



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 8023/1
File Number: 2018/000451
Duration of Permit: From 28 May 2018 to 28 May 2020

PERMIT HOLDER

Woodside Burrup Pty Ltd

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Lot 573 on Deposited Plan 28209, Burrup

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 0.279 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 8023/1.

CONDITIONS

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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);
- (d) actions taken to avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing in accordance with condition 1 of this Permit; and
- (e) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *weeds* in accordance with condition 2 of this Permit.

4. Reporting

The Permit Holder must provide to the *CEO* the records required under condition 3 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*;

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; and

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 Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions Regional Weed Rankings Summary, regardless of ranking; or
- (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.



Mathew Gannaway
MANAGER
CLEARING REGULATION

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

03 May 2018

Plan 8023/1

116°45'43"

116°45'50"



116°45'43"

116°45'50"

Legend

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



MGA 94
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

Matthew Gunnaway
Date: 30/05/2018

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



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 8023/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Applicant's name: Woodside Burrup Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: Lot 573 on Deposited Plan 28209
Local Government Authority: City of Karratha
Localities: Burrup

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
0.279		Mechanical Removal	Building or Structure

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 03 May 2018
Application Received: 16 March 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*. It has been concluded that the proposed clearing is at variance to principle (f), may be at variance to principle (h) and is not likely to be at variance to any of the remaining clearing principles.

Shallow gullies intercept the application area that contain riparian vegetation. However, given the minimal extent of riparian vegetation within the application area, the condition of the vegetation and that the application area has been previously cleared, the proposed clearing is considered unlikely to significantly impact on riparian habitat within the broader area. The proposed clearing may cause sedimentation of surface water within the application area, however this impact is considered minimal and short term.

The proposed clearing may result in the spread of weeds into adjacent areas of remnant vegetation, including an area identified as Pluto Conservation Zone. A weed management condition has been placed on the clearing permit to minimise this risk.

In determining to grant a clearing permit subject to conditions, the Delegated Officer found that the proposed clearing is unlikely to lead to an unacceptable risk to the environment.

2. Background

Existing environment and information

Clearing Description

The application is to clear 0.279 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 573 on Deposited Plan 28209, Burrup, for the purpose of constructing a truck loading terminal and weighbridge.

Vegetation Description

The application area is mapped as Beard vegetation association 117 which is described as Hummock grasslands and grass steppe containing soft spinifex, *Triodia* open hummock grassland and *Acacia* sparse shrub land (Shepherd et al., 2001).

A vegetation assessment undertaken by Astron (2018) encompassing the application area identified the following vegetation types within the application area:

The vegetation along the majority of both the east and western sides of the Haul Road consists of opportunistic native species and is dominated by *Acacia bivenosa* and *Triodia angusta*. This can be described as:

- *Acacia bivenosa* tall shrubland over *Triodia angusta* tall hummock grassland to closed tall hummock grassland. There are scattered *Eucalyptus victrix* also present.

There are shallow gullies intercepting the Haul Road, here the vegetation is described as:

- *Cyperus vaginatus* open sedgeland with *Stemodia grossa* open, sometimes scattered low shrubland and *Heliotropium curassavicum* open prostrate herbland. There are scattered *Eucalyptus victrix*.

Vegetation Condition

The vegetation is considered to be in good to degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition.

Comment

The condition and description of the vegetation was determined by a vegetation assessment undertaken by Astron (2018) and GIS aerial imagery accessed 2018.

Soil Description

Soils within the application area are mapped as a Granitic System which is described as rugged granitic hills (Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, 2017).

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

As discussed under Section 2, the vegetation assessment identified two vegetation types within the application area, with the vegetation largely comprising of an *Acacia bivenosa* tall shrubland over *Triodia angusta* tall hummock grassland to closed tall hummock grassland (Astron, 2018). Astron (2018) also noted that the *Acacia bivenosa* shrubland/*Triodia angusta* vegetation type is typical of regrowth on disturbed sites and is well represented on such areas on the Burrup. The gully vegetation that intercepts the haul road is also well represented within the Pluto Conservation Zone and the Burrup generally. A total of 30 flora species were observed during the vegetation assessment, including one weed species (Astron, 2018).

One Priority Flora species, *Terminalia supranitifolia* P3, a low tree, was located on the eastern side of the Haul Road, at the base of a rockpile, which is located approximately 1-2 metres from the application area (Astron, 2018). Priority three species are considered to have been adequately surveyed, and are considered not currently threatened or in need of special protection. *Terminalia supranitifolia*, occurs throughout the Burrup and the Pilbara nearshore area. The proposed clearing is not likely to impact the conservation status of this species.

The vegetation assessment did not identify any flora listed as threatened or rare within the application area (Astron, 2018).

One Priority Ecological Community (PEC), Burrup Peninsula rock pool communities, listed as Priority 1 by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions is located approximately 1.3 kilometres from the application area. The application area does not have the required geology and habitat to support this PEC and this PEC was not identified within the application area during the vegetation assessment (Astron, 2018). The proposed clearing is not likely to impact the occurrence of this PEC.

No Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) are located within the local area. The proposed clearing is not likely to impact on any TECs.

The proposed clearing may result in the spread of weeds into adjacent areas of remnant vegetation, including the nearby Pluto Conservation Zone. A weed management condition has been placed on the clearing permit to minimise this risk.

As discussed under section 2, shallow gullies intercept the application area that contain *Cyperus vaginatus*, *Stemodia grossa*, *Heliotropium curassavicum* with scattered *Eucalyptus victrix* (Astron, 2018). Noting this, the application area does contain vegetation that is growing in association with an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland. Therefore, the proposed clearing is at variance to principle (f).

However, given the minimal extent of riparian vegetation within the application area, the condition of the vegetation and that the application area has been previously cleared, the proposed clearing is considered unlikely to significantly impact on riparian habitat within the broader area. The proposed clearing may cause sedimentation of surface water within the application area, however this impact is considered minimal and short term.

Taking into account the varying condition of the vegetation, the application area has been cleared previously, the presence of vegetation in better condition nearby in the Pluto Conservation Zone and the relatively small size of the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact significant fauna habitat, contribute to or cause land degradation, deteriorate the quality of ground water, is not likely to cause or exacerbate flooding and is not likely to be classified as clearing a significant remnant within a highly cleared landscape.

Given the above, the proposed clearing is at variance to principle (f), may be at variance to principle (h) and is not likely to be at variance to any of the remaining clearing principles.

Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

A total of 26 Aboriginal Sites of Significance have been mapped within the local area. The applicant has in place a Section 18 Notice under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and relevant management plans to mitigate impacts to any Aboriginal Sites of Significance.

The application area is zoned strategic industry under the City of Karratha town planning scheme. City of Karratha granted Planning Approval for the truck loading terminal and weighbridge on 29 March 2018 (Woodside Energy Ltd., 2018).

The application area falls within the Pilbara Surface Water Area and Pilbara Groundwater Area proclaimed under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (RIWI Act). Any taking or use of surface water or groundwater in this proclaimed area, for the purposes other than domestic and/or stock watering, is subject to a licence by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) Regulatory Services (Water) (DWER, 2018).

The clearing permit application was advertised on 30 March 2018 with a 14 day submission period. No public submissions have been received in relation to this application.

4. References

- Astron (2018). Pluto Haul Road Vegetation Assessment. Unpublished report prepared for Woodside Burrup Pty Ltd. DWER Ref. A1666403.
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (2018). NatureMap - Fauna Species Report: Accessed at <http://www.naturemap.dpaw.wa.gov.au> . Accessed April 2018. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia.
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (2017). NRInfo Digital Mapping. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Government of Western Australia. URL: <https://maps.agric.wa.gov.au/nrm-info/> (accessed April 2018).
- Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (2018) Regulatory Services (Water) – North West Region. Advice provided in relation to clearing permit application CPS 8023/1. DWER Ref. A1664970.
- Government of Western Australia (2018). 2017 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of December 2017. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.
- 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.
- Woodside Energy Ltd. (2018) City of Karratha Planning Approval. DWER Ref. A1666106.