



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 8418/1
Permit Holder:	Department of Defence
Duration of Permit:	5 May 2019 to 5 May 2024

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 establishing a temporary camp for the Unit during Army Aboriginal Community Assistance Program (AACAP) for 2019.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Lot 3035 on Deposited Plan 52580 (Pastoral lease N049404), Newman

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 0.63 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 8418/1.

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. 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*:

- clean any earth-moving machinery and other clearing equipment of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
- ensure that no known *weed*-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill* or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and
- restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the area to be cleared.

7. Retain vegetative material and topsoil, revegetation and rehabilitation

The Permit Holder shall:

- (a) retain the vegetative material and topsoil removed by clearing authorised under this Permit and stockpile the vegetative material and topsoil in an area that has already been cleared; and
- (b) within 6 months following completion of the temporary camp, *revegetate* and *rehabilitate* the area(s) that are no longer required for the purpose for which they were cleared under this Permit by:
 - (i) ripping the ground on the contour to remove soil compaction; and
 - (ii) laying the vegetative material and topsoil retained under condition 7(a) on the cleared area(s).

PART III – RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

8. Record keeping

The Permit Holder must maintain the following records 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(s) 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 5 of this Permit;
- (e) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *weeds* in accordance with condition 6 of this Permit; and
- (f) actions taken in accordance with condition 7 of this permit.

9. Reporting

The Permit Holder must produce the records required under condition 8 of this Permit when required by the *CEO*.

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*;

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;

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;

rehabilitate/ed/ion means actively managing an area containing native vegetation in order to improve the ecological function of that area;

revegetate/ed/ion means the re-establishment of a cover of *local provenance* native vegetation in an area using methods such as natural *regeneration*, *direct seeding* and/or *planting*, so that the species composition, structure and density is similar to pre-clearing vegetation types in that area.

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 species-led ecological impact and invasiveness ranking summary, regardless of ranking; or
- (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.

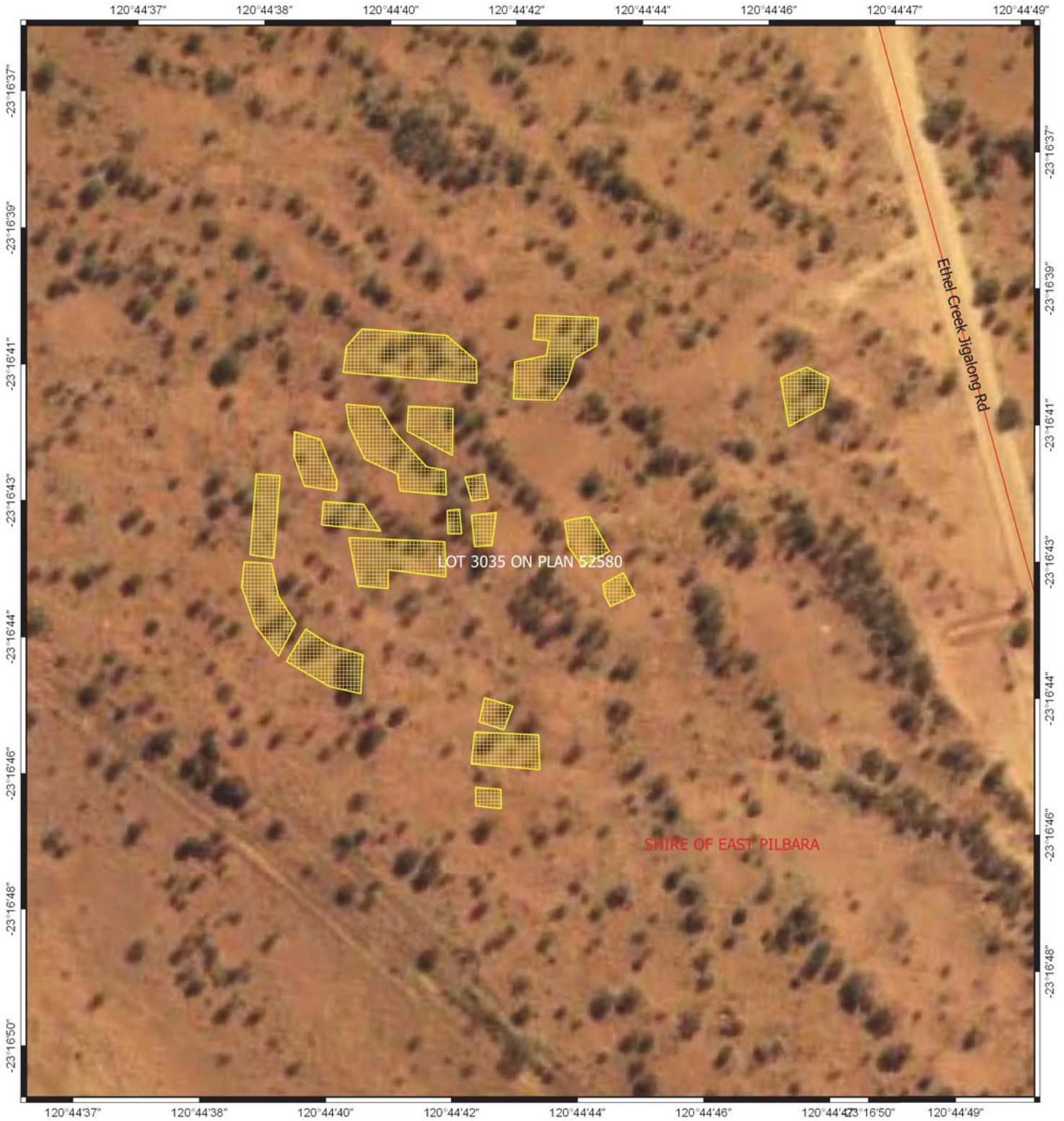


Samara Rogers
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION





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

12 April 2019

Plan 8418/1





Legend


-  CPS areas approved to clear
-  Cadastre
-  Roads
-  Local Government Authorities

Image

MGA 94
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994


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Samara Rogers
2019.04.12 08:39:23
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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.: CPS 8418/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Department of Defence
Application received date: 18 March 2019

1.3. Property details

Property: Lot 3035 on Deposited Plan 52580 (Pastoral lease N049404), Newman
Local Government Authority: Shire of East Pilbara
Localities: Newman

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	Purpose category:
0.63	0	Mechanical removal	Building or structure

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 12 April 2019

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 not likely to be at variance to any of the clearing principles.

In determining to grant a clearing permit subject to conditions, the Delegated Officer considered that the proposed clearing is not likely to lead to an unacceptable risk to the environment.

2. Site Information

- Clearing Description:** The application is for the proposed clearing of 0.63 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 3035 on Deposited Plan 52580 (Pastoral lease N049404), Newman, for the purpose of establishing a temporary camp for the Unit during Army Aboriginal Community Assistance Program (AACAP) for 2019.
- Vegetation Description:** The vegetation within the application area is mapped as Beard vegetation association 29, described as sparse low woodland; mulga, discontinuous in scattered groups and includes mulga, *Acacia aneura* and associated species (Shepherd et al, 2001).
- Vegetation Condition:** Excellent: Vegetation structure intact, disturbance affecting individual species and weeds are non-aggressive species (Keighery, 1994).
The condition of the vegetation within the application was determined based on available aerial imagery (Figure 1).
- Soil/Landform Type:** The application area is mapped as *Jigalong System*, described as alluvial plains and flood plains supporting grassy shrublands and woodlands and halophytic shrublands (DPIRD, 2017).
- Comments:** The local area referred to in the assessment of this application is defined as a 50 kilometre radius measured from the perimeter of the application area. A review of available databases has determined that the local area retains approximately 99 per cent of its pre-European clearing extent.

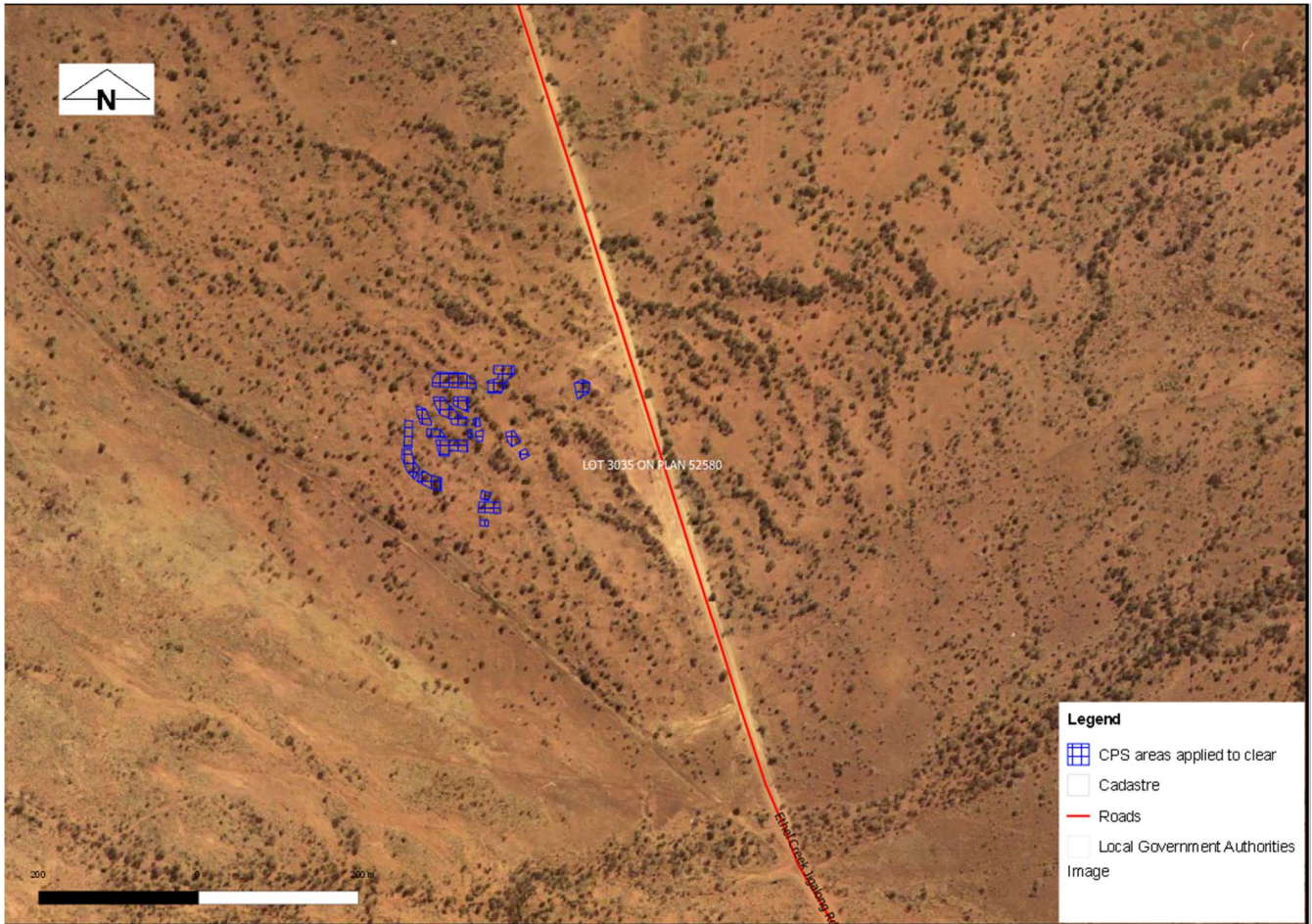


Figure 1: Application area (cross-hatched blue)



Figure 2: Photographs of the application area (Department of Defence, 2019b) - *Acacia aneura* and associated species typical of malga vegetation community



Figure 3: Photographs of the application area (Department of Defence, 2019b) - *Acacia aneura* and associated species typical of malga vegetation community

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

The application area comprises vegetation in excellent (Keighery, 1994) condition, composed of *Acacia aneura* and associated species typical of banded malga vegetation communities typical of the region (Figures 1-3). The proposed clearing is only temporary and noting the condition and undisturbed state of the vegetation within the local area, the vegetation within the application area is expected to restore to its natural state in the long term.

According to available databases, six priority flora species have been recorded within the local area. Based on the mapped vegetation association for the application area, two priority flora species may occur within the application area. However, noting the extent of the remnant vegetation in the local area, the undisturbed environment and that the proposed clearing is only temporary, the impacts to these priority flora species are considered to be minimal, if any should occur within the application area.

Seven conservation significant fauna species have been recorded within the local area (DBCA, 2007-). Of these, the application area may support habitat for Bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*). However, noting the size of the application area and the temporary disturbance to the vegetation, any impacts are likely to be short term and minimal.

No threatened ecological communities (TECs) or priority ecological communities (PECs) occur within the local area and the application area is not likely to comprise the whole or part of, or be necessary for the maintenance of, a TEC.

The local area retains approximately 99 per cent of its pre-European clearing extent, and noting the condition of the remnant vegetation within the local area, the proposed clearing is not likely to be considered a significant remnant within an extensively cleared area.

According to available databases, no watercourses and wetlands occur within the application area. Given this, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on vegetation growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland. It is noted that the local area contains mulga dominant woodlands that occur in banded formations. Banded mulga communities are dependent on sheet flow, and therefore any obstruction to sheet flow may have negative impacts upon such communities. Based on the available aerial imagery, the application area appears to be downslope of the banded mulga communities. Given this and the proposed temporary land-use, the proposed clearing is not likely to alter the sheet flow in a way that will significantly impact on the adjacent mulga communities.

The closest conservation area is the Karlamilyi National Park located approximately 100 kilometres northeast from the application area. Given the distance between the application area and the nearest conservation area, the application area is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation areas.

Given the size of the application area and the proposed temporary land-use, the proposed clearing is not likely to contribute to or cause land degradation, deteriorate the quality of ground water, cause or exacerbate flooding.

Given the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to the clearing principles.

The application area is zoned as rural according to the East Pilbara town planning scheme zone and is within a pastoral lease (N049404). The applicant is in the process of obtaining a Section 91 licence under the *Land Administration Act 1997* for the establishment of the proposed temporary camp with the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (Department of Defence, 2019a).

The clearing permit application was advertised on the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's website on 28 March 2019, inviting submissions from the public within a seven day period. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

No Aboriginal Sites of Significant have been mapped within the application area.

4. References

- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) (2007-) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Parks and Wildlife. URL: <http://naturemap.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>. Accessed April 2019.
- Department of Defence (2019a). Application and supporting for a clearing permit (CPS 8418/1) emailed by the Department of Defence on 18 March 2019 (DWER Ref: A1773266).
- Department of Defence (2019b). Photographs of the application area for clearing permit application CPS 8418/1 emailed by applicant on 11 April 2019 (DWER Ref: A1780716).
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2017). NRInfo Digital Mapping. Accessed at <https://maps.agric.wa.gov.au/nrm-info/> Accessed November 2018. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Government of Western Australia.
- 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.

5. GIS Datasets

- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
- Beard vegetation associations
- Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas
- Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions, Tenure
- Groundwater salinity, statewide
- Hydrology, linear
- IBRA Australia
- Land for Wildlife
- PDWSA, CAWSA, RIWI Act Areas
- Remnant vegetation
- SAC Biodatasets (accessed April 2019)
- Soils, statewide