



## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 1070/1  
Permit type: Area Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Arbuthnot Nominees Pty Ltd

### 1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 7298 ON PLAN 225869 ( UPPER WARREN )  
LOT 3103 ON PLAN 128499 ( UPPER WARREN )  
LOT 6782 ON PLAN 82477 ( UPPER WARREN )

Local Government Area:

Colloquial name:

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
35.6	0	Mechanical Removal	Grazing & Pasture

## 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 3: Medium forest; jarrah-marri	The proposed clearing of 35.6 hectares of native vegetation occurs in an area that had been harvested and parkland cleared several years ago.	Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)	The vegetation proposed to be cleared is described as parkland cleared (DEC Site Visit 2007), with site visit photos and orthophotography indicating that the proposal will entail the removal of isolated paddock trees.
Beard Vegetation Association 1116: Tall forest; jarrah (Eucalyptus marginata)	Some revegetation has occurred since the clearing, mainly of Marri (Corymbia calophylla) with multiple stems. The vegetation was described as a Jarrah (Eucalyptus marginata) and Marri mixed stand with no understorey and a groundcover of clover,		
Mattiske Vegetation Complex - Wilgarup: Open forest of Corymbia calophylla with some Eucalyptus marginata subsp. marginata on slopes and tall shrubland of Melaleuca spp. on valley floors in the humid zone.	weeds other various grass species (DEC Site Visit 2007).		
Mattiske Vegetation Complex - Bevan 2: Open forest to woodland of Eucalyptus marginata subsp. marginata with some Corymbia calophylla on lateritic uplands in humid and subhumid zones.			

## 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 vegetation of the application area contains Eucalyptus marginata (Jarrah) and Corymbia calophylla (Marri) that is parkland cleared, with no understorey and an open grassland of various species and weeds (DEC Site Visit 2007). Orthophotography indicates that the local area (10km radius) is predominantly comprised of remnant vegetation, which is held in State Forest. Given the condition of the vegetation proposed to be cleared and the extent of remnant vegetation within the local area and greater region, it is unlikely that the vegetation of

the application area represents an area of high biological diversity

**Methodology** DEC Site Visit 2007  
GIS Database:  
Orthophotography 12/04

**(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**  
Within the local area (10km radius), there are 30 records of Declared Threatened Fauna and 10 records of Priority Fauna within the local area (GIS Database). The threatened fauna species are the Western Mud Minnow, Brush-tailed Phascogale, Forest Red-tailed Black-cockatoo, Baudin's Cockatoo, Chuditch and Western Ringtail Possum, with the closest record being approximately 650 metres from the application area. The habitat requirements of the Brush-tailed Phascogale, Red-tailed Black and Baudin's Cockatoo and Western Ringtail Possum includes trees with suitable hollows with Jarrah and Marri being key species for such habitat. It is therefore possible that some of the trees proposed to be cleared could have potential habitat value. However, orthophotography depicts State Forest bordering the majority of the Lots containing the application area and that approximately half of Lot 3103 contains dense remnant vegetation. Therefore, given the extent of remnant vegetation within the local area and greater region, it is unlikely that the vegetation of the application represents significant habitat for these species. The vegetation of the application area has been described as Jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*) and Marri (*Corymbia calophylla*) with no understorey and a ground cover of grass and weed species (DEC Site Visit 2007). It is unlikely that the vegetation of the application area will represent significant habitat for other native fauna due to the lack of vegetation community structure.

**Methodology** DEC Site Visit Report 2007  
GIS Database:  
SAC Biodataset 6/06/07  
Orthophotography 12/04  
CALM Estate 6/06

**(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**  
Within the local area (10km radius), four species of Priority Flora have been recorded (GIS Database). Five species of Declared Rare Flora have been recorded between 10 kilometres and 15 kilometres from the application area, on the same Beard vegetation association as that mapped of the area proposed to be cleared (GIS Database). Given that the vegetation of the application area is classified as parkland cleared (DEC Site Visit 2007) with an open grassland of grasses and weeds, it is unlikely that flora species of conservation significance are likely to occur within the application area.

**Methodology** DEC Site Visit Report 2007  
GIS Database:  
SAC Biodatasets 06/06/07  
DEC Pre-European Vegetation 02/05

**(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**  
No Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) or Priority Ecological Communities (PECs) have been recorded within the local area (10km radius). Given the degraded nature of the vegetation community within the application area (Site Visit 2007), it is unlikely that the vegetation could represent a TEC or PEC.

**Methodology** DEC Site Visit Report 2007  
GIS Database:  
SAC Biodataset 6/06/07

**(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 at variance to this Principle**  
The application area is comprised of two pre-European vegetation associations: 3 and 1116 (GIS Database). There is approximately 70% and 91% of the pre-European extent remaining of vegetation associations 3 and 1116 respectively (Shepherd 2006). These percentages are therefore of a 'Least Concern' status for biodiversity conservation (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002).

Vegetation mapping by Mattiske (Mattiske Consulting, 1998) indicates that two vegetation complexes occur within the application area. Of the Bevan 2 complex there is approximately 33% remaining of the pre-European extent,

which is of a 'depleted' status for biodiversity conservation (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002), whilst there is approximately 64% remaining of the Wilgarup vegetation complex (CALM, 2004) which is of a 'Least Concern' status.

The vegetation extent of the Shire of Manjimup is approximately 86% (Shepherd et al. 2001)

Given the extent of vegetation remaining for the aforementioned associations and complexes and within the Shire of Manjimup it is not likely that the vegetation proposed to be cleared is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.

**Methodology** Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002  
Shepherd 2006  
Shepherd et al. 2001  
CALM 2004  
GIS Database:  
- DEC Pre-European Vegetation 02/05  
- DEC RFA Vegetation Complexes 06/06/07  
- Local Government Authority Boundaries 05/05

**(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**

A major, non-perennial watercourse, the Wilgarup River, runs through unallocated Crown land adjacent to the northern boundary of Lot 7298. The trees of the application area in proximity to this watercourse are isolated and the watercourse appears to have a buffer of vegetation along it, predominantly contained within the unallocated Crown land.

A minor, non-perennial watercourse runs south-east through Lot 3103. Approximately 7 trees occur within 10 metres of this watercourse, and it is unknown how many of these trees will be cleared. The vegetation of the application area is described as parkland cleared with no understorey, and no riparian species were identified during the site visit. As this minor watercourse does not have any buffering or riparian vegetation the environmental values of it would not appear to be significant and the ecological functionality is expected to be reduced.

Given the characteristics of the two watercourses, the cleared nature of the land under application (described as parkland cleared) surrounding them and the type of vegetation to be cleared (predominantly isolated trees) the native vegetation is not considered to be growing in, or in association with, these watercourses.

**Methodology** DEC Site Visit Report 2007  
Orthophotography 12/04  
GIS Databases:  
- Hydrography, linear - DOE 01/02/04  
- Geomorphic wetlands - Swan Coastal Plain - DOE 15/09/04  
- 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

**(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 area in which the application area occurs is also classified as a Zone B area under the Country Area Water Supply Act. Zone B areas have a moderate risk of stream salinity.

The Department of Agriculture and Food Land Degradation Assessment Report (DAFWA 2006) raises no potential land degradation issues for this proposal. Therefore the area under application is not at variance to this principle.

**Methodology** DAFWA (2006)  
GIS Database:  
CAWSA Part IIA Clearing Control Catchments - DOW

**(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**

The Lots containing the application area are predominantly surrounded by the Tone State Forest. An unmanaged C-class reserve, for the purpose of water, occurs along the Wilgarup River and the northern boundary of Lot 7298. The Greater Dordagup National Park occurs approximately 7 kilometres south-west of the clearing application area.

The vegetation of the clearing application area is parkland cleared with a groundcover of grasses and weeds (Site Visit). The isolated trees of the application area are not likely to be acting as an environmental buffer for the Tone State Forest, or be providing an ecological linkage between areas of the State Forest. The remnant vegetation that occupies approximately half of Lot 3103, which is not under application and appears to be in good condition based on orthophotography, is more likely to be providing an ecological linkage between the State Forest on the western and eastern boundaries of Lot 3103. It is unlikely that the proposed clearing will adversely impact on the environmental values of the adjacent and nearby conservation areas.

**Methodology**    DEC Site Visit Report (2007)  
Orthophotography - DEC 12/04  
GIS Databases:  
- CALM Estate (statewide) - 06/06  
- State Proposed Region - DEC 26/10/06  
- RNE WA - DEC 15/06/06  
- Unmanaged Reserves - DLI 05/06  
- Unallocated Crown Land - DLI 05/06  
- Other Crown Reserves - DLI 05/06  
- SAC Biodatasets - DEC 06/06/07

**(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**

The proposed clearing is within the Warren River surface water catchment and sub-catchment area. The Wilgarup River, a major river, runs along the northern boundary of Lot 7298, and a minor, non-perennial watercourse runs south-east from within Lot 3103. The Wilgarup River is contained within an unmanaged Crown reserve, and a buffer of vegetation occurs along the river, predominantly contained within the reserve. Based on orthophotography, riparian vegetation does not appear to be present along the minor watercourse. Two dams occur on this watercourse within Lot 3103, both up-stream and down-stream of trees contained within the application area. Any short-term sediment transport associated with the proposed clearing along the minor watercourse will be trapped by the dam down-stream from the trees in proximity to the watercourse. Given the high proportion of remnant vegetation within the local area, the characteristics of the nearby watercourses and the nature of the proposed clearing (predominantly isolated paddock trees) is unlikely that the proposed clearing will cause deterioration in the quality of these surface watercourses.

The area in which the application area occurs is also classified as a Zone B area under the Country Area Water Supply Act. Zone B areas have a moderate risk of stream salinity (WRC, 1996). The groundwater salinity of the application area is of a moderate level, mapped as 1000-3000mg/L. Given the condition of the vegetation to be cleared and the high proportion of vegetation within the local area, the proposal is not likely to significantly exacerbate groundwater salinity.

**Methodology**    WRC (1996)  
GIS Databases:  
- CALM Estate (Statewide) - DEC, 06/06  
- Orthophotography - DEC, 12/04  
- Groundwater Salinity (statewide) - DOW  
- Rainfall, Mean Annual - BOM 30/09/01  
- Hydrographic Catchments, Sub-catchments - DOE 01/07/03  
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas  
- CAWSA Part IIA Clearing Control Catchments - DOW

**(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**

Given the nature of the clearing proposed, predominantly with isolated trees to be cleared, and the high proportion of native vegetation within the local area (10km radius), it is unlikely that the proposed clearing will cause or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding.

**Methodology**    GIS Databases:  
Orthophotography - DEC 12/04

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

### Comments

The area in which the application area occurs within the Warren River Reserve and is classified as a Zone B area under the Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947. The land under application is also compensated land. The Department of Water has issued a licence (Number 1274) to clear with conditions that the area of intact remnant vegetation contained within Lot 3103 shall not be cleared or burnt under controlled conditions within the first 10 years and that the area be fenced to exclude stock access. The proponent has signed an Agreement to Reserve under the Soil and Land Conservation Act, with the ATR covering the area of vegetation described above.

The boundary of one Aboriginal Site of Significance intersects the proposed area for clearing. The DEC recommends consulting with local indigenous groups about the impact of the proposed clearing on these registered sites. Aboriginal Sites of Significance will need to be managed in accordance with requirements under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 and with the Department of Indigenous Affairs.

### Methodology

No submissions were received against this proposal.

Department of Water (2007) [Trim Ref: DOC24586]

GIS Database:

Aboriginal Sites of Significance - DIA

## 4. Assessor's comments

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Comment
Grazing & Pasture	Mechanical Removal	35.6 0	Assessable criteria have been addressed and the assessment of the vegetated area under application revealed the proposal is not likely to be at variance to the 10 principles.

## 5. References

- CALM (2004). System 6 and RFA Analysis: Report 2 (RFA Analysis).
- DAFWA Land degradation assessment report. Office of the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation, Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia. TRIM ref DOC1768
- 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.
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Mattiske Consulting (1998) Mapping of vegetation complexes in the South West forest region of Western Australia, CALM.
- Shepherd, D.P. (2006). Adapted from: Shepherd, D.P., Beeston, G.R., and Hopkins, A.J.M. (2001), Native Vegetation in Western Australia. Technical Report 249. Department of Agriculture Western Australia, South Perth. Includes subsequent updates for 2006 from Vegetation Extent dataset ANZWA1050000124.
- 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.
- Water and Rivers Commission (1996). Policy and Guidelines: Granting of Licences to Clear Indigenous Vegetation in Catchments Subject to Clearing Control Legislation. March 1996.

## 6. Glossary

Term	Meaning
BCS	Biodiversity Coordination Section of DEC
CALM	Department of Conservation and Land Management (now BCS)
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection (now DEC)
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 DEC)

