



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 9123/2
Permit Holder:	Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd
Duration of Permit:	15 April 2021 to 15 April 2033

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 a borefield including bores, pipelines, powerlines, access tracks and other infrastructure;
- Clearing for the purpose of construction of a pipeline and associated laydown areas, storage areas, offices, parking areas, surge tanks, chlorination units, pump stations, and booster stations; and
- Clearing for the purposes of flora/fauna monitoring, groundwater/hydrogeological monitoring, infrastructure access, and Aboriginal heritage survey/access.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Lot 8 on Plan 241372	Mount Sheila
Lot 9 on Plan 47815	Mount Sheila
Lot 32 on Plan 55948	Mount Sheila
Lot 106 on Plan 243222	Mount Sheila
Lot 107 on Plan 243223	Mount Sheila
Lot 331 on Plan 74355	Mount Sheila
Lot 556 on Plan 70685	Mount Sheila
Lot 556 on Plan 404911	Mount Sheila
Lot 557 on Plan 70685	Mount Sheila
Unallocated Crown Land (PIN 714253)	Mount Sheila
Unallocated Crown Land (PIN 1014954)	Mount Sheila
Unallocated Crown Land (PIN 1014967)	Mount Sheila
Unallocated Crown Land (PIN 1014974)	Mount Sheila
Eungella Place Road Reserve (PIN 11432512)	Tom Price
Jabbarup Place Road Reserve (PIN 11432490)	Tom Price
Kanberra Drive Road Reserve (PIN 11432488)	Tom Price
Killawarra Drive Road Reserve (PIN 11432489)	Tom Price
Lot 9 on Plan 47815	Tom Price
Lot 20 on Plan 47816	Tom Price
Lot 26 on Plan 241873	Tom Price
Lot 35 on Plan 93088	Tom Price
Lot 36 on Plan 51845	Tom Price
Lot 271 on Plan 15093 (Crown Reserve 39874)	Tom Price
Lot 272 on Plan 15093 (Crown Reserve 39874)	Tom Price
Lot 277 on Plan 15091 (Crown Reserve 39907)	Tom Price
Lot 500 on Plan 406730 (Crown Reserve 40797)	Tom Price
Lot 520 on Plan 69942	Tom Price
Lot 522 on Plan 69942	Tom Price

Lot 1236 on Plan 15091	Tom Price
Lot 3000 on Plan 44791	Tom Price
Tarwonga Circuit Road Reserve (PIN 11432484)	Tom Price
Unallocated Crown Land (PIN 11994537)	Tom Price
Warrina Place Road Reserve (PIN 11432487)	Tom Price
Yanagin Place Road Reserve (PIN 11432486)	Tom Price

3. Clearing authorised

- (a) The Permit Holder must not clear more than 150 hectares of native vegetation within the combined areas cross-hatched yellow in Figure 1, Figure 2, Figure 3 and Figure 4 of attached Schedule 1.
- (b) This Permit authorises the Permit Holder to clear native vegetation for activities to the extent that the Permit Holder has the right to access land under the *Water Agencies (Powers) Act 1984* or any other written law.

4. Period during which clearing is authorised

The Permit Holder must not clear any native vegetation after 15 April 2028.

5. 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.

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

- (a) When undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder must take the following steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *weeds*:
 - (i) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
 - (ii) ensure that no *weed*-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill* or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and
 - (iii) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.
- (b) At least once in each 12-month period for the term of this Permit, the Permit Holder must remove or kill any *weeds* growing within areas cleared under this Permit.

8. Directional clearing

The Permit Holder must;

- (a) conduct *clearing* activities in a slow, progressive manner towards adjacent remnant *native vegetation*; and
- (a) allow reasonable time for fauna present within the area being cleared under this permit to move into adjacent *native vegetation* ahead of the *clearing* activity.

9. Watercourses

- (a) Where practicable the Permit Holder shall avoid clearing *riparian vegetation*.
- (b) Where a *watercourse* is to be impacted by clearing, the Permit Holder shall maintain the existing surface flow of that *watercourse*.

10. Retain vegetative material and topsoil, and rehabilitation

- (a) The Permit Holder must retain the vegetative material and topsoil removed by clearing authorised under this Permit and stockpile the vegetative material and topsoil in an area that has already been cleared.
- (b) The Permit Holder must within 6 months of undertaking the clearing authorised under this Permit, *revegetate* and *rehabilitate* the areas that are no longer required for the purpose for which they were cleared under this Permit by:
 - (i) re-shaping the surface of the land so that it is consistent with the surrounding 5 metres of uncleared land;
 - (ii) ripping the ground to remove soil compaction; and
 - (iii) laying the vegetative material and topsoil retained under condition 10(a) on the cleared area.
- (c) The Permit Holder must within 24 months of laying the vegetative material and topsoil on the cleared area in accordance with condition 10(b) of this permit:
 - (i) engage an *environmental specialist* to determine the species composition, structure and density of the vegetation of area *revegetated* and *rehabilitated*; and
 - (ii) engage an *environmental specialist* to make a determination as to whether the composition, structure and density determined under condition 10(c)(i) of this permit will, without further *revegetation*, result in a similar species composition, structure and density to that of pre-clearing vegetation types in that area.
- (d) If the determination made by the *environmental specialist* under condition 10(c)(ii) is that the species composition, structure, and density determined under condition 10(c)(i) will not, without further *revegetation*, result in a similar species composition, structure and density to that of pre-clearing vegetation types in that area, the permit holder must *revegetate* the area by deliberately *planting* and/or *direct seeding* native vegetation seeds that will result in a similar species composition, structure, and density of native vegetation to pre-clearing vegetation types in that area.
- (e) Where additional *planting* or *direct seeding* of native vegetation is undertaken in accordance with condition 10(d), the Permit Holder must repeat the activities required by condition 10(c) and 10(d) within 12 months of undertaking the additional *planting* or *direct seeding* of native vegetation.
- (f) Where a determination is made by an *environmental specialist* under condition 10(c)(ii) that the composition, structure and density within areas *revegetated* and *rehabilitated* will result in a similar species composition, structure and density to that of pre-clearing vegetation types in that area, that determination shall be submitted to the *CEO* within three months of the determination being made by the *environmental specialist*.
- (g) During the next *optimal time* occurring after receiving notice from the *CEO*:
 - (i) stating that the *CEO* disagrees with the determination submitted under condition 10(f); and
 - (ii) specifying the required further *planting* of *local provenance* propagating material and/or *direct seeding* of *local provenance* seeds that in the *CEO's* reasonable opinion are necessary to ensure that the native vegetation will result in a similar species composition, structure and density to that of pre-clearing vegetation types in that area, the Permit Holder must carry out the further *planting* and/or *direct seeding* specified in the notice.

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

11. Records that must be kept

The Permit Holder must maintain records relating to the listed relevant matters in accordance with the specifications detailed in Table 1.

Table 1: Records that must be kept

No.	Relevant matter	Specifications
1.	In relation to the authorised clearing activities generally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the species composition, structure, and density of the cleared area; (b) the location where the clearing occurred, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 2000 (GDA2000), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings; (c) the date that the area was cleared; (d) the size of the area cleared (in hectares); (e) actions taken to avoid, minimise, and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing in accordance with condition 6; (f) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of <i>weeds</i> in accordance with condition 7. (g) actions taken to avoid the clearing of <i>Priority flora</i> taxa; (h) the direction(s) clearing was undertaken in accordance with condition 8; (i) the name, location and number of each <i>Priority flora</i> taxon impacted using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 2000 (GDA2000), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings.
2.	In relation to the revegetation and rehabilitation of areas pursuant to condition 10 of this Permit:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the location of any areas <i>revegetated</i> and <i>rehabilitated</i>, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 2000 (GDA 2000), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees; (b) a description of the <i>revegetation</i> and <i>rehabilitation</i> activities undertaken; (c) the date that the area was <i>revegetated</i> and <i>rehabilitated</i>; (d) the size of the area <i>revegetated</i> and <i>rehabilitated</i> (in hectares). (e) a copy of the <i>environmental specialist's</i> report detailing the species composition, structure and density of the area <i>revegetated</i> and <i>rehabilitated</i> including the methodology used in determining those values.

11. Reporting

- (a) The Permit Holder must provide to the *CEO* on or before 30 June of each year, a written report:
 - (i) of records required under condition 10 of this Permit; and
 - (ii) concerning activities done by the Permit Holder under this Permit between 1 January and 31 December of the preceding year.
- (b) If no clearing authorised under this Permit was undertaken between 1 January and 31 December of the preceding year, a written report confirming that no clearing under this permit has been carried out must be provided to the *CEO* on or before 30 June of each year.
- (c) Prior to 30 September 2033, the Permit Holder must provide to the *CEO* a written report of records required under condition 10 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under condition 11(a) of this Permit.

DEFINITIONS

In this permit, the terms in Table 2 have the meanings defined.

Table 2: Definitions

Term	Definition
CEO	Chief Executive Officer of the <i>department</i> responsible for the administration of the clearing provisions under the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> .
clearing	has the meaning given under section 3(1) of the EP Act
condition	a condition to which this clearing permit is subject under section 51H of the EP Act
direct seeding	means a method of re-establishing vegetation through establishment of a seed bed and the introduction of seeds of the desired plant species
department	means the <i>department</i> established under section 35 of the <i>Public Sector Management Act 1994</i> (WA) and designated as responsible for the administration of the EP Act, which includes Part V Division 3
environmental specialist	means a person who holds a tertiary qualification in environmental science or equivalent, and has experience relevant to the type of environmental advice that an <i>environmental specialist</i> is required to provide under this Permit, or who is approved by the <i>CEO</i> as a suitable <i>environmental specialist</i>
EP Act	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> (WA)
fill	means material used to increase the ground level, or to fill a depression
local provenance	means native vegetation seeds and propagating material from natural sources within 100 kilometres and the same Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) subregion of the area cleared
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
native vegetation	has the meaning given under section 3(1) and section 51A of the EP Act
optimal time	means the period from November to December for undertaking <i>direct seeding</i> . No <i>planting</i> without irrigation
planting	means the re-establishment of vegetation by creating soil conditions and planting seedlings of the desired species
Priority flora	means those plant taxa described as Priority flora classes 1, 2, 3, or 4 in the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions Threatened and Priority Flora List for Western Australia (as amended from time to time)
rehabilitate/ed/ion	means actively managing an area containing native vegetation in order to improve the ecological function of that area
revegetate/ed/ion	means the re-establishment of a cover of <i>local provenance</i> native vegetation in an area using methods such as natural regeneration, <i>direct seeding</i> and/or <i>planting</i> , so that the species composition, structure and density is similar to pre-clearing vegetation types in that area
riparian vegetation	has the meaning given to it in Regulation 3 of the <i>Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004</i>
watercourse	has the meaning given to it in section 3 of the <i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> ; wetland/s means an area of seasonally, intermittently or permanently waterlogged or inundated land, whether

Term	Definition
	natural or otherwise, and includes a lake, swamp, marsh, spring, dampland, tidal flat or estuary
weeds	means any plant – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) that is a declared pest under section 22 of the <i>Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007</i>; 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



Jessica Burton
A/MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

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

15 May 2025

Schedule 1

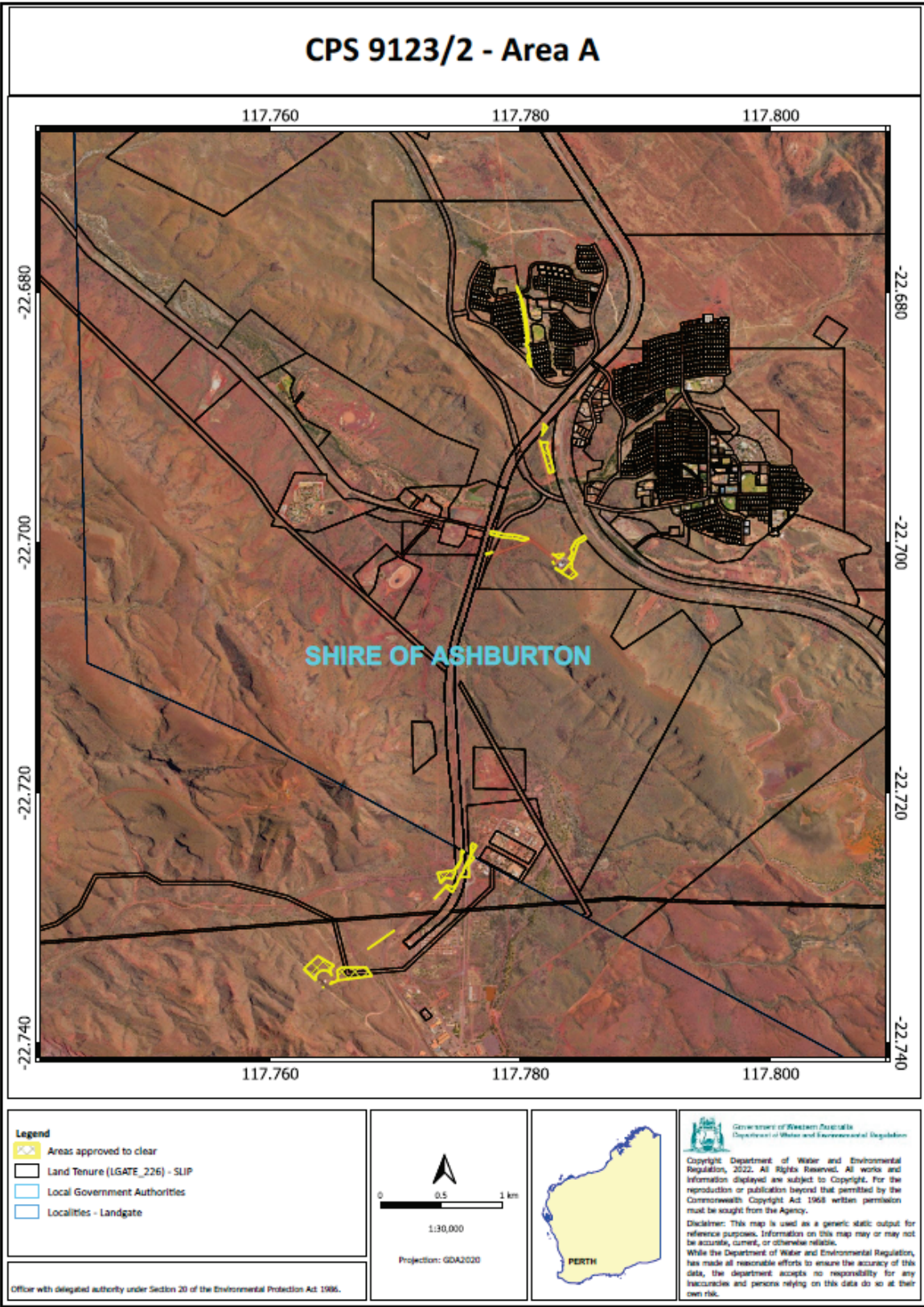


Figure 1: Map of the boundaries of the areas within which clearing may occur (cross-hatched yellow)

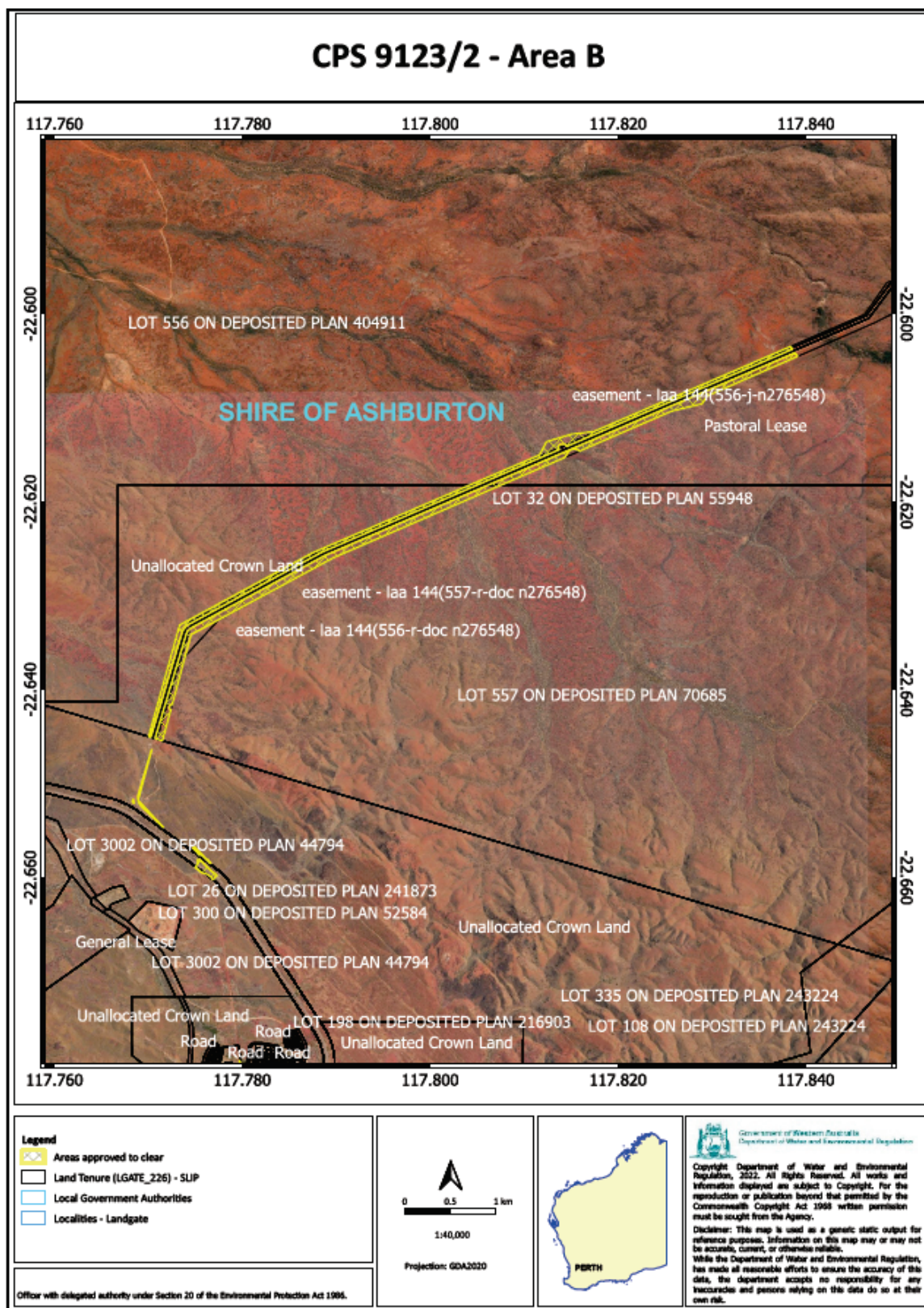


Figure 2: Map of the boundaries of the areas within which clearing may occur (cross-hatched yellow)

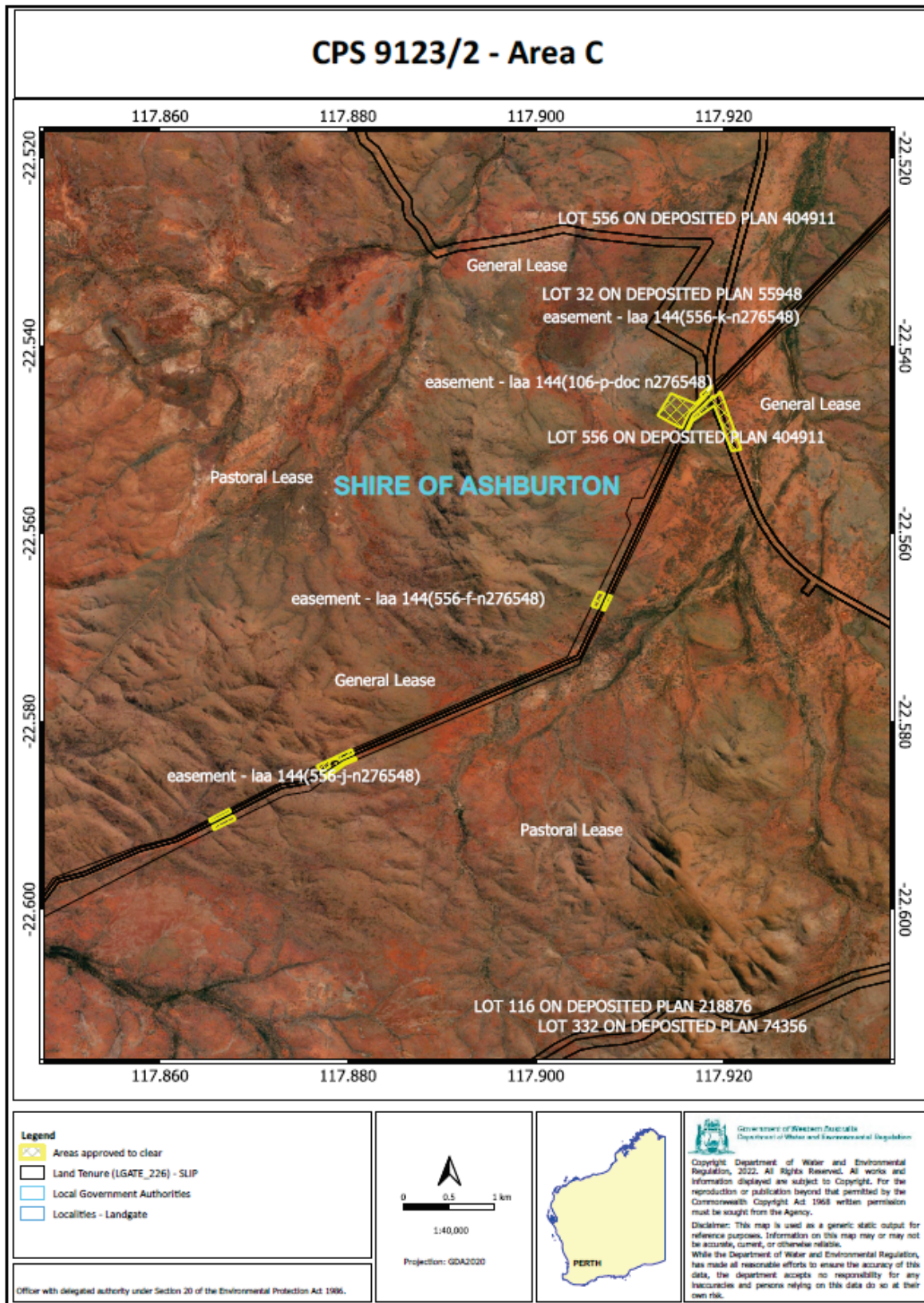
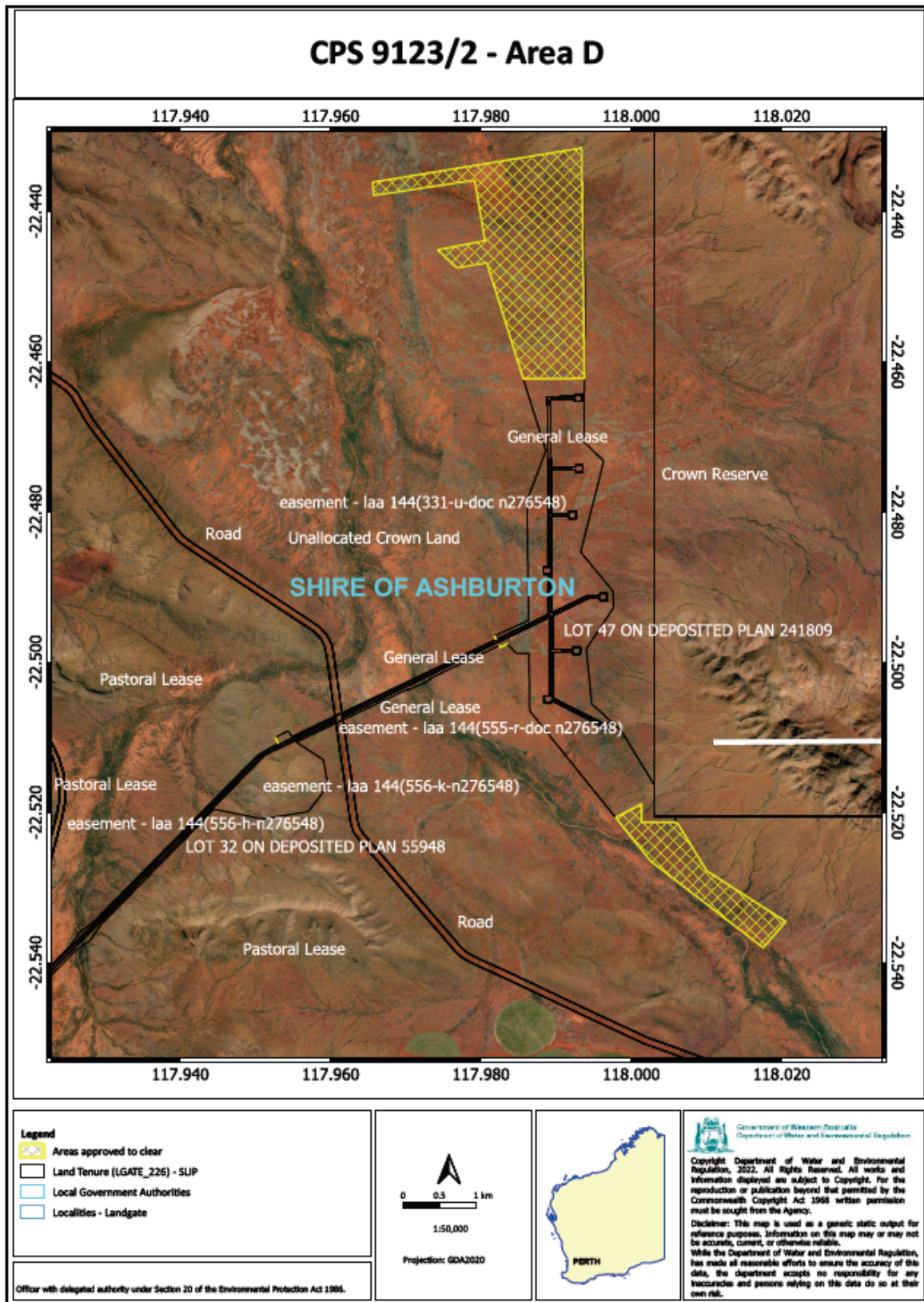


Figure 3: Map of the boundaries of the areas within which clearing may occur (cross-hatched yellow)



**Figure 4: Map of the boundaries of the areas within which clearing may occur
(cross-hatched yellow)**



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1 Application details and outcome

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	CPS 9123/2	
Permit type:	Purpose permit	
Applicant name:	Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd	
Application received:	13 March 2025	
Application area:	150 hectares of native vegetation	
Purpose of clearing:	<p>Borefield including bores, pipelines, powerlines, access tracks, and other infrastructure.</p> <p>Construction of a pipeline and associated laydown areas, storage areas, offices, parking areas, surge tanks, chlorination units, pump stations, and booster stations.</p> <p>Flora/fauna monitoring, groundwater/hydrogeological monitoring, infrastructure access, and Aboriginal Heritage survey/access.</p>	
Method of clearing:	Mechanical	
Property:	Lot 8 on Plan 241372	Mount Sheila
	Lot 9 on Plan 47815	Mount Sheila
	Lot 32 on Plan 55948	Mount Sheila
	Lot 106 on Plan 243222	Mount Sheila
	Lot 107 on Plan 243223	Mount Sheila
	Lot 331 on Plan 74355	Mount Sheila
	Lot 556 on Plan 70685	Mount Sheila
	Lot 556 on Plan 404911	Mount Sheila
	Lot 557 on Plan 70685	Mount Sheila
	Unallocated Crown Land (PIN 714253)	Mount Sheila
	Unallocated Crown Land (PIN 1014954)	Mount Sheila
	Unallocated Crown Land (PIN 1014967)	Mount Sheila
	Unallocated Crown Land (PIN 1014974)	Mount Sheila
	Eungella Place Road Reserve (PIN 11432512)	Tom Price
	Jabbarup Place Road Reserve (PIN 11432490)	Tom Price
	Kanberra Drive Road Reserve (PIN 11432488)	Tom Price
	Killawarra Drive Road Reserve (PIN 11432489)	Tom Price
	Lot 9 on Plan 47815	Tom Price
	Lot 20 on Plan 47816	Tom Price
	Lot 26 on Plan 241873	Tom Price
	Lot 35 on Plan 93088	Tom Price
	Lot 36 on Plan 51845	Tom Price
	Lot 271 on Plan 15093 (Crown Reserve 39874)	Tom Price
	Lot 272 on Plan 15093 (Crown Reserve 39874)	Tom Price
	Lot 277 on Plan 15091 (Crown Reserve 39907)	Tom Price
	Lot 500 on Plan 406730 (Crown Reserve 40797)	Tom Price
	Lot 520 on Plan 69942	Tom Price

	Lot 522 on Plan 69942	Tom Price
	Lot 1236 on Plan 15091	Tom Price
	Lot 3000 on Plan 44791	Tom Price
	Tarwonga Circuit Road Reserve (PIN 11432484)	Tom Price
	Unallocated Crown Land (PIN 11994537)	Tom Price
	Warrina Place Road Reserve (PIN 11432487)	Tom Price
	Yanagin Place Road Reserve (PIN 11432486)	Tom Price
Location (LGA area/s):	Shire of Ashburton	
Localities (suburb/s):	Mount Sheila, Tom Price	

1.2. Description of clearing activities

The permit CPS 9123/1 was granted in March 2021 to facilitate the construction of bores and associated infrastructure to support operations at the Southern Fortescue Borefield.

The permit holder has advised that no clearing has been undertaken under CPS 9123/1 since the commencement of the permit in 2021 due to the further engagement with the Traditional Owner Group (Hamersley Iron, 2025). The permit holder is seeking an extension of the duration of clearing permit CPS 9123/1 to enable sufficient time for proposed activities. The permit holder also proposed to supplement the purposes of the permit to accurately capture clearing activities, which include:

- Flora/fauna monitoring;
- Groundwater/hydrogeological monitoring;
- Infrastructure access; and
- Aboriginal Heritage survey/access.

(Hamersley Iron, 2025)

This amendment is to extend the duration of the permit and to amend permit conditions.

1.3. Decision on application

Decision:	Granted
Decision date:	15 May 2025
Decision area:	150 hectares of native vegetation within the application area, as depicted in Section 1.5, below.

1.4. Reasons for decision

This clearing permit amendment application was submitted, accepted, assessed and determined in accordance with sections 51E and 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) advertised the application for 14 days and no submissions were received.

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics (see Decision Report for CPS 9123/1), relevant datasets (see Appendix B.1), the findings of a biological survey (see Decision Report for CPS 9123/1), the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (see Appendix A), relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (see Section 3).

The assessment has not changed since the assessment for CPS 9123/1, except in the case of principle (b). The application area has been assessed as containing suitable but not significant habitat for conservation significant fauna species including: Northern quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*) (EN), Pilbara olive python (*Liasis olivaceus* subsp. *barroni*) (VU), lined soil-crevice skink (*Notoscincus butleri*) (P4), long-tailed dunnart (*Sminthopsis longicaudata*) (P4), and Western pebble-mound mouse (*Pseudomys chapmani*) (P4) (see Decision Report for CPS 9123/1). Although the proposed clearing will unlikely impact populations of the above species at either the local or bioregional scale (see Decision Report for CPS 9123/1), the proposed clearing may impact individuals of these species if they utilise the application area at the time of clearing.

To minimise the potential impact to fauna individuals that may occur within the application area at the time of clearing, a condition in the amended clearing permit to undertake slow, progressive, directional clearing will be required.

The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing can be managed to be environmentally acceptable, subject to adherence with the existing clearing permit conditions imposed on CPS 9123/1.

Given the above, the Delegated Office has decided to grant the amended clearing permit CPS 9123/2.

1.5. Site maps

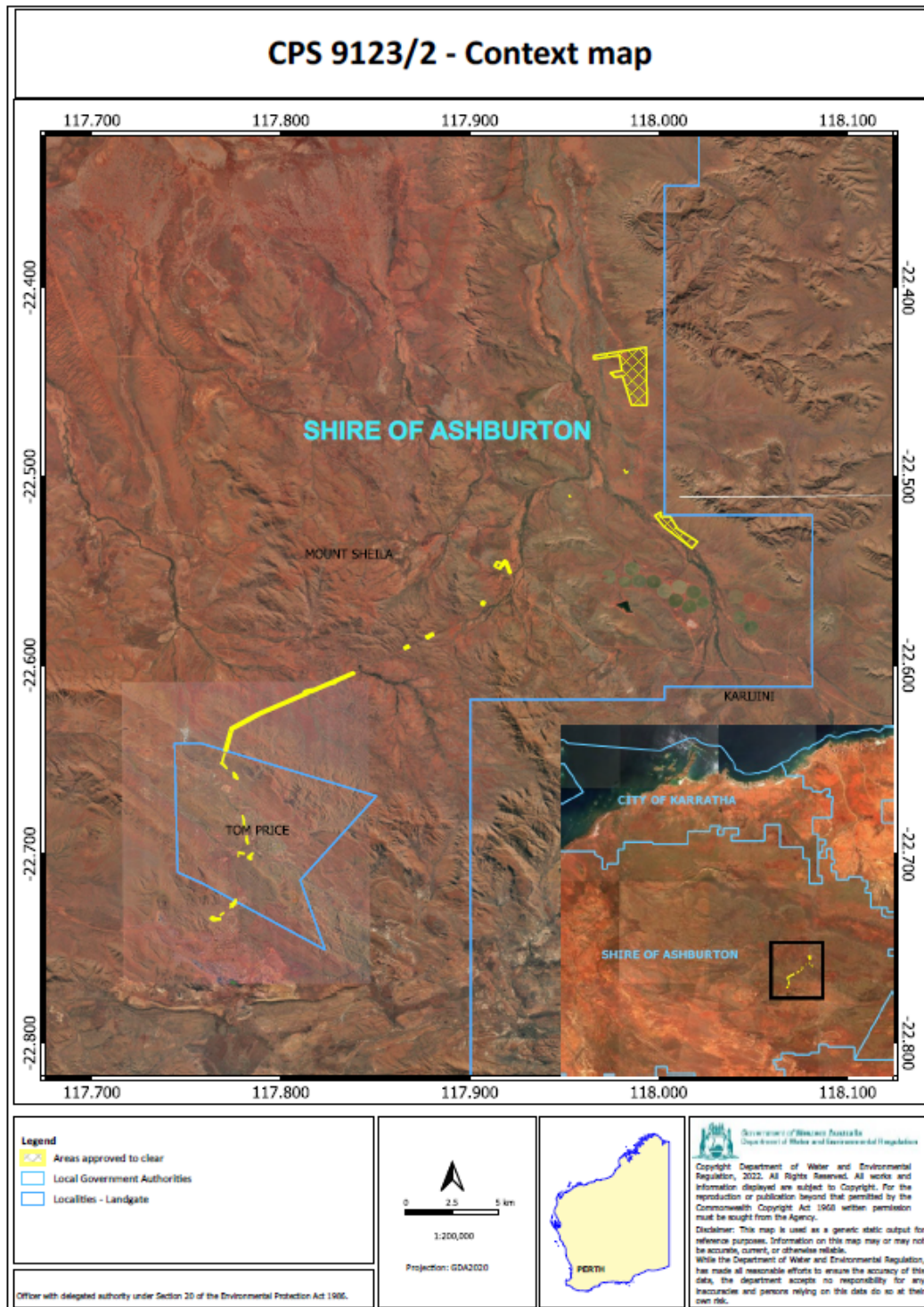


Figure 1a Context map of the application area

The areas crosshatched yellow indicate the areas authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

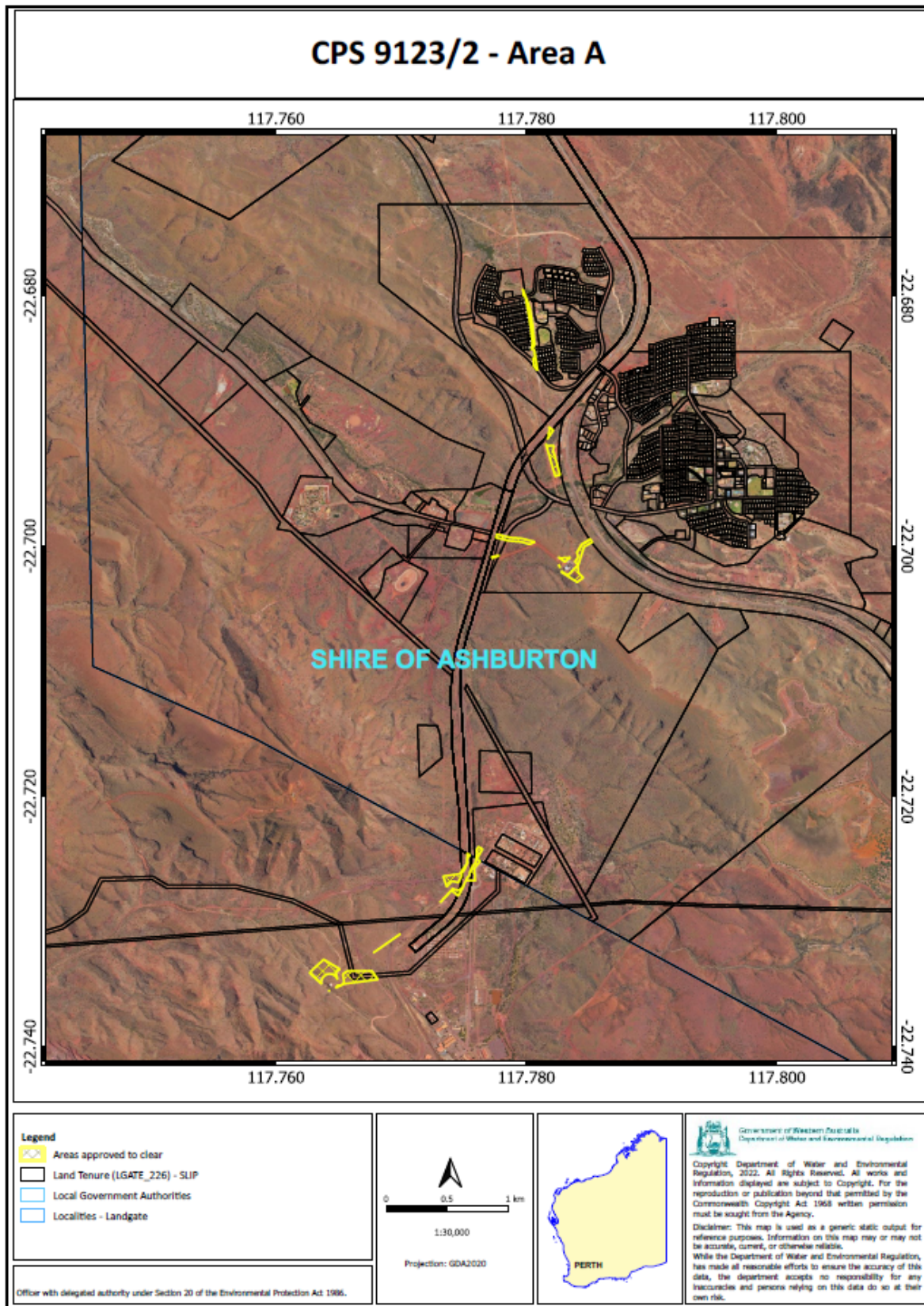


Figure 1b Map of the application area - Area A

The areas crosshatched yellow indicate the areas authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

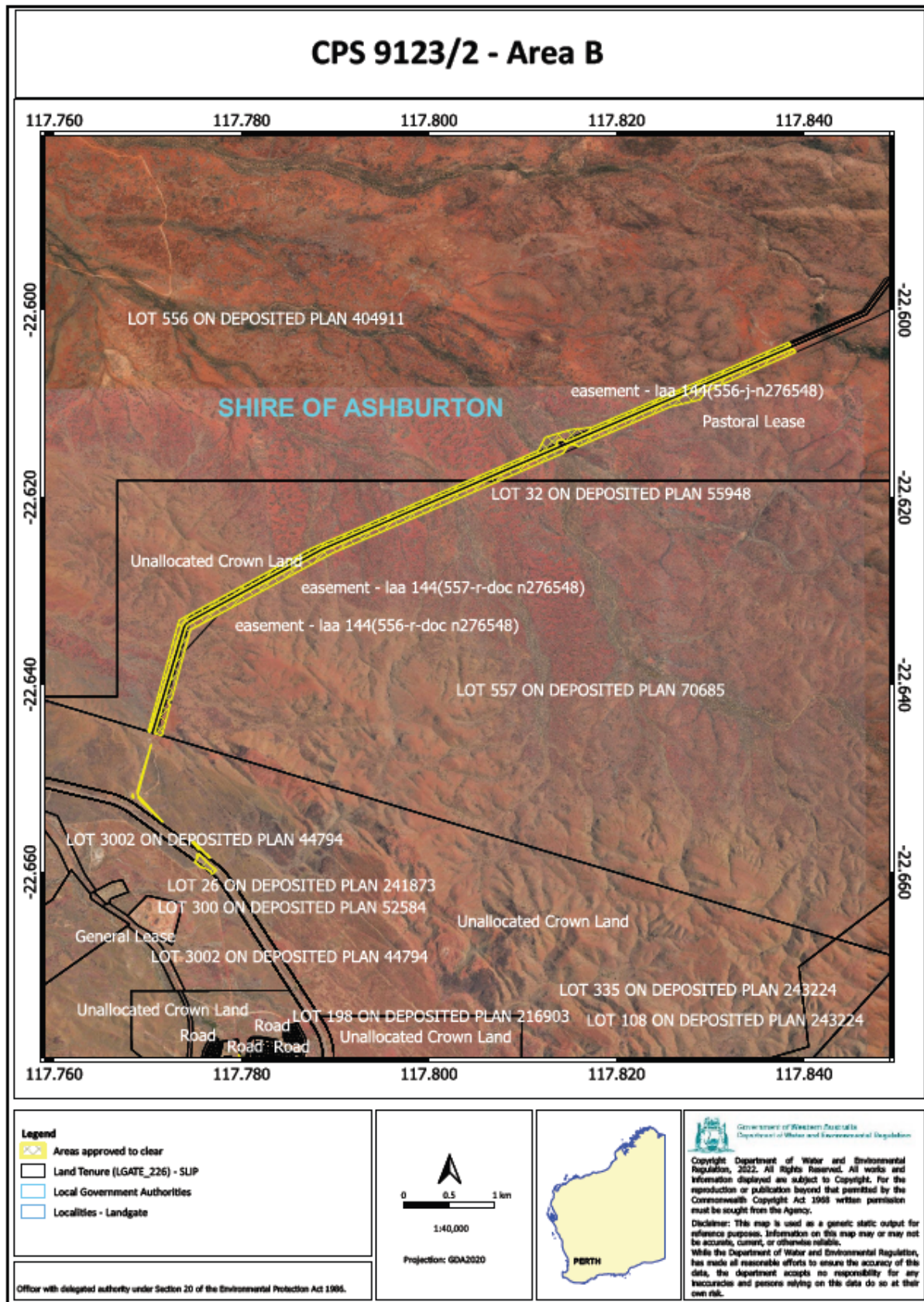


Figure 1c Map of the application area - Area B

The areas crosshatched yellow indicate the areas authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

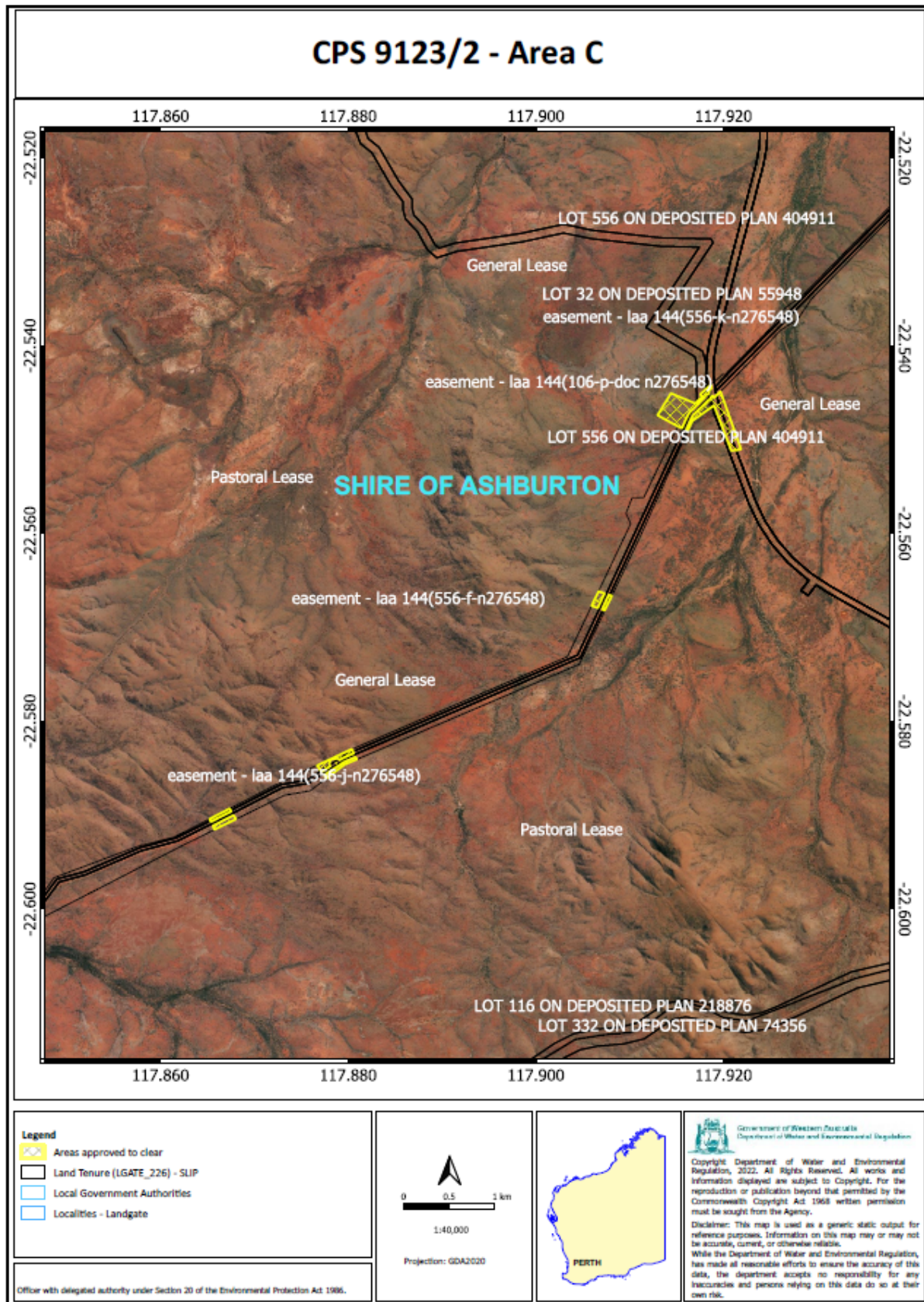


Figure 1d Map of the application area - Area C

The areas crosshatched yellow indicate the areas authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

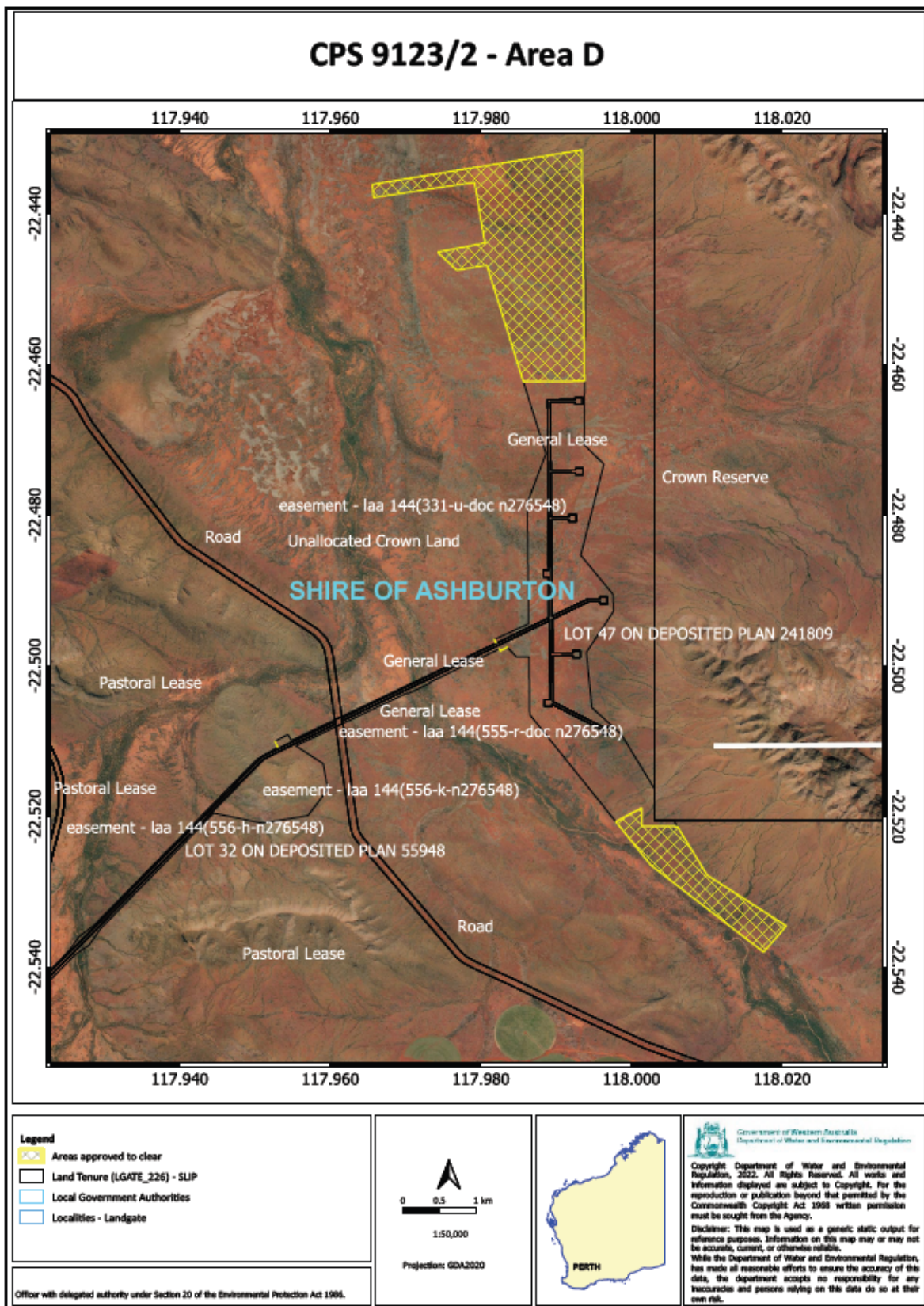


Figure 1e Map of the application area - Area D

The areas crosshatched yellow indicate the areas authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

2 Legislative context

The clearing of native vegetation in Western Australia is regulated under the EP Act and the *Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004* (Clearing Regulations).

In addition to the matters considered in accordance with section 51O of the EP Act (see Section 1.4), the Delegated Officer has also had regard to the objects and principles under section 4A of the EP Act, particularly:

- the precautionary principle
- the principle of intergenerational equity
- the principle of the conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity.

Other legislation of relevance for this assessment include:

- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (WA) (BC Act)
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act)
- *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (RIWI Act)
- *Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947* (CAWSA Act)

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

- *A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation* (DER, December 2013)
- *Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits* (DWER, October 2019)
- Technical guidance – *Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment* (EPA, 2016)
- Technical guidance – *Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment* (EPA, 2016)

3 Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

The avoidance and minimisation measures implemented by the permit holder are unchanged and can be found in the Decision Report prepared for Clearing Permit CPS 9123/1. Noting that no clearing is proposed under the amendment application in addition to that authorised under CPS 9123/1, no additional avoidance and mitigation measures were considered necessary.

3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

A review of current environmental information reveals that the assessment against the clearing principles has not changed significantly from the Clearing Permit Decision Report CPS 9123/1.

The assessment against principle (b) has not changed from that for CPS 9123/1 which identifies Northern quolls, Pilbara olive pythons, lined soil-crevice skinks, long-tailed dunnarts, and Western pebble-mound mice may occur within the area proposed to be cleared. Noting the linear nature of the proposed clearing, the extensive areas of similar habitat surrounding the application area, and the avoidance and mitigation measures proposed by the permit holder, it is considered unlikely that the proposed clearing would significantly impact these species or that the proposed clearing would result in any changes to their conservation statuses (see Decision Report CPS 9123/1).

However, there is the potential that individuals of these conservation significant fauna species may occur within the application area at the time of clearing. These direct impacts can be managed by undertaking slow, progressive, directional clearing.

To address the above impacts to fauna individual, in addition to existing conditions in the CPS 9123/1, the following management measure will be required as a condition on the amended clearing permit CPS 9123/2:

- undertake slow, progressive one directional clearing to allow terrestrial and avian fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit amendment application was advertised on DWER's website on 11 April 2025, inviting submissions from the public within a 14-day period. No submissions were received.

In addition to the planning or other matters that have been addressed in the Clearing Permit Decision Report CPS 9123/1, a small portion of the application area has been identified to be located at the northwest area of the Mining Lease ML4SA, Mount Tom Price Mine which was classified possibly contaminated – investigation required. The Contaminated Sites Branch of DWER has advised that the risks associated with contamination at the site are considered to be negligible given that the proposed site works are unlikely to require any significant soil disturbance

(DWER, 2025). It is also advised that an unexpected finds protocol is recommended for management of any contaminated which may be encountered to address any potentials to encounter contaminated material in soil during clearing process (DWER, 2025).

End

Appendix A. Assessment against the clearing principles

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Environmental value: biological values		
<p><u>Principle (a):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u> Much of the application area has had disturbance related to the construction of the Southern Fortescue Borefield and consequent upgrades.</p> <p>The application area contains suitable habitat for some conservation significant flora and fauna species. However, noting the historical disturbance of the area proposed to be cleared, and the extensive areas of native vegetation in similar or better condition surrounding the application area, it is unlikely that the application area could be considered an area of high biodiversity compared to its surrounding remnant vegetation (see detailed assessment in the Decision Report for CPS 9123/1).</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>As per CPS 9123/1</p>	No
<p><u>Principle (b):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The application area contains suitable habitat for conservation significant fauna species such as Western pebble-mound mouse, Pilbara olive python, lined soil-crevice skink, long-tailed dunnart, Northern quoll. However, considering the existence of extensive area of surrounding remnant vegetation in similar or better condition, the application area is unlikely to comprise significant habitats for these species (see detailed assessment in the Decision Report for CPS 9123/1).</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>As per CPS 9123/1</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Refer to Section 3.2. above</p>
<p><u>Principle (c):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>No threatened flora species have been recorded within 50 kilometres of the application area. The application area is unlikely to contain habitat for threatened flora species.</p>	<p>Not at variance</p> <p>As per CPS 9123/1</p>	No
<p><u>Principle (d):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a threatened ecological community."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The area proposed to be cleared does not contains species that can indicate a threatened ecological community.</p>	<p>Not at variance</p> <p>As per CPS 9123/1</p>	No
Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas		
<p><u>Principle (e):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The extent of the mapped vegetation type or native vegetation in the local area is consistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia. The vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered to be part of a significant ecological linkage in the local area.</p>	<p>Not at variance</p> <p>As per CPS 9123/1</p>	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
<p><u>Principle (h):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Given no conservation areas are mapped within the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of conservation areas (see detailed assessment in the Decision Report for CPS 9123/1).</p>	<p>May be at variance</p> <p>As per CPS 9123/1</p>	No
Environmental value: land and water resources		
<p><u>Principle (f):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Given several minor watercourses intersect the application area, the proposed clearing may impact an environment associated with a watercourse (see detailed assessment in the Decision Report for CPS 9123/1).</p>	<p>At variance</p> <p>As per CPS 9123/1</p>	No
<p><u>Principle (g):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Landforms and soils over the application area are varied and diverse. Due to the presence of hills and breakaways landforms and drainage systems, localised water erosion can potentially occur from the creation of tracks.</p> <p>Noting mitigation measures proposed by the permit holder (see section 3.1 of the Decision Report for CPS 9123/1), the potential water erosion can be considered as short-term impact, and the proposed clearing is not likely to have an appreciable impact on land degradation (see detailed assessment in the Decision Report for CPS 9123/1).</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>As per CPS 9123/1</p>	No
<p><u>Principle (i):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The application area is located within the Pilbara groundwater and surface water areas proclaimed under the RiWI Act. The application area is also located within the Southern Fortescue and Marandoo Water Reserve, a public drinking water source area for Tom Price (gazetted under the CAWSA Act). A portion of the proposed clearing activities falls within the wellhead protection zones (WHPZs - established 500 metre around all production bores of Priority 1 source protection, to help protect the source from contamination) of the Southern Fortescue Borefield.</p> <p>Proposed clearing may cause a temporary increase in sediment levels in surface water runoff and this increase is likely to be restricted to periods of works. The proposed clearing is not likely to have a significant impact on the quality or quantity of surface or groundwater, provided standard management measures identified in Section 3.2.5 of the Decision Report for CPS 9123/1 to be applied (see detailed assessment in the Decision Report for CPS 9123/1).</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>As per CPS 9123/1</p>	No
<p><u>Principle (j):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>As per CPS 9123/1</p>	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
The mapped soils and topographic contours in the surrounding area do not indicate the proposed clearing is likely to contribute to increased incidence or intensity of flooding.		

Appendix B. Sources of information

B.1. GIS databases

Publicly available GIS Databases used (sourced from www.data.wa.gov.au):

- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- Cadastre (LGATE-218)
- 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)
- 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

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)

B.2. References

Commonwealth of Australia (2001) *National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005*, Canberra.

Department of Environment Regulation (DER) (2013). *A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation*. Perth. Available from: https://www.der.wa.gov.au/images/documents/your-environment/native-vegetation/Guidelines/Guide2_assessment_native_veg.pdf.

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2019). *NRInfo Digital Mapping. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development*. Government of Western Australia. URL: <https://maps.agric.wa.gov.au/nrm-info/> (accessed March 2025).

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (2019). *Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits*. Joondalup. Available from: https://dwer.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Procedure_Native_vegetation_clearing_permits_v1.PDF.

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (Contaminated Sites Branch) (2025) *Contaminated Sites Branch advice for clearing permit application CPS 9123/2*, received 29 April 2025 (DWER Ref: DWERDT1115309).

Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2016). *Technical Guidance - Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment*. Available from: http://www.epa.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Policies_and_Guidance/EPA%20Technical%20Guidance%20-%20Flora%20and%20Vegetation%20survey_Dec13.pdf

Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2016). *Technical Guidance – Terrestrial Fauna Surveys*. Available from: https://www.epa.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Policies_and_Guidance/Tech%20guidance-%20Terrestrial%20Fauna%20Surveys-Dec-2016.pdf.

Government of Western Australia. (2019) *2018 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report)*. Current as of March 2019. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. <https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca-statewide-vegetation-statistics>