

Management Plan

to accompany

Application for a new permit to clear native vegetation (area permit)

(form NV-F01 v 14, Feb 2023)

from

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

for

Barry Krispyn and Tamara Sayer

Background

Barry Krispyn and Tamara Sayer jointly own a 70 (approx.) hectare property at Glenoran, approximately 20 kilometres west of the town of Manjimup in the south-west of Western Australia.

Approximately 50 hectares (70%) of the property is a stand of regrowth native forest which the owners wish to sustainably manage on a long-term basis, producing some revenue from the sale of timber products which will be used to pay for upgrades on the property, including fire management. Sustainable management will involve silvicultural thinning from time to time.

The owners are also very cognisant of the need to manage the threat of bushfire, hence a silvicultural thinning now, with removal of as much residue timber as possible, is seen as an important step in enabling the owners to safely conduct fuel reduction burning on a regular basis in future.

Current status of the native forest subject to this application

The regrowth native forest on this property has been subjected to harvesting for timber on possibly up to three or four occasions since early last century. The most recent timber harvesting operation took place some 40 years ago. Stumps from the most recent harvesting operation are evident. The forest type is predominantly karri (*Eucalyptus diversicolor*), with some jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*) and marri (*Corymbia calophylla*).

The forest is fundamentally healthy.

The forest now lends itself to some considered silviculture to release growing stock and to “open up” the forest to facilitate follow-up hazard reduction burning.

Soils on the site are predominantly karri loams and gravelly loams over clay.

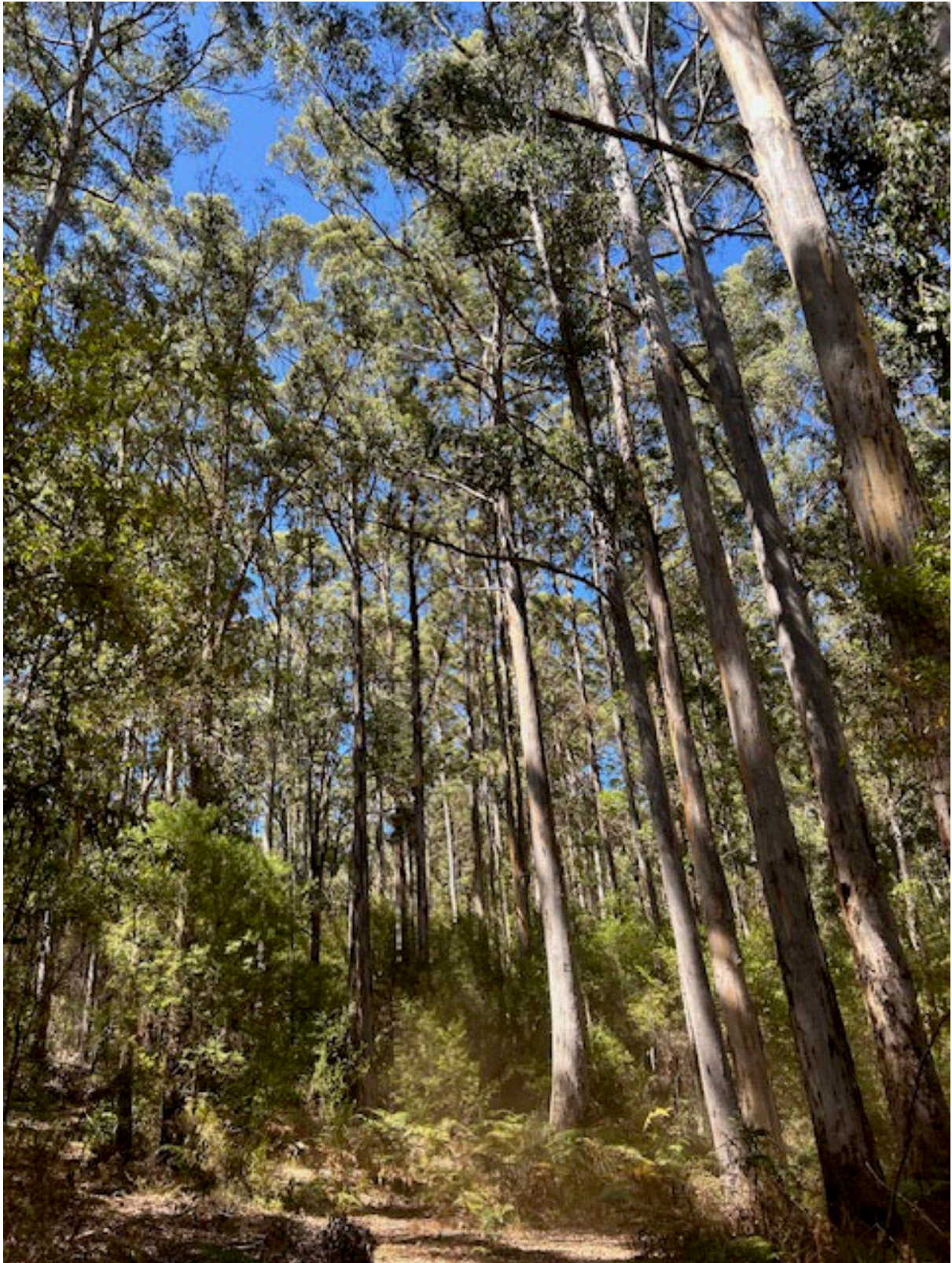


Fig 1. Typical regrowth karri forest on the property, with a standing basal area of between 45 and 50m²/ha.



Fig 2: Large marri stump from previous timber harvesting.

Outline of silvicultural and harvesting prescription

- The silviculture prescription to be adopted follows the principles contained within the “Silviculture Guidelines for Karri Forest”, 2015, published by the Department of Parks and Wildlife (now Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions).
- In summary, the prescription for the property will be to promote the growth of selected retained trees by thinning to a target basal area of 15m² per hectare.
- At least five habitat trees per hectare, on average, will be retained. Selection of habitat trees will target larger, sound trees with hollows or potential hollows for fauna.
- Harvesting machinery will be cleaned of any soil and plant matter before entering the property to minimise any risk of introducing disease or undesirable weeds.
- Harvesting and marketing of forest products will be managed by WAPRES foresters, with actual harvesting and transport of products carried out by an experienced and qualified local harvesting contractor using machinery suitable for harvesting in native forest. This will comprise a tree harvester to fell trees and cut boles into appropriate lengths. Extraction of logs will be carried out using a rubber-tyred skidder or forwarder. Logs will be loaded onto trucks using the forwarder.
- Extraction tracks will, where necessary, be created by the tree harvester and will use natural gaps between trees and be located perpendicular to the contour.
- Harvesting slash will be removed from around the bases of retained trees during harvesting.
- All harvesting activity will be conducted in accordance with the WA timber industry Codes of Practice, as published from time to time by the Forest Industries Federation (WA) Inc.
- Harvesting will need to be restricted to times of the year when generally dry soil conditions prevail.
- Following harvesting, the thinned forest will be burnt under cool conditions in autumn or spring.
- Log landing areas (ie areas where logs are stacked and then loaded onto truck) will be located on cleared portions of the property to the north and east.

Black cockatoos

Because of the importance of conservation of habitat trees for Western Australia’s three species of black cockatoo (Carnaby’s cockatoo, Baudin’s cockatoo and Forest red-tailed cockatoo), trees with signs of suitable hollows or the potential to develop a hollow or hollows of a size suitable or potentially suitable for nesting by any of these three species will be retained as habitat trees. These trees will tend to be larger trees which are more likely to already have a broken branch which could possibly develop into a hollow.

Because of this commitment, a cockatoo habitat tree survey prior to harvesting is not considered necessary.

A thinning operation will allow retained trees to develop larger and more spreading crowns which in turn will produce more flowers, fruit and seeds for foraging by black cockatoos.

Fire management

The owner's daughter and partner live in a homestead very close to the northern boundary of the forested area. They are concerned at the threats posed by bushfire, especially given the patch of forest has proven to be difficult to burn due to its generally southerly aspect. This means that the forest fuels are generally too moist to burn during the regular prescribed burning season, then when it is dry enough to burn, local Bushfire Control Officers will not issue a permit to burn. This "catch 22" situation can only be remedied by conducting a thinning operation which will "open up" the forest allowing the fuels to become sufficiently dry to burn earlier in the season, before the regular burning season is closed.



Fig 3. Results of failed attempt to conduct a prescribed burn during approved burning season.

Estimated quantities of forest products to be harvested

The estimated quantities of forest products that could be produced from the proposed operation are:

- Sawlog: 2000 tonnes
- Residue log: 2000 tonnes
- **Total:** approx. 4000 tonnes

Note: these are estimates only.

Future management

After the proposed silvicultural thinning and follow-up burn, the forest will need to be subjected to regular mild prescribed burning to reduce the risk of damage from bushfires, on a cycle of no more than five to seven years.

A further commercial thinning operation should be feasible approximately 20 to 30 years hence.

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6 March 2024