



## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 1184/1  
Permit type: Area Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Wydgee Pastoral & Grazing Co Pty Ltd

### 1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 116 ON PLAN 29080 ( PAYNES FIND 6612)  
Local Government Area: Shire Of Yalgoo  
Colloquial name: WYDGEE

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
18		Mechanical Removal	Horticulture

## 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 202: Shrublands; mulga and Acacia quadrimarginea scrub Shepherd et al, 2001.	The area under application is a block of 18ha that adjoins an existing horticultural area within a pastoral lease. The vegetation is dominated by mulga, Acacia aneura, and a handful of other shrubs that include Eremophila forrestii. The vegetation structure is fairly open with little in the way of understorey or groundcover, however this is most probably the result to the property experiencing 5 years of drought and the subsequent grazing pressure.	Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Kelghery 1994)	The condition of the vegetation was assessed during a site visit conducted on Tuesday the 30th of May 2006. Site visit DEC Officer, 2006.

## 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 area proposed to be cleared falls within the Murchison IBRA Bioregion and the Shire of Yalgoo, both of which remain well vegetated as they occur outside of the Intensive Land-use Zone (Shepherd et al. 2001). According to the desktop study, this area falls within some 4000ha of Beard vegetation association 202; which is described as mulga and Acacia quadrimarginea scrub. The property is held under a pastoral lease, across which similar management could be expected to have influenced the vegetation to much the same extent. Thus it would not be expected that the 18ha under application would differ greatly in its biological diversity from the surrounding area. Therefore the proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology GIS Databases:  
- Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia-EA 18/10/00  
- Local Government Authorities-DLI 8/07/04  
- Pre-European Vegetation - DA 01/01  
Shepherd et al. 2001  
Site visit DEC Officer, 2006.

**(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

As previously discussed the area under application occurs within a well vegetated landscape. The area does provide habitat for fauna as was evident during the site visit, where termite nests, bull ant nests and birds were readily observed. However, given the size of the area to be cleared and that it is surrounded by vegetation that could provide similar habitat, it is unlikely that the 18ha represents an area of significant habitat for fauna. Therefore the proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

**Methodology** Site visit DEC Officer, 2006.

**(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

There are no records of Declared Rare or Priority Flora occurring either within the area under application or the local area (10km radius). The closest occurrence of significant flora is a Priority 3 species some 25km from the area under application. Therefore the proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

**Methodology** GIS Databases: Declared Rare and Priority Flora list - CALM 01/07/05.

**(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

There are no occurrences of Threatened Ecological Communities either within the area under application or the local area (10km radius). Therefore the proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

**Methodology** GIS Databases: Threatened Ecological Communities - CALM 12/04/05

**(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

	Pre-European area (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Remaining %*	Conservation status**	Reserves/ CALM-managed land, %
IBRA Bioregion - Murchison	28206195	28206195	100	Least concern	Not available
Shire - Yalgoo			Not available		Not available
Beard veg type - 202	413191	405532	98.1	Least concern	2.6

\* (Shepherd et al. 2001)

\*\* (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002)

There is 100% pre-European vegetation remaining in the Murchison Bioregion and 98.1% in Beard vegetation association 202. There is no data available for the Shire of Yalgoo as it does not occur within the Intensive Land-use Zone. As the area under application does not fall within an extensively cleared landscape, the proposal is not at variance to this Principle.

**Methodology** GIS Databases:  
- Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia - EA 18/10/00  
- Pre-European Vegetation - DA 01/01  
Shepherd et al, 2001.  
Department of Natural Resources and Environment, 2002

**(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 at variance to this Principle

The area under application does not contain any wetlands or watercourses, therefore the proposal is not at variance to this Principle.

**Methodology** GIS Databases: Hydrography, linear - DoE 01/02/04  
Site visit DEC Officer, 2006.

**(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**

DAFWA (2006) have reported that the proposed clearing poses no risk of salinity or eutrophication. While the soil type can be susceptible to wind and water erosion if disturbed, the current horticultural area does not show any signs of erosion. It was concluded that if similar management practices were adopted it would be unlikely that land degradation would result (DAFWA 2006). Therefore the proposal is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

**Methodology**    DAFWA, 2006.  
Site visit DEC Officer, 2006.

**(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 at variance to this Principle**

There are no conservation areas or other reserves within the local area. The closest is Karroun Hill Nature Reserve some 100km from the area under application. At such a distance, it is highly unlikely that the area under application contributes to the environmental values of this reserve. Therefore the proposal is not at variance to this Principle.

**Methodology**    GIS Databases:  
- CALM Regional Parks - CALM 12/04/02  
- CALM Managed Lands & Waters - CALM 01/07/05  
- Proposed National Parks FMP-CALM 19/03/03  
- Register of National Estate - EA 28/01/03

**(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 at variance to this Principle**

The area under application does not encompass any public drinking water source areas or any surface water features. The property is situated between the 250 and 300mm isohyet, with the 100 year average rainfall for Wydgee given at 271.8mm (DAFWA 2006). The drainage for the area under application is to the north into the Lake Monger catchment. It was concluded that the proposed clearing poses no risk of causing salinity (DAFWA 2006), due to the low potential for groundwater recharge.

**Methodology**    DAFWA, 2006.  
GIS Databases - Public Drinking Water Sources (PDWSAs) - DOE 09/08/05

**(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 at variance to this Principle**

The area under application as previously discussed does not occur in an extensively cleared landscape and experiences between 250 and 300mm of rainfall annually (DAFWA 2006). The immediate surrounding landscape is described as being level to gently inclined, with slopes less than 3 to 5% (DAFWA 2006). The removal of 18ha of vegetation within this area would not lead to an increase in peak flood height or duration. The proposal is not at variance to this Principle.

**Methodology**    DAFWA, 2006.

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

**Comments**

The Shire of Yalgoo has not indicated that there are any planning requirements/approvals that would affect the clearing.

A current water licence is held by the proponent for the existing horticultural area and is valid until 2015. An amendment to the current licence is currently being processed to cover future expansion of the water use.

The Department of Environment and Conservation notified the Badimia People, Native Title Claimants and the Yamatji Marlpa Barna Baba Maaja Aboriginal Corporation, pursuant to section 24GB(9)(c) of the Native Title Act, of the application to clear up to 18 hectares of native vegetation for horticulture development. The DEC

invited the Claimants and the YMBBMA Corp to comment on the impact of the grant of CPS 1184/1 on their native title rights and interests.

In response to this notification a submission was received from the Yamatji Marlpa Land and Sea representing the Badimia people whose traditional land is affected by this proposal. The submission sought to ensure that the clearing would not affect any Aboriginal heritage sites and suggested that consultation with the Badimia native title working group may be one way to achieve this. The submission also sought clarification on how the clearing permit process addressed the Aboriginal cultural, social and heritage values associated with native vegetation and how they might be protected. This last point falls outside of the scope of this assessment.

The details of the submission were provided to the proponent who planned to consult with the Badimia native title working group to ensure that no Aboriginal heritage sites would be affected.

#### Methodology

### 4. Assessor's recommendations

Purpose	Method Applied	area (ha)/ trees	Decision	Comment / recommendation
Horticulture	Mechanical Removal	18	Grant	The assessable criteria have been addressed and no objections were raised. The assessing officer therefore recommends that the clearing permit be granted.

### 5. References

- DAFWA Land degradation assessment report. Office of the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation, Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia. DoE TRIM ref CRN219896.
- 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.
- Hopkins, A.J.M., Beeston, G.R. and Harvey J.M. (2001) A database on the vegetation of Western Australia. Stage 1. CALMScience after J. S. Beard, late 1960's to early 1980's Vegetation Survey of Western Australia, UWA Press.
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- 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.

### 6. Glossary

Term	Meaning
CALM	Department of Conservation and Land Management
DAWA	Department of Agriculture
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection (now DoE)
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 DoE)