

29 January 2024

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
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To Whom it May Concern,

RE –Lots 2 & 10910 (879) Middlesex Road, Smith Brook - Clearing Permit Application

Please find herein information pertaining to a clearing permit (area) application on behalf of Alana Starkie (herein referred to as the applicant).

Background

The applicant is proposing to undertake works including the removal of vegetation within Lots 2 and 10910 Middlesex Road, Smith Brook in two areas (refer to **Figure 1** and **2**) (herein referred to as the subject site). The subject site is located in the municipality of the Shire of Manjimup, approximately 10 km south of the Manjimup town centre.

The proposed works will require the removal of approximately 7.77 hectares (ha) of *Euclayptus diversicolor* (karri) vegetation with no understorey to allow for pivot irrigation to occur for cattle fodder, and approximately 0.90 ha of *Eucalyptus patens* along the banks of a constructed dam, an area which is expected to be inundated during wet seasons resulting in the possible death of these trees.

Accordingly, to enable the progression of the proposal, a clearing permit application pursuant to the *Environmental Protection Act 1987* is required. Photographs of the trees subject to clearing on the banks of the dam are provided below in **Plates 1 – 3**. The karri stands subject to clearing are shown in **Plates 4 – 7**. The trees are in stands of isolated vegetation and given the lack of connectivity to other native vegetation, are not associated with any vegetation communities.



Plate 1: *Eucalyptus patens* on the bank of the dam subject to inundation.



Plate 2: *Eucalyptus patens* subject to inundation.



Plate 3: *Eucalyptus patens* subject to inundation.



Plate 4: *Eucalyptus diversicolor* area 1 subject to clearing.



Plate 5: *Eucalyptus diversicolor* area 1 subject to clearing.



Plate 6: *Eucalyptus diversicolor* area 1 subject to clearing.



Plate 7: *Eucalyptus diversicolor* area 2 subject to clearing.

Avoidance and Mitigation Measures

The applicant undertook an assessment of the subject site prior to determining clearing requirements. The proposed clearing has been situated to avoid clearing vegetation with value as an ecological linkage as far as practicable while still providing suitable areas for horticultural activities. It is considered that no other reasonable and practicable avoidance measures can be implemented within the clearing footprint.

In order to reduce the impacts from the proposed action, the following management measures will be implemented as described below:

Fauna Management

The proposed management actions to mitigate potential impacts to fauna include:

- Peg/flag areas to be cleared to avoid any unnecessary disturbance to adjacent vegetation;
- Restrict all vehicle use to designated roads and access tracks;
- Enforce compliance with onsite speed limits at all times;
- During clearing, a qualified fauna expert will be present to direct clearing operators, particularly when clearing trees that are occupied by fauna, to ensure that these are cleared in a way that allows the animals to safely mobilise to adjacent areas. In addition, they will supervise any animal handling and the rescue of injured animals should this be required;
- If clearing during black cockatoo breeding season (i.e. August to May), check potential habitat trees (i.e. DBH in excess of 50 cm) for nesting hollows; and
- If active black cockatoo nests are located in the clearing footprint, do not clear until fledglings have left the nest.

Weed and Pathogen Management

The proposed management actions to mitigate potential impacts associated with weeds and pathogens include:

- All earthmoving and ground engaging equipment will be inspected and cleaned of vegetation, mud and soil prior to entry and exit of the impact area.

Vegetation Retention

It is proposed to conserve two areas of native vegetation comprising of *Eucalyptus diversicolor* forest in very good to excellent condition, approximately 2.6 and 5.2 ha in size (refer to **Figure 2**). A conservation covenant will be placed over these areas to ensure conservation in perpetuity. Photos of these areas are provided in **Plates 8-11**.



Plate 8: Example of vegetation within retention area 1.



Plate 9: Example of vegetation within retention area 1.



Plate 9: Example of vegetation within retention area 2.



Plate 9: Example of vegetation within retention area 2.

Summary

Given the completely degraded condition of the vegetation within the subject site, and the history of anthropogenic disturbances, it is anticipated that there will be no residual impacts that will require the implementation of offsets beyond the proposed vegetation retention.

I trust this information is sufficient for your purposes. Should you have any queries or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

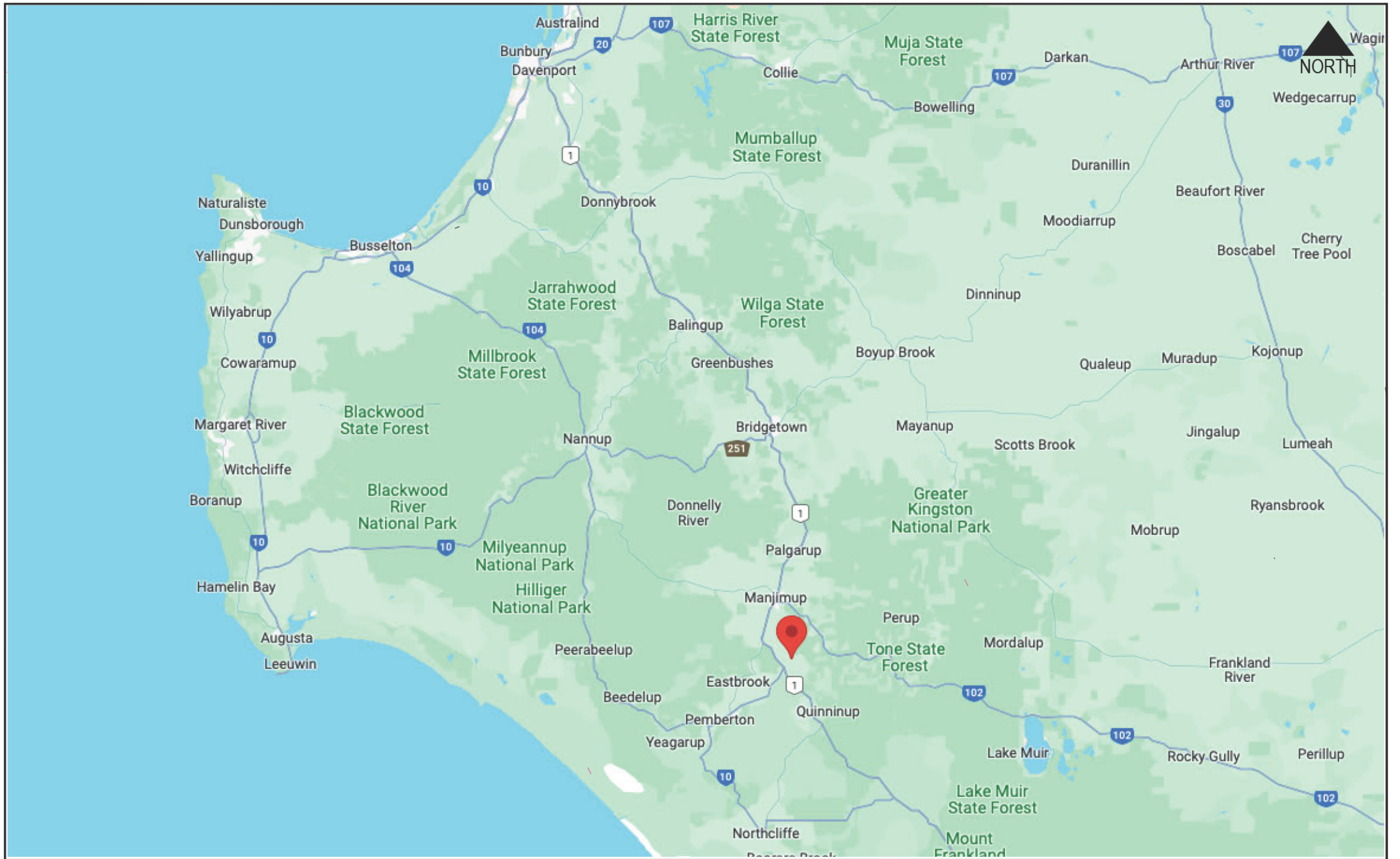
Yours sincerely,



Environmental Consultant



FIGURES



PROJECT **879 Middlesex Road, Middlesex**
 DRAWING TITLE **Figure 2 - Site Locality**
 CLIENT **Alana Starkie**

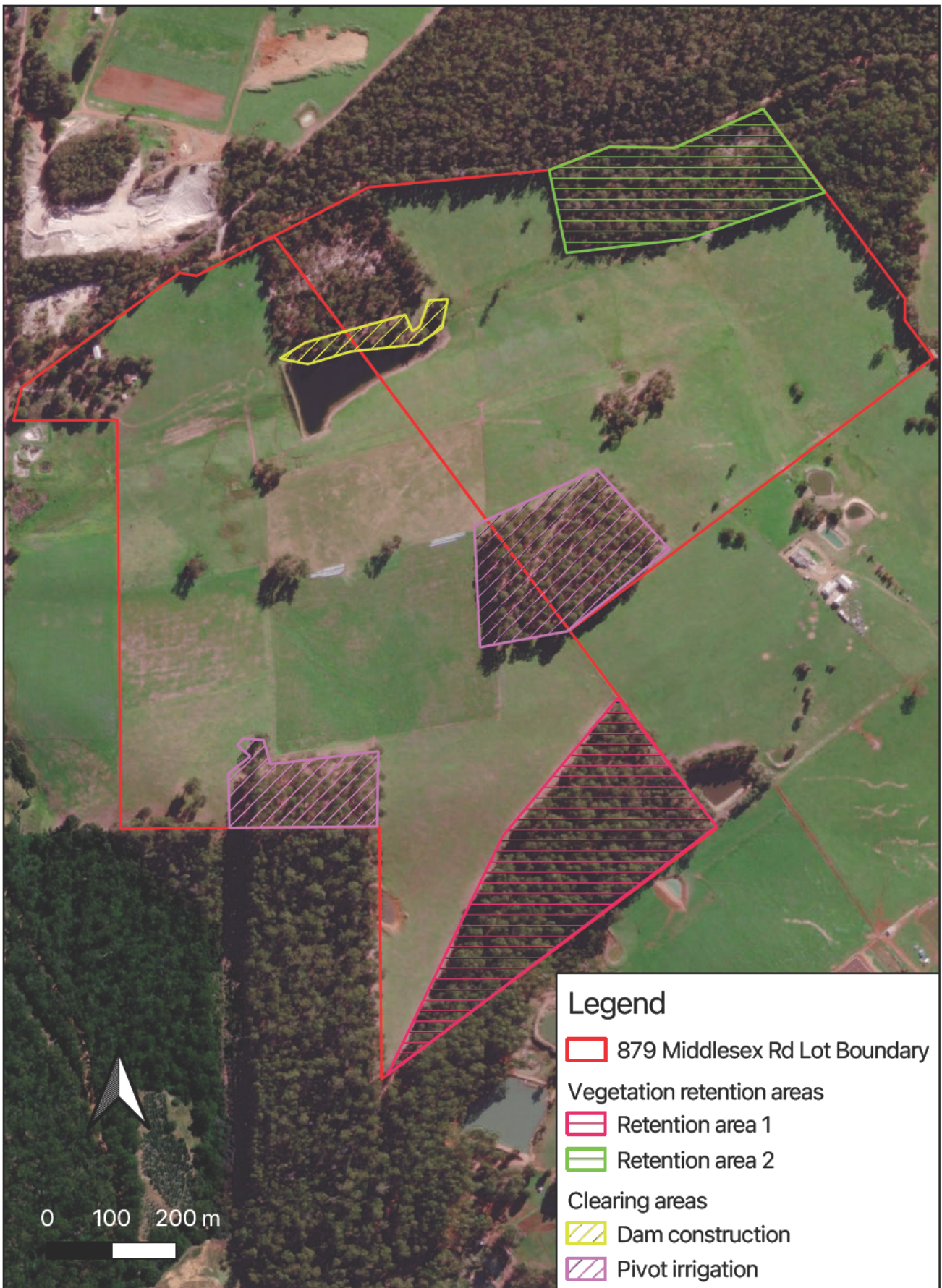


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Project Number **2407**
 Drawing Number **FIG 1**
 Designed KMT
 Drawn PN
 Local Authority Shire of Manjimup

Revision **A**
 Date 29.01.2024
 Sheet 1 of 1

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Legend

- 879 Middlesex Rd Lot Boundary
- Vegetation retention areas**
- Retention area 1
- Retention area 2
- Clearing areas**
- Dam construction
- Pivot irrigation

PROJECT 879 Middlesex Road, Middlesex

DRAWING TITLE Figure 2 - Site Extent

CLIENT [REDACTED]



Project Number 2407
Drawing Number Figure 2
Revision A

Designed PN
Drawn PN
Checked Approved

Date 29/01/2024
Local Authority Shire of Manjimup
Sheet 1 of 1

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