

# Forest Management Plan

To accompany Application **CPS- 11082/1** for a new permit to clear native vegetation (area permit) (form NV-F01v12.0)

From **MG and JC Bennett**  
For Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

Location Numbers 11156 and 11157

## Background.

Michael and Jeffrey Bennett own a property at Crowea, approximately 15 kilometres north-east of the town of Northcliffe in the south-west of Western Australia. The 113-hectare property is largely devoted to cattle farming.

An area of approximately 16 hectares in the south-east corner of the property consists of forest comprising mostly planted (1990) karri (*Eucalyptus diversicolor*), Yellow stringy bark (*Eucalyptus muelliriana*) and Sydney bluegum (*Eucalyptus saligna*).

Two small areas (0.6 hectares) of native forest are located with this 16-hectare area consisting of regrowth karri and some small marri (*Corymbia calophylla*).

The objective is to conduct some silvicultural thinning on the 16 hectares of regrowth forest which includes the 0.6 hectares of native forest in order to provide supplementary income from the property, improve the status of the forest in a drying climate, improve the aesthetics of the forest and, importantly to reduce the risk of damaging bushfires.

## Current status. (0.6 hectares)

The remnant native forest on this Crowea property has been subjected to harvesting for timber in the 1950's, with some older stumps showing evidence of the use of axe and crosscut saw.

The forest type is typical "Southern Karri forest dominated by karri with major understory species of dense hazel, karri -wattle and some karri - *Allocasuarina*. There is no evidence of old veteran trees that could be retained as habitat trees but there are some larger regrowth trees that have the potential to be habitat trees in the future.

The forest is healthy with no current signs of dieback due to *Phytophthora cinnamomi*.

The forest lends itself to some ecological thinning to further enhance the forest to minimise the impact from a drying climate and to open up the forest to facilitate a follow-up prescribed burn.

Soils on the regrowth forest area are predominantly gravel loam. There is potential for threatened fauna to be disturbed or taken during the operation. Fauna species such as cockatoos, chuditch, possums and quokka have been identified to exist in the surrounding area. An application to Take (Section 40) will be obtained prior to any thinning operation.

## Outline of silvicultural and harvesting prescription.

The silvicultural prescription to be adopted follows the principles contained within the “Silvicultural Guidelines for Karri Forest”, published as “Procedure FEM No 040” by the Department of Parks and Wildlife (now DBCA) in 2014.

- In summary, the prescription for the Crowea property will be to promote the growth of selected retained trees by thinning to a target basal area of 15 m<sup>2</sup> per hectare. Trees to be retained will be marked with spray paint (See photograph below) to indicate to the harvesting contractor to protect. Damage to trees from machine movement and felling is to be minimised.
  - Habitat trees - a minimum of 5 primary habitat trees (50cm DBH or greater) and 6-8 secondary habitat trees (medium sized 30-50cm DBH) will be retained per hectare.
  - Harvesting machinery will be cleaned of any soil and plant matter before entering the property to minimise any risk of introducing jarrah dieback disease or undesirable weeds. Further measures to avoid introduction or spread of jarrah dieback include restricting operations to “dry soil” conditions.
  - Harvesting will be carried out by an experienced and qualified local harvesting contractor using machinery suitable for the harvesting of native forest. This will comprise a tree harvester to fell trees and cut boles into appropriate lengths. This method is referred to by some people within DBCA as “soft felling”.
  - Some larger trees may require felling by manual means using a chainsaw.
  - Extraction of logs will be carried out using a rubber-tyred skidder or forwarder. Logs will be loaded onto trucks using the forwarder.
  - Harvesting will be undertaken in a sustainable manner to reduce damage to mid-storey canopy and non-target vegetation.
  - Extraction tracks will, where necessary, be created by the tree harvester and will use natural gaps between trees.
  - Where possible 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. This includes any water erosion mitigation techniques as specified in the Code.

- A log landing (ie area where logs are stacked and then loaded onto truck) will be located within the property within the grassed paddock area adjacent to the forest.

## Estimated quantities of forest products to be harvested.

The estimated quantities of forest products, by species and grade, that could be produced from the proposed operation are:

- Karri sawlog: 50 tonnes
- Biomass (predominantly karri): 100 tonnes
- Total: approx. 150 tonnes

## Future management.

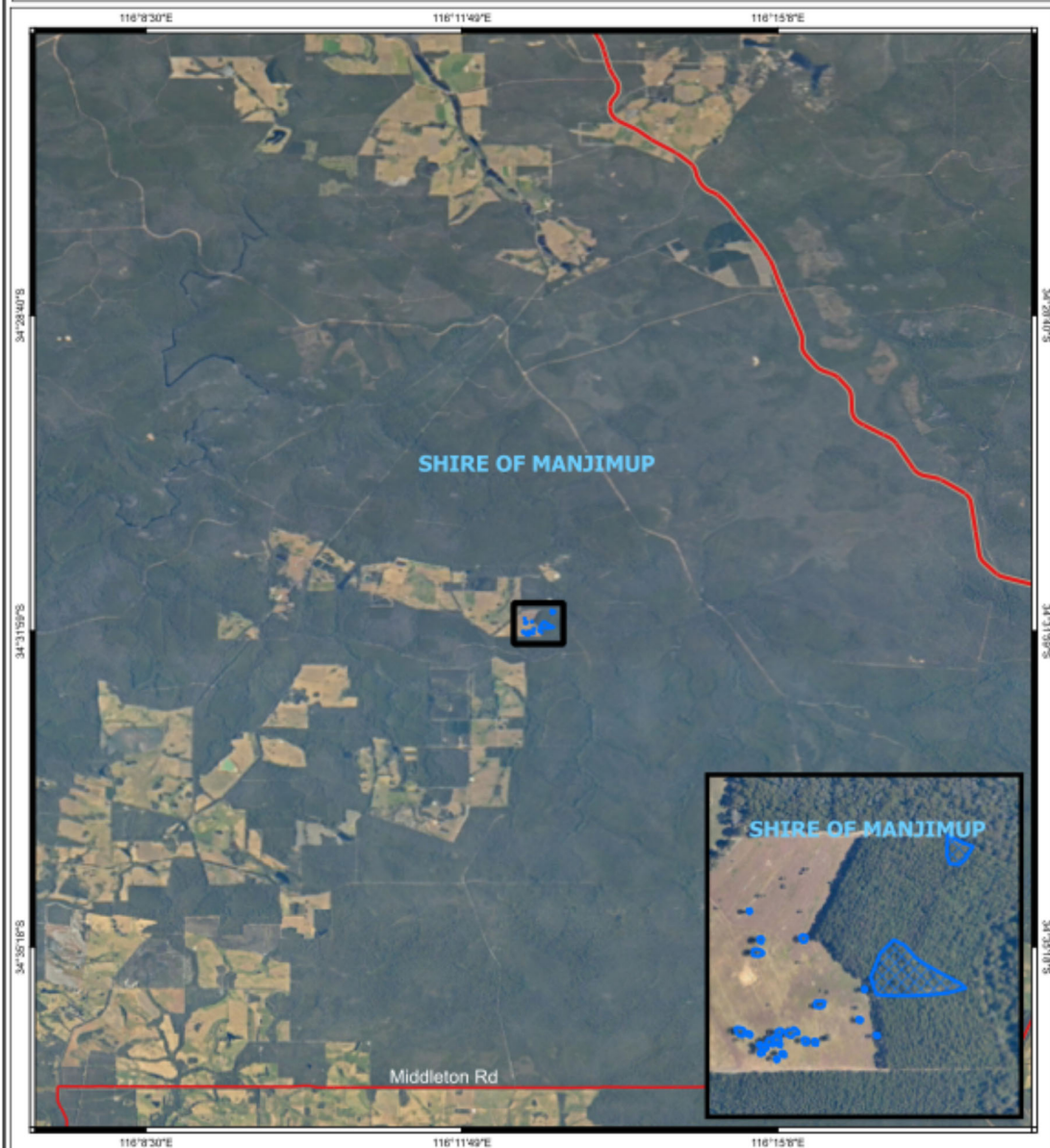
Following harvesting, the thinned areas will be prescribed burnt under cool conditions in autumn or spring some 5-6 years after thinning. The forest will be subjected to regular mild prescribed burning to reduce the risk of damage from bushfires.

Prepared by Jeffrey Bennett.  
Ex Forest Officer of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions from 1980-2025.




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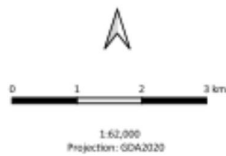
See maps and photographs below.

# CPS 11082/1 - Context Map



## LEGEND

-  CPS areas applied to clear
-  Local Government Authorities
-  Roads





Two areas of native forest identified for thinning.







Trees marked with pink spray paint identified to be retained.





Example of some recent karri thinning in forest in an area of State Forest conducted by the Forest Products Commission.

