



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: CPS 9151/2
File Number: DWERVT7206
Duration of Permit: 10 April 2021 to 10 April 2023

PERMIT HOLDER

Department of Transport

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Lot 561 on Deposited Plan 174170, Onslow

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The permit holder must not clear more than 2.13 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross-hatched yellow in Figure 1 of Schedule 1.

CONDITIONS

1. Avoid, minimise, and reduce impacts and extent of clearing

In determining the native vegetation authorised to be cleared under this permit, the permit holder must apply the following principles, set out in descending 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.

2. Weed management

When undertaking any clearing authorised under this permit, the permit holder must take the following measures to minimise the risk of 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 known weed-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill*, or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and

- (c) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.

3. 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 1994 (GDA94), 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 1 of this permit; and (f) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds in accordance with condition 2 of this permit.

4. Reporting

The permit holder must provide to the *CEO* the records required under condition 3 of this permit when requested by the *CEO*.


DEFINITIONS

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

Table 2: Definitions

Term	Definition
CEO	Chief Executive Officer of the department 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.
dieback	means the effect of <i>Phytophthora</i> species on native vegetation.
department	means the department 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.
EP Act	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> (WA)
fill	means material used to increase the ground level, or to fill a depression.
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.
weeds	means any plant – (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.

END OF CONDITIONS



Meenu Vitarana
A/MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

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

SCHEDULE 1

The boundary of the area authorised to be cleared is shown in the map below (Figure 1).

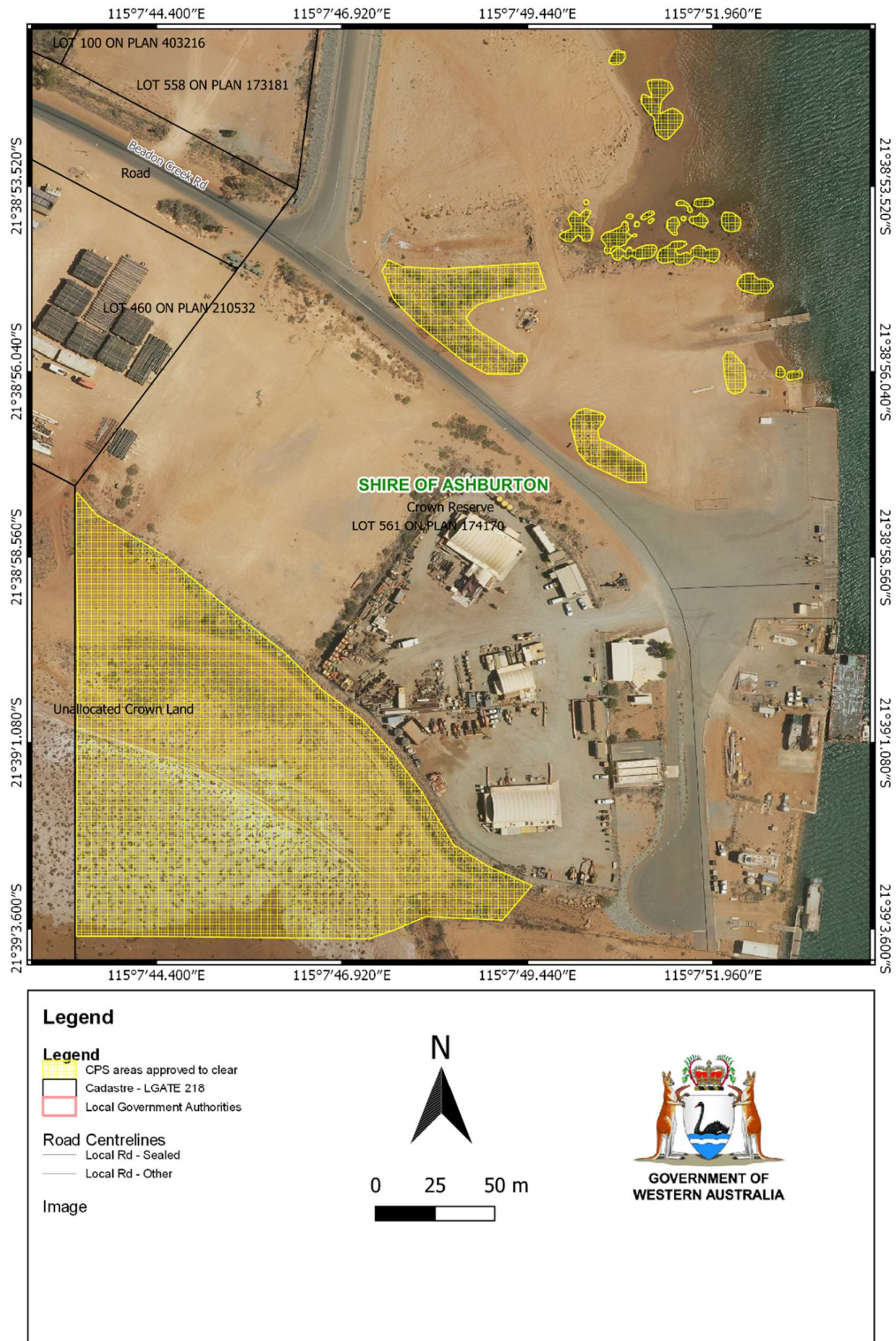


Figure 1: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur.



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1 Application details and outcome

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	CPS 9151/2
Permit type:	Area permit
Applicant name:	Department of Transport
Application received:	3 August 2021
Application area:	1.83 hectares of native vegetation
Purpose of clearing:	Construction of community boating precinct
Method of clearing:	Mechanical
Property:	Lot 561 on Deposited Plan 174170
Location (LGA area/s):	Shire of Ashburton
Localities (suburb/s):	Onslow

1.2. Description of clearing activities

This amendment to CPS 9151/1 is to increase the area of clearing by 1.83 hectares across an additional area, for the purpose of stockpiling of excavation material for the construction of a community boating precinct, including a two-lane boat ramp and carpark. The stockpile area will remain as hardstand to be used long term for equipment storage or will eventually be built on. The stockpiled material will be used to level the site and this area may eventually be leased (Department of Transport, 2021b).

1.3. Decision on application

Decision:	Granted
Decision date:	27 October 2021
Decision area:	2.13 hectares of native vegetation, 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 an additional 7 days to change the purpose of clearing from stockpiles to hardstand. No submissions were received.

The delegated officer took into consideration that the proposed amendment relates only to increasing the overall clearing footprint by 1.83 hectares and increasing the total area authorised to be cleared under the permit to 2.13 hectares to allow clearing within the additional 1.83 hectare area. A review of current environmental information indicated that the additional area was unlikely to contain environmental values in addition to those present within the existing permit area.

A review of current environmental information identified that the environmental values present within the permit area also remain largely unchanged from the previous assessment of the permit area.

In considering the above, the delegated officer determined that the extent to which the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological, or land and water resource values remain largely unchanged from the original assessment. The delegated officer determined that the proposed clearing can be managed to be environmentally acceptable with the existing avoid and minimise and weed control conditions.

2 Site Information

Clearing Description

The proposed amendment to CPS 9150/1 is for the purpose of increasing the overall clearing footprint by 1.83 hectares and increasing the total clearing area to 2.13 hectares to allow clearing within the additional 1.83 – hectare area. CPS 9150/1 allowed for the clearing of up to 0.3 hectares of native vegetation within a crown reserve in the Shire of Ashburton, for the purpose of the construction of a community boating precinct.

The permit holder originally applied to amend Clearing Permit CPS 9151/1 for the purpose of a stockpile, the purpose was changed during the final assessment process to a hardstand for long term equipment storage.

Records indicate no clearing has been undertaken to date under CPS 9151/1.

Vegetation Description

The application area is mapped as Beard 676 which is described as succulent steppe; samphire (Shepherd et al, 2001).

The new vegetation in the additional 1.83 hectares is not mapped. Based on photographs and satellite imagery it is composed of grasslands and shrubs, dominated by *Salsola australis* (Prickly Saltwort). Assessment of aerial imagery indicates the area contains a large track of mangrove vegetation approximately 100 metres south of the additional area (Figure 2). The additional area is within the peritidal zone of Beadon Creek.

Vegetation Condition

Very poor: severely impacted by grazing, very frequent fires, clearing or a combination of these activities. Scope for some regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management. Usually a number of weed species present including very aggressive species (Trudgen, 1991).

To

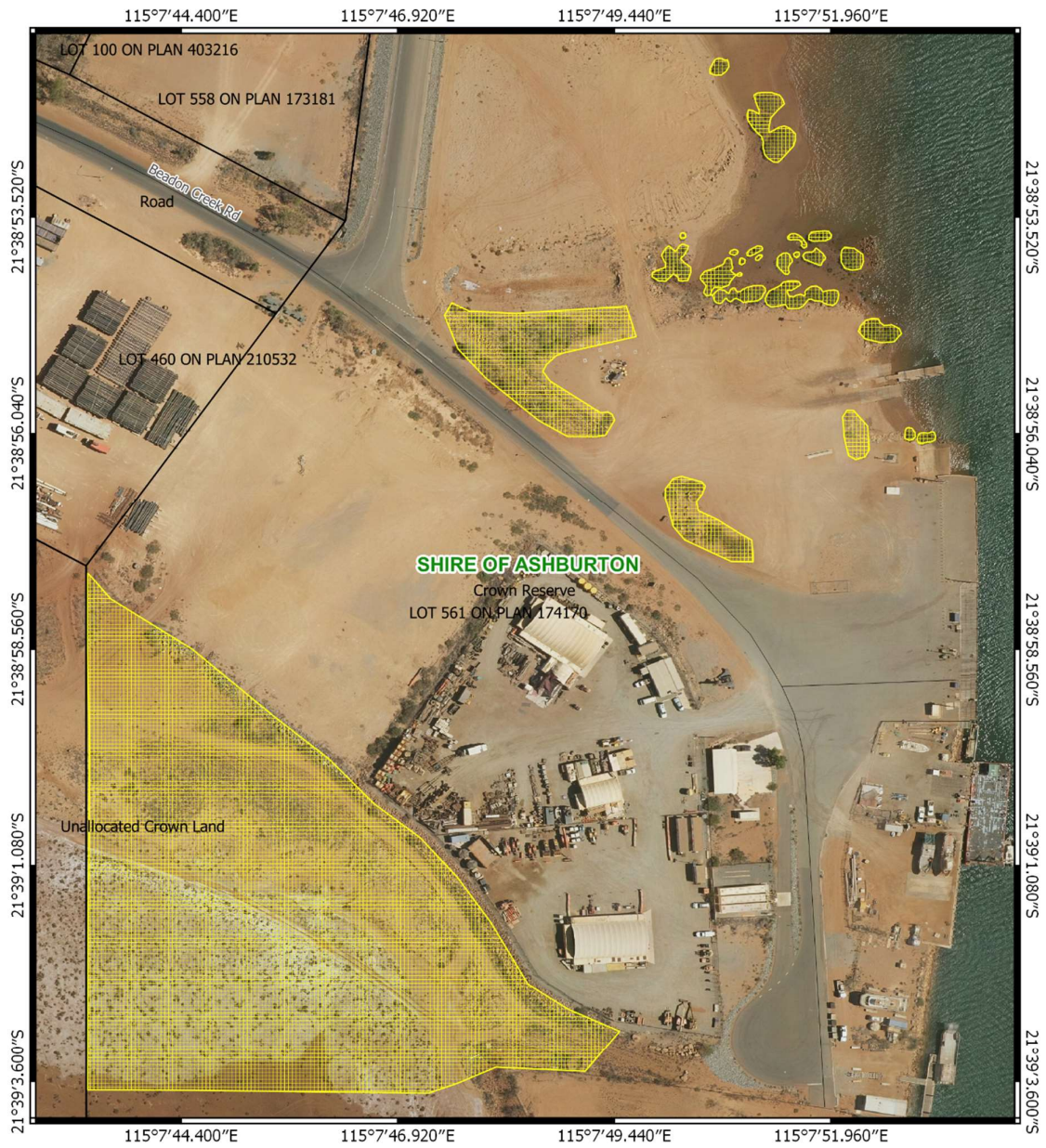
Completely Degraded – Areas that are completely or almost completely without native species in the structure of their vegetation; i.e. areas that are cleared or ‘parkland cleared’ with their flora comprising weed or crop species with isolated native trees or shrubs (Trudgen, 1991).

The condition of the vegetation was determined via aerial imagery and photographs provided by the applicant (Applicant, 2021).

Soil type




The soil types within the application area are mapped as the following systems:

- Dune System (201Du), described as dune fields supporting soft spinifex and minor hard spinifex grasslands.
- Littoral System (201Li), described as bare coastal mudflats (unvegetated), samphire flats, sandy islands, coastal dunes and beaches, supporting samphire low shrublands, sparse acacia shrublands and mangrove forests.





Legend


Legend

-  CPS areas approved to clear
-  Cadastre - LGATE 218
-  Local Government Authorities

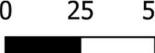
Road Centrelines


-  Local Rd - Sealed
-  Local Rd - Other

Image



0 25 50 m





GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Figure 1: The areas crosshatched yellow indicate the areas authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

3 Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

The Delegated Officer was satisfied that the applicant made a reasonable effort to avoid and minimise potential impacts of the proposed clearing on environmental values and the supplied Dredge and Disposal Management Plan satisfies the recommendation by DWER Contaminated Sites Branch under CPS 9151/1 (see Section 3.3).

A Dredge and Disposal Management Plan (360 Environmental, 2020) was submitted by the applicant. This report addresses potential impacts and mitigation measures to the following, but is not limited to:

- Impacts to native marine species
- Introduction of marine pests
- Sedimentation of Beadon Creek
- Acid sulfate soils
- Sediment Contaminants and hazardous material

3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

The existing clearing footprint for CPS 9151/1 is distributed across 22 separate areas totalling 0.3 hectares for the purpose of construction of a community boating precinct, including a two-lane boat ramp and carpark. The proposed amendment to CPS 9151/1 is to increase the area of clearing by 1.83 hectares across an additional area (See Figure 2), for the purpose of stockpiling of excavation material for the construction of a community boating precinct, including a two-lane boat ramp and carpark. The stockpile area will remain as hardstand.

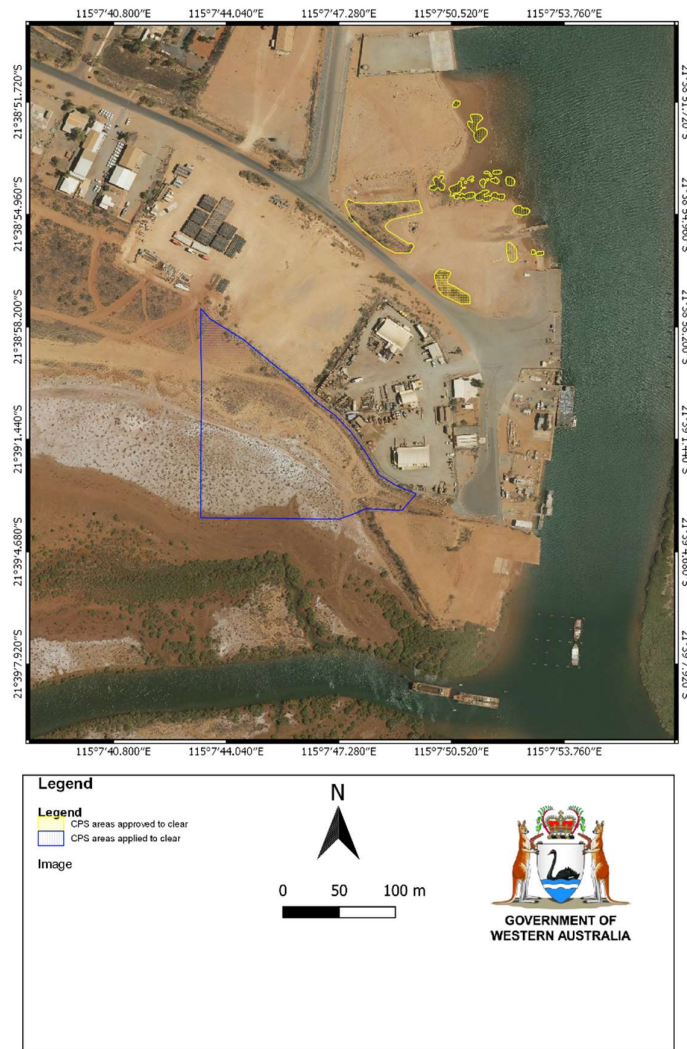


Figure 2: Additional clearing area cross-hatched blue, with visible mangroves to the south

Assessment relating to current environmental information

A review of current environmental information indicates that the environmental values present within the existing permit area remain largely unchanged from the previous assessment found in Clearing Permit Decision Report CPS 9151/1. The assessment below includes consideration of current environmental information pertaining to the additional 1.83-hectare area to be included in the amended permit.

Assessment relating to additional area

The additional 1.83 hectare area is approximately 200 metres south west from the existing application area. According to available databases, the additional area is not mapped with a vegetation association. The mapped soil type in the additional area is mapped as Littoral System (201Li), which is described as bare coastal mudflats (unvegetated), samphire flats, sandy islands, coastal dunes and beaches, supporting samphire low shrublands, sparse acacia shrublands and mangrove forests. Based on the photographs provided by the applicant, the additional area is dominated by weedy *Salsola australis* (Appendix A).

Conservation significant flora

A desktop review of current databases was undertaken for the local area (a 50-kilometre radius). The desktop assessment identified a total of seven priority flora species within the local area, comprising of one Priority 1 (P1) flora and six Priority 3 (P3) flora (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). These species were considered in the previous assessment of the permit, however due to the mapped soil system in the additional application area, four Priority 3 (P3) species are considered to occur on the mapped soil systems of the application area, the closest of which is *Abutilon sp. Pritzelianum*, a P3 species recorded approximately 3.6 kilometres from the additional area. There are 47 records of this species, with most records from Port Hedland area, with only one record from Onslow. This species is associated with Acacia shrubland including *Acacia ancistrocarpa*, *Acacia inaequilatera*, *Acacia tumida* var. *pilbarensis*, *Acacia sericophylla*, and *Acacia stellaticeps*, sometimes under open woodland of *Corymbia zygophylla*, often over hummock grassland of *Triodia* spp. Noting the absence of Acacia shrubland vegetation within the application area and the dominance of the weedy *Salsola australis* (Appendix A), it is considered *Abutilon sp. Pritzelianum* is unlikely to be impacted by the proposed clearing.

Conservation significant fauna

A desktop assessment identified that a total of 1850 records from 52 fauna species (excluding marine species) in the local area including nine threatened species, six priority species, 35 Migratory species and two Other specially protected species (DBCA, 2007). A record of 13 migratory shore bird species were recorded within 170 metres of the additional area, including the critically endangered *Numenius madagascariensis* (Eastern Curlew).

The Eastern Curlew has a wide distribution range, its preferred habitat includes large intertidal mudflats or sandflats often with beds of seagrass (DOE, 2021). Eastern Curlews take flight when humans approach to within 30 – 100 metres or even up to 250 metres away (DOE, 2021). Coastal development already occurring in the area means it is unlikely that the additional area to be cleared represents a significant habitat for the species and is not likely to significantly impact or result in long-term detriment to the Eastern Curlew or other migratory bird species. The eastern and southern sections of Beadon Creek are undeveloped and would provide a less disturbed higher quality habitat for the species.

Land and Water Resources

The additional area is within the peritidal zone of Beadon Creek. Assessment of the photos supplied by the applicant (Appendix A) indicate that the vegetation occupying this area is comprised of grasslands and shrubs likely to be *Salsola australis*. Assessment of aerial imagery indicates the area contains a large track of mangrove vegetation approximately 100 metres south of the additional area (Figure 2). Given the vegetation to be cleared is shallow rooted and is approximately 100 metres from Beadon Creek, the additional clearing is unlikely to significantly impact surface or underground water quality. Given the above, the proposed clearing is unlikely to result in any significant impacts to Beadon Creek and it is unlikely there will be any significant impact to the vegetation community or fauna that may utilise it.

A review of current environmental information reveals that the assessment against the clearing principles has not changed from the Clearing Permit Decision Report CPS 9151/1.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The amendment application was advertised on the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's website on the 30 August 2021 inviting submissions from the public within a 14-day period and again on 29 September 2021 for a 7-day period. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

The Shire of Ashburton did not have any objections to the proposed clearing.

The additional 1.83 hectare area intersects an area classified under the *Contaminated Sites Act 2003*. The contaminated site is classified as remediated for restricted use. The clearing purpose of a laydown yard for long term storage is aligned with the restrictions on use, which state the land use of the site is restricted to commercial/industrial use.

The additional 1.83 hectare area also intersects CPS 4587/2, granted to Horizon Power for the proposed clearing of 26 hectares of native vegetation for the purpose of installing underground power. The applicant is advised to liaise with Horizon Power to ensure the proposed clearing under CPS 9151/2 does not interfere with any proposed works under CPS 4587/2.

Several Aboriginal sites of significance have been mapped near the application area. It is the permit holder's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 (WA)* and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

End

Appendix A. Photographs of the vegetation



Figure 3: Six photos showing the vegetation proposed to be cleared as part of CPS 9151/2 (Applicant, 2021)

Appendix B. Sources of information

B.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)

B.2. References

- 360 Environmental (2020) *Beadon Creek, Onslow WA, Dredge and Disposal Management Plan*. received 17 March 2021.
- Applicant (2021) *Clearing permit application to amend CPS 9151/1 and supporting information*, received 3 August 2021 (DWER Ref: DWERDT486133).
- Applicant (2020) *Clearing permit application CPS 9151/1*, received 16 December 2020 (DWER Ref: DWERDT393914).
- Applicant (2021) *Supporting information for clearing permit application CPS 9151/1*, received 28 January 2021 (DWER Refs: A1976062, A1976064, A1976065, A1976066).
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) (2007-) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Parks and Wildlife. Available from: <http://naturemap.dpaw.wa.gov.au/> (accessed October 2021).
- Department of the Environment (DoE) (2015). *Conservation Advice Numenius madagascariensis eastern curlew*. Canberra: Department of the Environment.
- 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.
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- Northcote, K. H. with Beckmann G G, Bettenay E., Churchward H. M., van Dijk D. C., Dimmock G. M., Hubble G. D., Isbell R. F., McArthur W. M., Murtha G. G., Nicolls K. D., Paton T. R., Thompson C. H., Webb A. A. and

- Wright M. J. (1960-68) *Atlas of Australian Soils*, Sheets 1 to 10, with explanatory data. CSIRO and Melbourne University Press: Melbourne.
- Schoknecht, N., Tille, P. and Purdie, B. (2004) *Soil-landscape mapping in South-Western Australia – Overview of Methodology and outputs* Resource Management Technical Report No. 280. Department of Agriculture.
- Shah, B. (2006) *Conservation of Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo on the Swan Coastal Plain, Western Australia*. December 2006. Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo Recovery Project. Birds Australia, 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.
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- Western Australian Herbarium (1998-). *FloraBase - the Western Australian Flora*. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia. <https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/> (Accessed 14 January 2020)