



## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 925/1  
Permit type: Purpose Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Shire of Wiluna

### 1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 31 ON PLAN 238537 ( WILUNA 6646)  
LOT 35 ON PLAN 238567 ( LAKE CARNEGIE 6370)  
LOT 3 ON PLAN 238567 ( LAKE CARNEGIE 6370)  
LOT 4 ON PLAN 238538 ( LAKE CARNEGIE 6370)  
LOT 1 ON PLAN 238538 ( LAKE CARNEGIE 6370)  
LOT 2 ON PLAN 220396 ( LAKE CARNEGIE 6370)  
UNALLOCATED CROWN LAND ( LITTLE SANDY DESERT )  
Local Government Area: Shire Of Wiluna  
Colloquial name:

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
6.5		Mechanical Removal	Extractive Industry

## 2. Site Information

### 2.1. Existing environment and information

#### 2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description	Clearing Description	Vegetation Condition	Comment
Beard Vegetation Association 18: Low woodland; mulga (Acacia aneura)	The purpose of the proposed clearing is to develop and extend 6.5ha of gravel pits that are used by the Shire of Wiluna to maintain road infrastructure leading to the Gunbarrel Highway. All gravel pits have a depth of between 600mm to 1000mm. The areas are categorised into 4 different regions moving in a NN/E direction from Wonganoo Station at the southern end and finishing 230km further on to Glen Ayres Station at the northern end. The areas are located on either pastoral leases or unallocated crown land. Those on pastoral leases have been subject to cattle grazing both in the past and at present. The total area is divided up into approximately 11 smaller lots of equal to or less than 1ha.	Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994)	The information provided was submitted by the proponent upon application. Photos taken of each of the individual areas show some areas have been damaged by recent fires, others have been grazed by cattle and others have been impacted upon by previous works in the existing gravel pits.
Beard Vegetation Association 29: Sparse low woodland; mulga, discontinuous in scattered groups			
Beard Vegetation Association 39: Shrublands; mulga scrub			
Beard Vegetation Association 95: Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; acacia & grevillea over Triodia basedowii			
Beard Vegetation Association 107: Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; mulga and Eucalyptus kingsmillii over hard spinifex			
Beard Vegetation Association 676: Succulent steppe; samphire			
Beard Vegetation Association 1446: Succulent steppe with scrub; mulga over bluebush			

present. There are areas that have recently been destroyed by fire which are starting to show signs of regeneration of the understorey however the larger shrubs have yet to show any signs of recovery.

### 3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

#### (a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.

**Comments**      **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

The proposed clearing consists of 11 small areas (less than 1ha each) that total 6.5ha and are scattered over a 230km stretch of road. The clearing is being undertaken to either extend existing, or develop new gravel pits for road maintenance in the Shire of Wiluna. Photos provided by the proponent demonstrate that there is very little vegetation in these areas. It is unlikely that these small areas would constitute a high level of biodiversity, given the history of disturbance (from cattle grazing, previous gravel extraction and recent fires in the area).

Given the above, it is unlikely that the area under application if cleared would have an adverse effect on the biological diversity within the region.

**Methodology**    Proponent's Application (photos and gravel pit descriptions) (Trim Reference: IN 24243)  
GIS Databases  
-Pre-European Vegetation - DA 01/01

#### (b) 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 indigenous to Western Australia.

**Comments**      **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

The proposed clearing consists of 11 small areas (less than 1ha each) that total 6.5ha and are scattered over a 230km stretch of road. Photos taken by the proponent at each of the sites show that there is very little vegetation capable of providing habitat for endemic fauna. The majority of the gravel pits are located within close proximity to the road with the furthestmost being 80m from the road verge.

Given the small size of the areas to be cleared relative to the total area and the close proximity of the proposed clearing to the road, it is unlikely that clearing as proposed will be at variance to this Principle.

**Methodology**    Proponent's Application (photos and gravel pit descriptions) (Trim Reference: IN 24243)

#### (c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora.

**Comments**      **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

There are no known occurrences of Declared Rare Flora (DRF) species within close proximity to any of the areas under application. The nearest occurrences of DRF species are *Conospermum toddii* and *Thryptomene wittweri*, which occur over 150km from the Wonganoo Station and Glen Ayles/Sydney Heads gravel pit areas. These species are located on different vegetation types to the area under application. *Grevillea inconspicua* a priority 4 species is located 40km SE of the Wonganoo Station area. This is on a different vegetation type to the Wonganoo Station area.

Given the above, it is unlikely that the clearing as proposed would be at variance to this Principle.

**Methodology**    GIS Databases:  
-Declared Rare and Priority Flora List - CALM 13/08/03  
-Pre-European Vegetation - DA 01/01

**(d) 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.**

**Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

No Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) exist within any of the areas under application or within close proximity to these areas. The closest TECs are located 140km away from the Wonganoo Station area. While the TECs in some instances are located in similar vegetation types to some of the areas under application, it is unlikely that any TECs would be located in the areas under application given the differing soil types and the vast distance from the areas under application to the TECs (>200km).

**Methodology** GIS Databases:  
-Threatened Ecological Communities CALM 15/7/03  
-Soils, Statewide DA 11/99  
-Pre-European Vegetation - DA 01/01

**(e) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.**

**Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

The State Government is committed to the National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation which outlines a target that prevents clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30% of that present pre-European settlement (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002, EPA 2000). All vegetation representations within the area under application are above this 30% minimum (, Shepherd et al 2001, Hopkins et al 2001).

The vegetation contained within the areas under application consists of Beard vegetation associations 18, 29, 39, 95, 107, 676, and 1446 (Shepherd et al 2001, Hopkins et al 2001). All of these vegetation complexes have over 94% of their original extent remaining (Shepherd et al 2001, Hopkins et al 2001).

**Methodology** Shepherd et al. (2001)  
Hopkins et al (2001)  
Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)  
GIS Databases:  
-Pre-European Vegetation - DA 01/01

**(f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.**

**Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

The proposed clearing consists of 11 small areas (less than 1ha each) that total 6.5ha and are scattered over a 230km stretch of road. The areas to be cleared are to be used to develop gravel pits for road maintenance. From the photos provided by the proponent and from the descriptions of the Beard vegetation associations it is considered that none of the gravel pits are located in, or in association with an environment associated with a water course or wetland.

**Methodology** GIS Databases:  
-ANCA wetlands - CALM 08/01  
-Rivers 250K GA  
-Hydrography, linear - DOE 01/02/04

**(g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.**

**Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

Due to the small size of the areas under application (11 separate sites at <1ha) and given that they are scattered over 230km, it is unlikely that clearing as proposed will cause any appreciable land degradation.

**Methodology** Proponent's Application (Trim Reference: IN 24243)

**(h) 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.**

**Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

The areas under application are not located within or adjacent to any conservation areas. The closest conservation area is the historic Weld Spring reserve located 47km NW of the Sydney Heads/Glen Ayles area. Given the small size of the areas to be cleared (<1ha), it is unlikely that the clearing as proposed would have a significant impact on this conservation area.

**Methodology** GIS Databases:

**(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.**

**Comments** **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**  
 The proposed clearing consists of 11 small areas (less than 1ha each) that total 6.5ha and are scattered over a 230km stretch of road. Rainfall in the area averages 200-300mm per year and the evaporation rate is 3600-3800mm per annum. No surface expressions occur on any of the areas applied to be cleared and all water drains to the Carnegie lake system located east of all the areas under application.  
 Due to the small size of each area and their dispersal over 230km. It is unlikely that clearing as proposed will be at variance with this principle.

**Methodology** Proponents Application (Trim Reference: IN 24243)  
 GIS Databases:  
 -Groundwater Salinity, Statewide - 22/02/00  
 -Rainfall, Mean Annual BOM 30/09/01  
 -Topographic Contours, Statewide - DOLA 12/09/02.

**(j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.**

**Comments** **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**  
 The proposed clearing consists of 11 small areas (less than 1ha each) that total 6.5ha and are scattered over a 230km stretch of road. The clearing is to be carried out to either extend existing, or develop new gravel pits. The area to be cleared is sparsely vegetated and is made up of primarily gravelly soils. Rainfall in the area averages 200-300mm per year and the evaporation rate is 3600-3800mm per annum. No surface expressions occur on any of the areas applied to be cleared and all water drains to the Carnegie Lake System located east of the areas under application. Flood events can occur in the region due to cyclones breaking down into rain bearing depressions from the north west of the state and depositing large amounts of rainfall throughout the region, however this water is usually dispersed through the vast network of creeklines and water courses into Lake Carnegie.  
 Due to the small size of each area and their dispersal over 230km. It is unlikely that clearing as proposed will be at variance with this principle.

**Methodology** Proponents Application (Trim Reference: IN 24243)  
 GIS Databases:  
 -Soils, Statewide DA 11/99  
 -Groundwater Salinity, Statewide - 22/02/00  
 -Rainfall, Mean Annual BOM 30/09/01  
 -Topographic Contours, Statewide - DOLA 12/09/02.

**Planning instrument, Native Title, Previous EPA decision or other matter.**

**Comments**  
 The Minister for Lands has confirmed in writing, dated 24 January 2006, that it authorises the Shire of Wiluna to extract gravel at these locations. It is the Department's view that the grant of the clearing permit is a secondary approval that removes the EP Act's prohibition on the applicant exercising a right to clear native vegetation that arises pursuant to the authorisation from the Minister for Lands'. Accordingly, it is the Department's view that the CEO is not required to comply with future act procedures under the Native Title Act 1993.  
 The Department advises that the proponent contact the relevant authorities to seek advice on whether or not the road works will impact upon the Aboriginal Sites of Significance listed within the area under application.

**Methodology** Submission from Minister of Lands (DoE Trim Ref EI4677)  
 GIS Databases:  
 -Aboriginal Sites of Significance - DIA 28/02/03  
 -Native Title Claims - DLI 7/11/05  
 -DPI Permission for Native title EI 4677

**4. Assessor's recommendations**

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Decision	Comment / recommendation
Extractive Industry	Mechanical Removal	6.5	Grant	The application has been assessed and the clearing as proposed is not likely to be at variance with any of the clearing principles. The assessing officer recommends that the permit be granted.

## 5. References

- Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002) Biodiversity Action Planning. Action planning for native biodiversity at multiple scales ; catchment bioregional, landscape, local. Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Victoria.
- EPA (2000) Environmental protection of native vegetation in Western Australia. Clearing of native vegetation, with particular reference to the agricultural area. Position Statement No. 2. December 2000. Environmental Protection Authority.
- Hopkins, A.J.M., Beeston, G.R. and Harvey J.M. (2001) A database on the vegetation of Western Australia. Stage 1. CALM Science after J. S. Beard, late 1960's to early 1980's Vegetation Survey of Western Australia, UWA Press.
- Keighery, BJ (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, 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.

## 6. Glossary

Term	Meaning
CALM	Department of Conservation and Land Management
DAWA	Department of Agriculture
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection (now DoE)
DoE	Department of Environment
DoIR	Department of Industry and Resources
DRF	Declared Rare Flora
EPP	Environmental Protection Policy
GIS	Geographical Information System
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community
WRC	Water and Rivers Commission (now DoE)