



## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 1061/1

Permit type: Area Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Timothy Ross Lloyd Buniche Nominees Pty Ltd

### 1.3. Property details

Property:  
 LOT 774 ON PLAN 146951  
 LOT 1002 ON PLAN 146951  
 LOT 879 ON PLAN 151015  
 LOT 880 ON PLAN 151015  
 LOT 889 ON PLAN 151098  
 LOT 152 ON PLAN 202825  
 LOT 514 ON PLAN 202854  
 LOT 947 ON PLAN 204012  
 LOT 2080 ON PLAN 206736  
 LOT 146 ON PLAN 211540  
 LOT 147 ON PLAN 202853  
 LOT 921 ON PLAN 151448  
 LOT 691 ON PLAN 202853  
 LOT 141 ON PLAN 202853  
 LOT 142 ON PLAN 202854  
 LOT 143 ON PLAN 202854

Local Government Area: Shire Of Lake Grace

Colloquial name:

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
1.11		Burning	Cropping

## 2. Site Information

### 2.1. Existing environment and information

#### 2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description	Clearing Description	Vegetation Condition	Comment
Beard Vegetation Association 945; Mosaic: Medium Woodland; salmon gum/Shrublands; mallee scrub, redwood and black marlock (Shepherd et al 2001, Hopkins et al 2001).	The proposed clearing consists of isolated trees or clumps of trees totalling of 1.11ha of native vegetation scattered over an extensive area of four land parcels which, combined, represent 1971ha.	Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)	The vegetation under application is considered to be in a degraded condition due to the scattered nature of the sparse remnants within an extensively cleared landscape that has been subject to cropping and possibly grazing (DoE GIS Databases: -Hyden 1.2m Orthomosaic)
Beard Vegetation Association 511; Medium woodland; salmon gum and morel (Hopkins et al. 2001, Shepherd et al. 2001).	It is likely that these remnants of vegetation consist of species common to the Wheatbelt.		
Beard Vegetation Association 125; Bare areas; salt lakes (Hopkins et al. 2001, Shepherd et al. 2001).			

### 3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

#### (a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.

**Comments**      **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

The area under application consists of isolated clumps or individual stands of trees scattered over a wide area (1971ha) across a number of properties. Given that the proposed clearing is to facilitate the movement of cropping machinery within a highly cleared landscape, it is unlikely that the vegetation under application or that found on the remainder of the properties, would be of high biodiversity value.

**Methodology**    GIS Databases:  
-Hyden 1.2m Orthomosaic - DOLA 98  
-Hyden OConnor 1.4m Orthomosaic - DLI 99\_1

#### (b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.

**Comments**      **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

The area under application consists of isolated trees across a large area (1971ha) with little to no vegetation community structure. Due to the small scale and scattered nature of the area under application (1.1ha over 1971ha), it is unlikely that the proposed clearing would have a significant impact on the habitat available for endemic fauna.

**Methodology**    GIS Databases:  
- Hyden 1.2m Orthomosaic - DOLA 98  
- Hyden Oconnor 1.4m Orthomosaic - DLI 99\_1

#### (c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora.

**Comments**      **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

There are no Declared Rare Flora (DRF) mapped in the areas under application.

The DRF species, *Acacia lanuginophylla*, is known to occur approximately 4.8km south west of the area under application. Three populations of the DRF species, *Acacia auratiflora*, are known to occur 600m, 1100m and 1500m south east of the area under application. Three populations of the DRF species, *Verticordia staminosa*, are known to occur 1850m south east of the area under application. In addition, two populations of the Priority 2 species *Thysanotus lavanduliflorus*, are known to occur approximately 2.4km south west and 4.7km north of the areas under application. Both the DRF and Priority 2 species are found on the same Beard Vegetation Complex 511 as the proposed areas. However, both the DRF and Priority 2 species are found on different soil types to the area proposed to be cleared.

Given the area under application consists of isolated clumps or individual stands of trees spread out over a wide area (1971ha), it is unlikely that any species of conservation significance would be present.

**Methodology**    GIS Databases:  
- Hyden 1.2m Orthomosaic - DOLA 98  
- Hyden - Oconnor 1.4m Orthomosaic - DLI 99\_1  
- Declared Rare and Priority Flora List - CALM 13/08/03

#### (d) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a threatened ecological community.

**Comments**      **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

There are no known occurrences of Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC's) within the area under application or within 50km. Given the fragmented nature of the area under application (1.1ha over 1971ha), it is unlikely that the vegetation proposed to be cleared is necessary for the maintenance of a TEC.

**Methodology**    GIS Databases:  
- Threatened Ecological Communities - CALM 15/7/03

#### (e) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.

**Comments**      **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

The vegetation under application is described as a component of Beard Vegetation Associations 125, 511 and 945 (Shepherd et al 2001, Hopkins et al. 2001). Respectively, there is 89.8%, 53.6% and 100% of the pre-European extent remaining of these vegetation complexes (Shepherd et al. 2001, Hopkins et al 2001).

Given the small, scattered nature of the proposed clearing (1.1ha over 1971ha), it is unlikely that the vegetation

present is a significant remnant of native vegetation.

**Methodology** Shepherd et al. (2001)  
Hopkins et al. (2001)  
Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)  
EPA (2000)  
GIS Databases:  
- Hyden 1.2m Orthomosaic - DOLA 98  
- Hyden - Oconnor 1.4m Orthomosaic - DLI 99\_1

**(f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.**

**Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

There are no known occurrences of a watercourse or wetland within the areas under application, or within 5km of the area. There are a number of small non-perennial watercourses found adjacent to some of the proposed areas to be cleared. However, it is considered that the clearance of isolated trees would not have a significant impact on the associated non-perennial watercourses.

**Methodology** GIS Databases:  
- Hydrography, linear - DOE 01/02/04  
- EPP, Areas - DEP 06/95  
- EPP, Lakes - DEP 28/07/03  
- EPP, Wetlands (draft) - DEP 21/07/04  
- ANCA Wetlands - CALM 08/01  
- Hydrographic Catchments - Catchments DOE 3/4/03  
- RAMSAR Wetlands - CALM 21/10/02

**(g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.**

**Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

The soils and landscape of the areas under application are known to comprise hard, yellow and red sands in a gently undulating to rolling terrain with broad flat valleys. However, the isolated and fragmented nature of the proposed clearing (1.11ha over 1971ha) is unlikely to contribute to significant land degradation within the local area.

**Methodology** GIS Databases:  
- Topographic Contours, Statewide - DOLA 12/09/02  
- Soils, Statewide - DA 11/99

**(h) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.**

**Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

There are no CALM Managed Reserves, System 6 Conservation Reserves or areas on the Register of National Estate found within the area under application, or within 5km. The nearest conservation area is 7.1km from the area under application and given the fragmented nature (1.1ha over 1971ha) it is unlikely the proposed clearing would have an impact on this conservation area.

**Methodology** GIS Databases:  
- CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 01/08/04  
- System 6 Conservation Reserves - DEP 06/95

**(i) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.**

**Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

There are no known EPP Lakes or Wetlands within the area under application, or within 5km. There are a number of small non-perennial watercourses found adjacent to some of the proposed areas. However, due to the small, scattered nature of the proposed clearing (1.11ha over 1971ha), the clearing is unlikely to impact on the quality of these surface water bodies. Furthermore, the area has low rainfall and a high evaporation rate and thus flow is only likely to occur during high rainfall events.

Groundwater salinity in the area is greater than 35000 mg/l. However, due to the small scale and fragmented nature of the clearing, it is unlikely to cause deterioration in the quality of underground water.

**Methodology** GIS Databases:  
- Groundwater Salinity, Statewide - 22/02/00

- Hydrography, linear - DOE 01/02/04
- EPP, Areas - DEP 06/95
- EPP, Lakes - DEP 28/07/03
- EPP, Wetlands (draft) - DEP 21/07/04
- ANCA Wetlands - CALM 08/01
- Hydrographic Catchments - Catchments DOE 3/4/03
- RAMSAR Wetlands - CALM 21/10/02

**(j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.**

**Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

The area under application consists of broad flat valley areas. Given the fragmented nature of the area under application (1.11ha over 1971ha) it is unlikely that the proposed clearing would have an impact on the level of flooding within the area. In addition, the area has low rainfall and a high evaporation rate, and hence surface flow is only likely to occur in high rainfall events.

**Methodology GIS Databases:**

- Topographic Contours, Statewide - DOLA 12/09/02
- Rainfall, Mean Annual - BOM 30/09/01

**Planning instrument, Native Title, Previous EPA decision or other matter.**

**Comments**

There is no other RIWI Act Licence, Works Approval or EP Act Licence that will affect the areas that have been applied to clear

**Methodology**

**4. Assessor's recommendations**

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Decision	Comment / recommendation
Cropping	Burning	1.11	Grant	The proposed clearing has been assessed and is not likely to be at variance with any of the clearing principles.  Therefore, the assessing officer recommends that the permit be granted.

**5. References**

Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002) Biodiversity Action Planning. Action planning for native biodiversity at multiple scales; catchment bioregional, landscape, local. Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Victoria.

EPA (2000) Environmental protection of native vegetation in Western Australia. Clearing of native vegetation, with particular reference to the agricultural area. Position Statement No. 2. December 2000. Environmental Protection Authority.

Hedde, E. M., Loneragan, O. W., and Havel, J. J. (1980) Vegetation Complexes of the Darling System, Western Australia. In Department of Conservation and Environment, Atlas of Natural Resources, Darling System, Western Australia.

Hopkins, A.J.M., Beeston, G.R. and Harvey J.M. (2001) A database on the vegetation of Western Australia. Stage 1. CALMScience after J. S. Beard, late 1960's to early 1980's Vegetation Survey of Western Australia, UWA Press.

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

Shepherd, D.P., Beeston, G.R. and Hopkins, A.J.M. (2001) Native Vegetation in Western Australia, Extent, Type and Status. Resource Management Technical Report 249. Department of Agriculture, Western Australia.

**6. Glossary**

Term	Meaning
CALM	Department of Conservation and Land Management
DAWA	Department of Agriculture
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection (now DoE)
DoE	Department of Environment
DoIR	Department of Industry and Resources
DRF	Declared Rare Flora
EPP	Environmental Protection Policy
GIS	Geographical Information System

ha Hectare (10,000 square metres)  
TEC Threatened Ecological Community  
WRC Water and Rivers Commission (now DoE)