



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 11258/1
Permit Holder:	Shire of West Arthur
Duration of Permit:	From 20 March 2026 to 20 March 2031

The permit holder is authorised to *clear native vegetation* subject to the following conditions of this permit.

PART I – CLEARING AUTHORISED

1. Clearing authorised (purpose)

The permit holder is authorised to *clear native vegetation* for the purpose of *clearing* an existing drainage system.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Lot 15836 on Deposited Plan 218528, Arthur River

3. Clearing authorised

The permit holder must not *clear* more than 0.5 hectares of *native vegetation* within the area cross-hatched yellow in Figure 1 of Schedule 1.

PART II – MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

4. Avoid, minimise, and reduce impacts and extent of clearing

In determining the *native vegetation* authorised to be *cleared* under this permit, the permit holder must apply the following principles, set out in descending order of preference:

- (a) avoid the *clearing* of *native vegetation*;
- (b) minimise the amount of *native vegetation* to be *cleared*; and
- (c) reduce the impact of *clearing* on any environmental value.

5. Weed and dieback management

When undertaking any *clearing* authorised under this permit, the permit holder must take the following measures to minimise the risk of introduction and spread of *weeds*

and *dieback*:

- (a) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be *cleared*;
- (b) ensure that no known *dieback* or *weed*-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill*, or other material is brought into the area to be *cleared*; and
- (c) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be *cleared*.

6. Directional clearing

The permit holder must:

- (a) conduct *clearing* activities in a slow, progressive manner towards adjacent *native vegetation*; and
- (b) allow a reasonable time for fauna present within the area being *cleared* to move into adjacent *native vegetation* ahead of the *clearing* activity.

7. Vegetation management – Trees not authorised to clear

Prior to undertaking any *clearing* authorised under this Permit, the permit holder must:

- (a) identify, record and photograph all standing *trees* with a diameter at breast height of 30 centimetres or greater (measured at 150 centimetres from the base of the *tree*) within the area cross hatched yellow in Figure 1 of Schedule 1;
- (b) retain all standing *trees* with a diameter at breast height of 30 centimetres or greater (measured at 150 centimetres from the base of the *tree*) identified in *condition* 7(a);
- (c) on completion of *clearing* authorised under this permit, the permit holder must identify, record, and photograph all *tree* individuals a retained in accordance with *conditions* 7(b).

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

8. Records that must be kept

The permit holder must maintain records relating to the listed relevant matters in accordance with the specifications detailed in Table 1.

Table 1: Records that must be kept

No.	Relevant matter	Specifications
1.	In relation to the authorised clearing activities generally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the species composition, structure, and density of the cleared area; (b) the location where the clearing occurred, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 2020 (GDA2020), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings; (c) the date that the area was cleared; (d) the size of the area cleared (in hectares); (e) actions taken to avoid, minimise, and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing

No.	Relevant matter	Specifications
		<p>in accordance with condition 4; and</p> <p>(f) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of <i>weeds</i> and <i>dieback</i> in accordance with condition 5; and</p> <p>(g) the direction of clearing in accordance with condition 6.</p>
2.	In relation to flora management pursuant to condition 7	<p>(a) the name and location of the trees retained, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 2020 (GDA2020), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;</p> <p>(b) photographs of the trees retained, taken prior to clearing authorised under this permit; and</p> <p>(c) photographs of the trees retained, taken after completing to clearing authorised under this permit.</p>

9. Reporting

The permit holder must provide to the *CEO* the records required under *condition* 8 of this permit when requested by the *CEO*.

DEFINITIONS

In this permit, the terms in Table 2 have the meanings defined.

Table 2: Definitions

Term	Definition
CEO	Chief Executive Officer of the department responsible for the administration of the clearing provisions under the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> .
clear/ing	has the meaning given under section 3(1) of the EP Act.
condition	a condition to which this clearing permit is subject under section 51H of the EP Act.
dieback	means the effect of <i>Phytophthora</i> species on native vegetation.
department	means the department established under section 35 of the <i>Public Sector Management Act 1994</i> (WA) and designated as responsible for the administration of the EP Act, which includes Part V Division 3.
EP Act	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> (WA)
fill	means material used to increase the ground level, or to fill a depression.
mulch	means the use of organic matter, wood chips or rocks to slow the movement of water across the soil surface and to reduce evaporation.
native vegetation	has the meaning given under section 3(1) and section 51A of the EP Act.
riparian vegetation	vegetation that grows along the banks of a waterway, extending to the outer edge of the floodplain, including emergent aquatic plants at the water's edge and the groundcovers, shrubs, and trees within the riparian zone.
riparian zone	the corridor of land directly influenced by, or influencing, a watercourse.
tree/s	means a perennial plant having a permanent, woody, self-supporting main stem or trunk, usually growing to a considerable height, and usually developing branches at some distance from the ground.
weeds	means any plant – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) that is a declared pest under section 22 of the <i>Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007</i>; or (b) published in a Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions species-led ecological impact and invasiveness ranking summary, regardless of ranking; or (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.

END OF CONDITIONS



C Robertson
24.02.2026
4.01PM

Caron Robertson
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

*Officer delegated under Section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986*
24 February 2026

Schedule 1

The boundary of the area authorised to be cleared is shown in the map below (Figure 1).

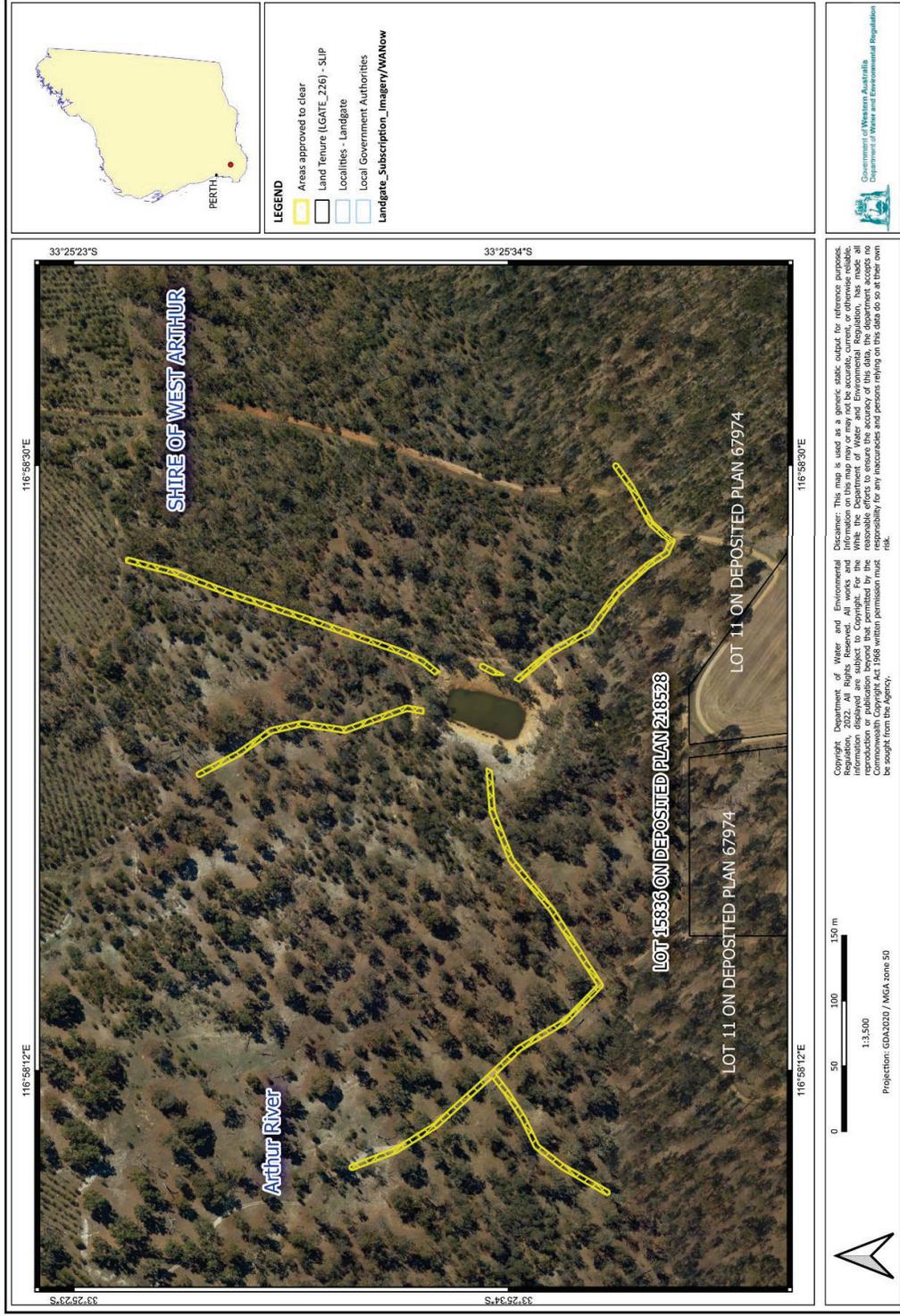


Figure 1: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1 Application details and outcome

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	CPS 11258/1
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	Shire of West Arthur
Application received:	9 September 2025
Application area:	0.5 hectares of native vegetation
Purpose of clearing:	Clearing an existing drainage system
Method of clearing:	Mechanical
Property:	Lot 15836 on Deposited Plan 218528
Location (LGA area/s):	Shire of West Arthur
Localities (suburb/s):	Arthur River

1.2. Description of clearing activities

The vegetation proposed to be cleared is distributed across four main drainage lines, totalling 0.5 hectares, which all lead into Kylie Railway Dam (see Figure 1, Section 1.5). These historically cleared channels were used to redirect water into the dam, however, due to a lack of maintenance, these channels are filled with dead branches, dead grass and debris (Shire of West Arthur, 2025a). The proposed clearing will create a two-metre-wide track around existing large trees to allow the drainage lines to become functional again, reducing the long-term erosion of the land and surrounding environment (Shire of West Arthur, 2025a).

1.3. Decision on application

Decision:	Granted
Decision date:	23 February 2026
Decision area:	0.5 hectares of native vegetation, as depicted in Section 1.5, below.

1.4. Reasons for decision

This clearing permit application was submitted, accepted, assessed and determined in accordance with sections 51E and 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (the department) advertised the application for 21 days and no submissions were received.

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics (see Appendix B), relevant datasets (see Appendix F.1.), the avoidance and mitigation actions implemented by the applicant (see Section 3.1), the analysis of fauna and the remnant vegetation recorded/mapped within the local area with a detailed assessment of the clearing impacts on environmental values (see Section 3.2), the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (see Appendix C), relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (see Section 3.3).

The Delegated Officer also considered that the proposed dam catchments have not been maintained and have not been cleared for over ten years. Due to the lack of scheme water resources in Wheatbelt towns, there is a growing

need to restore these dams and catchments. The increasing demand for non-potable water has led the Rural Water Planning (RWP) team within the department to identify the necessity of maintaining drainage systems and catchments. The RWP has advised that current farming practices have resulted in reduced rainfall runoff into the dams. The RWP's proposed works aim to support local communities by ensuring access to water for livestock and fire management, thereby easing concerns regarding the availability of essential water sources (RWP, 2024a).

The assessment identified that the proposed clearing will result in:

- loss of 0.5 hectares of native vegetation within an area that has been extensively cleared.

After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant's minimisation and mitigation measures (see Section 3.1), the Delegated Officer determined the proposed clearing is unlikely to have any long-term adverse impacts on the environment. The Delegated Officer decided to grant a clearing permit subject to conditions to:

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds and dieback;
- undertake slow, progressive one directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity; and
- retain all trees with a diameter at breast height of 30 centimetres or greater (measured at 150 centimetres from the base of the tree).

1.5. Site map

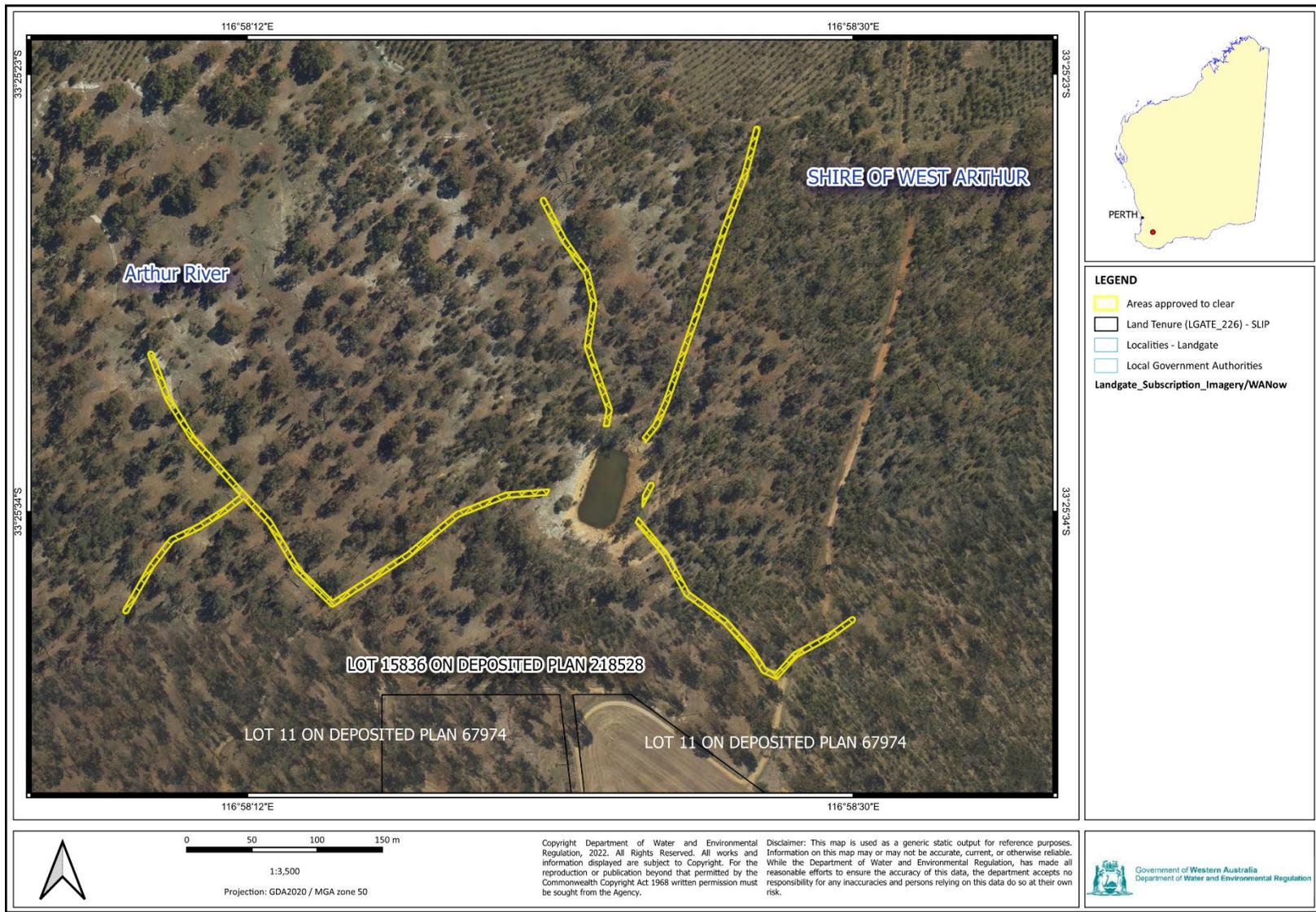


Figure 1: Map of the application area. The areas crosshatched yellow indicate the areas authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

2 Legislative context

The clearing of native vegetation in Western Australia is regulated under the EP Act and the *Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004* (Clearing Regulations).

In addition to the matters considered in accordance with section 51O of the EP Act (see Section 1.4), the Delegated Officer has also had regard to the objects and principles under section 4A of the EP Act, particularly:

- the precautionary principle
- the principle of intergenerational equity
- the principle of the conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity.

Other legislation of relevance for this assessment include:

- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (WA) (BC Act)
- *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (WA) (CALM Act)
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act)

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

- *A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation* (DER, December 2013)
- *Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits* (DWER, October 2019)

3 Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

Evidence was submitted by the applicant, demonstrating that avoidance and mitigation measures have been considered (Shire of West Arthur, 2025a).

Avoidance

- The removal of vegetation will be restricted to the existing drainage corridors.
- The vegetation within the drainage corridors is sparse, as these areas have been previously utilised for this purpose. This site was selected for clearing as the corridors are already adequately equipped, rather than establishing new drainage systems.
- The proposed tracks to be cleared are two metres wide and will go around the existing large trees.
- No native trees with a diameter at breast height (DBH) larger than 30 centimetres will be cleared (Shire of West Arthur, 2026).
- Only pruning will occur where possible.

Mitigation

- In efforts to stop the spread of weeds and dieback, the movement of machinery will be restricted to the access points previously established within the reserve. The machinery will then work along the drainage corridors only.

The Delegated Officer was satisfied that the applicant has made a reasonable effort to avoid and minimise potential impacts of the proposed clearing on environmental values.

3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

In assessing the application, the Delegated Officer has had regard for the site characteristics (see Appendix B) and the extent to which the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological, conservation, or land and water resource values.

The assessment against the clearing principles (see Appendix C) identified that the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological values (fauna) and significant remnant vegetation. The consideration of these impacts, and the extent to which they can be managed through conditions applied in line with sections 51H and 51I of the EP Act, is set out below.

3.2.1. Biological values (fauna) - Clearing Principles (a) and (b)

Assessment

Based on available datasets, the local area (10-kilometre radius) surrounding the area proposed to be cleared contains records of seven conservation significant fauna species within the local area. The closest record to the

application area is a *Zanda* sp. 'white-tailed black cockatoo', which is located approximately 5.18 kilometres to the north-east. 'White-tailed black cockatoo' records are those that were obtained when the data collector could not definitively distinguish if they spotted a *Zanda latirostris* (Carnaby's black cockatoo) or *Zanda baudinii* (Baudin's black cockatoo), therefore the white-tailed black cockatoo category was created to incorporate these records.

Noting the site characteristics (see Appendix B), and the habitat preferences of the conservation significant fauna species recorded in the local area, the application area is considered to contain suitable habitat for the following species:

- *Calyptorhynchus banksii naso* (Forest red-tailed black cockatoo (FRTBC) (listed as Vulnerable under the BC Act and Endangered under the EPBC Act);
- *Zanda baudinii* (Baudin's cockatoo) (listed as Endangered under the BC Act and EPBC Act), and
- *Zanda latirostris* (Carnaby's cockatoo) (listed as Endangered under the BC Act and EPBC Act).

Black Cockatoo species (*Calyptorhynchus banksii naso*, *Zanda baudinii* and *Zanda latirostris*)

Habitat for forest red-tailed black cockatoo, Baudin's cockatoo and Carnaby's cockatoo (hereafter referred to as black cockatoo's) can be considered in terms of breeding habitat, night roosting habitat, and foraging habitat. Carnaby's Cockatoo generally forage up to 12 kilometres from an active breeding site (DAWE, 2022; DPaW, 2013). Following breeding, they will flock in search of food, usually within six kilometres of a night roost, but may range up to 20 kilometres or more (DAWE, 2022). Food resources within the range of breeding sites and roost sites are important to sustain populations, and foraging resources are therefore viewed in the context of known breeding and night roosting sites, particularly within 12 kilometres of a breeding site or 20 kilometres of a roost site (DAWE, 2022).

Based on information provided by Shire, the application area contains native vegetation comprised of sheoak spp., *Eucalyptus wandoo* (wandoo) and *Eucalyptus rudis* (flooded gum). The vegetation proposed to be cleared consists predominantly of small shrubs, grasses and weeds, fallen branches, and pruning debris, while all mature native trees will be retained (Shire of West Arthur, 2026).

Breeding habitat

All areas of breeding habitat are critical to black cockatoo species survival. Breeding habitat for black cockatoos includes trees that either have a suitable nest hollow or are of a suitable DBH to develop a nest hollow. A suitable DBH for trees to develop black cockatoo nest hollows is 50 centimetres for most tree species, however, only wandoo and salmon gum are known to develop hollows at 30 centimetres DBH (DAWE, 2022). Given the applicant has committed to retaining all native trees with DBH greater than 30 centimetres, the proposed clearing will not impact black cockatoo breeding habitat.

Foraging habitat

Vegetation available for foraging by black cockatoo species is fragmented and underrepresented in conservation reserves (DAWE, 2022). Consequently, the remaining native vegetation that provides habitat for black cockatoo species, regardless of its current use is considered ecologically significant. The vegetation within the application area has been assessed as Degraded to Completely Degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition and contains;

- sheoak spp. which are a known foraging habitat for black cockatoo species,
- wandoo which is a known foraging habitat by Carnaby's and Baudin's black cockatoo and
- flooded gum which is a known secondary foraging habitat by Carnaby's black cockatoo.

Given the applicant has committed to retain trees with DBH greater than 30 centimetres and undertake pruning where possible, it is considered that the proposed clearing is unlikely to significantly impact black cockatoo foraging habitat.

All trees with a DBH greater than 30 centimetres will be retained through the Shire's mitigation measures; preserving potential foraging resources locally. No known breeding or roosting sites for black cockatoo species are recorded within 12-kilometre of the application area. The application area is on the eastern edge of their known distribution range and unlikely to be heavily utilised by black cockatoo species.

Roosting habitat

Black cockatoo species night roosts are usually located in the tallest trees of an area, and near both a food supply and surface water (DAWE, 2022). Flocks will use different night roosts, often for weeks, or until the local food supply is exhausted. Flocks show some fidelity to night roosts with sites used in most years to access high quality feeding sites. No roosting sites have been recorded within the application area, however, wandoo and flooded gum trees are present within the application area and provided they are of adequate size, may be used by Carnaby's black cockatoos for roosting. Given the applicant has committed to retain trees with DBH greater than 30 centimetres, which are likely to be taller than those with a smaller DBH, it is considered that the proposed clearing is unlikely to

impact black cockatoo roosting habitat.

Considering the above, the proposed clearing will not have a significant residual impact on black cockatoo species.

The vegetation within the application area is surrounded by remnant native vegetation which likely provides refuge for native fauna in an extensively cleared landscape. To mitigate impacts to individual fauna that may be present at the time of clearing, a directional clearing condition has been included on the permit.

Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing impacts low quality foraging habitat for black cockatoo species. These impacts will be mitigated by the retention of all mature native trees (above 30 centimetres DBH)

Clearing may have direct impacts on fauna individuals present at the time of clearing, therefore slow, directional clearing will be required to mitigate the risk to individuals.

Conditions

To address the above impacts, the following management measures will be required as conditions on the clearing permit:

- type of clearing authorised limited to vegetation with DBH less than 30 centimetres; and
- undertake slow, progressive, one directional clearing to allow fauna to move into adjacent habitats ahead of the clearing activity.

3.2.2. Significant remnant vegetation - Clearing Principles (e)

Assessment

The *National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation in Australia* has a target to prevent clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30 per cent of that present prior to 1750, below which species loss appears to accelerate exponentially at an ecosystem level (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001).

Spatial data and aerial imagery indicate the local area retains approximately 16.98 per cent of its original extent, and the mapped Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia's (IBRA) Bioregion, Jarrah Forest, retains approximately 53.25 per cent of its original extent. The vegetation within the application area is mapped as Beard vegetation association *Williams_4*, described as Woodland southwest - jarrah, marri, and wandoo (Shepherd et al, 2001), which retains approximately 16.09 per cent of its original extent within both the Jarrah Forest IBRA Bioregion and within the State.

Spatial data from the Native Vegetation Extent 2021 dataset, indicates that the application area is mapped as remnant native vegetation. Based on photographs and descriptions provided by the Shire, native vegetation in the area comprises sheoak sp., wandoo, flooded gum and occasional *Melaleuca* spp.. The vegetation within the application area is inconsistent with the mapped vegetation type and has been subject to historical disturbance during establishment of the drainage lines.

Given the condition of vegetation within the application area, historical disturbance and altered vegetation structure within the application area, the vegetation proposed to be cleared is not likely to be representative of natural vegetation associations in the local area and is not likely to be significant as remnant vegetation.

Conclusion

For the reasons set out above, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact native vegetation which is significant in an extensively cleared landscape.

The vegetation within the application area is surrounded by native vegetation and clearing activities have the potential to spread weeds and dieback into these areas of adjacent native vegetation. The Shire have committed to mitigation measures to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds and dieback into adjacent native vegetation.

Conditions

To address the above impacts, the following management measures are conditioned on the clearing permit:

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- weed management measures will be required as a condition on the clearing permit to mitigate impacts to adjacent vegetation; and
- retain trees with greater than 30 centimetres DBH and vegetation within a two-metre radius around these identified trees (notional root zone).

3.2.3. Water resources - Clearing Principles (f) and (i)

Assessment

The application area is located within a mapped Terrestrial groundwater dependent ecosystem (GDE), and lies within the Hardy Estuary_Blackwood River Catchment, with adjacent and intersecting waterlines surrounding the application areas.

Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem

Based on the national assessment, resulting in the *Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems Atlas* (BOM, 2017), spatial data indicates that the application area is mapped within the Avon Wheatbelt P2 - Medium woodland; marri and wandoo vegetation type, which has been identified as an ecosystem which has the moderate potential of representing a Terrestrial GDE (BOM, 2017). A Terrestrial GDE is a land-based ecosystem that relies on the sub-surface presence of groundwater to meet all or part of its water needs, including vegetation systems such as forests and riparian vegetation (BOM, 2017). These ecosystems access groundwater either directly through plant roots or indirectly when groundwater contributes to soil moisture levels.

The application area likely functions as a Terrestrial GDE, however, its hydrological role is primarily linked to shallow surface water pathways along historical drainage alignments. The Hardy Estuary_Blackwood River Catchment spans approximately 1,373,021 hectares, while the proposed clearing footprint is only 0.5 hectares, representing a negligible proportion of the total catchment.

The proposal involves the selective clearing of vegetation within historical drainage lines to restore their function and improve surface water conveyance to the Kylie Railway Dam. Vegetation proposed to be cleared consists predominantly of small shrubs, grasses and weeds (shallow-rooted species), fallen branches, and pruning debris, while all mature native vegetation will be retained. The improved drainage network, as a result of the proposed clearing and associated works, will help retain water within the basin and support natural flow, thereby reducing water-related erosion across the broader catchment.

Drainage Network

Spatial data and mapping indicate that the drainage lines proposed for clearing intersect with three existing waterlines, including two natural watercourses and one man-made, constructed waterline. All mapped waterlines appear to direct surface water flow into the existing man-made earth dam (Kylie Railway Dam) (Figure 2).

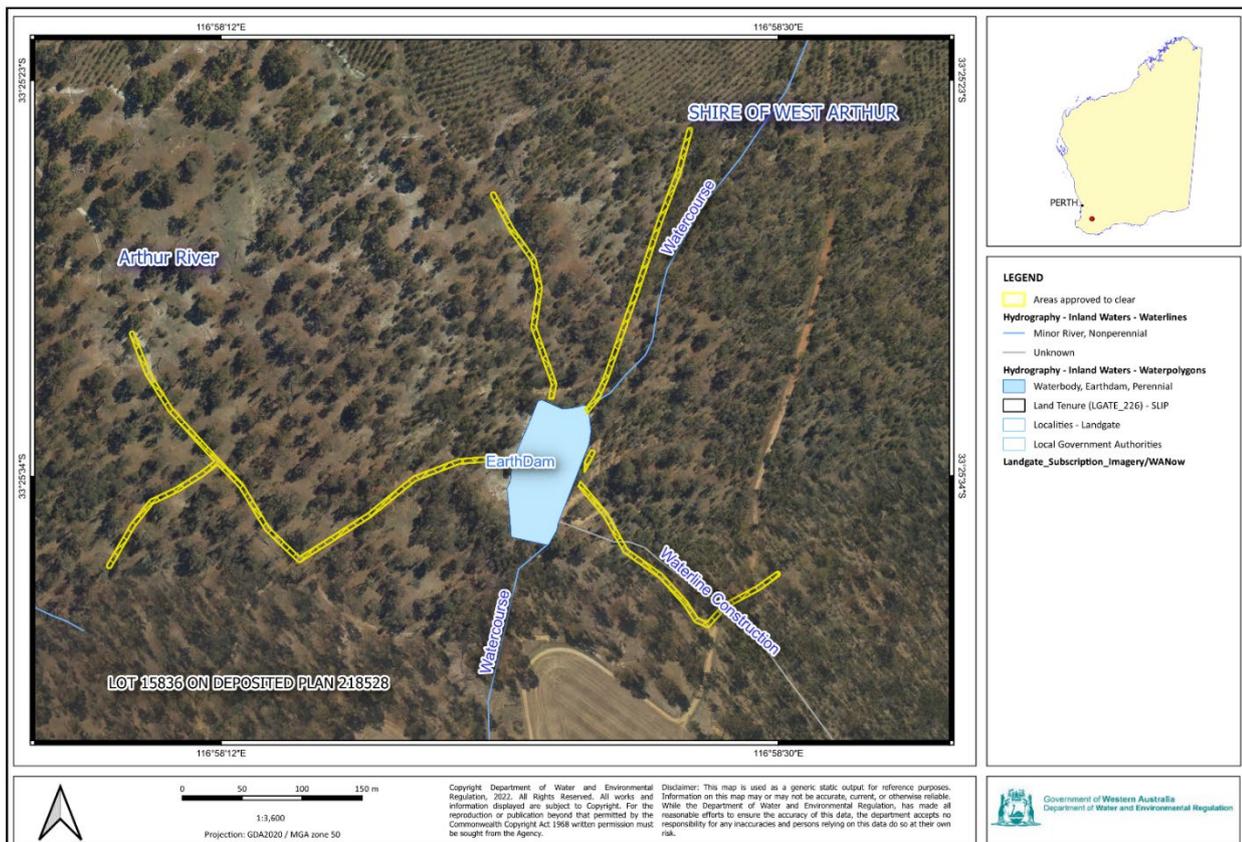


Figure 2: Areas approved to be clearing (cross hatched yellow) and nearby surface water expressions (blue)

Due to the proximity of the application area to the Kylie Railway Dam, the proposed works may result in short-term surface water quality impacts, including minor erosion of exposed soils, sediment mobilisation into nearby drainage lines and temporary turbidity increases during active clearing or after the first rains. These impacts are expected to be localised and short term. Due to the primary purpose of the clearing being to retain and direct water within these drainage systems, any temporary disturbance will be restricted to this system, preventing catchment-scale impacts. The limited extent and controlled nature of the works further minimise potential short-term effects.

The clearing and restoration of both mapped and unmapped drainage lines are expected to enhance the long-term hydrological performance of the catchment by improving directed and controlled surface water flow, increasing water availability within the catchment by supporting more consistent inflow to the Kylie Railway Dam, and reducing water-related erosion across the catchment.

Conclusion

For the reasons set out above, the application area contains vegetation that indicates the presence of the Avon Wheatbelt P2 GDE, and the clearing activity may result in short-term surface water quality impacts. Noting, the purpose for clearing and the extent of clearing proposed it is unlikely the proposed clearing will result in significant impacts to riparian vegetation or surface or underground water resources.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The Shire of West Arthur advised the department that local government approvals are not required for the proposed works and that the proposed clearing is consistent with the Shire's Local Planning Scheme No. 2, which zones the application area as 'Recreational and open space'. The land on which clearing will occur is located on Crown Allotment – reserve (R 16712), vested with the Shire of West Arthur for management, with the current primary purpose of 'water supply and landscape rehabilitation' (Shire of West Arthur, 2025a).

No Aboriginal sites of significance have been mapped within the application area. It is the permit holder's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* (WA) and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

End

Appendix A. Additional information provided by applicant

Information	Description
Additional information provided by the Shire in response to a request for further information from the department (Shire of West Arthur, 2026)	Details and clarification regarding the type of vegetation proposed to be cleared. Confirmation that no native trees with a DBH larger than 300mm will be cleared. Information relevant to the assessment has been included in section 3 above.

Appendix B. Site characteristics

B.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details
Local context	<p>The area proposed to be cleared comprises 0.5 hectares of historically cleared drainage channels, which lead to the Kylie Railway Dam. The application area is in the intensive land use zone of Western Australia and is surrounded by an isolated patch of remnant vegetation, within a highly cleared landscape.</p> <p>Spatial data indicates the local area (10-kilometre radius from the centre of the area proposed to be cleared) retains approximately 16.98 per cent of the original native vegetation cover.</p>
Ecological linkage	The application area does not intersect any mapped ecological linkages and is not part of any formal linkage.
Conservation areas	<p>The application area is located within Reserve 16712, which is vested with the Shire of West Arthur for management purposes relating to water supply and landscape rehabilitation.</p> <p>The closest conservation area to the application area is Dead Mans Swamp Nature Reserve, approximately 7.1 kilometres away.</p> <p>There are several land parcels within the local area which have been conserved in perpetuity, or are managed for the purpose of conservation.</p>
Vegetation description	<p>Photographs and descriptions supplied by the applicant indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing area consists of sheoak species, <i>Eucalyptus wandoo</i>, and <i>Eucalyptus rudis</i>, with occasional paperbark and over sparse native shrubs, grasses and fallen dead wood with regrowth and volunteer surroundings. Representative photos are available in Appendix E.</p> <p>This is inconsistent with the mapped vegetation type:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beard association WILLIAMS_4, which is described as Woodland southwest - <i>Eucalyptus marginata</i> (jarrah), <i>Corymbia calophylla</i> (marri), <i>Eucalyptus wandoo</i> (Shepherd et al, 2001). <p>The mapped vegetation type retains approximately 16.09 per cent of the original extent (Government of Western Australia, 2019).</p>
Vegetation condition	<p>Photographs supplied by the applicant indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in Degraded to Completely Degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition, described as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Degraded - Basic vegetation structure severely impacted by disturbance. Scope for regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of very aggressive weeds, partial clearing, dieback and/or grazing. Completely Degraded - The structure of the vegetation is no longer intact, and the area is completely or almost completely without native species. These areas

Characteristic	Details
	<p>are often described as 'parkland cleared' with the flora comprising weed or crop species with isolated native trees or shrubs.</p> <p>The full Keighery (1994) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix D. Representative photos are available in Appendix E.</p>
Climate and landform	<p>The application area occurs on gently undulating topography with slight rises and depressions from 260 metres Australian Height Datum (AHD) to 270 metres AHD throughout the channel lengths.</p> <p>The location experiences a mean annual maximum temperature of 23.0 degrees Celsius and a mean annual minimum temperature of 9.8 degrees Celsius. The mean annual rainfall and evapotranspiration rate are both approximately 500 millimetres.</p>
Soil description	<p>The soil is mapped as Delyanine 2 Subsystem (257De_2) - Hillslopes and hillcrests with mainly grey deep sandy duplex soils and significant areas of grey shallow sandy duplex and moderately deep sandy gravels.</p>
Land degradation risk	<p>The mapped soil type within the application area has a low to medium risk of land degradation resulting from water erosion, phosphorus export, salinity, flooding, waterlogging, and water repellence, however, they have a high risk of wind erosion and subsurface acidification (DPIRD, 2022).</p> <p>The mapped groundwater salinity within the application area is 14,000 to 35,000 milligrams per litre Total Dissolved Solids, which is described as highly saline.</p>
Waterbodies	<p>The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that the manmade, perennial, earthdam, Kylie Railway Dam (Object ID - 54030) in the centre of the areas proposed to be cleared is where the drainage lines proposed to be cleared are intended to flow.</p> <p>Two natural, waterline, minor rivers are mapped adjacent to these drainage lines, with the southern waterline originating from a Geomorphic Wetland (Darkan Duranillin) creek (UFI 572) located on the adjacent property. These are a part of the Blackwood River system and flow into the Kylie Railway Dam.</p> <p>A manmade drain (Object ID – 12951) is mapped intersecting the application area which also drains into the Kylie Railway Dam.</p>
Hydrogeography	<p>The application area is located within the Hardy Estuary_Blackwood River Catchment, the Blackwood River Basin and the South West Hydrographic Catchment Division, which is all located within the Southern Zone of Rejuvenated Drainage Hydrological Zone.</p> <p>The application area is not within any surface or groundwater areas proclaimed under the RIWI Act or any other proclaimed water resources.</p>
Flora	<p>Based on available databases, there are records of 12 conservation significant flora species in the local area. Nine of these flora species are listed as Priority and three are listed as Threatened species, list in the Federal EPBC Act and under the State BC Act. A Priority one species <i>Thomasia julietiae</i>, is the closest record to the application area, found approximately 5.47 kilometres away.</p> <p>Seven conservation significant flora species recorded locally occur in similar vegetation types as the application area. Within the local area, none of the 12 conservation significant flora species, are known to grow in the same soil type as the application area.</p>
Ecological communities	<p>The application area is not within any mapped occurrences of Priority or Threatened Ecological Communities.</p> <p>Available databases indicate that the closest mapped conservation significant ecological community is located approximately 1.7 kilometres west of the application area and is an occurrence of the Wheatbelt Woodlands - Eucalypt woodlands of the Western</p>

Characteristic	Details
	Australian Wheatbelt, which is listed as Critically Endangered under the EPBC Act and Priority 3 under the BC Act. The vegetation within the application area is not known to be representative of a Priority or Threatened Ecological Community.
Fauna	<p>There are records of three threatened, three priority and one conservation significant fauna species within the local area. The closest record to the application area is <i>Zanda</i> sp. 'white-tailed black cockatoo' approximately 5.18 kilometres away.</p> <p>The application area is located within the known breeding range of Carnaby's black cockatoos, the 'core' habitat of forest red-tailed black cockatoos, the likely range of Baudin's black cockatoos and mapped as black cockatoo feeding habitat within the Jarrah Forest bioregion. The closest record of a black cockatoo roost is approximately 13.6 kilometres away and the closest confirmed record of a forest red-tailed black cockatoo breeding site is a natural hollow located approximately 24.5 kilometres away.</p>

B.2. Vegetation extent

	Pre-European extent (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Extent remaining (%)	Current extent in all DBCA managed land (ha)	Current proportion (%) of pre-European extent in all DBCA managed land
IBRA bioregion*					
Jarrah Forest	4,506,660.25	2,399,838.15	53.25	1,673,614.25	37.14
Jarrah Forest - <i>WILLIAMS_4</i>	170,025.07	27,355.17	16.09	1,339.88	0.79
Beard Vegetation Association*					
<i>WILLIAMS_4</i>	170,810.07	27,487.20	16.09	1,339.88	0.78
Local area					
10km radius from application area	33,116.35	5,622.85	16.98	-	-

*Government of Western Australia (2019)

B.3. Land degradation risk table

Risk categories	<i>Dellyanine 2 Subsystem - 257De_2</i>
Wind erosion	H1: 50-70% of map unit has a high to extreme wind erosion risk
Water erosion	L1: <3% of map unit has a high to extreme water erosion risk
Water logging	M1: 10-30% of map unit has a moderate to very high waterlogging risk
Water Repellence	M2: 30-50% of map unit has a high water repellence risk
Sub-surface Acidification	H2: >70% of map unit has a high subsurface acidification risk or is presently acid
Phosphorous export	L1: <3% of map unit has a high to extreme phosphorus export risk
Salinity	L1: <3% of map unit has a moderate to high salinity risk or is presently saline
Flooding	L1: <3% of the map unit has a moderate to high flood risk

Appendix C. Assessment against the clearing principles

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Environmental value: biological values		
<p><u>Principle (a):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u> The area proposed to be cleared is unlikely to contain local or regionally significant flora or ecological communities. Vegetation within the application area does not support a high level of biodiversity when compared to native vegetation occurring locally. The application area contains limited low quality foraging habitat for black cockatoo species.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.</i>
<p><u>Principle (b):</u> <i>“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.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u> The area proposed to be cleared contains species known to be foraging, roosting and breeding habitat for black cockatoo species. The applicant has committed to avoiding roosting and breeding habitat and foraging habitat is limited and low quality.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.</i>
<p><u>Principle (c):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u> Given that the proposed clearing is within a historically cleared drainage lines, noting the extent of the clearing, the results of the flora likelihood analysis and the Degraded to Completely Degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of vegetation within the application area, it is unlikely to contain or contain habitat for flora species listed under the BC Act.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (d):</u> <i>“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.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u> The area proposed to be cleared does not contain species that can indicate a threatened ecological community.</p>	Not at variance	No
Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas		
<p><u>Principle (e):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u> The extent of the mapped vegetation type and the native vegetation in the local area is inconsistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia. Noting that condition and extent of the vegetation within the application area, it is not likely to be vegetation that is significant in the local area.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.2, above.</i>
<p><u>Principle (h):</u> <i>“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.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p>	Not likely to be at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
<p>The application area is located within Reserve 16712, which is managed for the purpose of water supply and landscape rehabilitation. Noting the purpose of the clearing is to maintain existing drainage lines, the clearing is expected to improve environmental values in the reserve.</p>		
<p>Environmental value: land and water resources</p>		
<p><u>Principle (f):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Natural and manmade drainage lines and a waterbody are mapped adjacent and overlapping the application area.</p> <p>Noting the purpose of the clearing is to maintain drainage lines flowing in the same direction as the mapped drainage lines, which flow into the central waterbody, the clearing is expected to include vegetation growing in or in association with</p>	<p>At variance</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p><i>Refer to Section 3.2.3, above.</i></p>
<p><u>Principle (g):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The mapped soils are highly susceptible to wind erosion and sub-surface acidification, with highly saline groundwater. However, given the areas proposed to be cleared predominantly consist of historically cleared drainage lines, currently in Degraded to Completely Degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition, and the given all trees with a DBH greater than 30 centimetres will be retained within these drainage lines, the proposed clearing is not considered likely to have an appreciable impact on land degradation from wind erosion or sub-surface acidification.</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p>	<p>No</p>
<p><u>Principle (i):</u> <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.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Given the number of waterlines, waterbody and the groundwater dependent ecosystem are recorded within the application area, the proposed clearing may impact surface and ground water quality.</p>	<p>At variance</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p><i>Refer to Section 3.2.3, above.</i></p>
<p><u>Principle (j):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The mapped soils and topographic contours in the surrounding area do not indicate the proposed clearing is likely to contribute to increased incidence or intensity of flooding. It is also acknowledged that the proposed end land use is to provide channels to direct surface water flow within the catchment areas. Therefore, it is expected that the catchment layout post-clearing will reduce the occurrence of flooding or waterlogging and ensure a more sustainable use of available water supplies.</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p>	<p>No</p>

Appendix D. Vegetation condition rating scale

Vegetation condition is a rating given to a defined area of vegetation to categorise and rank disturbance related to human activities. The rating refers to the degree of change in the vegetation structure, density and species present

in relation to undisturbed vegetation of the same type. The degree of disturbance impacts upon the vegetation's ability to regenerate. Disturbance at a site can be a cumulative effect from a number of interacting disturbance types.

Considering its location, the scale below was used to measure the condition of the vegetation proposed to be cleared. This scale has been extracted from Keighery, B.J. (1994) *Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community*. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

Measuring vegetation condition for the South West and Interzone Botanical Province (Keighery, 1994)

Condition	Description
Pristine	Pristine or nearly so, no obvious signs of disturbance.
Excellent	Vegetation structure intact, with disturbance affecting individual species; weeds are non-aggressive species.
Very good	Vegetation structure altered, with obvious signs of disturbance. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by repeated fires, the presence of some more aggressive weeds, dieback, logging and/or grazing.
Good	Vegetation structure significantly altered by very obvious signs of multiple disturbances. Retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate it. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of some very aggressive weeds at high density, partial clearing, dieback and/or grazing.
Degraded	Basic vegetation structure severely impacted by disturbance. Scope for regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of very aggressive weeds, partial clearing, dieback and/or grazing.
Completely degraded	The structure of the vegetation is no longer intact and the area is completely or almost completely without native species. These areas are often described as 'parkland cleared' with the flora comprising weed or crop species with isolated native trees or shrubs.

Appendix E. Biological survey information excerpts / photographs of the vegetation



Figure 2: Photographs of the vegetation within the application area, with annotations indicating vegetation proposed to be cleared (Shire of West Arthur, 2025a).

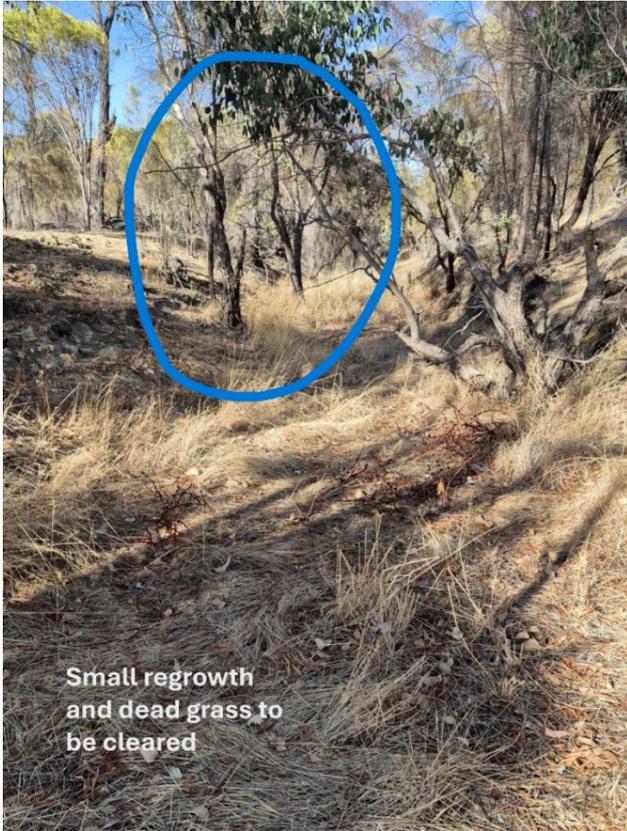


Figure 3: Photographs of the vegetation within the application area, with annotations indicating vegetation proposed to be cleared (Shire of West Arthur, 2025a).

Appendix F. Sources of information

F.1. GIS databases

Publicly available GIS Databases used (sourced from www.data.wa.gov.au):

- 10 Metre Contours (DPIRD-073)
- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- Cadastre (LGATE-218)
- Cadastre Address (LGATE-002)
- Contours (DPIRD-073)
- DBCA – Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia – Western Australia (DBCA-045)
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Flood Risk (DPIRD-007)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- Hydrography – Inland Waters – Waterlines
- Hydrological Zones of Western Australia (DPIRD-069)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Imagery
- Local Planning Scheme – Zones and Reserves (DPLH-071)
- Native Title (ILUA) (LGATE-067)
- Offsets Register – Offsets (DWER-078)
- Pre-European Vegetation Statistics
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- Ramsar Sites (DBCA-010)
- Regional Parks (DBCA-026)
- Remnant Vegetation, All Areas
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Flood Risk (DPIRD-007)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Phosphorus Export Risk (DPIRD-010)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Subsurface Acidification Risk (DPIRD-011)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Water Erosion Risk (DPIRD-013)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Water Repellence Risk (DPIRD-014)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Waterlogging Risk (DPIRD-015)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Wind Erosion Risk (DPIRD-016)
- Soil Landscape Mapping – Best Available
- Soil Landscape Mapping – Systems
- Wheatbelt Wetlands Stage 1 (DBCA-021)

Restricted GIS Databases used:

- ICMS (Incident Complaints Management System) – Points and Polygons
- Threatened Flora (TPFL)
- Threatened Flora (WAHerb)
- Threatened Fauna
- Threatened Ecological Communities and Priority Ecological Communities
- Threatened Ecological Communities and Priority Ecological Communities (Buffers)

F.2. References

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