



# Clearing in controlled catchments

*Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947*

## Purpose

This fact sheet provides information on when a *Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947* (CAWS Act) licence from the Department of Water is required to undertake the clearing of native vegetation.

## Controlled catchments

There are six catchments in Western Australia where additional clearing controls may apply. These are the:

- Denmark River Catchment Area;
- Harris River Dam Catchment Area;
- Kent River Water Reserve;
- Mundaring Weir Catchment Area;
- Warren River Water Reserve; and
- Wellington Dam Catchment Area.

## When is a CAWS Act licence required?

Clearing in controlled catchments has been controlled under the CAWS Act since the mid-1970s. These controls were implemented to protect the quality of some existing and potential water supply catchments where uncontrolled clearing of native vegetation would cause salinisation of water resources.

Until the introduction of the *Environmental Protection (EP) Act 1986* clearing regulations in July 2004, a CAWS Act licence was required to clear vegetation in these catchments.

Now if a clearing permit under the EP Act has been issued, it is not necessary to obtain a licence under the CAWS Act as well, except if compensation for the refusal of a CAWS Act licence has been paid to a previous applicant.

Note though if an EP Act permit exemption applies a CAWS Act licence will still be required, unless there is a CAWS Act exemption, before native vegetation may be cleared in these catchments.

If you propose to clear in these special areas, you will need to check with the Department of Environment Regulation (DER) on +61 8 6467 5000 to determine whether an EP Act permit and/or CAWS Act licence is required.

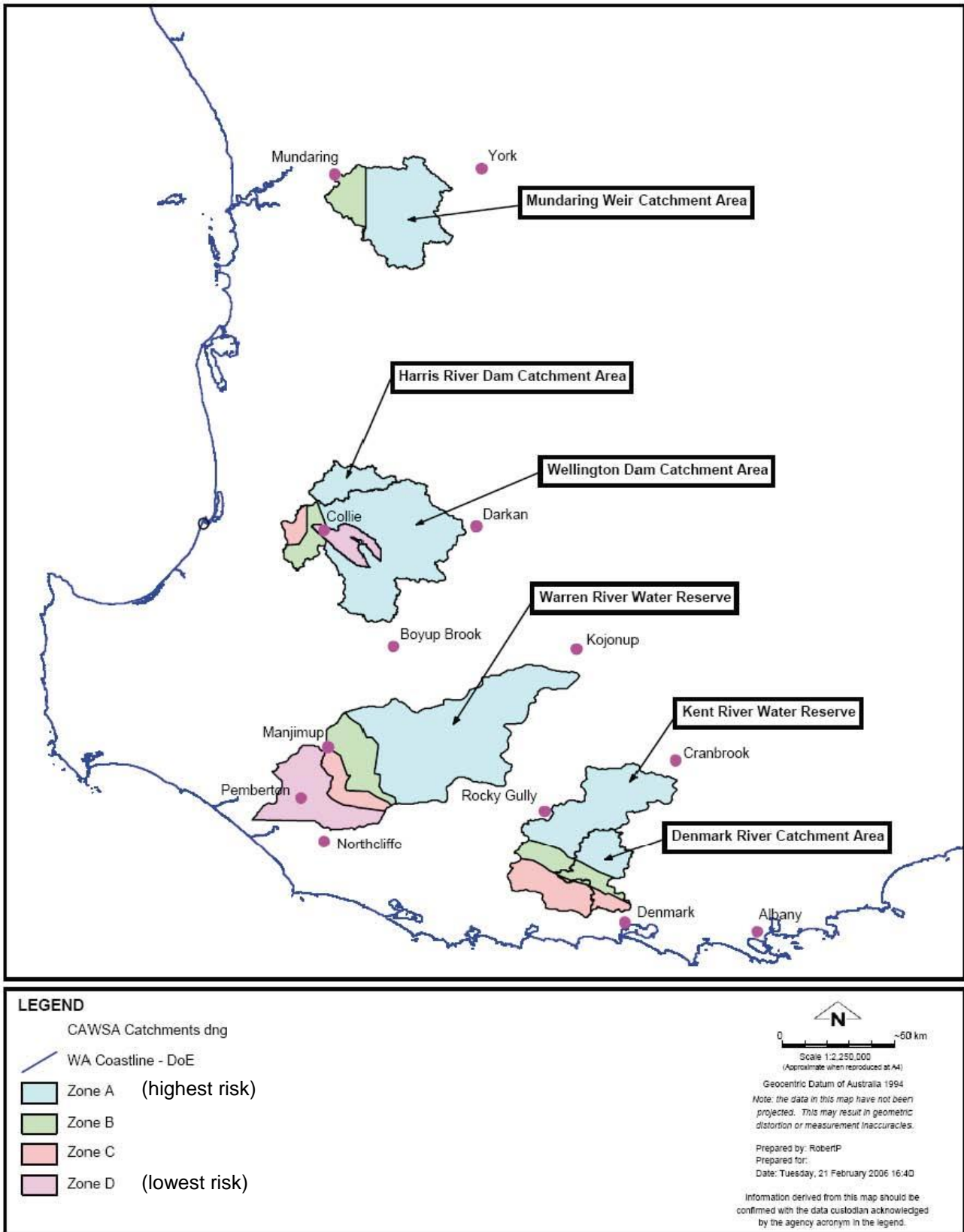


Figure 1: CAWS Act Catchments

## More information

For advice on native vegetation clearing, or related matters, please contact DER on +61 8 6467 5000.

This document is available in alternative formats and other languages on request.

## Related documents

More guidelines and fact sheets on native vegetation clearing processes are available from [DER's website](#).

## Legislation

This document is provided for guidance only. It should not be relied upon to address every aspect of the relevant legislation. Please refer to the State Law Publisher (SLP) for copies of the relevant legislation, available electronically from the [SLP website](#).

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## Legal advice

The information provided to you by DER in relation to this matter does not constitute legal advice. Due to the range of legal issues potentially involved in this matter, DER recommends that you obtain independent legal advice.