



03 November 2020

RE: ASSESSMENT AGAINST 10 CLEARING PRINCIPLES – PARDOO EASEMENTS

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Pardoo Station is located north of the Great Northern Highway, approximately 100 kilometres (km) east-north-east of Port Hedland and 365 km south west of Broome.

2.0 PROPOSED CLEARING

The Pardoo Irrigation Project proposes the following clearing of 3 easements (ESRI shapefiles provided):

- 0.4034 ha
- 0.4072 ha
- 0.4071 ha
- Total 1.22 ha

3.0 ASSESSMENT AGAINST THE 10 CLEARING PRINCIPLES

The following table presents an assessment of the clearing proposed by PBC against the “10 Clearing Principles” outlined in Schedule 5 of the *Environmental Protection Act, 1986* (Western Australia).

Table 1: Assessment Against the 10 Clearing Principles

Native Vegetation should not be cleared if...	Assessment of Clearing Proposed
<p>1) It comprises a high level of biological diversity.</p>	<p>156 native plant species representing 101 genera and 39 families were recorded within the Pardoo study areas (EnviroWorks Consulting, 2020). This is not considered to be a particularly high level of biological diversity compared with other vegetation from the bioregion.</p> <p>Full survey report included attached (EnviroWorks Consulting, 2020).</p> <p>On this basis, it is considered that the clearing area DOES NOT comprise a high level of biological diversity.</p>
<p>2) It comprises the whole or part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to WA.</p>	<p>There is ubiquitous fauna habitat (vegetation) present which is expected to support fauna biodiversity which is normal for these vegetation types within the region.</p> <p>The 1.2 ha of habitat disturbance proposed represents 0.0016% of the 75,040 ha of native vegetation from the Nita Land System within a 15 km buffer around the irrigation project.</p> <p>Full survey report included attached (Bamford Consulting Ecologists, 2020).</p> <p>On this basis, it is considered that the clearing area DOES NOT contain or is NOT necessary for the maintenance of, significant habitat for fauna indigenous to WA.</p>
<p>3) It includes, or it is necessary for the continued existence of rare flora.</p>	<p>No Declared Rare Flora species as listed under subsection (2) of Section 23F of the Western Australian <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i> or under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> were recorded within the study area (EnviroWorks Consulting, 2020).</p> <p>Three species of conservation significance were detected within the study areas – <i>Bonamia oblongifolia</i> (Priority 3), <i>Tribulopsis marliesiae</i> (Priority 3) and <i>Seringia katarona</i> (Priority 3). The populations of these species were found to be extensive locally (EnviroWorks Consulting, 2020).</p> <p>Whilst some individual plants of the abovementioned priority flora could occur within the proposed easement clearing footprint, if present, they would represent a very small proportion of the total number of individual plants within the surrounding area.</p> <p>On this basis, it is considered that the clearing area DOES NOT contain or is necessary for the continued existence of Rare Flora.</p>
<p>4) It comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a TEC.</p>	<p>No TECs or PECs were recorded in Pardoo study areas. The Nita Land System and Acacia Shrubland 1 vegetation type of the proposed easement clearing is not a TEC or PEC (EnviroWorks Consulting, 2020).</p> <p>On this basis, it is considered that the Clearing area DOES NOT contain or is NOT necessary for the maintenance of a TEC.</p>
<p>5) It is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.</p>	<p>The study area coincides with three pre-european vegetation types as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pindan Coastal Plain³² • Mandora Coastal Plain 117 • Mandora Coastal Plain 73. <p>These vegetation units are not considered under threat, with 96% to 100% of their original extents remaining (EnviroWorks Consulting, 2020).</p> <p>On this basis, it is considered that the clearing area IS NOT significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.</p>

Native Vegetation should not be cleared if...	Assessment of Clearing Proposed
6) It is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.	<p>The proposed clearing is not growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.</p> <p>On this basis, the clearing area IS NOT considered to be riparian vegetation associated with a watercourse or wetland.</p>
7) The clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.	<p>The following management will be in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard clearing and road design to minimise erosion. • Implement/continue standard weed hygiene and monitoring procedures. • Hydrological management to prevent hydrological impacts (appropriate road design). • Fire management measures (continue implementation of existing fire management plan). <p>On this basis it is considered that the proposed clearing WILL NOT cause appreciable land degradation.</p>
8) The clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.	<p>The clearing is located approximately 3 km from the Eighty Mile Beach Ramsar Wetland. This is considered sufficient distance to ensure there will be no impacts from the clearing on the Ramsar Wetland.</p> <p>On the basis of the above report it is considered that the proposed clearing WILL NOT have an impact on the environmental values of Eighty Mile Beach Ramsar Wetland.</p>
9) The clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.	<p>Potential impacts of the project which may cause deterioration in the quality of surface water or groundwater include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contamination with hydrocarbons from earthmoving equipment; or • Erosion during clearing or road operation. <p>The following management will be in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard clearing and road design to minimise erosion. • Hydrological management to prevent hydrological impacts (appropriate road design). <p>On this basis it is considered that the proposed clearing WILL NOT cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.</p>
10) The clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding	<p>Flooding of the clearing area occurs very rarely. The most recent occurrence of flooding was after Cyclone Steve in 2000, which caused widespread inland flooding in the region. Prior to that the last known flooding in the area occurred in the 1940's. The sandy soils in the area quickly absorb smaller rainfall events, resulting in very little run-off or standing water occurring in the area.</p> <p>On this basis it is considered that the proposed clearing WILL NOT cause or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding.</p>

REFERENCES

- Bamford Consulting Ecologists. (2020). *Pardoo Irrigation Project Fauna Assessment*. Perth: Unpublished Report Prepared for Pardoo Beef Corporation.
- EnviroWorks Consulting. (2020). *Flora and Vegetation Study Pardoo Irrigation Project*. Perth: Unpublished Report Prepared for PBC Pty Ltd.