



GOVERNMENT OF
With Parliament
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: CPS 8154/2
File Number: DER2018-001197
Duration of Permit: From 05 January 2019 to 05 July 2021

PERMIT HOLDER

Shire of Beverley

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Bethany Road reserve (PIN: 11307112), Beverley
Bethany Road reserve (PIN: 11307114), Beverley
Bethany Road reserve (PIN: 11307115), Beverley

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The permit holder must not clear more than 22 native trees within the area cross-hatched yellow in Figure 1 and Figure 2 of Schedule 1.

CONDITIONS

1. Avoid, minimise, and reduce impacts and extent of clearing

In determining the native vegetation authorised to be cleared under this permit, the permit holder must apply the following principles, set out in descending 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. Records that must be kept

The permit holder must maintain records relating to the listed relevant matters in accordance with the specifications detailed in Table 1.

Table 1: Records that must be kept

No.	Relevant matter	Specifications
1.	In relation to the authorised clearing activities generally	(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; (b) the date that the area was cleared; (c) the number of trees cleared; and (d) actions taken to avoid, minimise, and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing in accordance with condition 1.

3. Reporting

The permit holder must provide to the *CEO* the records required under condition 2 of this permit when requested by the *CEO*.

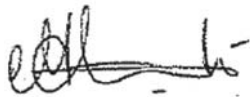
DEFINITIONS

In this permit, the terms in Table have the meanings defined.

Table 2: Definitions

Term	Definition
CEO	Chief Executive Officer of the department responsible for the administration of the clearing provisions under the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> .
clearing	has the meaning given under section 3(1) of the EP Act.
condition	a condition to which this clearing permit is subject under section 51H of the EP Act.

END OF CONDITIONS



Meenu Vitarana
A/SENIOR MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

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

4 January 2021

SCHEDULE 1

The boundary of the area authorised to be cleared is shown in the maps below (Figure 1 and Figure 2).

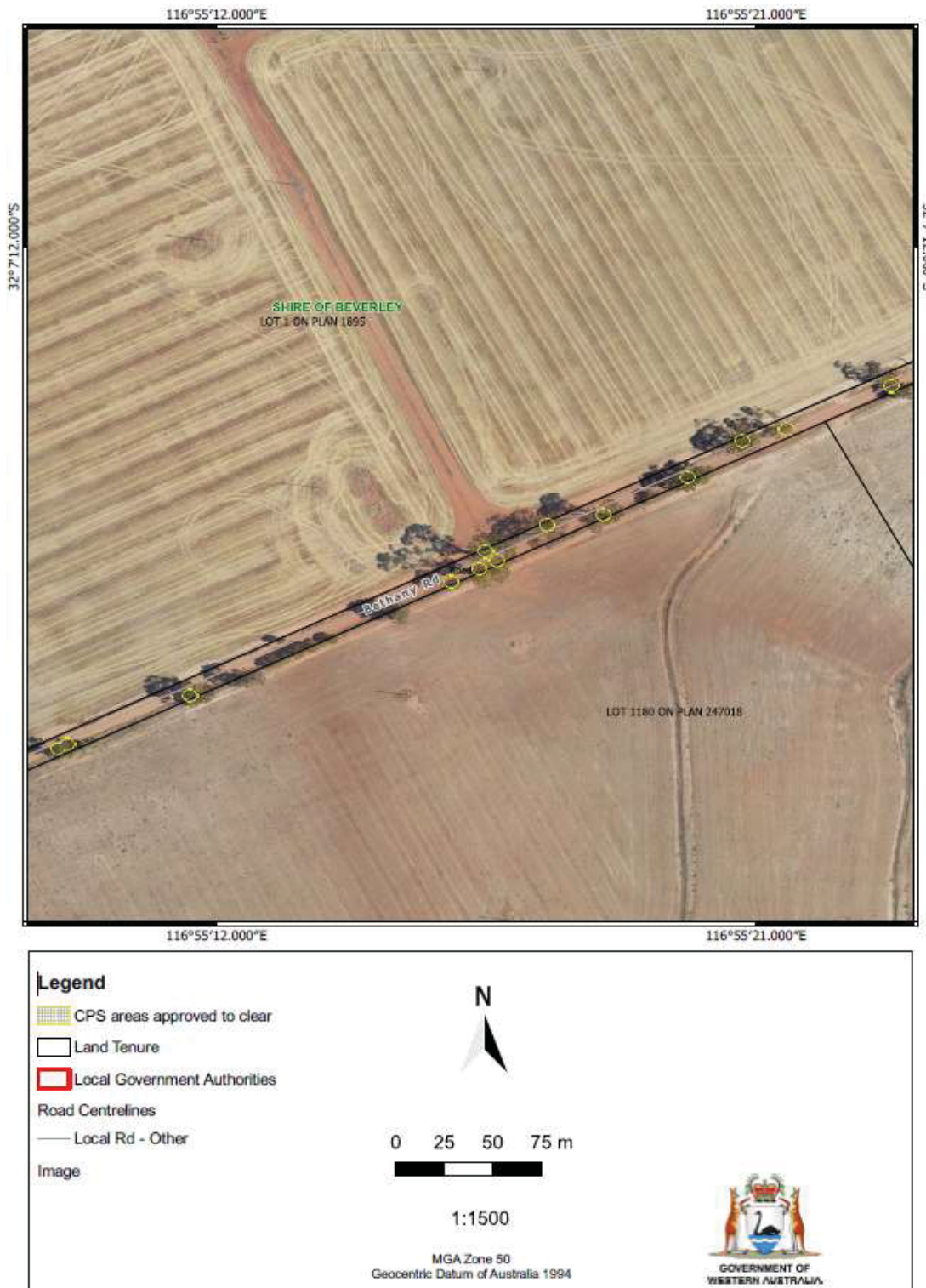


Figure 1: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur

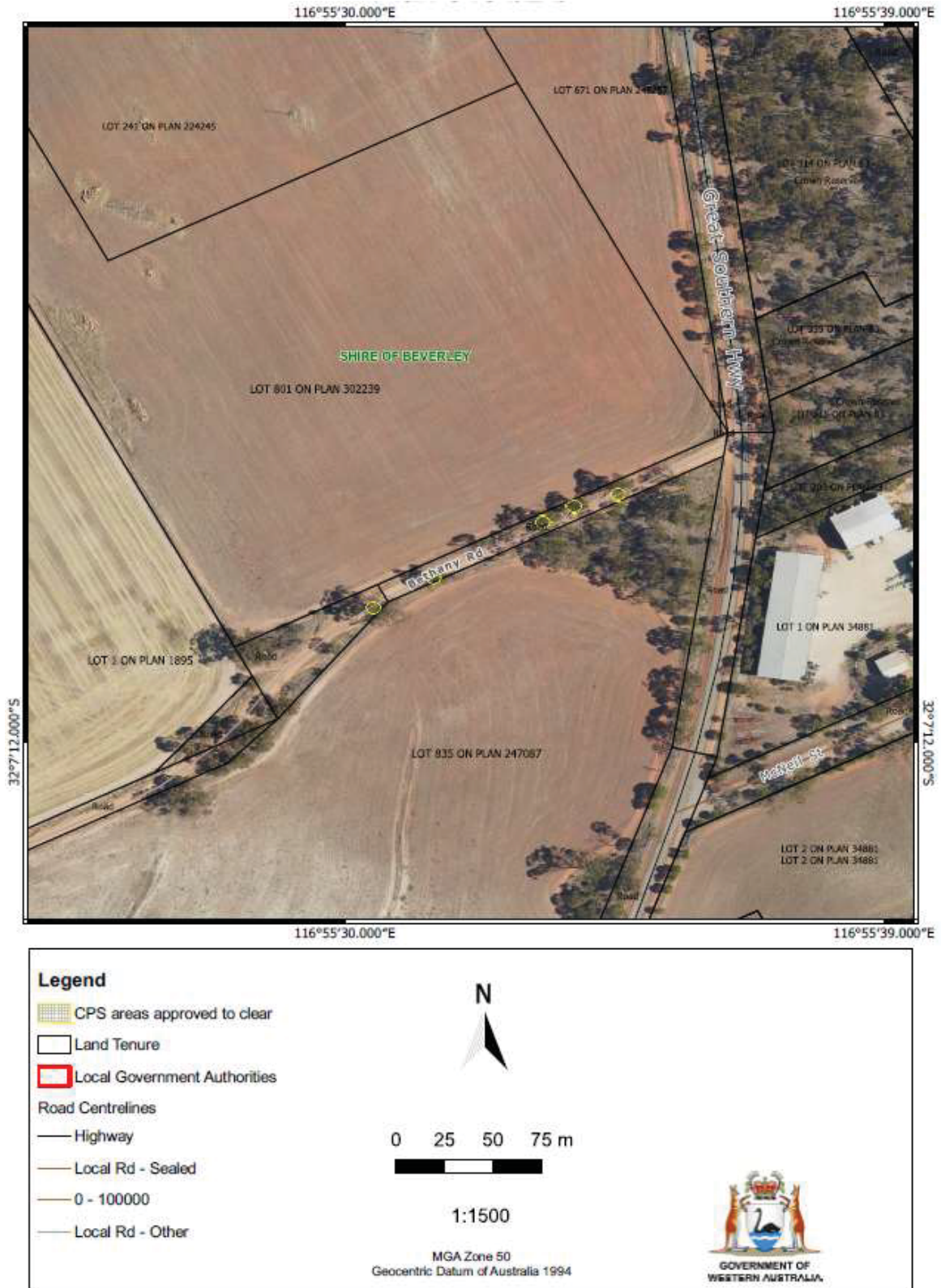


Figure 2: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1 Application details and outcome

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	CPS 8154/2
Permit type:	Area permit
Applicant name:	Shire of Beverley
Application received:	11 December 2020
Application area:	22 native trees
Purpose of clearing:	Road construction and upgrades
Method of clearing:	Mechanical
Property:	Bethany Road reserve (PINS 11307115, 11307112, 11307114)
Location (LGA area/s):	Shire of Beverley
Localities (suburb/s):	Beverley

1.2. Description of clearing activities

This amendment is to extend the duration of the permit CPS 8154/1 for an additional six months to accommodate the availability of contractors.

1.3. Decision on application

Decision:	Granted
Decision date:	4 January 2021
Decision area:	22 native trees, as depicted in Section 1.5, below.

1.4. Reasons for decision

This clearing permit amendment application was submitted, accepted, assessed and determined in accordance with sections 51E and 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) advertised the application for 7 days and no submissions were received.

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics (see Appendix A), relevant datasets (see Appendix E.1), representative photographs of the application area (see Appendix D), the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (see Appendix B), relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (see Section 3).

The assessment has not changed since the assessment for CPS 8154/1. The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed extension of time is not likely to lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values.

1.5. Site map

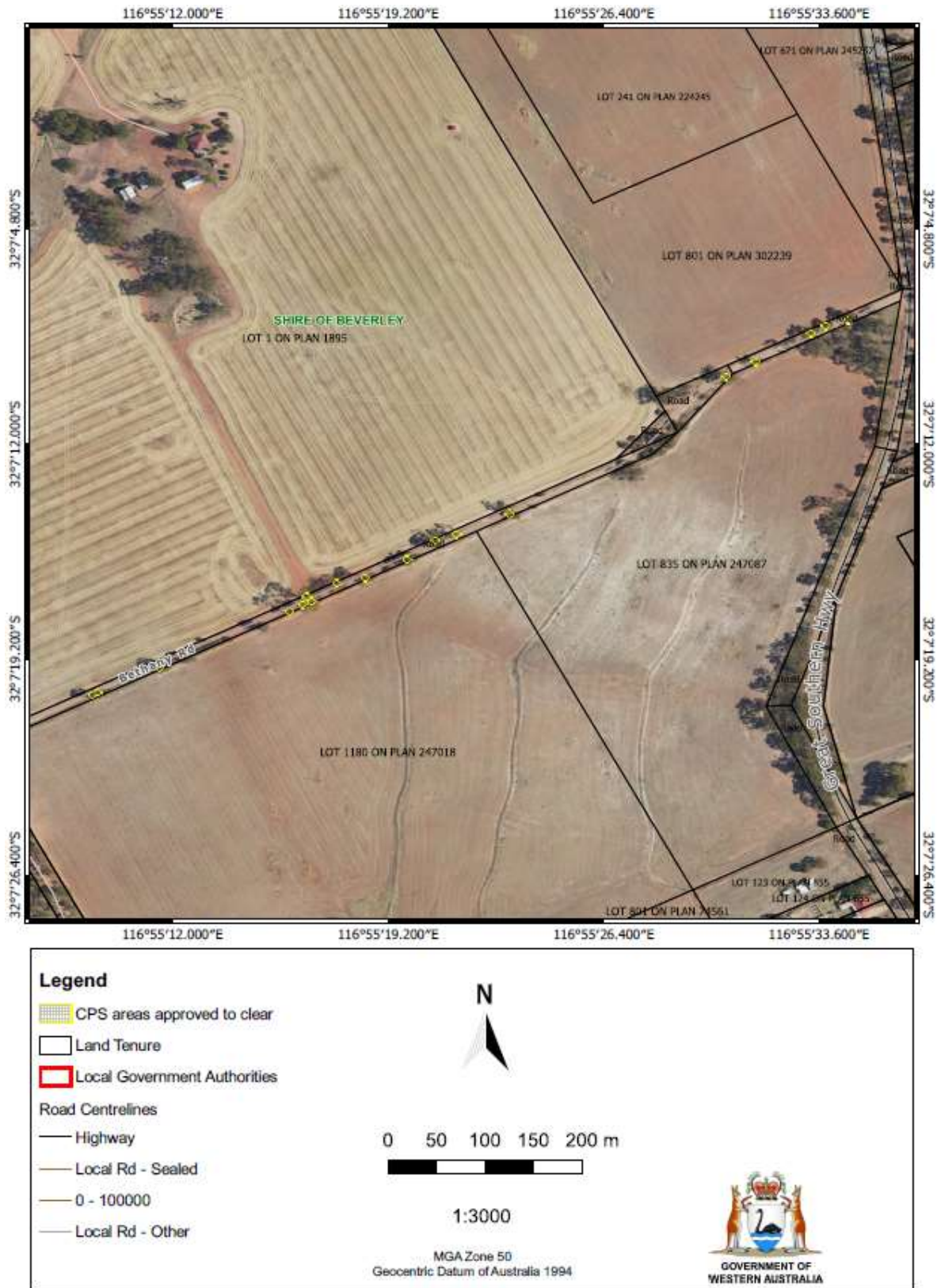


Figure 1 Map of the application area

The areas crosshatched yellow indicate the areas authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

2 Legislative context

The clearing of native vegetation in Western Australia is regulated under the EP Act and the *Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004* (Clearing Regulations).

In addition to the matters considered in accordance with section 51O of the EP Act (see Section 1.4), the Delegated Officer has also had regard to the objects and principles under section 4A of the EP Act, particularly:

- the precautionary principle
- the principle of intergenerational equity
- the principle of the conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity.

Other legislation of relevance for this assessment include:

- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (WA) (BC Act)
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act)

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

- *A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation* (DER, December 2013)
- *Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits* (DWER, October 2019)

3 Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

No evidence of avoidance or mitigation measures were provided to support the application; however, it is noted that the proposed clearing will not remove all the vegetation located within the road reserve.

3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

A review of current environmental information (Appendix B) reveals that the assessment against the clearing principles has not changed significantly from the Clearing Permit Decision Report CPS 8154/1.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

No Aboriginal Heritage of significance have been mapped within the application area. It is the permit holder's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* (WA) and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

End

Appendix A. Site characteristics

A.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details
Local context	<p>The area proposed to be cleared is part of a roadside remnant of native vegetation in the intensive land use zone of Western Australia. It is adjacent to agricultural properties and is nearby the Beverly townsite.</p> <p>Aerial imagery indicates the local area (10-kilometre radius from the centre of the area proposed to be cleared) retains approximately 10 per cent of the original native vegetation cover.</p>
Ecological linkage	The application area is not part of any mapped linkage, and due to the absence of understory, the application area is not likely to contain linkage values.
Conservation areas	Some minor unmanaged reserves are within three kilometres of the application area with the closest conservation reserve being approximately 10 kilometres to the south of the application area.
Vegetation description	<p>Photographs supplied by the applicant indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing area consists of Eucalyptus trees over pasture. Representative photos are available in Appendix D.</p> <p>This is inconsistent with the mapped vegetation type(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beard 352, which is described as Wheatbelt; York Gum (<i>Eucalyptus loxophleba</i>) and Salmon Gum (<i>Eucalyptus salmonophloia</i> (Shepherd et al. 2001). <p>The mapped vegetation type retains approximately 19.6 per cent of the original extent (Government of Western Australia, 2019).</p>
Vegetation condition	Photographs supplied by the applicant indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition. The full Keighery (1994) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix C. Representative photos are available in Appendix D.
Climate and landform	The application area is largely on a flat area with the north eastern extent being on a gentle slope. The area has a mean annual rainfall of approximately 415 millimetres.
Soil description	The application area is mapped within the Jelcobine York Subsystem which is described as Areas of soils derived from freshly exposed rock. This unit is typified by the red soils of the Avon Valley but also includes areas of similar, but often greyer and lighter textured soils to the east of the valley.
Land degradation risk	The mapped soil types have low levels of risk for the categories of land degradation.
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that a minor, non-perennial watercourse is located within 300 meters of the application area.
Hydrogeography	The application area is within the Avon River Catchment area, proclaimed within the <i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> .
Flora	Available databases note 18 records of conservation significant flora within the local area. The nearest record is <i>Eremophila glabra</i> subsp. York (P.G. Wilson 12172 B) located over 400 meters away.
Ecological communities	Part of the application area is within a mapped Threatened Ecological Community, 'Eucalyptus woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt'. There are numerous mapped occurrences of this community type within the local area.

Characteristic	Details
Fauna	Data sources show nine fauna records in local area, with the nearest record being a Western Grasswren (<i>Amytornis textilis textilis</i>), recorded 700 meters from the application area. The application area is within the mapped breeding distribution for Carnaby's cockatoo (<i>Calyptorhynchus latirostris</i>), with the closest recorded breeding site being approximately 45 kilometres west of the application area.

A.2. Vegetation extent

	Pre-European extent (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Extent remaining (%)	Current extent in all DBCA managed land (ha)	Current proportion (%) of pre-European extent in all DBCA managed land
IBRA bioregion*					
Avon Wheatbelt	9517109.61	1736214.56	18.51	174,980.68	1.84
Vegetation complex					
Beard vegetation association 352 *	724,268.73	142,012.22	19.61	12,672.52	1.75
Local area					
10 km radius			10	-	-

*Government of Western Australia (2019a)

Appendix B. Assessment against the clearing principles

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Environmental value: biological values		
<p><u>Principle (a):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The area proposed to be cleared does not contain conservation significant flora, fauna, habitats, assemblages of plants.</p> <p>A portion of the application area is mapped as the 'Eucalypt woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt' (Priority 3) priority ecological community (PEC) however, noting the patch size requirements, the condition and composition of the vegetation proposed to be cleared, the application area is not representative of this community.</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>As per CPS 8154/1</p>	No.
<p><u>Principle (b):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u> The area proposed to be cleared does not contain breeding, or other significant habitat for conservation significant fauna. Representative photographs of the proposed clearing area show the trees to be cleared do not contain hollows suitable for use by cockatoos.</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>As per CPS 8154/1</p>	No
<p><u>Principle (c):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The area proposed to be cleared unlikely to contain habitat for flora species listed under the BC Act.</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>As per CPS 8154/1</p>	No
<p><u>Principle (d):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a threatened ecological community."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The area proposed to be cleared does not contain species that can indicate a threatened ecological community.</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>As per CPS 8154/1</p>	No
Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas		
<p><u>Principle (e):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The extent of the mapped vegetation type is inconsistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia. Noting the composition of the vegetation to be cleared, the vegetation within the application area is not representative of the mapped vegetation type. The vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered to be part of a significant ecological linkage in the local area.</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>As per CPS 8154/1</p>	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
<p><u>Principle (h):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Given the distance to the nearest conservation area, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of nearby conservation areas.</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>As per CPS 8154/1</p>	<p>No</p>
Environmental value: land and water resources		
<p><u>Principle (f):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Given a minor perennial water course is recorded 370 meters from the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact on- or off-site hydrology and water quality.</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>As per CPS 8154/1</p>	<p>No</p>
<p><u>Principle (g):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The mapped soils are not susceptible to wind or water erosion, nutrient export, or salinity. Noting the extent of the application area and the condition of the vegetation, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an appreciable impact on land degradation (DPIRD, 2019).</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>As per CPS 8154/1</p>	<p>No</p>
<p><u>Principle (i):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Given the distance to minor perennial watercourses to the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact surface or ground water quality.</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>As per CPS 8154/1</p>	<p>No</p>
<p><u>Principle (j):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The mapped soil type and topographic contours in the surrounding area do not indicate the proposed clearing is likely to contribute to increased incidence or intensity of flooding.</p> <p>Given no watercourses are recorded as intersecting the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to contribute to waterlogging.</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>As per CPS 8154/1</p>	<p>No</p>

Appendix C. Vegetation condition rating scale

Vegetation condition is a rating given to a defined area of vegetation to categorise and rank disturbance related to human activities. The rating refers to the degree of change in the vegetation structure, density and species present in relation to undisturbed vegetation of the same type. The degree of disturbance impacts upon the vegetation's ability to regenerate. Disturbance at a site can be a cumulative effect from a number of interacting disturbance types.

Considering its location, the scale below was used to measure the condition of the vegetation proposed to be cleared. This scale has been extracted from Keighery, B.J. (1994) *Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community*. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

Measuring vegetation condition for the South West and Interzone Botanical Province (Keighery, 1994)

Condition	Description
Pristine	Pristine or nearly so, no obvious signs of disturbance.
Excellent	Vegetation structure intact, with disturbance affecting individual species; weeds are non-aggressive species.
Very good	Vegetation structure altered, with obvious signs of disturbance. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by repeated fires, the presence of some more aggressive weeds, dieback, logging and/or grazing.
Good	Vegetation structure significantly altered by very obvious signs of multiple disturbances. Retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate it. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of some very aggressive weeds at high density, partial clearing, dieback and/or grazing.
Degraded	Basic vegetation structure severely impacted by disturbance. Scope for regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of very aggressive weeds, partial clearing, dieback and/or grazing.
Completely degraded	The structure of the vegetation is no longer intact and the area is completely or almost completely without native species. These areas are often described as 'parkland cleared' with the flora comprising weed or crop species with isolated native trees or shrubs.

Appendix D. Photographs of the application area



Figure 1: Photograph of the application area (Shire of Beverley, 2018)



Figure 2: Photograph of the application area (Shire of Beverley, 2018)



Figure 3: Photograph of the application area (Shire of Beverley, 2018)



Figure 4: Photograph of the application area (Shire of Beverley, 2018)

Appendix E. Sources of information

E.1. GIS databases

- Publicly available GIS Databases used (sourced from www.data.wa.gov.au):
- 10 Metre Contours (DPIRD-073)
- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- Cadastre (LGATE-218)
- Cadastre Address (LGATE-002)
- Contours (DPIRD-073)
- DBCA – Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia – Western Australia (DBCA-045)
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Flood Risk (DPIRD-007)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- Hydrography – Inland Waters – Waterlines
- Hydrological Zones of Western Australia (DPIRD-069)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Imagery
- Local Planning Scheme – Zones and Reserves (DPLH-071)
- Native Title (ILUA) (LGATE-067)
- Offsets Register – Offsets (DWER-078)
- Pre-European Vegetation Statistics
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- Ramsar Sites (DBCA-010)
- Regional Parks (DBCA-026)
- Remnant Vegetation, All Areas
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Flood Risk (DPIRD-007)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Phosphorus Export Risk (DPIRD-010)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Subsurface Acidification Risk (DPIRD-011)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Water Erosion Risk (DPIRD-013)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Water Repellence Risk (DPIRD-014)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Waterlogging Risk (DPIRD-015)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Wind Erosion Risk (DPIRD-016)

- Soil Landscape Mapping – Best Available
- Soil Landscape Mapping – Systems
- Wheatbelt Wetlands Stage 1 (DBCA-021)

Restricted GIS Databases used:

- ICMS (Incident Complaints Management System) – Points and Polygons
- Threatened Flora (TPFL)
- Threatened Flora (WAHerb)
- Threatened Fauna
- Threatened Ecological Communities and Priority Ecological Communities
- Threatened Ecological Communities and Priority Ecological Communities (Buffers)

E.2. References

Shire of Beverley (2020) *Clearing permit application to amend CPS 8154/1*, received 11 December 2020 (DWER Ref: DWERDT390356).

Shire of Beverley (2018) *Clearing permit application CPS 8154/1*, received 30 July 2018 (DWER Ref: A1706989).

Commonwealth of Australia (2001) *National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005*, Canberra.

Department of Environment Regulation (DER) (2013). *A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation*. Perth. Available from: https://www.der.wa.gov.au/images/documents/your-environment/native-vegetation/Guidelines/Guide2_assessment_native_veg.pdf.

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2019). *NRInfo Digital Mapping. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development*. Government of Western Australia. URL: <https://maps.agric.wa.gov.au/nrm-info/> (accessed December 2020).

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (2019). *Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits*. Joondalup. Available from: https://dwer.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Procedure_Native_vegetation_clearing_permits_v1.PDF.

Government of Western Australia. (2019) *2018 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of March 2019*. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. <https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca-statewide-vegetation-statistics>

Keighery, B.J. (1994) *Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community*. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

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.

Western Australian Herbarium (1998-). *FloraBase - the Western Australian Flora*. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia. <https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/> (Accessed December 2020)