

L & G Granite Pty Ltd Native Vegetation Clearing Permit Application

Supporting information.

Assessment Against Clearing Principles

Manmanning Quarry Project (M70/1300) is previously cleared (circa 1920) farming land of approximately 26.9ha. Around 1976, approximately 16ha was acquired by the WA Government Railway for a quarry reserve. The quarry reserve was utilised for 2 years, then remained idle until L&G Granite Pty Ltd took up the lease in 2011. The area of the lease outside the fenced quarry area is still utilised for wheat cropping and sheep grazing. A clearing permit was previously granted from 2014-2019 (CP 6092/1).

Schedule 5 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986 (EP Act)* specify 10 principles that provide decision makers with a guide on whether native vegetation should be cleared. The principles are used as a comparative tool by Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and Department of Mining, Industry Regulation and Safety in determining whether clearing activities are environmentally acceptable and capable of being appropriately managed. An assessment of the proposed 5ha of clearing as depicted in Figure 1 against the 10 clearing principles has been undertaken as is summarized in Table 1.

Table 1 Summary of Assessment Against the 10 Clearing Principles

Clearing Principle	In not at variance	May be at variance
a. Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.	X	
b. Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to WA.	X	
c. Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes or is necessary for the continued existence of rare flora.	X	
d. Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or part of or is necessary for the maintenance of a threatened ecological community (TEC).	X	
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.	X	
f. Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing, in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.	x	
g. Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.	X	
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.	X	
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.	x	
j. Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence of flooding.	X	

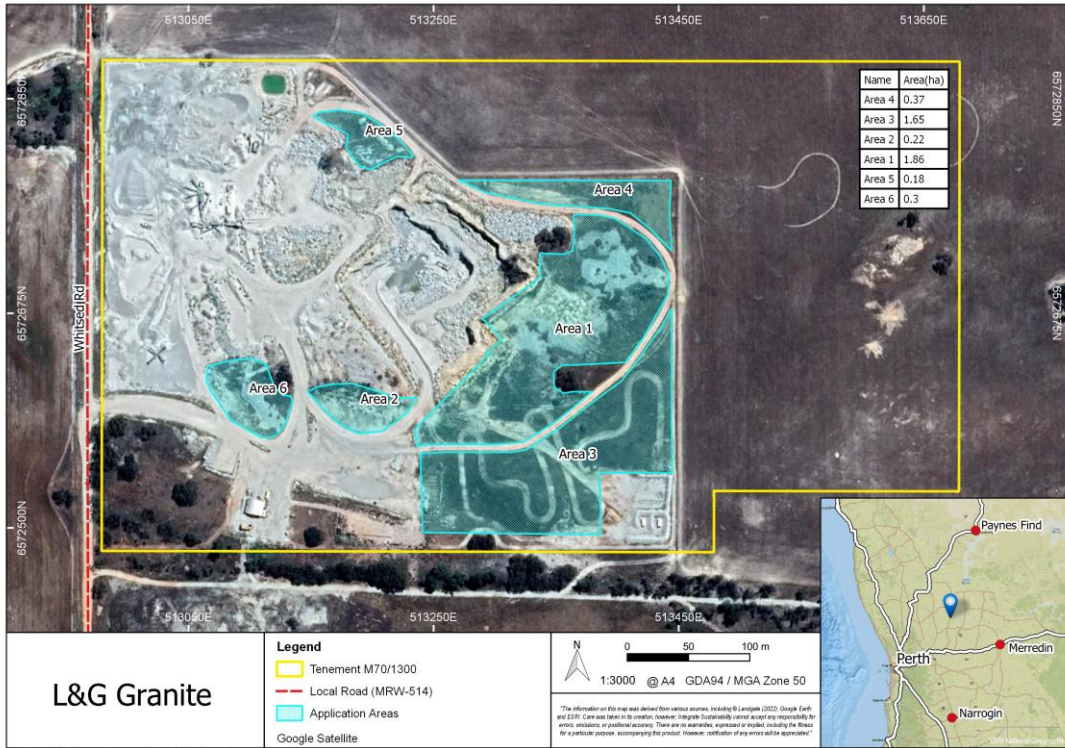


Figure 1 - Proposed Clearing and Exclusion Zones

- a Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity. The clearing application area has a long history of disturbance from agricultural and quarry activities and is no longer representative of any pre-European vegetation associations.

Figure 2, Figure 3, Figure 4 and Figure 5 show the vegetation disturbance from 2011 to 2018 and illustrate that the vegetation proposed to be cleared is in a highly degraded condition and as such is not considered of high biological diversity.

The proposed clearing is not considered in variance with this principle.



Figure 2 - 2011 Vegetation Disturbance



Figure 3 - 2012 Vegetation Disturbance



Figure 4 - 2015 Vegetation Disturbance



Figure 5 - 2018 Vegetation Disturbance

- b Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to WA.
Due to the historic clearing and disturbance, it is highly unlikely that the clearing application area constitutes critical habitat for conservation significant fauna. The exclusion of remnant pockets of vegetation in the clearing permit (Figure 1) will preserve any remaining habitat value.
The proposed clearing is not considered in variance with this principle.
- c Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes or is necessary for the continued existence of rare flora.
No known conservation significant flora have been recorded within the clearing application area.
The proposed clearing is not considered in variance with this principle.
- d Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or part of or is necessary for the maintenance of a threatened ecological community (TEC).
No Threatened Ecological Communities listed under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, 1999* (EPBC Act) or by the *Biodiversity Protection and Conservation Act, 2016* (BC Act) occur within the clearing application area.
No Priority Ecological Communities listed under the *BC Act* occur within the clearing application area.
The proposed clearing is not considered in variance with this principle.
- 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.
Pockets of remnant vegetation occur in the south-west corner of the clearing application area and two additional small areas along the southern boundary, these areas were excluded in the previous clearing permit (CP 6092/1) (Figure 1).

This application proposes to again exclude these remnant pockets of vegetation for their significance.

The proposed clearing is not considered in variance with this principle.

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

There are no water bodies or permanent rivers or creeks within or in the vicinity of the clearing application area. Vegetation within the clearing application area is not considered to be riparian in nature.

The proposed clearing is not considered in variance with this principle.

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

The clearing application area consists of paddock weeds and regrowth vegetation over a previously cleared area for quarrying operations, hence it is unlikely to cause any further land degradation.

The proposed clearing is not considered in variance with this principle.

- 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.**

The nearest conservation area is the A Class Moonjin Nature Reserve vested in the Conservation Commission of WA. The Moonjin Nature Reserve is located 6.7 kilometres north, north-east of the clearing application area.

Given the distance from the reserve, clearing within the application area is unlikely to impact the environmental values.

The proposed clearing is not considered in variance with this principle.

- 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.**

There are no water bodies or permanent rivers or creeks within the clearing application area. Based on the extensive clearing across the region and the small scale of the clearing application area, it is highly unlikely that the proposed clearing will have an effect on the quality of surface water or groundwater.

The proposed clearing is not considered in variance with this principle.

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

The region is not prone to flooding and there are no water bodies or permanent rivers or creeks within the clearing application area. The nearby Gomalling Station (Station No. 010058) records rainfall averages 364.6mm annually, with the lowest and highest rainfall in December (10.4mm) and June (65.7mm) retrospectively. Evaporation is not recorded for this weather station.

The proposed clearing is not considered at variance with this principle.