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 9006/2
Permit type:	Area Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name:	Shire of Waroona
Application received date:	The administrative amendment was initiated by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation on 29 January 2021.

1.3. Property details

Property:	Fawcett Road reserve (PINs 1373407 and 1377962) McClure Road reserve (PINs 1373449, 1373448 and 11602694)
Local Government Authority:	Shire of Waroona
Localities:	Waroona Hamel

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	Purpose category:
	73	Mechanical Removal	Road maintenance and hazard reduction

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application:	Granted
Decision Date:	12 April 2021
Reasons for Decision:	Given that this amendment relates only to correcting an administrative error on the current permit, it has been concluded that the assessment against the clearing principles has not changed since the assessment of application CPS 9006/1, which can be found in Clearing Permit Decision Report CPS 9006/1. The application area is shown in Figure 1. In determining to amend this clearing permit, the Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing is unlikely to lead to any unacceptable risk to the environment.

2. Site Information

Clearing Description:

The application area comprises selected trees adjacent to an existing road, within a broader road reserve that has a function in maintaining connectivity between patches of remnant vegetation in the local area (10 kilometre radius from the perimeter of the application area).

The application form for clearing permit application CPS 9006/1 stated that the total area of clearing is 46 native trees (approximately 0.5 hectares (ha)) for the purpose of road maintenance. This application was revised during the assessment process and combined with the now withdrawn clearing permit application CPS 9005/1. This increased the proposed clearing under CPS 9006/1 from 46 native trees to 73 native trees. The extent of the proposed clearing is indicated in Figure 1 (see Section 1.5).

Vegetation Description

The application area within Fawcett Road reserve is mapped as (Heddle et al., 1980):

- Dardanup Complex, described as: Mosaic of vegetation types characteristic of adjacent vegetation complexes such as Serpentine River, Southern River and Guildford.

Vegetation composition was determined from photographs provided by the applicant and the findings of a site inspection undertaken by DWER (2020). The trees proposed to be cleared comprise predominantly jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*), marri (*Corymbia calophylla*), and swamp paperbark (*Melaleuca rhaphiophylla*). Some flooded gum (*Eucalyptus rudis*) and a smooth-barked *Eucalyptus* sp. may also be impacted. From available imagery, the jarrah and marri trees appear to be coppice and juvenile regrowth, with diameter at breast height estimated to be up to approximately 30 centimetres.

Understorey within the application area includes *Melaleuca* species, peppermint (*Agonis flexuosa*), grasstree (*Xanthorrhoea preissii*), unidentified shrubs, sedges and grasses. The understorey is not proposed to be cleared as part of this application. Dead plants that appear to be the weed watsonia (*Watsonia bulbilifera*) are present throughout the road reserve.

The application area within McClure Road reserve is mapped as (Heddle et al., 1980:

- Dardanup Complex, as described above;
- Guidford Complex, described as: a mixture of open forest to tall open forest of *Corymbia calophylla* (marri) - *Eucalyptus wandoo* (wandoo) - *Eucalyptus marginata* (jarrah) and woodland of *Eucalyptus wandoo* (wandoo) (with rare occurrences of *Eucalyptus lane-poolei* (salmon white gum)). Minor components include *Eucalyptus rudis* (flooded gum) - *Melaleuca rhaphiophylla* (swamp Paperbark) ; and
- Serpentine River Complex, described as: closed scrub of *Melaleuca* species and fringing woodland of *Eucalyptus rudis* (Flooded Gum) - *Melaleuca rhaphiophylla* (Swamp Paperbark) along streams.

Photographs supplied by the applicant (Shire of Waroona, 2020b) and DWER site inspection (DWER, 2020) indicate the vegetation proposed to be cleared within McClure road reserve consists of *Corymbia calophylla* and *Melaleuca raphiophylla.* The understory consists predominantly of weedy grasses. The understorey is not proposed to be cleared as part of this application.

Vegetation Condition

Vegetation condition was determined from photographs provided by the applicant and the findings of a site inspection undertaken by DWER (2020). The vegetation within the application area ranges from Degraded to Completely Degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition, (Shire of Waroona, 2020a and 2020b; and DWER, 2020), described as:

- Degraded: Basic vegetation structure severely impacted by disturbance. Scope for regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management.
- 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 (Keighery 1994).

Soil Type

The application area is mapped as:

- Pinjarra P3 Phase: Flat to very gently undulating plain with deep, imperfect to poorly-drained acidic graduational yellow or grey-brown earths and mottled yellow duplex soils, with loam to clay loam surface horizons;
- Pinjarra P4 Phase: Poorly drained flats, sometimes with gilgai microrelief and with moderately deep to deep black, olive grey and some yellowish brown cracking clays and less commonly non-cracking friable clays with generally acidic subsoils; and
- Pinjarra P1b: Flat to very gently undulating plain with deep acidic mottled yellow duplex soils. Moderately deep pale sand to loamy sand over clay: imperfectly drained and moderately susceptible to salinity in limited areas (DPIRD, 2017).

Comments

The local area referred to in the assessment of this application is defined as a 10 kilometre radius measured from the perimeter of the application area. A review of available databases has determined that the local area retains approximately 23-25 per cent of its pre-European clearing extent of native vegetation.

Figure 1. Map of the application area (cross hatched yellow).

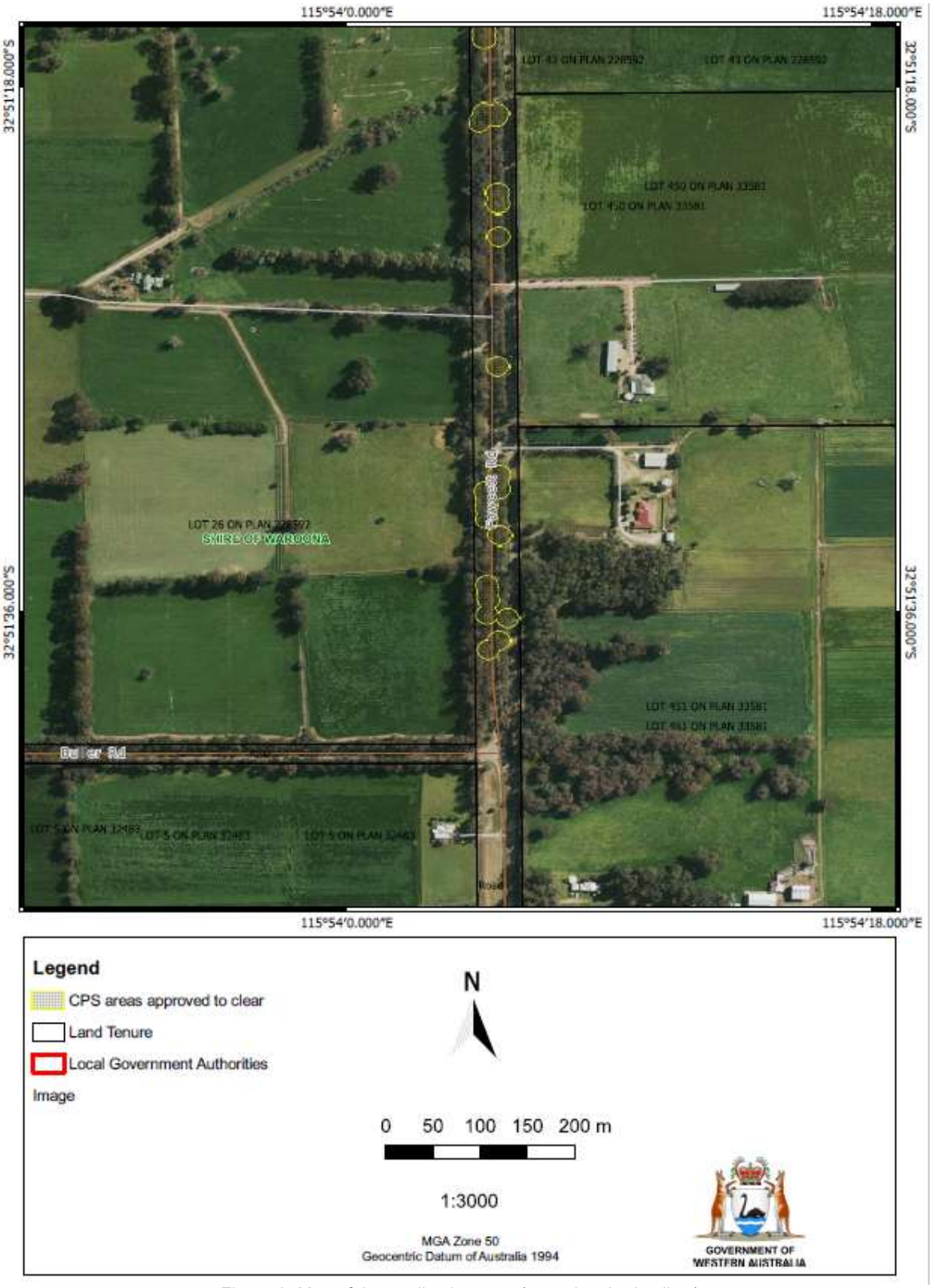

Figure 2. Map of the application area (cross hatched yellow).

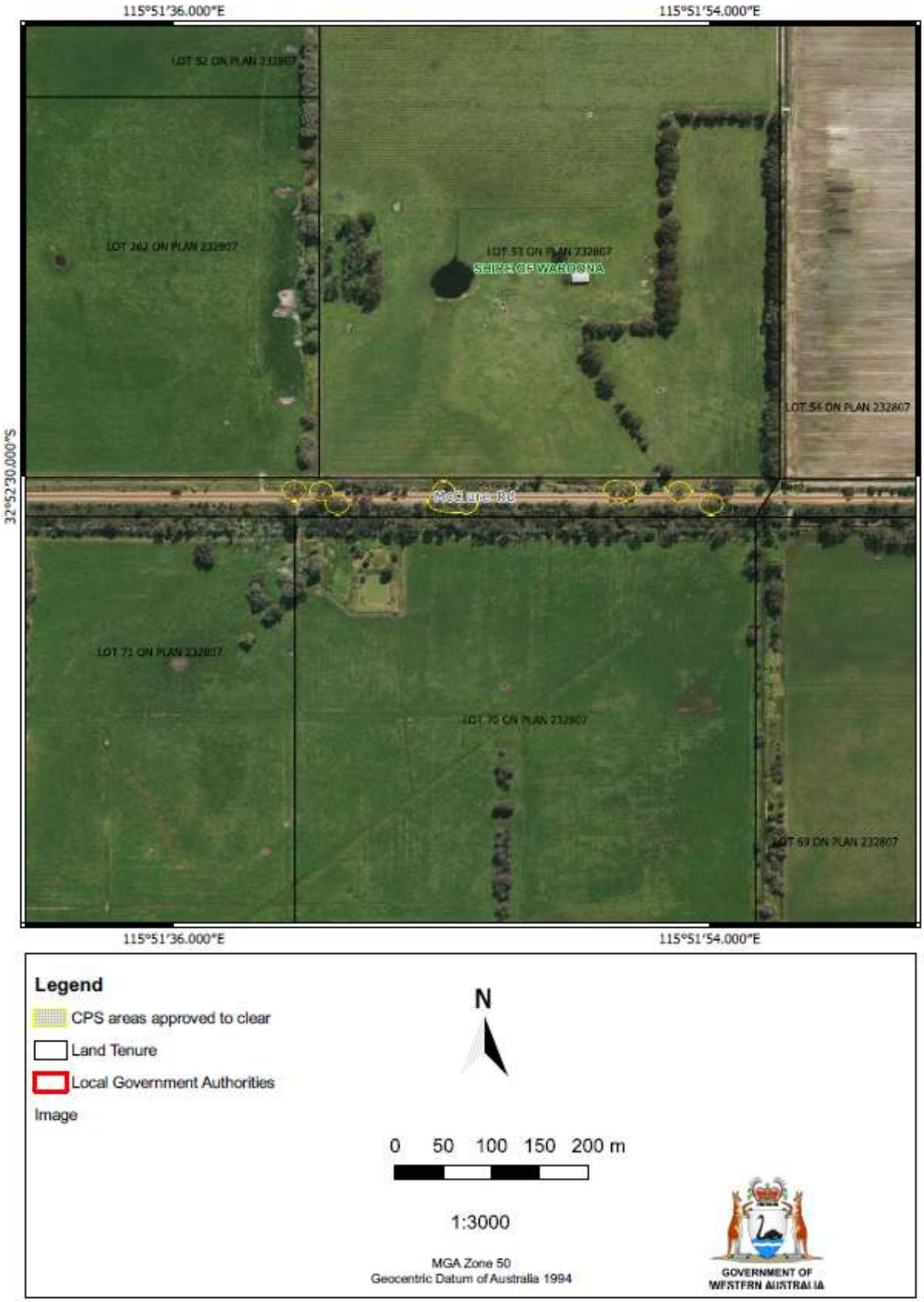

Figure 3. Map of the application area (cross hatched yellow).

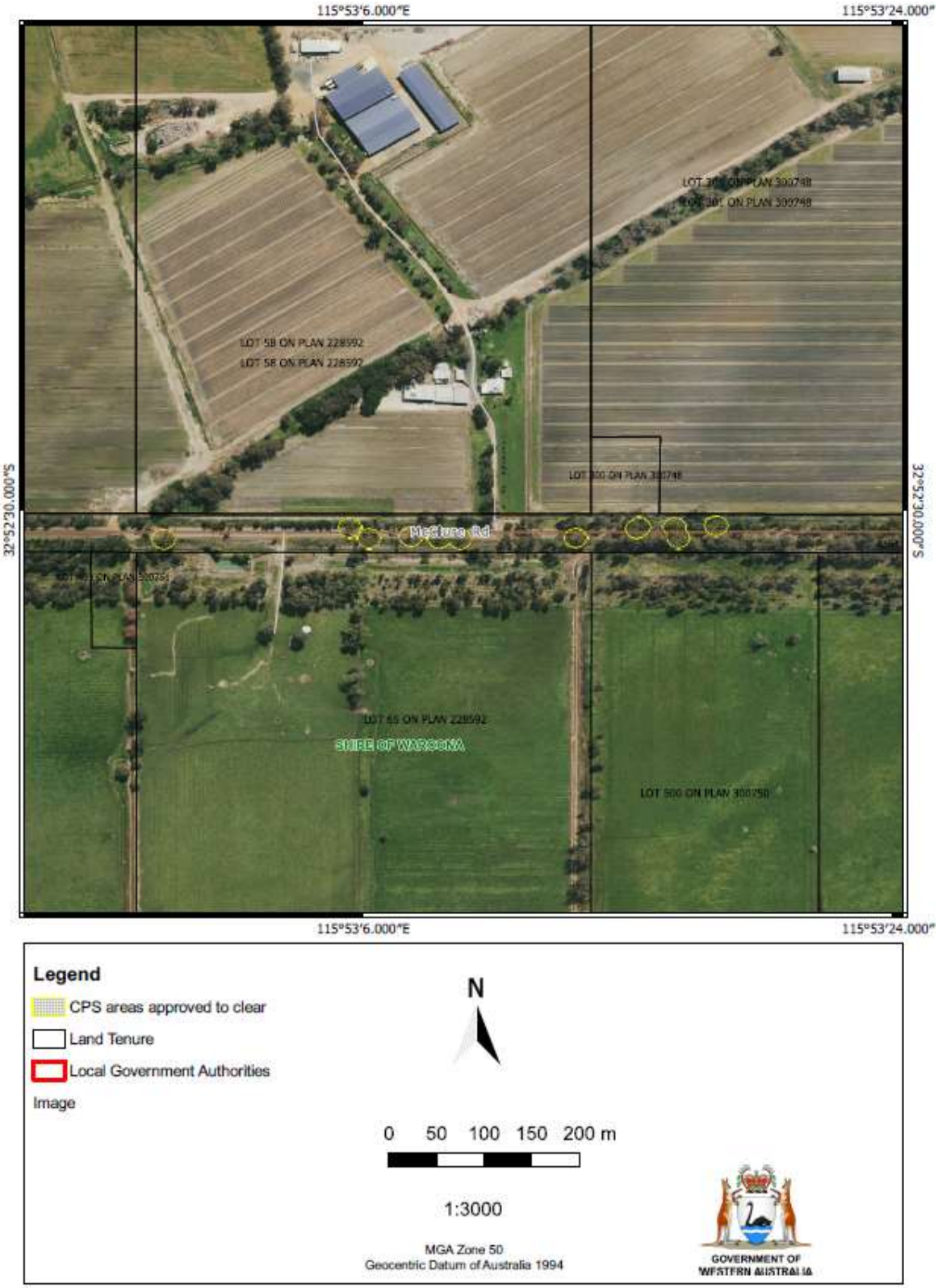

Figure 4. Map of the application area (cross hatched yellow).

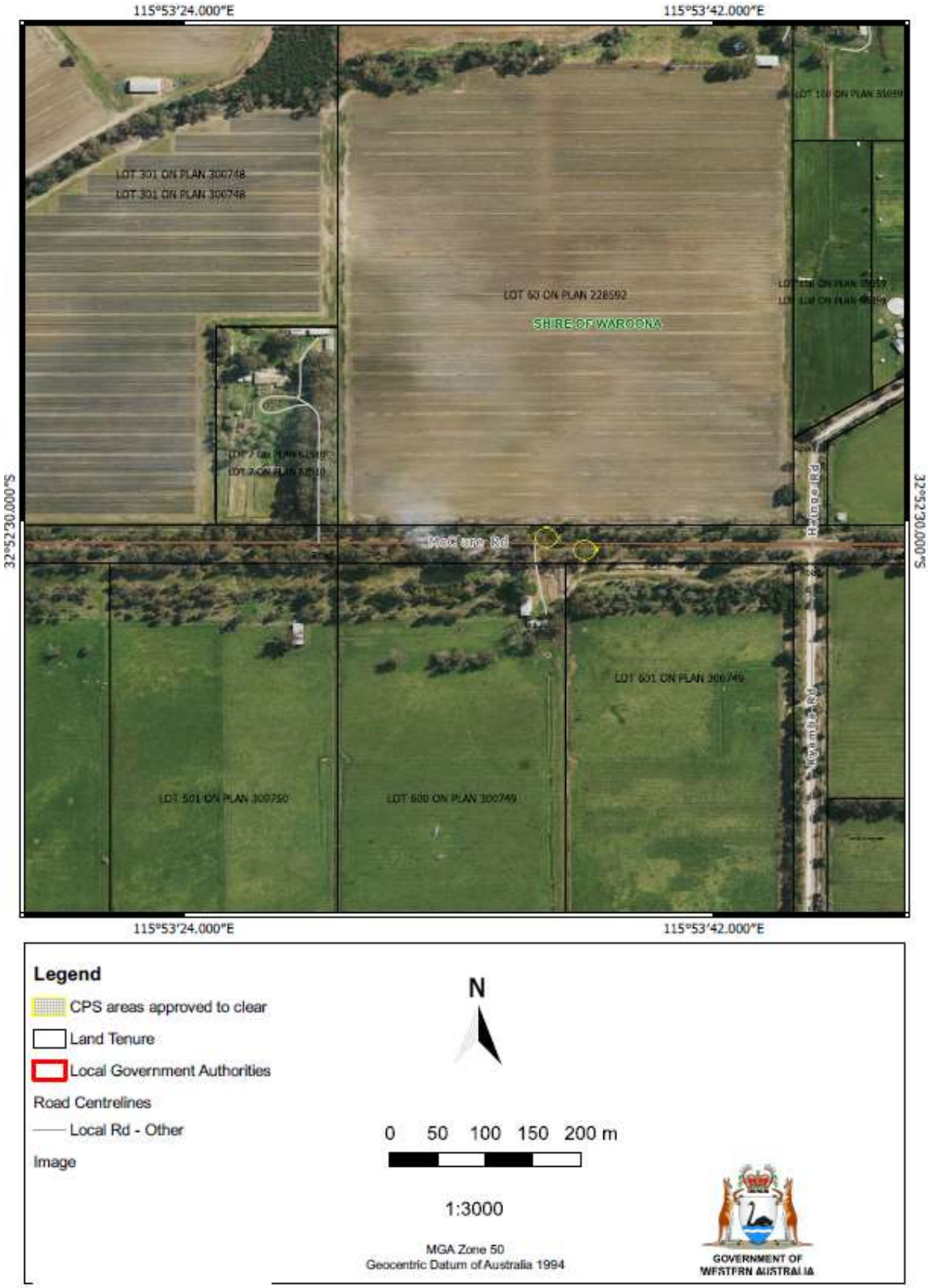

Figure 5. Map of the application area (cross hatched yellow).

The areas crosshatched yellow in figures 1 to 5 indicates the area(s) authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

Figure 6: Photograph of application area within Fawcett Road reserve, refer to point 1 in Figure 10 below (DWER, 2020).

Figure 7: Photograph of application area within Fawcett Road reserve, refer to point 16 in Figure 10 below (DWER, 2020)

Figure 8: Photograph of application area within McClure Road reserve, refer to point 5 in Figure 11 below (DWER, 2020)

Figure 9: Photograph of application area McClure Road reserve, refer to point 24 in Figure 11 below (DWER, 2020)

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

This amendment is a result of an administrative error on clearing permit CPS 9006/1, which stated the incorrect date range for the duration of the clearing permit. Therefore, the minimisation and mitigation measures employed by the applicant, the assessment against the clearing principles, and the extent to which the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological, conservation, or land and water resource values, has not changed and can be found in Clearing Permit Decision Report CPS 9006/1.

Planning instruments and other relevant matters

The assessment against planning and other matters has not changed and can be found within Clearing Permit Decision Report CPS 9006/1.

4. References

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

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (2017) *NRInfo Digital Mapping*. Available at: https://maps.agric.wa.gov.au/nrm-info/ (accessed June 2020).

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (2020) *Site Inspection Report – Native Vegetation Regulation – CPS 9006/1 and CPS 9005/1*. Report of a site inspection undertaken on 5 October 2020.

Heddle, E. M., Loneragan, O. W., and Havel, J. J. (1980) *Vegetation Complexes of the Darling System, Western Australia*. In Department of Conservation and Environment, Atlas of Natural Resources, Darling System, 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.

Shire of Waroona (2020a) *Supporting Information – Index Fawcett Road – 11 August 2020*. Western Australia

Shire of Waroona (2020b) *Supporting Information – Index McClure road – 10 August 2020*. Western Australia.