



## CLEARING PERMIT

*Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986*

<b>Purpose Permit number:</b>	CPS 8633/1
<b>Permit Holder:</b>	Shire of Ashburton
<b>Duration of Permit:</b>	27 November 2019 to 27 November 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 road construction and upgrades.

**2. Land on which clearing is to be done**

Lot 556 on Deposited Plan 404911, Ashburton

**3. Area of Clearing**

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 0.02 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 8633/1.

**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.

**5. Type of clearing authorised**

This Permit authorises the Permit Holder to clear native vegetation for the activities described in condition 1 of this Permit to the extent that the Permit Holder has the power to carry out works involving clearing for those activities under the *Local Government Act 1995* or any other written law.

### PART II – MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

**6. 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.

**7. 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 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.

### **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 6 of this Permit;
- (e) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *weeds* in accordance with condition 7 of this Permit; and

#### **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;

*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.

  
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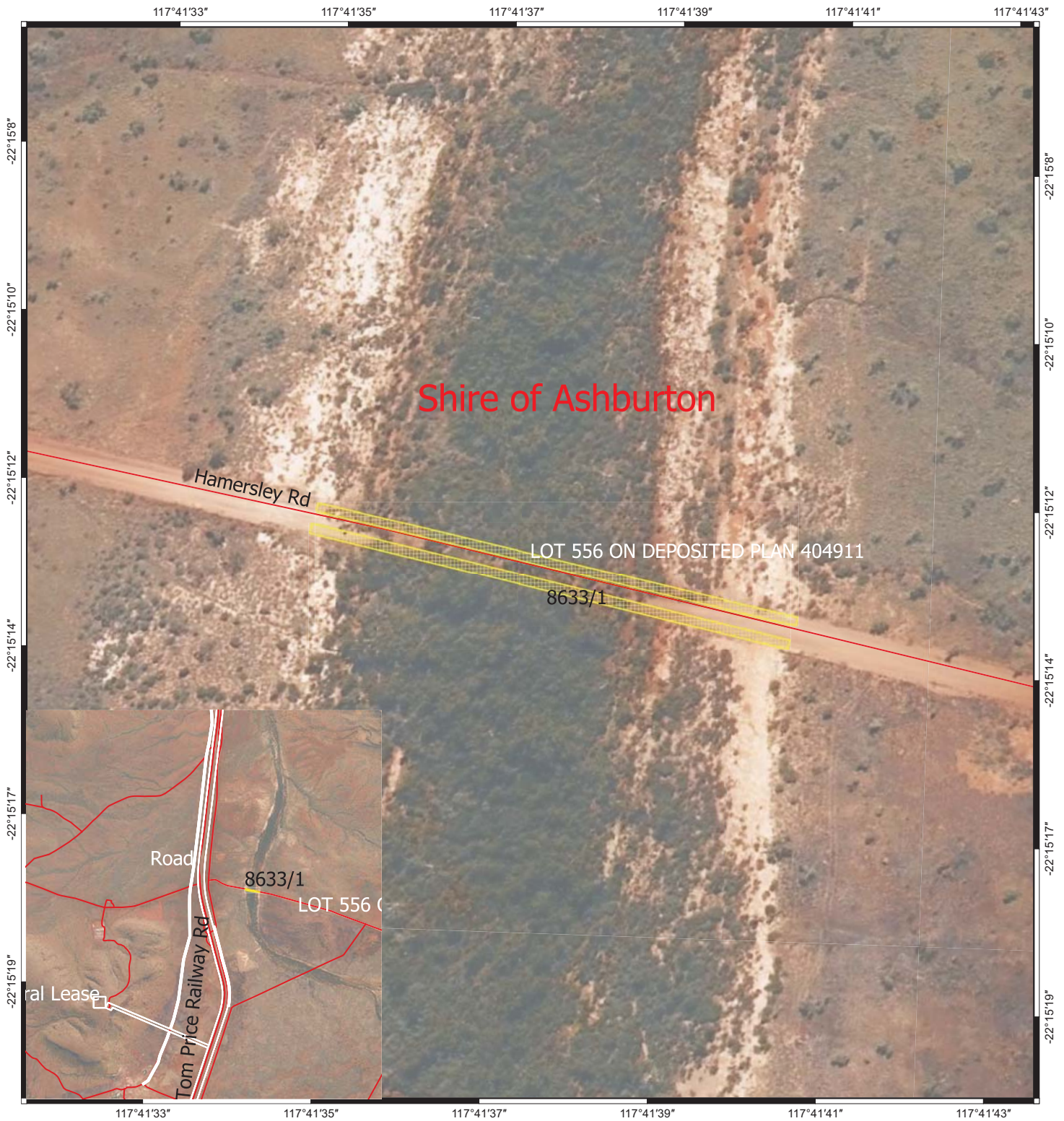
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Ryan Mincham  
MANAGER  
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION



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

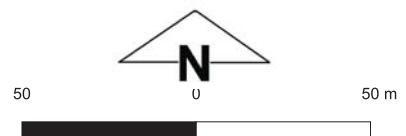
28 October 2019

# Plan 8633/1



## Legend

-  Areas approved to clear
-  Cadastre - LGATE 218
-  Local Government Authorities
-  Roads
-  Image



MGA 94  
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

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Environmental Protection Act 1986



GOVERNMENT OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 8633/1  
Permit type: Purpose Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Applicant's name: Shire of Ashburton  
Application received date: 1 August 2019

### 1.3. Property details

Property: Lot 556 on Deposited Plan 404911, Ashburton  
Local Government Authority: Shire of Ashburton  
Localities: Tom Price

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
0.02		Mechanical	Road construction and upgrades

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted  
Decision Date: 28 October 2019  
Reasons for Decision:

The clearing application has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with s51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, and it has been concluded that the proposed clearing is at variance to principle (f), and not likely to be at variance to any of the remaining 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. Background

<b>Clearing Description</b>	The application is to clear of 0.02 hectares of native vegetation within a 0.13 hectare footprint, within Lot 556 on Deposited Plan 404911, Shire of Ashburton, for the purpose of road construction and upgrades.
<b>Vegetation Description</b>	The application area is mapped as Beard vegetation association 82: - Hummock grasslands, low tree steppe; snappy gum over <i>Triodia wiseana</i> .
<b>Vegetation Condition</b>	Good: Vegetation structure significantly altered by very obvious signs of multiple disturbance. Retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate it (Keighery, 1994); To Completely Degraded: the structure of the vegetation no longer intact and the area completely or almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994).
<b>Soil Type</b>	The soil type within the application area is mapped as: Calcrete Land System - Low calcrete platforms and plains supporting shrubby hard spinifex grasslands.
<b>Comments</b>	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.  The vegetation condition of the application area was determined based on available aerial imagery and photographs provided by the applicant.

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

The application is to clear up to 0.02 hectares of native vegetation for the purpose of road construction and upgrades. The vegetation found in drainage lines and creeks within the local area typically consists of variable layers, comprising of *Eucalyptus victrix*, *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* and *Eucalyptus leucophloia* overstorey, with shrub layers of *Acacia exigua* or *Grevillea sp.* over *Themeda triandra* tussock grasses, *Triodia wiseana* hummock grasses, *Eriachne tenuiculmis* and *Gossypium robinsonii*.

While no flora survey of the application area was conducted, photographs provided by the applicant indicate that the vegetation under application is best described as regrowth from previous clearing activities.

Given the completely degraded to good (Keighery, 1994) condition of the vegetation, small size of the application area and nearby occurrence of vegetation in better condition, the area proposed to be cleared is not likely to represent an area of high biodiversity value. Based on the abovementioned factors, the application area is not likely to provide significant habitat for threatened or priority flora, or conservation significant fauna.

While 30 priority flora species have been recorded within the local area, only five are associated with creeks or drainage lines. The nearest recorded priority flora species is *Eragrostis surreyana* (P3) which has been recorded approximately 500 metres north of the application area. Other priority flora species recorded within the Weelumurra Creek include *Goodenia nuda* (P4), *Oldenlandia sp. Hammersley Station* (P3) and *Iotasperma sessifolium* (P3), with these records all being from locations further than 5.7 kilometres from the application area (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998 >).

A total of 13 fauna species of conservation significance have been recorded within the local area:

Scientific Name	Common Name	Conservation code
<i>Apus pacificus</i>	fork-tailed swift	IA
<i>Charladies viridis</i>	oriental plover	IA
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	peregrine falcon	OS
<i>Macroderma gigas</i>	ghost bat	VU
<i>Dasyurus hallucatus</i>	northern quoll	EN
<i>Lagorchestes conspicillatus leichardti</i>	spectacled hare-wallaby	P4
<i>Leggadina lakedownensis</i>	Northern short-tailed mouse western pebble-mound mouse,	P4
<i>Pseudomys chapmani</i>	mouse,	P4
<i>Rhinonictes aurantia (Pilbara)</i>	Pilbara leaf-nosed bat	VU
<i>Sminthopsis longicaudata</i>	long-tailed dunnart	P4
<i>Liasis olivaceus barroni</i>	Pilbara olive python	VU
<i>Notoscincus butleri</i>	lined soil-crevice skink	P4
<i>Underwoodisaurus seorsus</i>	Pilbara barking gecko	P2

Two of the above species have been found within close proximity to the application area; the Pilbara leaf-nosed bat (VU) and the Lined soil-crevice skink (P4). These are both mobile species and are not likely to be directly impacted by the clearing of native vegetation. The Pilbara leaf nosed bat roosts deep within mines or in caves that are unsafe or too narrow to be accessed by people, such as crevices in rocky gullies (Armstrong, 2000). Suitable crevice habitat may be found along the banks of the Weelumurra Creek. While the clearing of native vegetation itself is not likely to impact the Pilbara leaf-nosed bat, the use of mechanised equipment to widen the banks through this area may impact upon roosting sites for this species. The permit holder should ensure appropriate management measures are implemented during the construction phase to avoid impacts to potentially suitable roosting habitat.

No priority or threatened ecological communities have been mapped within the application area, with the nearest being the Brockman Iron cracking clay communities Priority Ecological Community (PEC), located approximately 1.3 kilometres south of the application area. The nearest conservation area is Karijini National Park, located approximately 26 kilometres east of the application area.

The vegetation under application is not considered to be a significant remnant within a highly cleared landscape, with 99.5% of Beard vegetation association 82 remaining within the Pilbara Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2018).

As the proposed clearing will impact on riparian vegetation, there is some potential for localised, periodic deterioration of the quality of surface water, however, this will only occur during infrequent flooding events. The small scale of the proposed clearing is not likely to cause or exacerbate flooding.

Given the above, the proposed clearing is at variance to Principle (f) and not likely to be at variance to the remaining clearing principles.

#### 4. Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

**Comments** Three Aboriginal sites of significance have been mapped within the local area, but they do not overlap the application site. The applicant will be advised of their responsibilities to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*.

The clearing permit application was advertised on 3 September 2019 with a 14 day submission period. One public submission was received, stating that the area is culturally significant as it includes Weelumurra Creek (Weelumurra Wuntu) and is in immediate proximity to a burial site. The submitter also states that the area is of importance and special significance to the Eastern Guruma in accordance with their customs and traditions. The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) contacted the Shire of Ashburton to discuss the matters raised in the submission. The Shire has committed to consulting with the Wintawari Guruma Aboriginal Corporation in relation to the proposed clearing activities.

#### 5. References

Armstrong, K.N. (2000). Roost microclimates of the bat *Rhynonictoris aurantius* in a limestone cave in Geike Gorge, Western Australia. *Australian Mammalogy*. 22:69-70.

Government of Western Australia (2018) 2018 Statewide Vegetation Statistics. Current as of March 2019. WA

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

Western Australian Herbarium (1998 >) FloraBase - The Western Australian Flora. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. <http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/> (accessed March 2019).

##### **GIS Databases:**

Hydrography, linear  
Hydrography, hierarchy  
Parks and Wildlife tenure  
Flora  
Fauna  
Virtual mosaic  
Geoscience  
Vegetation Complexes  
Native Title