



Chief Executive Officer  
Shire of Roebourne  
PO Box 219  
KARRATHA WA 6714

Your Ref LP.75, O90930  
Our Ref A370323  
Enquiries Gerard O'Brien  
Phone 6145 0814

ATTENTION: Patrick McClure

Dear Sir/Madam

**DECISION UNDER SECTION 48A(1)(a)**  
***Environmental Protection Act 1986***

**SCHEME AMENDMENT TITLE:** Shire of Roebourne TPS 8 Amendment 21  
Omnibus amendment to reflect the Karratha  
City Growth Plan  
**RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY:** Shire of Roebourne  
**DECISION:** Scheme Amendment Not Assessed – Advice  
Given (no appeals)

Thank you for referring the above scheme amendment to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA).

After consideration of the information provided by you, the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) considers that the proposed scheme amendment should not be assessed under Part IV Division 3 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) but nevertheless provides the following advice and recommendations.

**ADVICE AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**1. Environmental Issues**

- Hydrological Processes
- Flora and vegetation
- Terrestrial Fauna
- Heritage

**2. Advice and recommendations regarding Environmental Issues**

Hydrological Processes

The EPA supports that any subdivision or development within the future Development Areas will require the preparation of a development plan in

accordance with Appendix 8 of Town Planning Scheme No. 8. These will in turn require the preparation of a Local Water Management Strategy to be approved by the Department of Water. The EPA understands this is an existing framework already undertaken by the Shire of Roebourne.

#### Flora and vegetation

The EPA notes that Vegetation Association V3: Eragrostis Tussock Grassland recorded in the Flora and Fauna Assessment (GHD 2011) appears to align with the Priority Ecological Community (PEC) Horseflat land system of the Roebourne Plains (Priority 3). There are 'Development Areas' (DAs) under proposed amendment which contain Vegetation Association V3, and according to the vegetation condition mapping are in good, very good, excellent or pristine condition.

The EPA further notes that there are no occurrences of this PEC found within the Department of Parks and Wildlife's (DPaW's) conservation reserve system, and the majority of existing communities have been heavily grazed, fragmented or degraded through weed invasion. Further development in close proximity to the PEC may cause increased degradation through weed invasion, introduction of feral animals, and recreational vehicle use.

The EPA considers that development should be avoided in areas where the PEC is in good or better than good condition; there are portions of DAs 29 and 30 which contain Vegetation Association V3 in pristine condition. The development of areas in close proximity to occurrences of V3 should be managed appropriately to ensure that any potential indirect impacts (e.g. spread of weeds, uncontrolled public access) to the PEC are either avoided or kept to the minimum. The EPA recommends you liaise with DPaW in this regard.

#### Terrestrial Fauna

The EPA notes that DPaW have advised that populations of the Northern Quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*) have been known to exist within the Karratha Hills area; DA 26. The Northern Quoll is listed as 'Endangered' under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* and the Commonwealth's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

The EPA recommends that a targeted survey should be undertaken for the Northern Quoll within DA 26 prior to development to confirm whether the population is present and whether development will have a significant impact on the Northern Quoll. If a population of the Northern Quoll is found and development is considered to have a significant impact, the EPA would support the population being protected to the satisfaction of DPaW through either retention of an appropriate area or a relocation program. The EPA advises you liaise with DPaW in this regard.

#### Heritage

The EPA has received advice from the then Department of Indigenous Affairs (now Department of Aboriginal Affairs (DAA)) that the amendment area contains a number of heritage sites registered under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* (AH Act). If sites cannot be avoided, any proposed disturbance to Aboriginal heritage sites will require an application under section 18 of the AH Act.

It is important to note that areas in and around the town of Karratha are within the Ngarluma Native Title Determination Area. The Ngarluma People also have an active application under Native Title for the entire town of Karratha. It is noted that prior to any development taking place in any DA that a heritage survey will be undertaken by a qualified anthropologist in conjunction with the Ngarluma Aboriginal Corporation. The EPA also supports the DAA recommendation that consideration be given to archaeological surveys being undertaken where there is likely to be Aboriginal heritage material to ensure sufficient knowledge of the Aboriginal heritage values within the proposed project area to avoid committing an offence under section 17 of the AH Act.

### **3. General Advice**

- For the purposes of Part IV of the EP Act, the scheme amendment is defined as an assessed scheme amendment. In relation to the implementation of the scheme amendment, please note the requirements of Part IV Division 4 of the EP Act.
- There is no appeal right in respect of the EPA's decision on the level of assessment of scheme amendments.
- A copy of this advice will be sent to relevant authorities and made available to the public on request.

Yours faithfully



Darren Foster  
Director  
Strategic Policy and Planning Division

7 April 2014