

# Vegetation Survey

Nicol Property Manjimup

2025



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(Environmental Science)  
12 November 2025

## Summary

Clearing Permit: CPS 11354/1

Location: Nelson Location 2084 on plan 125731

87 Dingup road Manjimup.

Permit Applicant: Brent Nicol

Permit Duration: To be determined

Clearing area: 0.39 Ha ~ 30m x 115m

## Site Visit

An inspection of the site was undertaken on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

The whole of the proposed clearing area was situated within a pastured paddock, which was utilised for grazing of cattle (Fig 1). Grazing of stock has been carried out on this site for many decades following farm development. The original forest was mixed Jarrah/Marri with typical jarrah understorey vegetation. Complete forest removal including understorey plants was done and planted with pasture grass species. A small section (the proposed clearing site) was left as a shade belt for stock which provided a widely spaced grove of trees. The majority, of the retained trees were marri and the remainder (3%) were jarrah. No understorey vegetation was retained and this was replaced with pasture species and weeds.



Source: DWER

Figure 1: Plan of the proposed clearing site within the Nicol farm 2025

## Introduction

The proposed site falls within the South-West botanical province and is designated as the jarrah forest (JAF02) biogeographical region (EPA 2016). The jarrah/marri forest occurs uniformly on lateritic soils throughout the south west, where annual rainfall ranges from 700 mm to 1100 mm. The farm lies on the 1000 mm isohyet (Eberhard 2004) and has podzolic soils associated with laterite. Jarrah understorey plants are considered, to be relatively stable and resilient to disturbance. However, the catastrophic effects of clearing for agriculture, totally remove native vegetation so that introduced pasture grasses can be established. This farm, which was established almost 100 years ago, has followed this trend. The retained shelter belt has also replaced native species with pasture grasses and is now a sink for introduced weeds.

A survey of the proposed 0.39 ha within Lot 60 on deposited plan 423216, was undertaken on the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025, to satisfy the conditions of the clearing permit CPS 11354/1 application to clear native vegetation under section 51E of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.

## Method

The proposed clearing area was relatively small (0.39 ha) and a thorough search of the entire site was conducted. This was achieved by walking a zig zag pattern to systematically cover the whole site with all species detected recorded.

## Results

The survey revealed that the entire native understorey vegetation has been replaced with introduced grasses and weeds (Table 1). Only one native plant growing under a log was detected (*Pelargonian littorale*). This plant was a singleton and was contained within a thick mat of grasses. It is likely that this species will eventually succumb to overcrowding by the grass.

Table 1: List of species detected at the proposed clearing site on the Nicol property in November 2025.

Plant Name		Weed	Native
Common	Botanical		
Sheep thistle	<i>Carduus tenuiflorus</i>	Yes	
Barley grass	<i>Hordeum leporinum</i>	Yes	
Dock	<i>Rumex L.</i>	Yes	
Cape weed	<i>Arcotheca calendula</i>	Yes	
Rye grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i> (cultivars)	Yes	
Wild oats	<i>Avena fatua</i>	Yes	
Milk thistle	<i>Sonchus oleaceus</i>	Yes	
Geranium	<i>Pelargonian littorale</i>		Yes
Mallow	<i>Malva parviflora</i>	Yes	
Winter grass	<i>Poa annua</i>	Yes	

**Site condition:** The condition of the vegetation was taken from the description for the south west and inter zone botanical province (adapted from Keighery 1994 and Trudgen 1988). Under this scoring system the site has been evaluated as being completely degraded. This rating, listed as, “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” fits this site exactly.

## Trees

The site supports a grove of trees, the majority of which are marri (Table 2).

Table 2: numbers of trees by species at the proposed clearing site on the Nicol farm in November 2025.

Tree species	Number
Live Jarrah ( <i>Eucalyptus marginata</i> )	2
Live Marri ( <i>Corymbia calophylla</i> )	39
Dead Marri ( <i>Corymbia calophylla</i> )	20
Fallen dead Marri ( <i>Corymbia calophylla</i> )	5

The majority, of the trees are in poor health with a high number of dead trees (37%) and many trees dying back. Several of the trees had butt damage providing an entry point for ants and other pathogens.



All trees have rub marks from cattle which may further decline tree health. It is known that cattle will occasionally chew on wood and eat bark. The main reason cited is due to mineral deficiency, but also includes boredom and loneliness ([April Lee 2023](#)).



## Discussion

Environment protection is a vital step in preserving the natural environment from degradation. It involves the conservation of natural resources and where possible the repair of damage caused by human activities (Jasanoff S. 1996). In Australia environmental protection is a shared responsibility across national, state and local governments and enforced through various laws (Lin, Li-Wei, Cheng et al. 2024). Clearing for agriculture is possibly the worst case in species conservation and needs to be weighed carefully against the potential loss of amenity versus the economic and social gain for the community. In the case of the clearing proposal on the Nicol property the entire site has been affected by past clearing and ongoing grazing. It remains as a small fragmented grove which has been highly modified from its natural origins.

## Conclusions

- Previous clearing and grazing converted the understorey plant layer to exotic grasses and weeds
- The grove of trees has been altered from a balanced mix of Jarrah and Marri to a dominant marri stand.
- Trees are in poor health with a high death count (37%)

## References

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