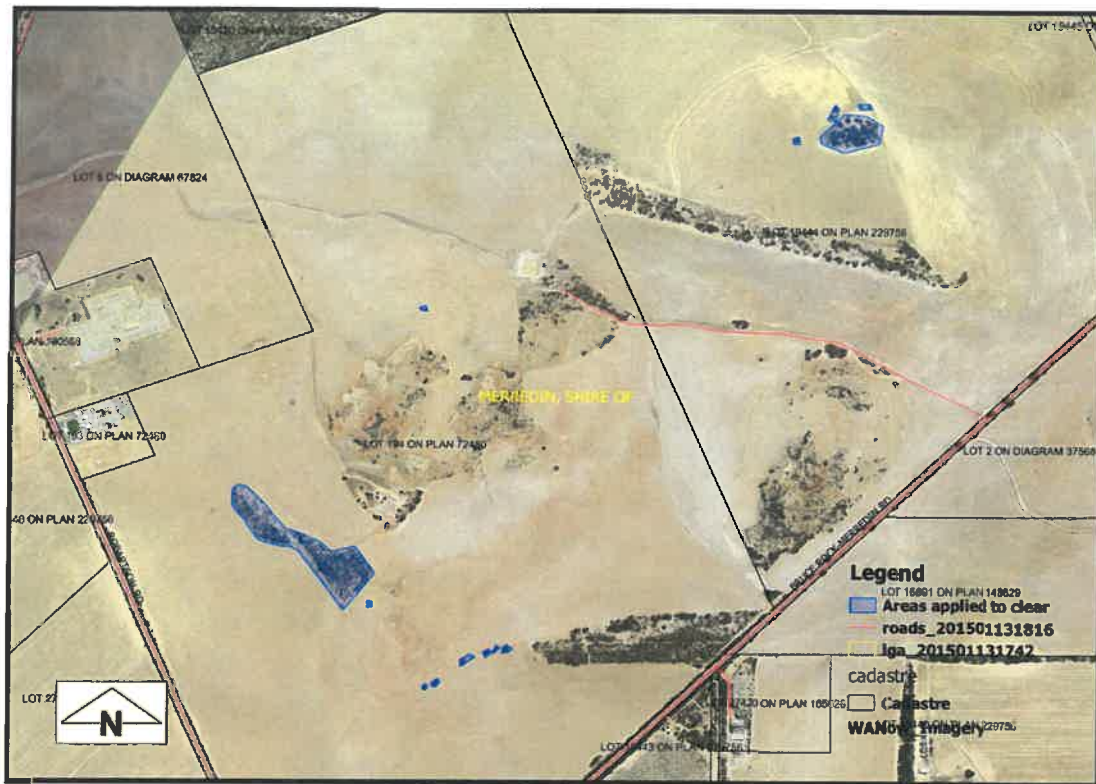


Figure 1: Application area

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

This amendment has been made to amend condition (7) to extend the due date for providing documentary evidence of the monetary offset to 23 September 2018.

The assessment against the clearing principles has not changed, the findings from the previous assessment are still relevant and can be found in Clearing Permit Decision Report CPS 7879/1.

The assessment of planning and other matters has not changed, the findings from the previous assessment are still relevant and can be found in Clearing Permit Decision Report CPS 7879/1.

4. References

- Del Botainics (2017) Flora and Vegetation Assessment Proposed Solar Facility Merredin. Western Australia (DWER Ref: A1584694).
- 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.