



Surrender Decision Report

1 Application details and outcome

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	CPS 8921/1
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	Iron Bridge Operations Pty Ltd
Application received:	4 August 2023
Application area:	8.1 hectares of native vegetation
Purpose of clearing:	Construction of the Wedgefield laydown facility (WLF)
Method of clearing:	Mechanical
Property:	Lot 370 on Deposited Plan 35619
Location (LGA area/s):	Town of Port Hedland
Localities (suburb/s):	Wedgefield

1.2. Description of clearing activities to surrender

The Permit Holder has applied to surrender clearing permit CPS 8921/1, for the proposed clearing of 8.1 hectares of native vegetation, within Lot 370 on Deposited Plan 35619, Wedgefield, for the purpose of construction of the Wedgefield laydown facility (WLF; IB Operations, 2023a).

The application to surrender clearing permit CPS 8921/1 is due to the proposed works being completed (Figure 1; Figure 2).

1.3. Decision on application

Decision:	Surrender
Decision date:	22 December 2023
Decision area:	8.1 hectares of native vegetation, as depicted in Section 1.5, below.

1.4. Reasons for decision

The application to surrender clearing permit CPS 8921/1 was made in accordance with section 51MA of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) and was received by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) on 4 August 2023.

In undertaking the assessment, the Delegated Officer had regard for compliance with the permit conditions. The assessment identified that the proposed surrender of clearing permit CPS 8921/1 is acceptable, noting the Permit Holder has complied with all conditions.

After consideration of the available information, the Delegated Officer decided to allow clearing permit CPS 8921/1 to be surrendered.

1.5. Site map

Plan 8921/1

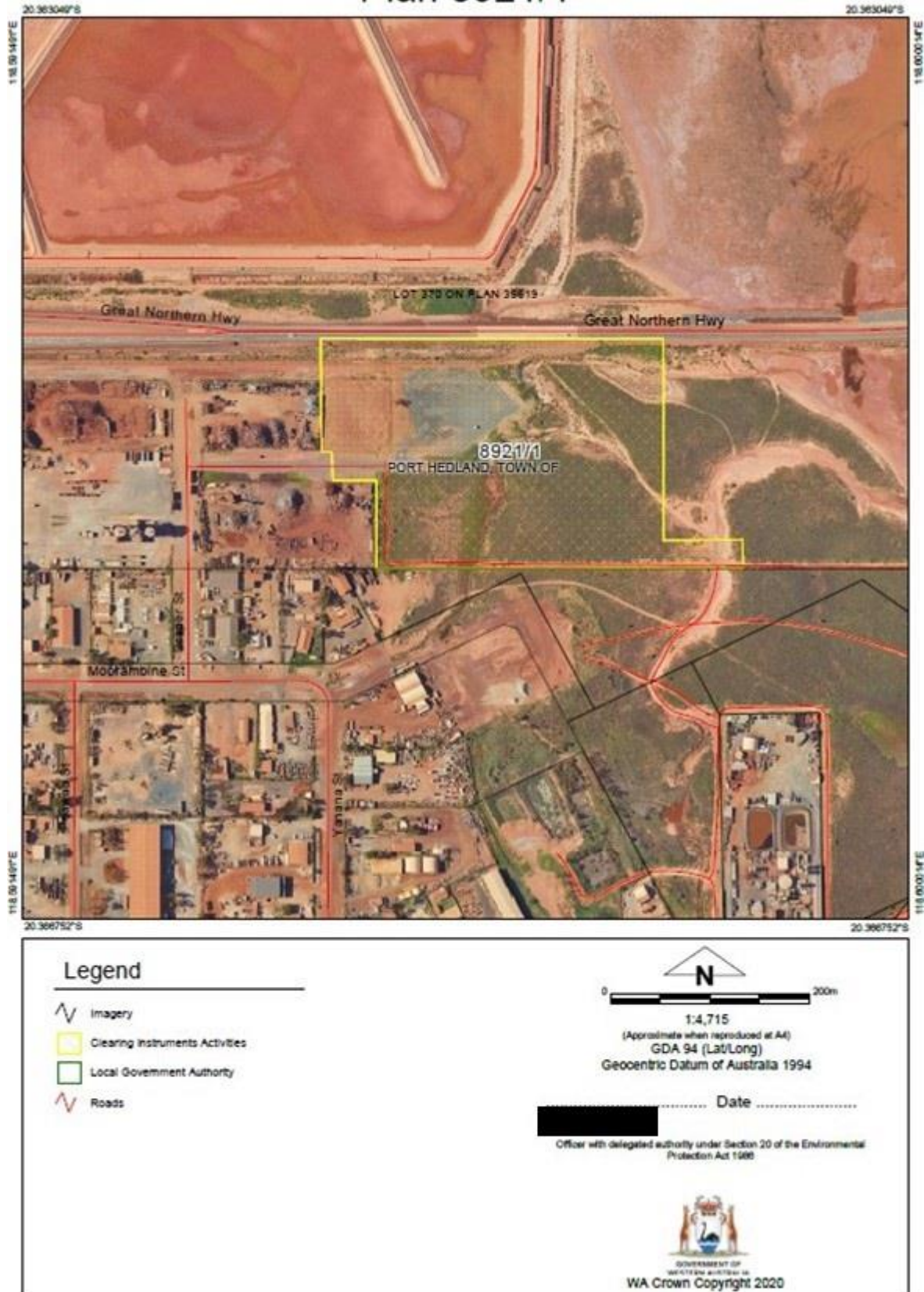


Figure 1. Map of the application area

The area cross-hatched yellow indicates the area which has been surrendered under CPS 8921/1



Legend

- CPS areas approved to clear
- Land Tenure (LGATE_226) - SLIP
- Local Government Authorities

Roads


- National Highway
- Minor

N

0 50 100 150 200 m

1:2,500

Projection: GDA2020



GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Figure 2. Map of the application area after clearing for CPS 8921/1.

2 Assessment of surrender

2.1. Assessment

A compliance report submitted by the proponent to DWER on 8 September 2023 (IB Operations Pty Ltd, 2023b) was reviewed in assessing the application to surrender clearing permit CPS 8921/1.

A desktop review was undertaken to verify that the conditions under CPS 8921/1 had been complied with as shown below (Table 1). DWER's Compliance and Enforcement branch confirmed there were no compliance issues with CPS 8921/1 (DWER, 2023).

Table 1: Compliance verification with the clearing permit conditions listed under CPS 8921/1.

CPS 8921/1 Clearing authorised under the following conditions	Compliance comments
<p>6. Avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing</p> <p>In determining the amount of native vegetation to be cleared as authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder must have regard to the following principles, set out in order of preference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (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. 	<p>Only 4.03 hectares of the 8.1 hectares allowed was cleared as two areas were not required for the construction of the Wedgefield laydown and were retained along the northern boundary and south-east corner of Plan 8921/1 (Figure 2).</p>
<p>7. Soil erosion management</p> <p>The Permit Holder shall not clear native vegetation unless construction activities commence within two months of the authorised clearing being undertaken.</p>	<p>Clearing of native vegetation occurred between October and November 2020 and construction of the laydown started in November 2020.</p>
<p>8. Weed control</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (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 movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared. 	<p>The laydown was constructed using clean, weed-free material and was used for the temporary storage of clean materials and equipment prior to transport to the Iron Bridge Mine. No further weed management was conducted after the laydown was constructed as it was not deemed necessary.</p>
<p>9. Record keeping</p> <p>The Permit Holder must maintain the following records in relation to the clearing of native vegetation authorised under this Permit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (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; 	<p>Native vegetation within the approved clearing envelope for CPS 8921/1 was cleared and the location was provided in the completion report. A total of 4.03 hectares was cleared between October and November 2020 and the applicant complied with condition 6 and 8 of the permit.</p>

CPS 8921/1 Clearing authorised under the following conditions	Compliance comments
(b) The date(s) 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 <i>weeds</i> in accordance with condition 8 of this Permit. (f)	
10. Reporting The Permit Holder must produce records required under condition 9 of this permit when required by the CEO.	A final native vegetation clearing permit compliance report was submitted after a request for further information from the department (IB Operations Pty Ltd, 2023b).

2.2. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

On 10 June 2023, DWER accepted the application to surrender Clearing Permit CPS 8921/1 and in accordance with section 51M(5)(a) of the EP Act, invited the Permit Holder to provide comments on the proposed decision to surrender the permit. No response from the Permit Holder was received by the department.

End

Appendix A. References

Department of Water and Environmental Regulations (DWER) (2023) (Compliance and Enforcement) No issues with CPS 8921/1. Received 19 September 2023. DWER Ref: DWERDT838732

Iron Bridge Operations Pty Ltd (IB Operations) (2023a). Application to surrender Native Vegetation Clearing permit CPS 8921/1. Received 4 August 2023. DWER Ref: DWERDT817018

Iron Bridge Operations Pty Ltd (IB Operations) (2023b). Supporting information for surrender of CPS 8921/1. Received 8 September 2023. DWER Ref: DWERDT834807