



## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 1589/1  
 Permit type: Purpose Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Shire of Brookton

### 1.3. Property details

Property:

Local Government Area: Shire Of Brookton  
 Colloquial name: Moorumbine Road and York Williams Road Reserves

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
0.5		Mechanical Removal	Road construction or maintenance
		Mechanical Removal	Road construction or maintenance

## 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 Unit 352 - Medium woodland; York gum	The vegetation depicted in site photos shows the vegetation to be in a degraded condition	Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)	The proposal is to clear two wandoo trees and 10 York gums with some understorey on the York Williams Road and 6 trees with some understorey on the Moorumbine Road
Beard Unit 1023 - Medium woodland; York gum, wandoo & salmon gum (E. salmonophloia)	containing Wandooos, salmon and York gums with minimal understorey.		

## 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 may be at variance to this Principle**  
 The area under application is for up to 0.5ha comprising of 18 trees and associated understorey along the York Williams and Moorumbine Roads within the Shire of Brookton.

Of the various vegetation types present, the percentage remaining of these types is well below 30%. Photographs of the area indicates that the areas proposed to be cleared are degraded with minimal or no native understorey. However, some of the 18 trees to be removed may be habitat trees for native fauna.

Therefore, the proposal may be at variance to this principle.

A condition has been imposed to offset the values of the area to be cleared.

**Methodology** GIS Databases:  
 - Corrigin North 1.4m Orthomosaic - DOLA 01  
 - Brookton Townsite 15cm Orthomosaic - DLI04  
 - Brookton Townsite 15cm Orthomosaic - DLI04  
 - Brookton Townsite 15cm Orthomosaic - DLI04

### (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 may be at variance to this Principle**  
 The proposal is to clear 18 Salmon, York and Wandoo trees at least some of which would constitute habitat for fauna. It is acknowledged that this clearing may be at variance to this principle.

To mitigate any potential impacts of the clearing on remnant vegetation, while acknowledging the need to maintain and upgrade roads, the proposed clearing will be carried out in accordance with a to address the loss of vegetation and offset the values of the area to be cleared.

**Methodology** Clearing Application. DOC8251.

**(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**

The Biodiversity Coordination Section, DEC has advised that there are a large number of known occurrences of declared rare flora (DRF) and priority flora within the Shire of Brookton. Some DRF and priority species occur on the same vegetation types as the proposed clearing.

There are no known DRF and priority flora species recorded along the sections of the roads proposed to be cleared. Photographs of the 18 trees proposed to be cleared show that there is minimal if any native understorey within the proposed clearing areas.

It is unlikely that the proposed clearing is at variance to this clearing principle.

**Methodology** BCS Advice (2006).  
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**

Biodiversity Coordination Section, DEC has advised that Salmon Gum woodlands of the Wheatbelt are listed as a Priority Ecological Community (No. 158) by DEC's Threatened Species and Communities Unit. The proposed clearing is for Wandoo, York and Salmon gums and some understorey. The salmon gums to be cleared are single trees which are not part of a Salmon Gum woodland. Therefore it is unlikely the proposed clearing is at variance to this principle.

**Methodology** BCS Advice (2006). DOC 5461 and DOC5462.  
GIS Databases:  
-Threatened Ecological Communities - CALM 12/4/05  
- Pre-European Vegetation - DA 01/01  
- Brookton-Boddington 1m Orthomosaic - DLI 04

**(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 may be at variance to this Principle**

The area under application comprises of up to 0.5 ha of native vegetation (18 trees and some understorey) along 2 roads within the Shire of Brookton. Photographs of the trees to be cleared shows that the areas to be cleared are in a degraded condition.

The State Government is committed to the National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation which includes a target that prevents the clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30% of that present Pre-European settlement (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002, EPA 2000). The vegetation complexes under application are below the minimum threshold of 30% representation.

The areas under application are located within the Intensive Land-use Zone (Shepherd et al. 2001) and located in the area defined in EPA Position Statement No. 2 (EPA 2000). The EPA's position states that significant clearing of native vegetation has already occurred in this area and any further reduction through agricultural clearing is not supported.

To mitigate any potential impacts of the clearing on remnant vegetation, while acknowledging the need to maintain and upgrade roads, the proposed clearing will be carried out in accordance with a to address the loss of vegetation and offset the values of the area to be cleared.

	Pre-European (ha)*	Current extent (ha)*	Remaining (%)*	Conservation** Status (%)	In reserves/CALM managed land
IBRA Bioregions - Avon Wheatbelt***	9 578 995	1 536 296	16.0	Vulnerable	NA
Shire of Beverley	239 896	76 566	31.9	Depleted	NA

Vegetation type:

Beard: Unit 352	874 652	133 255	15.2	Vulnerable	3.0
Beard: Unit 1023	1 698 453	92 709	5.5	Endangered	

\* (Shepherd et al. 2001)

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

\*\*\* Within the Intensive Landuse Zone

**Methodology** Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)  
 EPA (2000)  
 Hopkins et al. (2001)  
 Information from proponent 14/9/2006 (Trim ref: DOC4914)  
 Shepherd et al. (2001)  
 GIS Databases:  
 - Pre-European Vegetation - DA 01/01  
 - Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia - EA 18/10/00  
 - Local Government Authorities - DLI 8/07/04

**(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**

The York-Williams road intersect the Waramine Brook, however, the road has been previously cleared and current infrastructure (drains and culverts) will minimise impacts on Waramine Brook. Additionally culverts will be extended on both roads during the road works.

The proposal is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

**Methodology** GIS Databases:  
 - Rivers 250K - GA

**(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**

It is considered that clearing of 18 trees and some understorey along two sections of roads will not cause appreciable land degradation in the immediate or local area.

**Methodology** GIS Databases:  
 - ANCA, Wetlands - CALM 08/01  
 - Rivers 250K - GA

**(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**

Pingeculling Nature Reserve is located within close proximity the Moorumbine Rd (1.2km). The proposed clearing of 18 trees and associated understorey is not likely to adversely impact on this Nature Reserve

**Methodology** GIS Databases:  
 - CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 1/07/05

**(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 on the roadsides may cause some short term localised surface water sedimentation during works. However, these issues should be minimised as the clearing is to be undertaken within existing road reserves that have in place appropriate roadside infrastructure such as table drains and culverts.

**Methodology** GIS Databases:  
 - Evaporation Isopleths - BOM 09/98  
 - Isohyets - BOM 09/98  
 - Groundwater Salinity, Statewide - 22/02/00  
 - Hydrography, linear - DOE 01/02/04  
 - Topographic Contours, Statewide - DOLA 12/09/02  
 - Public Drinking Water Source Areas (PDWSAs) - DOE 07/02/06  
 - WIN Groundwater Sites, Other - non DEWCP (Current)

**(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**

Due to the scale and the nature of the proposed clearing it is unlikely to exacerbate flooding in the local area.

**Methodology GIS Databases:**

- Topographic Contours, Statewide - DOLA 12/09/02

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

**Comments**

There is no RIWI Act Licence, Works Approval or EP Act licence that will affect the area that has been applied to clear.

The Department of Environment and Conservation's advertising of the application in the West Australian newspaper constitutes legal notification of the native title representative body for the purpose of the future act procedures under the Native Title Act 1993. No response was received from the representative body.

It has been noted that this permit covers an area in which there exists registered Indigenous Heritage Sites. It is the responsibility of the proponent to ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process. The permit holder will be notified of their obligations under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 in the cover letter to this permit.

**Methodology**

**4. Assessor's recommendations**

Purpose	Method Applied	Decision	Comment / recommendation
Road construction or maintenance	Mechanical Removal	0.5 trees	Grant
			The application to clearing 18 trees and associated understorey totaling 0.5ha has been assessed against the clearing principles. The assessment concludes principles (a), (b) and (c) may be at variance with the remaining principles not likely to be at variance.
			Offset and Reporting conditions have been imposed.
Road construction or maintenance	Mechanical Removal		Moorumbine Road York Williams Road

**5. References**

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.

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  
WRC

Threatened Ecological Community  
Water and Rivers Commission (now DoE)

