GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 8725/1
Permit Holder:	Shire of Murchison
Duration of Permit:	28 June 2020 – 28 June 2025

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 extending the existing gravel pit.

2. **Land on which clearing is to be done**
   Lot 11803 on Plan 28258 (Pastoral Lease L PL N049524), South Murchison

3. **Area of clearing**
   The Permit Holder must not clear more than 2 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 8725/1.

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**
   The permit holder may clear native vegetation for the activities described in condition 1 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:
   (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.

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:*
   (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;
   (c) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared; and

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);
(d) purpose for which clearing was undertaken: and

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:

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;

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 the Department of Environment and Conservation Regional Weed Assessments, regardless of ranking; or
(c) not indigenous to the area concerned.

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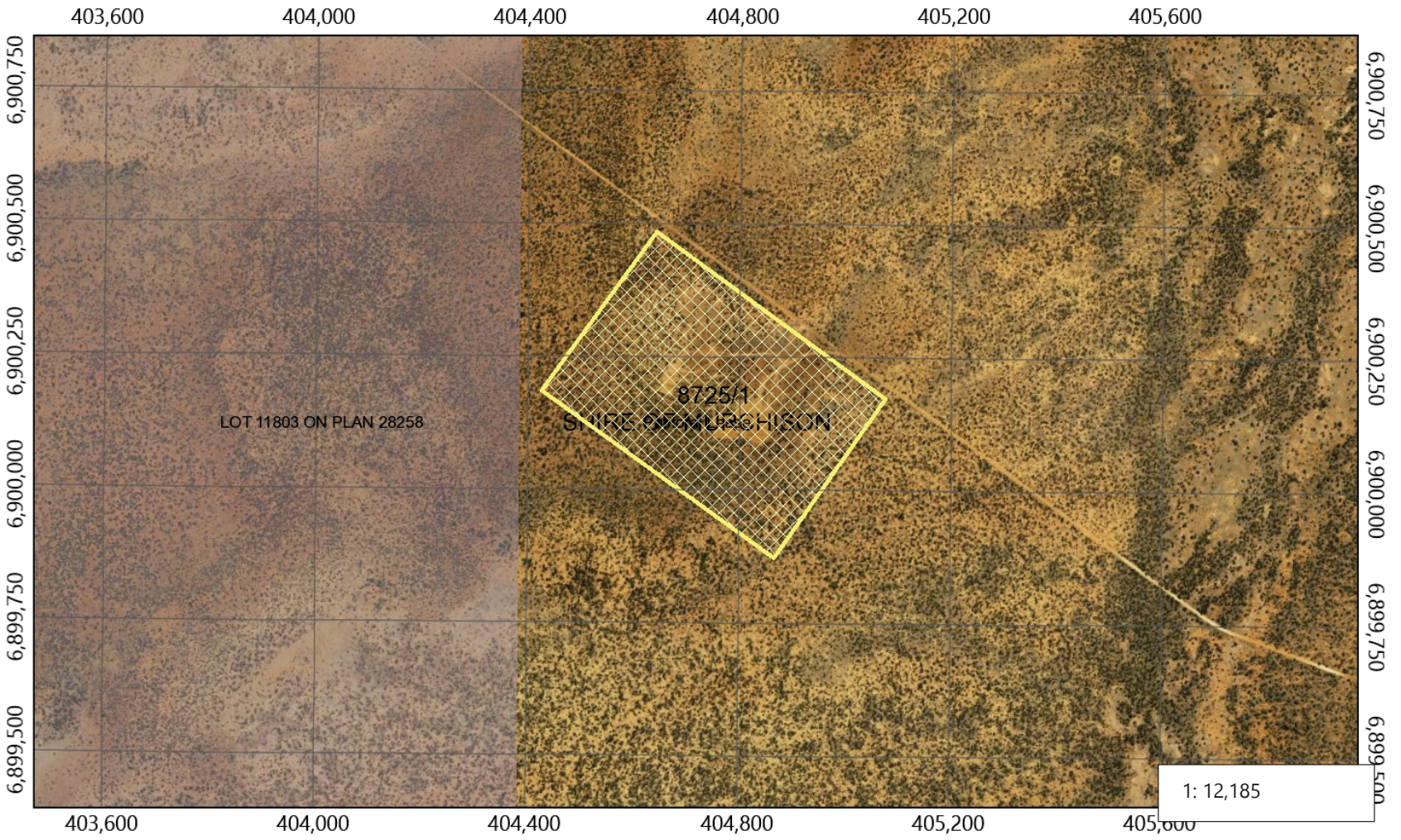
Ryan Mincham
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

Officer delegated under Section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

29 May 2020

Plan 8725/1



Legend

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

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

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Government of Western Australia
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

Government of Western Australia
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: CPS 8725/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Shire of Murchison
Application received date: 7 November 2019

1.3. Property details

Property: Lot 11803 on Plan 28258 (Pastoral Lease L PL N049524)
Local Government Authority: Shire of Murchison
Localities: South Murchison

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	Purpose category:
2		Mechanical	Extractive Industry

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted
Decision Date: 29 May 2020

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* (EP Act). It has been concluded that the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance with any of the clearing Principles.

In granting a clearing permit subject to standard conditions for weed management and avoidance and minimisation of environmental impacts, the Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing is unlikely to lead to an unacceptable risk to the environment.

2. Site Information

Clearing Description:

The purpose of the application is to clear 2 hectares within Lot 11803 on Plan 28258 (Pastoral Lease L PL N049524), South Murchison, for the purpose of extending an existing gravel pit for road upgrades and maintenance works.

Vegetation Description

Vegetation within the application area is mapped as Beard Vegetation Association 40: Wattle, teatree & other species Acacia spp. Melaleuca spp. (Shepherd et al, 2001).

Vegetation Condition

Vegetation condition within the application area, based on currently available databases and analysis of aerial photography, ranges from:

Good; Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery, 1994).

To

Completely Degraded: The structure of the vegetation is no longer intact and the area is completely or almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994).

Approximately 4.5 hectares of the overall application area of 19.67 hectares has been completely cleared as part of the existing gravel pit operations. As the application area is within Yuin Station, livestock grazing has impacted vegetation condition within the local area.

Soil Type

The soil types within the application area are mapped as:

Kalli System
Described as: Elevated gently undulating red sandplains edged by stripped surfaces on laterite and granite, supporting acacia tall shrublands with wanderrie grass understoreys.

and

	Tindalarra System Described as: Near level hardpan wash plains, narrow drainage lines and moderately saline drainage floors; supporting tall mixed acacia shrublands with wanderrie grasses, also minor saltbush/bluebush low shrublands.
Comments	The local area is defined as a 20 kilometre radius from the application area. A review of available databases has determined that the local area is largely uncleared and mapped as existing remnant vegetation. The limited clearing which has occurred in the local area is predominantly for minor roads, tracks, historical exploration camps, gravel pit operations and pastoral activities including grazing.

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

The application area is within the Yuin Station pastoral lease and has been grazed by livestock to varying levels of intensity since 1870, which has impacted vegetation condition within the application area. Based on currently available databases, the application area is not likely to have a high level of biodiversity due to impacts from historical disturbance such as grazing, gravel pit extraction, as well as the absence of TEC/PEC and conservation significant flora and fauna within the application area.

No threatened flora are recorded within the local area, however, one Priority 1 flora species *Dithyrostegia gracilis* has been recorded approximately 4 kilometres from the application area. This is the only record of *Dithyrostegia gracilis* and available information shows that it occurs within a drainage area or floodplain within the Yewin System soil type. The Yewin System is described as, flat saline floodplains supporting halophytic shrublands dominated by samphire, saltbush, snakewood and spiny snakewood. The Yewin System soil type and associated vegetation communities are markedly different from the Kalli System. Although the Yewin System soil type is similar to the Tindalarra System, the vegetation communities associated with the Tindalarra System are significantly different to the vegetation communities associated with the Yewin System. Additionally the application area is not within a saline floodplain or any drainage feature, which is an attribute of the Yewin System. On the basis of soil types and associated vegetation community descriptions, it is therefore considered unlikely that *Dithyrostegia gacilis* would occur within the application area.

One priority 2 flora species, *Solanum pycnotrichum* has been recorded within the local area approximately 10 kilometres to the north. This plant is the southernmost record of the species which has a range of approximately 620 kilometres from the northernmost record to the southernmost record. This record of *Solanum pycnotrichum* is also within the Yewin System and although it is also recorded in other soil types, for example Agamemnon System and Gabanintha System, none of these soil types are represented within the application area and it is therefore it considered unlikely that *Solanum pycnotrichum* would occur within the application area. Given that the known range of this species is vast and is centred approximately 300 kilometres to the north of the application area, with all records occurring to the north of the application area, it is considered unlikely that any impacts caused by the clearing of vegetation would have significant impacts upon the viability or conservation status of *Solanum pycnotrichum,* should it occur within the application area

Five Priority 3 flora species, *Grevillea granulosa, Gunniopsis divisa, Ptilotus beardii, Tecticornia cymbiformis*, and *Acacia subsessillis* have been recorded within the local area.

Of these Priority 3 species, *Grevillia granulosa*, *Ptilotus beardii* and *Gunniopsis divisa* were recorded within the same soil types as those mapped within the application area. The other species were recorded in soil types and habitat types that are inconsistent with those mapped within the application area and are therefore considered unlikely to occur within the application area.

Grevillea granulosa has been recorded approximately 16 kilometres to the south of the application area and is the northernmost record of the species. If *Grevillea granulosa* were to occur within the application area, it would be an extension to its known range. The species range is extensive, being approximately 300 kilometres from north to south, and 300 kilometres from east to west. Given the small area proposed to be cleared, and extensive range of the species based on known records, it is considered unlikely that any impacts upon *Grevillea granulosa* from the proposed clearing would impact on the viability or conservation status of the species.

Ptilotus beardii, has been recorded approximately 19 kilometres from the application area and is the southernmost record of the species. For this species to occur within the application area, it would also be an extension to the species known range. The known range of *Ptilotus beardii* is approximately 250 kilometres north to south, and 300 kilometres east to west. Given the small area proposed for clearing as part of this application and the large recorded range of the species, which includes many recorded locations, it is considered unlikely that any impacts to *Ptilotus beardii* would impact on the viability or conservation status of the species.

One population of *Gunniopsis divisa,* has been recorded approximately 16.5 kilometres from the application area and occurs in a wide range of soil types, from the Pindar A System and Graves System (located 125 kilometres to the south of the application area) and the Yarrameedie System and Weld System (located 210 kilometres to the north of the application area). The species also has a large recorded range with 23 recorded populations occurring approximately 340 kilometres from north to south, and 140 kilometres east to west. Given the small area proposed to be cleared and the large recorded range of the species, which includes many recorded locations, it is considered unlikely that any impacts to *Gunniopsis divisa* would affect the viability or conservation status of the species.

Two Priority 4 species have been recorded within the local area, *Goodenia neogoodenia* and *Acacia specki*. *Goodenia neogoodenia* is not located within a similar soil type to those found mapped within the application area, however, *Acacia specki* has been recorded within the Tindalarra System. *Goodenia neogoodenia* has a recorded range of over 400 kilometres north to

south, and over 300 kilometres east to west. *Acacia specki* has a known range of 350 kilometres north to south, and 250 east to west, and has been recorded across a wide range of soil types and geographic habitats. Given that both the above Priority 4 species have large known ranges and have multiple recorded locations, it is not considered unlikely that any impacts resulting from the proposed clearing would significantly affect the viability or conservation status of these species. Based on the above it is considered that the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance with principle (a).

The area is not likely to comprise a whole, part of, or be necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna as no threatened fauna have been recorded within the local area, or application area itself. Native fauna species which may potentially utilise the application area would include avian species such as *Taeniopygia guttata*, reptilian species such as *Pseudechis australis* and larger mammal species, including *Macropus rufus*. These species are found in abundance in the area, are mobile and would be able to avoid clearing activities within the application area.

The application area is not likely to be necessary for the continued existence or the maintenance of priority or threatened ecological communities with no recorded threatened ecological communities or priority ecological communities mapped within the local area.

The vegetation proposed to be cleared is not likely to be significant as remnant vegetation with the local area retaining approximately 99% remnant vegetation.

The vegetation within the application area is not significant as an ecological linkage and no conservation areas are mapped within the local area.

No watercourses or wetlands are present within the application area, with the closest seasonal drainage line being over 1.5 kilometres away. The application area has no topographic connectivity to this drainage line. The Kalli System has a low likelihood of land degradation, with negligible risk of acidity, salinity and water repellence. The Tindalarra System also has a low likelihood of land degradation with negligible risk of acidification surface salinity and water repellence, however it does have moderate risk of subsurface compaction. As the purpose of the proposed clearing is for the extraction of gravel, subsurface compaction is inevitable, however, due to the relatively small area of clearing and the flat topography of the local area it is unlikely that this will affect surface water quality, erosion or deterioration of groundwater. It is therefore not likely that the proposed clearing will contribute to appreciable land degradation or affect the quality of surface water, groundwater or increase the incidence of flooding.

Based on the above information, it is considered that the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance with any of the clearing Principles.

4. Planning and other matters

There are no aboriginal heritage sites recorded within the application area.

The application area is within the Greenough River and Tributaries Catchment Area, which is a proclaimed surface water area under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914.*

The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) as owner of all lands under pastoral lease in Western Australia has advised that a pastoral diversification permit is not be required for the expansion and operation of the gravel pit, subject to the prior consent of the pastoral lessees being obtained and maintained at all times (A1897894).

The clearing permit application was advertised on the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's website on 18 November 2019, inviting submissions from the public within a seven day period. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

5. References

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) (2007-2020) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Parks and Wildlife. URL: http://naturemap.dpaw.wa.gov.au/. Accessed March 2020.

Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) (May, 2020) Direct interest advice for clearing permit application CPS 8725/1. (DWER Ref: A1897894).

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.

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

GIS Databases:

- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
- Pre European Vegetation
- Remnant vegetation
- Threatened Ecological Communities
- WA Herbarium
- Threatened Fauna
- Soils, state wide
- Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas
- Carnaby's cockatoo: breeding, roosting, feeding
- Hydrology, linear
- IBRA Australia
- PDWSA, CAWSA, RIWI Act Areas