GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS
Area Permit Number: 8030/1
File Number: DER2018/000495
Duration of Permit: From 24 November 2018 to 24 November 2020

PERMIT HOLDER
Shire of Wyalkatchem

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE
Road Reserve (PIN 1299003), Benjaberring

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY
The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 0.053 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 8030/1.

CONDITIONS

1. Avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing

In determining the amount of native vegetation to be cleared authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder must have regard to the following principles, set out in 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.

2. Weed control

When undertaking any clearing or other activity authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder must take the following steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *weeds*:

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

3. Records must be kept

The Permit Holder must maintain the following records for activities done pursuant to this Permit, in relation to the clearing of native vegetation authorised under this Permit:

(a) 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 or decimal degrees;
(b) the date that the area was cleared;
(c) the size of the area cleared (in hectares);
(d) actions taken to avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing in accordance with condition 1 of this Permit; and
(e) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *weeds* in accordance with condition 2 of this Permit.

4. Reporting

The Permit Holder must provide to the *CEO* the records required under condition 3 of this Permit, when requested by the *CEO*.

DEFINITIONS

The following meanings are given to terms used in this Permit:

CEO means the Chief Executive Officer of the Department responsible for the administration of the clearing provisions under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*;

fill means material used to increase the ground level, or fill a hollow;

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;

weed/s means any plant -

(a) that is a declared pest under section 22 of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*; or

(b) published in a Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions Regional Weed Rankings Summary, regardless of ranking; or

(c) not indigenous to the area concerned.

S. Weighell

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Simon Weighell
Date: 2018.10.25
15:03:16 +08'00'

Simon Weighell
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

Officer delegated under Section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

25 October 2018

Plan 8030/1

Legend

- CPS areas approved to clear
- Local Government Authorities
- Road Centrelines

Image

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MGA 94
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

S. Weighell

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Officer with delegated authority under Section 20 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Government of Western Australia
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: CPS 8030/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Shire of Wyalkatchem

1.3. Property details

Property: ROAD RESERVE - 1299003, BENJABERRING
Local Government Authority: Shire of Wyalkatchem
DBCA Region: Wheatbelt
Localities: BENJABERRING

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
0.053		Mechanical Removal	Sightlines

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 25 October 2018
Reasons for Decision: The clearing permit application was received on 23 March 2018 and has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with section 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, and it has been concluded that the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to any of the clearing principles.

The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing is not likely to have any unacceptable environmental impacts.

2. Site Information

Clearing Description: The application is for the proposed clearing of 0.053 hectares of native vegetation within Goomalling-Merredin Road Reserve (PIN 1299003), Benjaberring for the purposes of improving sight distance at intersection as part of Blackspot Program. The application area is shown in Figure 1.

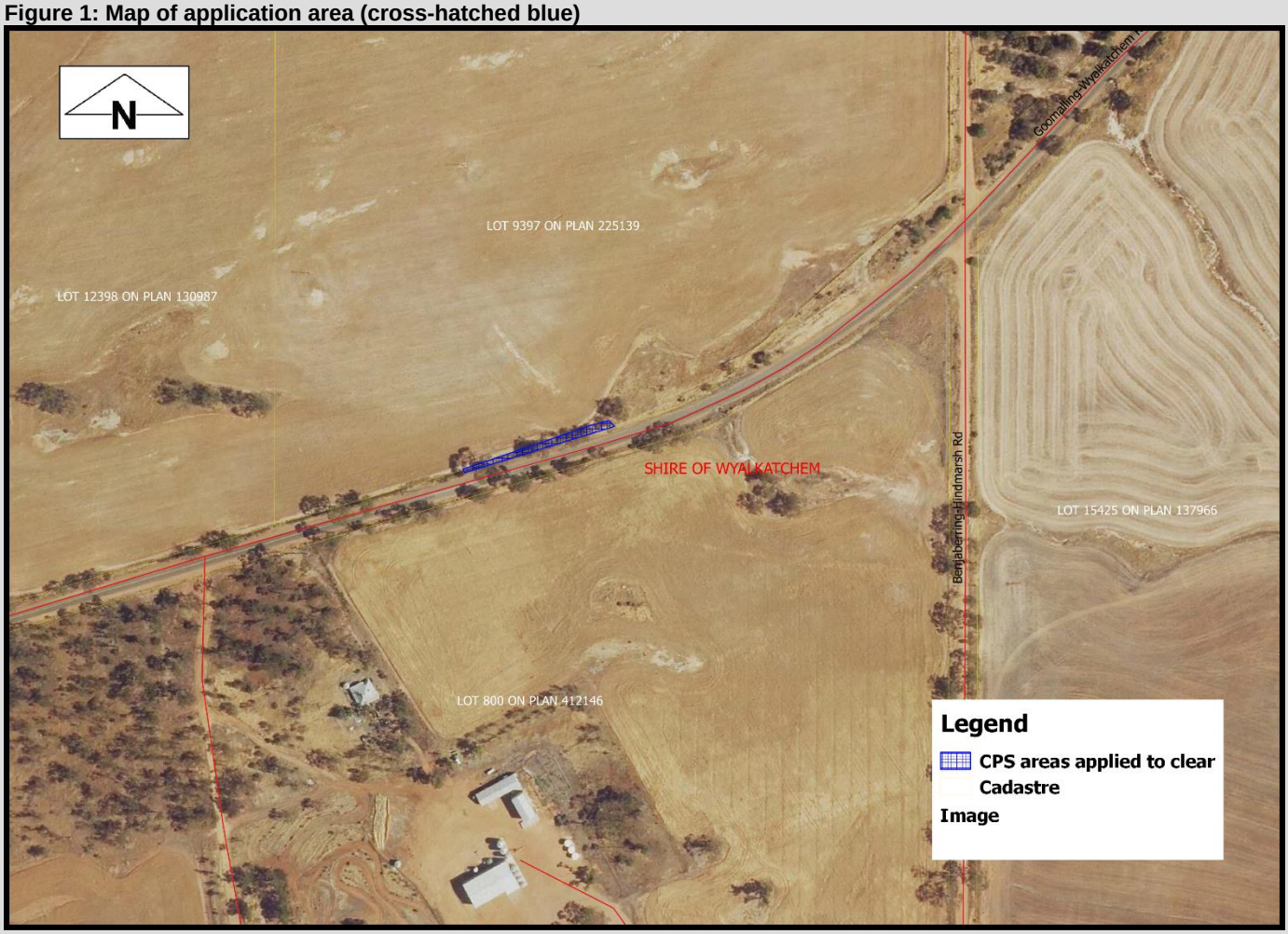
Vegetation Description: The vegetation within the application area is mapped as Beard vegetation association Jibberding (System 1049): Medium woodland; wandoo, York gum, salmon gum, morrel & gimlet (Government of Western Australia, 2018).

Vegetation Condition: The condition of the vegetation within the application area is completely degraded: the structure of the vegetation is no longer intact and the area is completely or almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994). The condition of the vegetation was determined from areal imagery and photographs provided by the applicant (Shire of Wyalkatchem, 2018).

Soil and Landform Type: The application area is mapped as Kwolyin, Kwelkan Subsystem (258KyKW), described as undulating granitic low hills, in the central zone of ancient drainage, with bare rock, deep sandy duplex (grey and red), shallow sand (red and yellow/brown) and red loamy duplex (Schoknecht et al., 2004).

Comments: The local area referred to in the assessment of this application is defined as a 10 kilometre radius measured from the perimeter of the application area. The local area contains approximately 10 per cent native vegetation cover.

Figure 1: Map of application area (cross-hatched blue)



3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

According to available databases, two rare flora species and 21 priority flora species have been recorded within the local area. Noting the condition of the vegetation within the application area, in particular the completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the understorey, no rare or priority flora species are considered likely to occur within the application area. The vegetation within the application area is unlikely to include, or be necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora.

Five threatened fauna species, three priority fauna species, two other specially protected fauna species and two fauna species protected under international agreement have been recorded within the local area (DBCA, 2007-). Noting the extent of the proposed clearing and the condition of the vegetation within the application area, the application area is not likely comprise significant habitat for indigenous fauna.

The eucalypt woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt threatened ecological community (TEC) has been mapped in the local area, with the closest occurrence of this TEC within 350 metres of the application area. This TEC is listed as 'Priority 3(iii)' by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), and as a 'Critically Endangered' TEC under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The Approved Conservation Advice for this TEC specifies a number of key diagnostic criteria for vegetation to be considered representative of this TEC (TSSC, 2015). Noting these criteria, the vegetation within the application area does not meet the minimum patch size or condition threshold to be classified as this TEC. The application area is not likely to comprise the whole or part of, or be necessary for the maintenance of, a TEC.

The national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia has a target to prevent clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30 per cent of that present pre-1750 (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001). This is the threshold level below which species loss appears to accelerate exponentially at an ecosystem level. The Avon Wheatbelt Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) bioregion retains approximately 1,761,227 hectares (18 per cent) of its pre-European extent of native vegetation, and the mapped Beard Vegetation Association retains approximately 56,618 hectares (7 per cent) of its pre-European extent within the Avon Wheatbelt IBRA bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2018). Noting that the current vegetation extents for the bioregion and mapped Beard vegetation association within the bioregion are all below the 30 per cent threshold, the application area is considered to be within an extensively cleared area. The application area contains native vegetation in a completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition, with virtually no native understorey and does not comprise significant habitat for indigenous fauna. On this basis, and noting the extent of the proposed clearing, the application area is unlikely to be significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.

No watercourses or wetlands are mapped within the application area. The application area is approximately 100 metres northwest of a minor, non-perennial watercourse. However, noting the size of the application area and the type and condition of the vegetation within the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on vegetation growing in association with a wetland or watercourse.

The proposed clearing is not likely to be of a scale that would cause appreciable land degradation, cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water, or cause or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding.

The nearest conservation area is located over four kilometres from the application area. Noting the size of the application area and the distance to the nearest conservation area, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on the environmental values of nearby conservation areas.

The assessment has found that the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to any of the clearing principles.

Planning instruments and other relevant matters

DBCA Wheatbelt region advised that they have no local knowledge pertaining to this particular application and that based on the DWER information provided the impacts appear minimal (DBCA, 2018).

The application was advertised on the Department's website on 3 April 2018, inviting submissions from the public within a fourteen day period. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

There are no Aboriginal Sites of Significance mapped within the application area.

4. References

Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) (2007-) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Parks and Wildlife. URL: http://naturemap.dpaw.wa.gov.au/. Accessed May 2018.

Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) (2018) Advice provided in relation to clearing permit application CPS 8030/1, received 12 September 2018 (DWER ref. A1727554).

Government of Western Australia (2018) 2017 South West Vegetation Complex Statistics. Current as of October 2017. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Perth, https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca

Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

Schoknecht, N., Tille, P. and Purdie, B. (2004) Soil-landscape mapping in South-Western Australia – Overview of Methodology and outputs' Resource Management Technical Report No. 280. Department of Agriculture.

Shire of Wyalkatchem (2018) Application for a clearing permit and supporting document. Emailed to DWER by the Shire of Wyalkatchem on 23 March 2018 (DWER Ref: A1640216).

Threatened Species Scientific Committee (TSSC) (2015). Approved Conservation Advice (including listing advice) for the Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt. Department of the Environment, Canberra. Available from: http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/communities/pubs/128-conservation-advice.pdf.

GIS Databases:

- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
- Beard Vegetation
- Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas
- Carnaby's cockatoo: breeding, roosting, feeding
- Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions, Tenure
- Geomorphic Wetlands, Wheatbelt
- Hydrology, linear
- IBRA Australia
- Land for Wildlife
- PDWSA, CAWSA, RIWI Act Areas
- Remnant vegetation
- SAC Biodatasets (accessed October 2018)
- Soils, statewide