

PASTORAL LAND BOARD

Pastoral Land Act – section 38(1)(h)

CONSENT TO CLEAR PASTORAL LAND

PERMIT NUMBER: PLC07/3

DESCRIPTION OF LAND THE SUBJECT OF THE PERMIT

Station Name: Orange Creek
Pastoral Lease No: PPL 902
NT Portion: 652
Pastoral District: Southern Alice Springs Pastoral District

DETAILS OF APPROVED CLEARING

The Pastoral Land Board on 23 March 2007 granted consent to the clearing of approximately 5.07 hectares, in accordance with the attached schedule of conditions and the endorsed clearing plan Drawing No. 07/902/1.

REASONS FOR DECISION

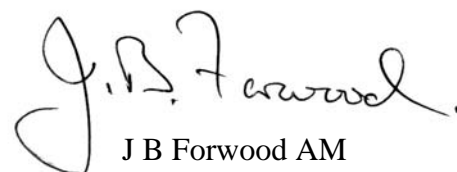
1. The application is in accordance with the Land Clearing Guidelines 2002.
2. Soil types in the areas approved for clearing are suitable for clearing and pastoral land use.
3. The property management plan for land clearing development addresses relevant resource management issues.

PERIOD OF THE PERMIT

This permit will lapse if clearing has not been completed within 2 years of the date of this permit; and the lessee will need to seek an extension of time from the Pastoral Land Board to complete the clearing.

APPEAL

Under section 119 of the *Pastoral Land Act*, a pastoral lessee who is dissatisfied with a decision of the Pastoral Land Board may appeal to the Pastoral Land Appeal Tribunal against the decision of the Board. Appeals may be lodged with the Registrar of the Appeal Tribunal within 28 days of notification of the decision of the Board.



J B Forwood AM
Chairman
Pastoral Land Board
5/4/2007

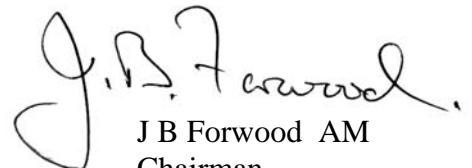
CONSENT TO CLEAR PASTORAL LAND

PERMIT NUMBER: PLC07/3 SCHEDULE OF CONDITIONS

1. Clearing carried out under this permit shall be in accordance with drawing number 07/902/1 endorsed as forming part of this permit, to the satisfaction of the Chairman, Pastoral Land Board.
2. Clearing and ongoing resource management shall be in accordance with the Property Management Plan for Land Clearing Development endorsed as forming part of this permit, to the satisfaction of the Chairman, Pastoral Land Board.

NOTES

1. The Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority recommends that the pastoral lessee obtain an Authority Certificate to indemnify against prosecution under the *Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989*.
2. The permit holder is advised that there are statutory obligations under *the Weeds Management Act 2001* to take all practical measures to manage weeds on the property. For advice on weed management please contact the Regional Weeds Officer, Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts on telephone 8951 9226.
3. Fire prevention measures are to be implemented in accordance with the requirements of the *Bushfires Act*. Permits must be obtained from the Regional Fire Control Officer of the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts (telephone 8952 3066) before ignition of any felled timber in this area.
4. The *Heritage Conservation Act 1991* protects archaeological places and objects, regardless of the level of documentation that the Office of Environment and Heritage has of such sites. It is an offence to undertake work on a place or object without the consent of the Minister for Environment and Heritage.
5. It is the responsibility of the pastoral lessee to refer the proposed development to the Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Heritage under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* should they believe the proposed development may have a significant impact on a matter of national environmental significance as outlined in that legislation.



J B Forwood AM
Chairman
Pastoral Land Board



This is the Property Management Plan for Land Clearing Development referred to in Pastoral Land Clearing Permit No. PLC07/3 issued on 5/4/2007

CHAIRMAN
PASTORAL LAND BOARD

Property Management Plan for Land Clearing Development

Pastoral Lease No: PPL 902 Orange Creek Station

1. Overview of Proposed Clearing & Whole Property Development

Summary of clearing & development program for the whole property.

Orange Creek Station comprises an area of 2321 km², and is located approximately 100 km south of Alice Springs.

The potential of the region for producing quality Lucerne pastures was realised in the early 1980's and subsequently 134 hectares was excised from the lease for this purpose.

In more recent times there has been emphasis placed on the potential for horticultural pursuits in the region, and the current clearing application refers to clearing 5 hectares for horticultural research/trial plantings of citrus and stone fruit varieties that are deemed to have potential for future production in Central Australia.

Orange Creek Station currently remains a pastoral lease and is dominantly in its native vegetative state.

The 5 hectares to be cleared is a very small area considering the total area of the property is 232,100 hectares.

The research information gained from the development of 5 hectares for trial purposes will significantly benefit the Central Australian horticultural industry.

Because of the small area of land involved the development will not impact upon the current livestock grazing practices or pastoral operation of the property.

If successful, the trial plantings may provide future opportunity for diversified additional potential income (\$) that can be injected back into the property for betterment, and allow for improved land management especially during times of drought etc.

Details of the natural resources (native vegetation and pasture, soils, waters, average rainfall) and current status (is native vegetation stable, current land condition and weed status).

Soils : Renner Landsystem – Undulating with broad valleys and strike rises up to 15 metres. Shallow calcareous earths.

Vegetation: Originally comprising southern bluebush. Dominated by Ironwood regrowth and Colony Wattle

Water: Suitable supplies of groundwater exist. A license is in place to extract 20 ML per year for agricultural purposes.

Rainfall: Approx 300 mm

Weeds: Woody weeds present eg, wattle spp

Rangeland Condition: Orange Creek Station is an active participant in the Tier 1 rangeland monitoring program and works in close liaison with NRETA Rangeland Management Branch.

How does the proposed clearing development fit into the long term aims for the property?

The development of 5 hectares for the purpose of horticultural research/trial plantings will serve to further improve relevant knowledge and understanding to the benefit of the Central Australian Horticultural Industry.

Knowledge gained may serve the future prosperity of industry to the benefit of the NT economy as a whole.

The long term aim is to improve both the economic viability and environmental sustainability of the property.

Number of cattle currently carried and proposed final number of cattle to be carried on the property following completion of the clearing development.

Orange Creek Station currently supports a herd of 3600 head of livestock.

The property comprises 232,100 hectares in total thus the utilisation of 5 hectares for trial planting purposes is not expected to alter current livestock numbers.

2. Cost and Benefit of Development

Total cost of initial development is estimated at \$100,000.00

Ongoing annual maintenance costs of \$5000.00 per annum for fertilizers, chemical, maintenance etc is anticipated.

Given that the development is primarily for research purposes, it is difficult to derive a monetary (\$) benefit.

The overall benefit of the project will be the research knowledge gained that can be applied to improving the NT horticultural Industry in Central Australia.

3. Details of Proposed Clearing

Areas not to be cleared due to natural resource limitations (slope, rock outcrop, seasonal inundation, poor soils, highly erodible soils, watercourse and drainage line buffers and native vegetation strips to be retained for soil and drainage management).

All clearing will be completed in accordance with the "Pastoral Land Clearing Guidelines". No excessive slope will be cleared. Drainage lines, riparian vegetation, erodible soils etc; will not be cleared. Due to the small area of land proposed to be cleared the majority of the landscape will remain in its native condition allowing for the free passage of wildlife.

Areas not to be cleared due to environmental and heritage considerations identified in Section II on the application form. Areas to be retained for wildlife corridors.

No sites identified.

Details of clearing method, technique & timing of each stage (eg chaining, windrowing, raking, burning, pin wheel rake, site preparation).

A D6 dozer with 20' stickrake will be utilised to knock down and rake vegetation for burning. Ironwood and wattle will be cleared whilst large trees will be retained in areas outside of the orchard planting.

Details of waterway establishment, graded banks and other earthworks for run off management and infrastructure development.

Land to be cleared is of low slope with no specific drainage lines (no drainage lines will be cleared). Fruit trees will assist in preventing erosion problems.

Earthworks should not be required.

Details of pasture establishment and development methods (species, sowing rates, sowing methods, fertiliser regimes).

Fruit trees will be planted at the recommended spacing for the particular type and size of the tree and watered via drip irrigation techniques.

4. Ongoing Resource Management

Grazing regimes and pasture management plan (periods of stocking, stocking rates, spelling, fertiliser and woody regrowth management)

It is not intended to graze stock on the development

A fertiliser and weed control program will be implemented as required for the particular species of tree and is expected to cost approximately \$5000.00 per annum for fertiliser, chemical etc.

Weed Management Plan (to include weed species present, area of weeds, areas at risk, control measures proposed, including measures to prevent new weed infestations)

Orange Creek Station has an integrated weed management plan in place.

All employees are made aware of best practice techniques that will prevent infestation and spread of weeds.

Preventative and monitoring practices will be implemented to ensure that all equipment will arrive on property in clean weed free condition.

Any noted weeds will be mechanically or chemically removed via spot spray in the first instance prior to any seed set. The land will be kept clean thus eliminating the requirement for any broad scale spray program etc; although appropriate machinery is present on the property should it ever be required.

Exotic Pasture Species Management Plan (to include details of exotic pasture species and areas planted. Buffer zones around exotic pasture species, location of watercourses, measures proposed to prevent spread to non target areas, grazing systems, location of fences & watering points)

No exotic pasture species is intended to be planted.

The fruit trees pose no potential for uncontrolled spread.

Fire Management Plan (use of fire for management and protection from wildfires.

Orange Creek currently maintains a network of strategically located firebreaks and maintains fire fighting equipment on the property, although fire is not considered to be a common problem in the region.

Native Vegetation Management Plan (prevention of degradation to remaining native vegetation, including native vegetation buffers).

The property comprises 232,100 hectares in total thus the utilisation of 5 hectares for trial planting purposes is not expected to significantly impact on the remaining 232,095 hectares of the property that will remain in its native vegetative state.

Because of the small area of land involved there should be no requirement for native vegetation buffers etc.

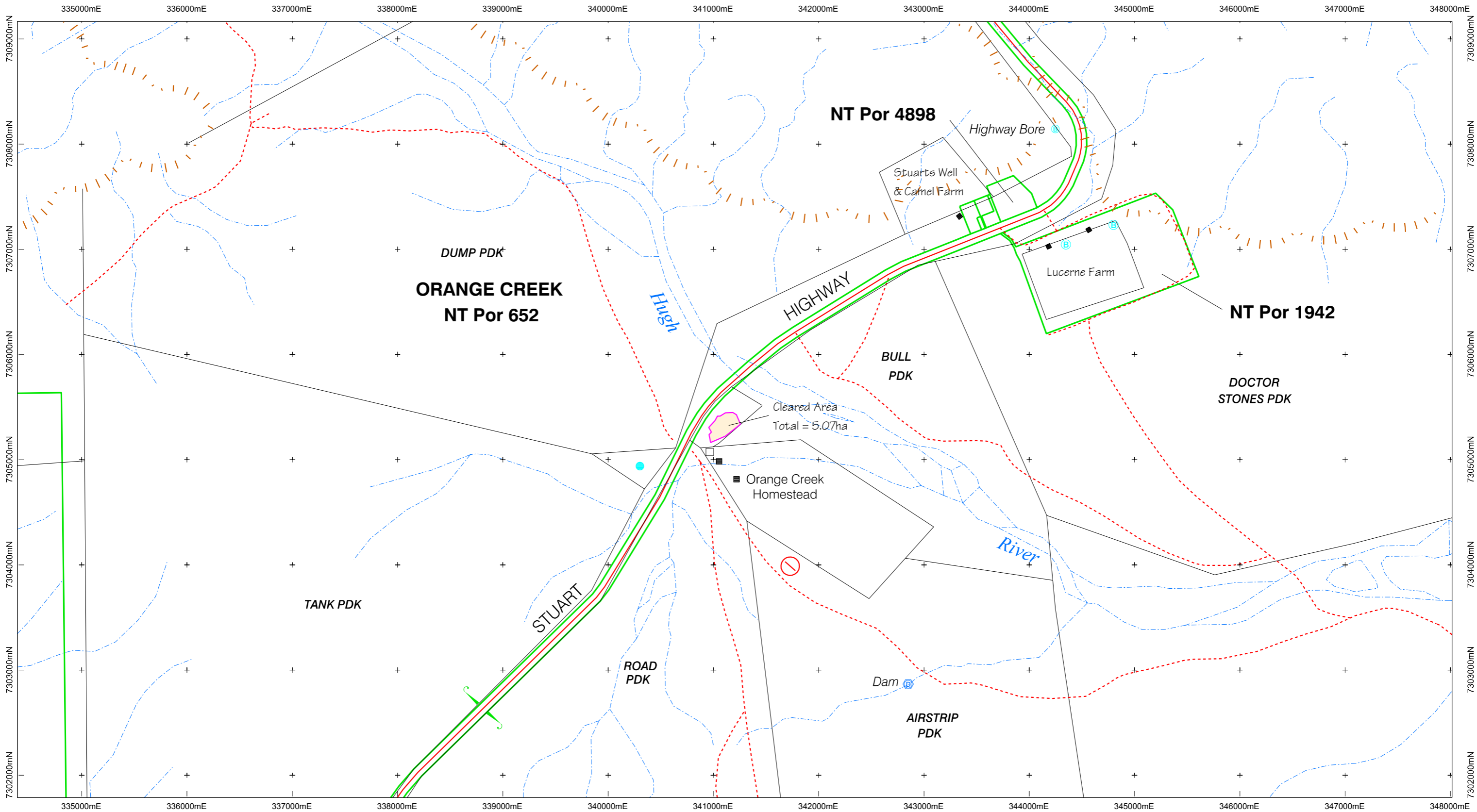
Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (erosion prevention and strategies for rehabilitation if erosion occurs).

Land is of low slope, small in total area, and will be planted to trees, thus no sediment control program is considered to be required.








Feral Animal Management Plan

The trial area will be fenced thus all livestock including feral animal will be restricted from entry.

Walter Klein
14/2/07



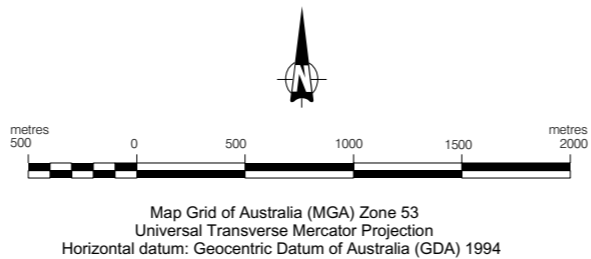
LEGEND

-  AREA TO BE CLEARED
-  Fencelines; Stock/Drafting Yards
-  Cadastral Boundary
-  Highway Sealed
-  Tracks
-  Perennial Creek
-  Non Perennial Creek

Property Infrastructure:
 Rangelds Management Branch, DNRETA, Darwin.
 (Current as at last DNRETA inspection date of 25/10/2006).
 For further property details refer to ORC.pdf from the department.

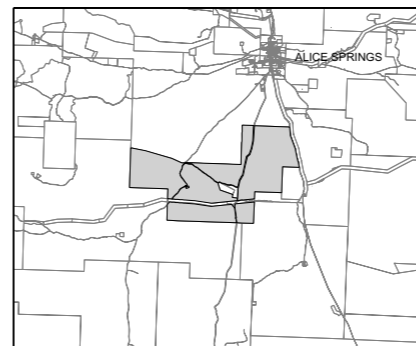
Cleared Area
 Proposed by applicant and drawn using GPS point data
 supplied by the Rangelds Management Branch, Palmerston, N.T.

Map Produced by:
 Rangelds Management Branch, DNRETA, Palmerston, N.T.



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LOCALITY



Drawing No. 07 / 902 / 1
**ORANGE CREEK
 PASTORAL LEASE
 NT Por 652 PPL 902**
**AREA APPROVED
 FOR CLEARING**

This is the drawing referred to in Pastoral Land Clearing

Permit No:

Issued on:

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 CHAIRMAN, PASTORAL LAND BOARD

For further information contact
 Director Rangelds Management Branch
 Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts
 Phone: (08) 8999 4474, Fax: (08) 8999 4403
 Plot file reference - Rangelds Management, Palmerston
 CLR 07D902.pdf, Date: 8th March, 2007.