



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 9229/1
Permit Holder:	Great Southern Lime
Duration of Permit:	From 2 September 2021 to 2 September 2026

The permit holder is authorised to clear native vegetation subject to the following conditions of this permit.

PART I – CLEARING AUTHORISED

1. Clearing authorised (purpose)

The permit holder is authorised to clear native vegetation for the purpose of improving road sightlines.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Lake Saide Road reserve (PIN 11195312), Youngs Siding
Lake Saide Road reserve (PIN 11195314), Youngs Siding

3. Clearing authorised

The permit holder must not clear more than 0.025 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross-hatched yellow in Figure 1 of Schedule 1.

PART II – MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

4. 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.

5. Weed and dieback 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* and *dieback*:

- (a) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
- (b) ensure that no known dieback or 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.

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

6. 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	<ol 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); and(e) actions taken to avoid, minimise, and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing in accordance with condition 4; and(f) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds and dieback in accordance with condition 5

7. Reporting

The permit holder must provide to the *CEO* the records required under condition 6 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*

9 August 2021

Schedule 1

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

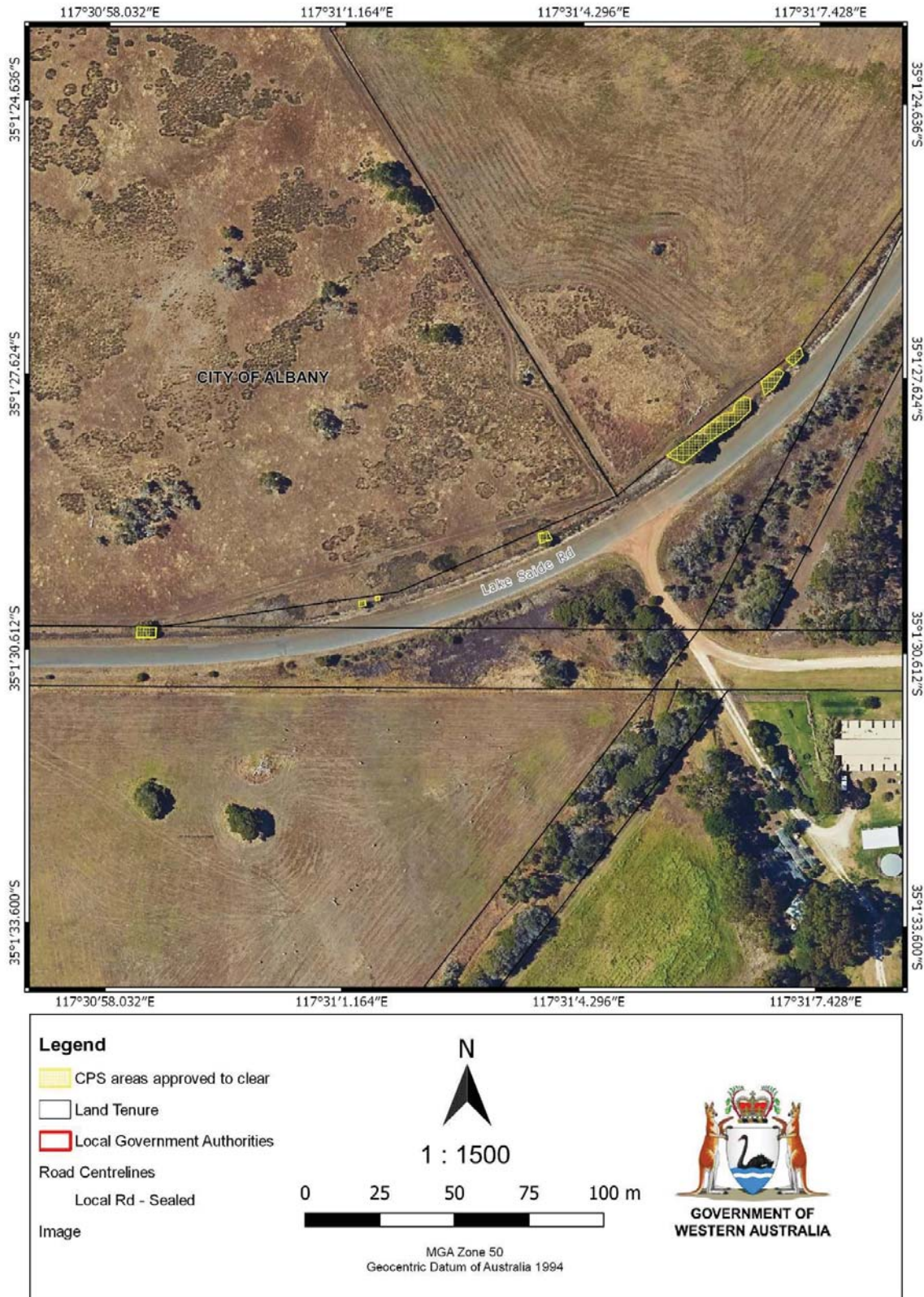


Figure 1: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1 Application details and outcome

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	CPS 9229/1
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	Great Southern Lime
Application received:	5 March 2021
Application area:	0.025 hectares of native vegetation
Purpose of clearing:	Improving road sightlines
Method of clearing:	Mechanical
Property:	Lake Saide Road reserve (PIN 11195312) Lake Saide Road reserve (PIN 11195314)
Location (LGA area/s):	City of Albany
Localities (suburb/s):	Youngs Siding

1.2. Description of clearing activities

The vegetation proposed to be cleared is distributed across four separate areas of fragmented roadside vegetation along Lake Saide Road (see Figure 1, Section 1.5). The application is to selectively clear trees and shrubs that are impeding sightlines along Lake Saide Road and causing a safety hazard for haulage trucks utilising the route.

1.3. Decision on application

Decision:	Granted
Decision date:	9 August 2021
Decision area:	0.025 hectares of native vegetation, as depicted in Section 1.5, below.

1.4. Reasons for decision

This clearing permit 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 21 days and three submissions were received. Consideration of matters raised in the public submissions is summarised in Appendix A.

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics (see Appendix B), relevant datasets (see Appendix F.1), the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (see Appendix C), relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (see Section 3). The Delegated Officer took into consideration that the purpose of the proposed clearing is to improve the safety of Lake Saide Road by enhancing sightlines on a hazardous bend that will be utilised by heavy vehicles. The Delegated Officer also considered that the proposed clearing is to adhere to a condition of the applicant's Development Approval determined by the State Administrative Tribunal (SAT), which requires upgrades to the road network at Lake Saide Road SLK 0.0–2.75 prior to the commencement of haulage of limestone from the Nullaki Lime Pit.

The assessment identified that the proposed clearing may result in the removal of riparian vegetation growing in association with an environment associated with a watercourse, as the application includes vegetation growing in a roadside drainage line and consists of characteristic riparian species (*Melaleuca cuticularis*). However, given the condition of the vegetation, the extent of the proposed clearing, and the adjacent land uses, the proposed clearing was not considered likely to result in significant or long-term impacts to the environmental values of the riparian communities associated with the watercourse, or to constitute a significant residual impact to any other biological, conservation, or land and water resource value.

After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant’s minimisation and mitigation measures (see Section 3.1), the Delegated Officer determined the proposed clearing can be minimised and managed to be unlikely to lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values. The Delegated Officer decided to grant a clearing permit subject to standard avoid and minimise and weed and dieback management conditions.

1.5. Site map

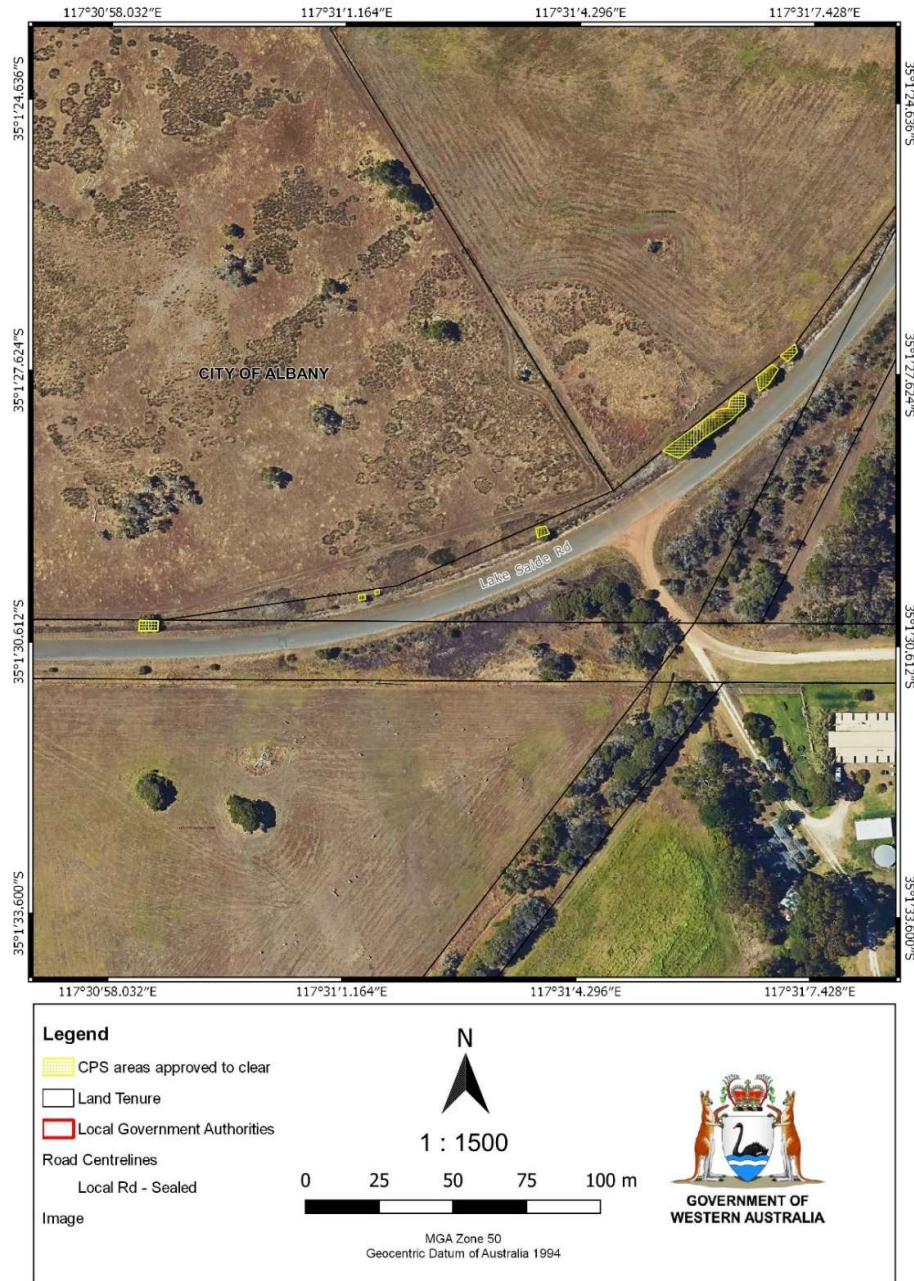


Figure 1 The areas crosshatched yellow indicate the areas authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

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)
- *Planning and Development Act 2005* (WA) (P&D 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)

3 Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

The applicant advised that the vegetation proposed to be cleared is impeding sightlines along Lake Saide Road and causing a potential safety hazard for haulage trucks utilising the route, as vision around the bend is currently limited by the angle of the road and the location of the vegetation (Great Southern Lime, 2021). The applicant advised that alternatives to the clearing, such as pruning of the vegetation to improve sightlines, were considered (Great Southern Lime, 2021). However, the degree of pruning required to achieve a safe sight distance was too extensive to represent a viable alternative to clearing and may even have resulted in the death of the vegetation (Great Southern Lime, 2021).

Given the extent and purpose of the proposed clearing, the Delegated Officer was satisfied that the applicant has made a reasonable effort to avoid and minimise potential impacts of the proposed clearing on environmental values.

3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

In assessing the application, the Delegated Officer has had regard for the site characteristics (see Appendix B) and the extent to which the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological, conservation, or land and water resource values.

The assessment against the clearing principles (see Appendix C) identified that the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to land and water resources. The consideration of these impacts, and the extent to which they can be managed through conditions applied in line with sections 51H and 51I of the EP Act, is set out below.

3.2.1. Land and water resources - Clearing Principle (f)

Assessment

As the application area lies within a roadside drainage line and consists of characteristic riparian species (*Melaleuca cuticularis*), the vegetation is considered to be growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland. However, it is noted that the proposed clearing will result in the loss of 0.025 hectares of riparian vegetation in Degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition within an isolated stand of roadside remnant native vegetation. Noting that the application area is highly fragmented and isolated, it is unlikely that the vegetation within the application area is contributing significantly to the function of riparian communities in the local area. It is also acknowledged that the areas directly adjacent to the roadside basin have been highly modified through the development of road infrastructure and through previous clearing for pastoral purposes in the local area. Given the extent and location of the proposed clearing and the condition of the vegetation, the proposed clearing is not considered likely to result in any significant or long-term impacts to the ecological values of the vegetation communities associated with the roadside drainage line associated with the application area.

Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing will result in the loss of vegetation growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland but is unlikely to result in any significant

or long-term impacts to the ecological values of these riparian communities. For the reasons set out above, it is considered that significant impacts to land and water resources are unlikely to result from the proposed clearing and that this does not constitute a significant residual impact.

Conditions

No land and water resource management conditions required.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit application was advertised on the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's website on 28 April 2021, inviting submissions from the public within a 21-day period. Three submissions were received in relation to this application. Consideration of matters raised in the public submissions is summarised in Appendix A.

The clearing proposed under CPS 9229/1 is to improve the safety of Lake Saide Road by enhancing sightlines on a hazardous bend that will be utilised by heavy vehicles transporting limestone from the Nullaki Lime Pit. The establishment and operation of the Nullaki Lime Pit is authorised under a Development Approval determined by the State Administrative Tribunal (SAT) an Extractive Industry License from the City of Albany (the City) under the *Planning and Development Act 2005*, and Works Approval W6420/2020/1 and Clearing Permit CPS 8392/3 under the EP Act. The Works Approval W6420/2020/1 and Clearing Permit CPS 8392/3 are currently under appeal.

Under Condition 14 of the Development Approval, the applicant is required to undertake a number of safety upgrades to the road network, to the satisfaction of the City, prior to the commencement of haulage of limestone. Condition 14(b) of the Development Approval specifies that the clearing of native vegetation on the inside of curves at Lake Saide Road SLK 0.0-2.75 is required prior to the commencement of haulage. The Delegated Officer understands that the clearing proposed under CPS 9229/1 is to fulfil this requirement.

The City were invited to provide comments on the proposed clearing. The City had provided a letter to the applicant, authorising them to apply for a clearing permit within Lake Saide Road reserve for the purpose of improving road sightlines (City of Albany, 2021), which was submitted in support of the application. In this letter, the City noted that the application relates to the clearing of vegetation on the inside of the curve at Lake Saide Road SLK 0.0-2.75, as required under Condition 14(b) of the applicant's Development Approval (City of Albany, 2021). The City noted that the following conditions will apply to the proposed works:

- Clearing must be kept to a minimum and vegetation to be retained must not be disturbed,
- Clearing must be in accordance with the clearing plan prepared by Stantec,
- All cleared vegetation must be removed from council land and disposed of appropriately, and
- It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure disturbance or damage to services does not occur as a result of the proposed works (City of Albany, 2021).

There are no Aboriginal sites of significance mapped within 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. Details of public submissions

Summary of comments	Consideration of comment
<p>The information provided in the application form is factually incorrect and omits that the application is linked to Clearing Permit CPS 8392/3 and the Nullaki Lime Pit (Submissions, 2021).</p>	<p>The Delegated Officer determined that the application form and supporting documents contained the necessary information pertaining to the clearing proposed under CPS 9229/1 and found the application valid in accordance with sections 51E(1) and (2) of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> (EP Act).</p> <p>It is acknowledged that the purpose of the clearing permit is to improve sightlines for haulage trucks utilising the route when transporting limestone extracted from the Nullaki Lime Pit (see Section 3.3).</p>
<p>The application does not include the details of the vegetation proposed to be cleared, in regard to species composition and maturity. A targeted environmental assessment should be undertaken to detail the environmental values of the application area and identify whether the clearing area provides suitable habitat for threatened species including the Australasian Bittern (<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i>), Baudin's black cockatoo (<i>Calyptorhynchus baudinii</i>), Carnaby's black cockatoo (<i>Calyptorhynchus latirostris</i>), forest red-tailed black cockatoo (<i>Calyptorhynchus banksii naso</i>), and western ringtail possum (<i>Pseudocheirus occidentalis</i>) (Submissions, 2021).</p>	<p>Photographs of the vegetation proposed to be cleared were provided by the applicant in support of the clearing permit application (see Appendix E). Given the extent and composition of the vegetation within the application area, the Delegated Officer considered that biological surveys were not required to inform the assessment.</p> <p>The Delegated Officer considered the potential for impacts to conservation significant fauna species in relation to the site characteristics (see Appendix B), the adjacent land uses, relevant datasets (see Appendix F.1), and the habitat preferences of species recorded in the local area. In relation to the species specified in the submission, the Delegated Officer noted that the application area does not include the dense, wetland vegetation typically inhabited by the Australasian Bittern. The Delegated Officer also considered that the application area does not contain suitable foraging, roosting or breeding habitat for Baudin's black cockatoo, Carnaby's black cockatoo or the forest red-tailed black cockatoo, and does not comprise suitable canopy structure or foraging habitat for the western ringtail possum.</p> <p>Given the application area includes a 0.025-hectare stand of degraded <i>Melaleuca cuticularis</i> over sparse <i>Thryptomene</i> spp. with a sedge and weed understorey that is isolated from larger remnants of suitable habitat in the local area, the application area was not considered likely to comprise significant habitat for any conservation significant fauna species (see Appendices B and C).</p>
<p>The conditions of the applicant's Extractive Industry License for the Nullaki Lime Pit have not been met, which should be a relevant matter in considering the clearing permit. 'Many of the conditions of approval require actions and documentation to be provided before extractive operations commence. It is acknowledged that excavation has commenced in the lime pit area' (Submissions, 2021).</p>	<p>It is acknowledged that the upgrades to the road network is a requirement of the Extractive Industry License (EIL) and therefore the proposed clearing is required by the applicant to meet the conditions of their EIL. The Delegated Officer determined that the applicant holds an approved EIL and that the City of Albany had issued a letter of authority for the proposed works is relevant in determining to grant a clearing permit.</p>

Summary of comments	Consideration of comment
	Conditions associated with the EIL for the Nullaki Lime Pit is administered by the City of Albany and any non-compliances with its conditions are to be managed by the City of Albany.
The applicant is under investigation for failing to refer the Nullaki Lime Pit proposal under the <i>Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (EPBC Act) (Submissions, 2021).	<p>Given the extent and composition of the application area, CPS 9229/1 is unlikely to have a significant impact on a matter of national environmental significance (MNES) or to require referral under the EPBC Act.</p> <p>In regard to the Nullaki Lime Pit, the applicant was advised during the assessment of Clearing Permit CPS 8392/1 of their obligation to refer the proposal under the EPBC Act, if the proposal was likely to have a significant impact on MNES. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that they comply with the EPBC Act and refer any actions that may impact MNES.</p>

Appendix B. Site characteristics

B.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details
Local context	The area proposed to be cleared includes four patches of fragmented and isolated remnant native vegetation in the intensive land use zone of Western Australia. It is adjacent to private properties to the north, which have been extensively cleared for pastoral purposes, and Lake Saide Road to the south, east and west. Spatial data indicates that the local area (20-kilometre radius from the centre of the area proposed to be cleared) retains approximately 45.5 per cent of the original native vegetation cover.
Ecological linkage	<p>The application area is mapped within Strategic Zone A of the South West Macro Corridor, which represents a continuous strip of vegetation along the Fitzgerald River valley linking the Fitzgerald River National Park with Lake Magenta Nature Reserve (Wilkins, et al., 2006). The main objective of the South West Macro Corridor project was to improve the long-term future of wildlife within national parks and nature reserves within the South Coast Region of Western Australia by further developing and promoting a regional-scale Macro Corridor Network of native vegetation with inland linkages along major river systems to protected areas and uncleared bushland (Wilkins, et al., 2006).</p> <p>Given the application area comprises four isolated remnants that are adjacent to previously cleared private properties and road infrastructure, it is unlikely that the application area is contributing significantly to the functionality of the South West Macro Corridor. Further, given the distance and separation from expansive tracts of native vegetation and protected areas, it is also unlikely that the vegetation within the application area is providing a significant ecological linkage or facilitating significant movement into conservation reserves in the local area.</p>

Characteristic	Details
Conservation areas	The closest conservation area is Tennessee North Nature Reserve, which occurs approximately 3.8 kilometres from the application area, separated by previously cleared private properties and road infrastructure.
Vegetation description	<p>Photographs supplied by the applicant indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing area consists of isolated <i>Melaleuca cuticularis</i> over sparse <i>Thryptomene</i> spp. with a sedge and weed understorey. Representative photos are available in Appendix E.</p> <p>This is inconsistent with the mapped Beard vegetation association 3, which is described as medium forest of jarrah (<i>Eucalyptus marginata</i>) and marri (<i>Corymbia calophylla</i>) (Shepherd et al, 2001).</p>
Vegetation condition	<p>Photographs supplied by the applicant indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in Degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition, described as basic vegetation structure severely impacted by disturbance with scope for regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management (Keighery, 1994).</p> <p>The full Keighery (1994) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix D. Representative photos are available in Appendix E.</p>
Climate and landform	The application area occurs on flat topography and has a mean annual maximum temperature of 21.0°C and a mean annual minimum temperature of 10.7°C. The mean annual rainfall is 1000 millimetres, and the annual evapotranspiration rate is 900 millimetres.
Soil description and land degradation risk	<p>The soil is mapped within the Blackwater gleyed duplex Phase (254BrBWo), described as shallow gleyed duplex soils in paperbark woodland and podzols on dunes in banksia-sheoak woodland (DPIRD, 2021).</p> <p>The Blackwater gleyed duplex Phase is mapped at a low risk of land degradation resulting from water erosion, wind erosion, salinity, and flooding, but is mapped at a high risk of land degradation resulting from waterlogging, subsurface acidification and phosphorus export (Schoknecht et al., 2004).</p>
Waterbodies and hydrogeography	<p>The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that the closest natural source of surface water is a non-perennial tributary of the Wilson Inlet, located approximately 200 metres north-east of the application area, separated by previously cleared land and road infrastructure. The closest wetlands are the Menamup Suite, located approximately 3.2 kilometres west of the application area, and Lake Saide wetland, located approximately 3.5 kilometres south-west of the application area, separated by previously cleared land and road infrastructure. However, the application area includes vegetation growing within a roadside basin, which may be subject to waterlogging.</p> <p>The application area is not mapped within any surface or groundwater areas proclaimed under the <i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> (the RIWI Act) and does not transect any water resources proclaimed under either the <i>Metropolitan Water Supply Sewerage and Drainage Act 1909</i> or <i>Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947</i> (CAWS Act).</p> <p>Groundwater salinity within the application area is mapped at 500 to 1000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids.</p>
Flora	The desktop assessment identified that a total of 54 rare flora species have been recorded within the local area, comprising two Priority 1 (P1) flora, 10 Priority 2 (P2) flora, 18 Priority 3 (P3) flora, 19 Priority 4 (P4) flora, and five threatened flora (Western

Characteristic	Details
	<p>Australian Herbarium, 1998-). None of these existing records occur within the application area, with the closest record being an occurrence of <i>Boronia virgata</i> (P4) approximately one kilometre from the application area.</p> <p>With consideration for the site characteristics set out above, the adjacent land uses, relevant datasets (see Appendix F.1), the habitat preferences of the aforementioned species, and the distribution and extent of existing records, impacts to conservation significant flora species or significant habitat for these species were not considered likely to result from the proposed clearing and did not require further consideration.</p>
Ecological communities	<p>The desktop assessment identified that the closest state-listed threatened ecological community (TEC) is an occurrence of the Mount Lindesay - Little Lindesay Vegetation Complex TEC, located approximately 25.8 kilometres north-east of the application area.</p> <p>The closest state-listed priority ecological community (PECs) is an occurrence of the <i>Melaleuca spathulata/Melaleuca viminea</i> Swamp Heath PEC, approximately one kilometre north of the application area, separated by previously cleared residential properties and road infrastructure.</p>
Fauna	<p>The desktop assessment identified that a total of 79 threatened or priority fauna species have been recorded within the local area, including 36 threatened fauna species, 12 priority fauna species, 29 fauna species protected under international agreement, and two other specially protected fauna species (DBCA, 2007-). None of these existing records occur within the application area, with the closest record being an occurrence of <i>Calyptorhynchus latirostris</i> (Carnaby's cockatoo), approximately 500 metres west of the application area.</p> <p>With consideration for the site characteristics set out above, the adjacent land uses, relevant datasets (see Appendix F.1), and the habitat preferences of the aforementioned species, impacts to conservation significant fauna species or significant habitat for these species were not considered likely to result from the proposed clearing and did not require further consideration.</p>

B.2. Vegetation extent

	Pre-European extent (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Extent remaining (%)	Current extent in all DBCA managed land (ha)	Current proportion (%) of pre-European extent in all DBCA managed land
IBRA bioregion**					
Warren	833,985.56	659,432.21	79.07	558,485.38	66.97
Vegetation complex					
Beard vegetation association 3*	2,661,087.83	1,803,421.34	67.77	1469765.05	55.23
Vegetation complex in IBRA bioregion					
Beard vegetation association 3* (Warren)	250,262.10	195,318.18	78.05	170135.22	67.98
Local area					
20km radius	76,834.14	34,964.10	45.51	-	-

*Government of Western Australia (2019a)

**Government of Western Australia (2019b)

Appendix C. 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> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity."</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u> The area proposed to be cleared includes a 0.025-hectare stand of degraded <i>Melaleuca cuticularis</i> over sparse <i>Thryptomene</i> spp. with a sedge and weed understorey and is unlikely to contain locally or regionally significant flora, fauna, habitats, or assemblages of plants.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (b):</u> "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."</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u> The area proposed to be cleared comprises 0.025-hectare stand of degraded <i>Melaleuca cuticularis</i> over sparse <i>Thryptomene</i> spp. with a sedge and weed understorey and is isolated from larger remnants of suitable habitat in the local area by the adjacent road and previously cleared pastoral lands. Given the composition, extent and location of the vegetation, the application area is unlikely to contain significant foraging, roosting, or breeding habitat for conservation significant fauna.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No

<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> The area proposed to be cleared consists of a 0.025-hectare stand of degraded <i>Melaleuca cuticularis</i> over sparse <i>Thryptomene</i> spp. with a sedge and weed understorey that has been highly disturbed by historical clearing for the adjacent road and pasture. Noting the condition of the vegetation and that the application area has been subject to significant disturbance and fragmentation from the existing road infrastructure and adjacent land uses, the area proposed to be cleared is unlikely to provide significant habitat for or to be necessary for the continued existence of any threatened flora.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	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> The area proposed to be cleared includes a 0.025-hectare stand of degraded <i>Melaleuca cuticularis</i> over sparse <i>Thryptomene</i> spp. with a sedge and weed understorey and does not contain species that can indicate a threatened ecological community (TEC) listed under the BC Act. Noting this and the distance and separation from the nearest occurrence of a TEC, the application area is not considered to be necessary for the maintenance of any state-listed TEC.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	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> The extent of the mapped vegetation type and 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 isolated from larger remnants of vegetation and is not considered to be part of a significant ecological linkage in the local area.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
<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> Given the distance to the nearest conservation area and the isolation of the application area through surrounding cleared land and infrastructure, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any nearby conservation areas.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	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> Given the application area lies within a roadside drainage line and includes characteristic riparian vegetation, the vegetation is likely to be growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland and the proposed clearing has the potential to impact on- or off-site hydrology and water quality.</p>	May be at variance	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.</i>
<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> The mapped soils may be susceptible to land degradation resulting from subsurface acidification, phosphorus export and waterlogging. However, the application area includes 0.025 hectares of isolated and degraded roadside vegetation, adjacent to parkland cleared pasture on private properties. Given the extent and location of the application area and the condition of the vegetation, the proposed clearing is not considered likely to have an appreciable impact on land degradation.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No

<p><u>Principle (i):</u> "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."</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u> No natural watercourses or wetlands are recorded within the application area, and any surface water present is likely to be the result of run-off from the adjacent road. Given the extent of the proposed clearing, the condition of the vegetation, and that no proclaimed water resources are recorded within the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact surface or ground water quality.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (j):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding."</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u> 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. Although the application area is located within a roadside drainage line that may be subject to waterlogging, it is unlikely that the proposed clearing will cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding or waterlogging, given the extent of the clearing and condition of the vegetation proposed to be cleared.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No

Appendix D. Vegetation condition rating scale

Vegetation condition is a rating given to a defined area of vegetation to categorise and rank disturbance related to human activities. The rating refers to the degree of change in the vegetation structure, density and species present in relation to undisturbed vegetation of the same type. The degree of disturbance impacts upon the vegetation's ability to regenerate. Disturbance at a site can be a cumulative effect from a number of interacting disturbance types.

Considering its location, the scale below was used to measure the condition of the vegetation proposed to be cleared. This scale has been extracted from Keighery, B.J. (1994) *Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community*. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

Measuring vegetation condition for the South West and Interzone Botanical Province (Keighery, 1994)

Condition	Description
Pristine	Pristine or nearly so, no obvious signs of disturbance.
Excellent	Vegetation structure intact, with disturbance affecting individual species; weeds are non-aggressive species.
Very good	Vegetation structure altered, with obvious signs of disturbance. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by repeated fires, the presence of some more aggressive weeds, dieback, logging and/or grazing.
Good	Vegetation structure significantly altered by very obvious signs of multiple disturbances. Retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate it. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of some very aggressive weeds at high density, partial clearing, dieback and/or grazing.
Degraded	Basic vegetation structure severely impacted by disturbance. Scope for regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of very aggressive weeds, partial clearing, dieback and/or grazing.
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.

Appendix E. Photographs of the vegetation



Figure 2. Photographs of the vegetation proposed to be cleared (Great Southern Lime, 2021).

Appendix F. Sources of information

F.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)
- Cadastre (LGATE-218)
- Cadastre Address (LGATE-002)

- CAWSA Part 2A Clearing Control Catchments (DWER-004)
- Consanguineous Wetlands Suites (DBCA-020)
- 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
- South Coast Significant Wetlands (DBCA-018)

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)

F.2. References

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