



**1. Application details**

**1.1. Permit application details**

Permit application No.: 2771/1  
 Permit type: Purpose Permit

**1.2. Proponent details**

Proponent's name: Shire of Capel

**1.3. Property details**

Property: ROAD RESERVE ( CAPEL RIVER 6271)  
 ROAD RESERVE ( CAPEL RIVER 6271)

Local Government Area:

Colloquial name: Various Road Reserves within the Shire of Capel

**1.4. Application**

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
	50	Mechanical Removal	Hazard reduction or fire control

**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
The vegetation under application may consist of one or more of the following Beard Vegetation Associations: - 2: Tall woodland; tuart (Eucalyptus gomphocephala) - 3: Medium forest; jarrah-marri - 6: Medium woodland; tuart & jarrah - 27: Low woodland; paperbark (Melaleuca sp.) - 37: Shrublands; teatree thicket - 676: Succulent steppe; samphire - 968: Medium woodland; jarrah, marri & wandoo - 990: Low forest; peppermint (Agonis flexuosa) - 998: Medium woodland; tuart - 1000: Mosaic: Medium forest; jarrah-marri / Low woodland; banksia / Low forest; teatree (Melaleuca spp.) - 1017: Medium open woodland; jarrah & marri, with low woodland; banksia - 1136: Medium woodland; marri with some jarrah, wandoo, river gum and casuarina - 1181: Medium woodland, jarrah & Eucalyptus	The proposed clearing is for up to 50 dead trees or trees assessed by the shire as being a safety hazard, scattered throughout land owned by or vested with the Shire of Capel. The proposed clearing includes individual trees only and not remnant stands of vegetation.	Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994)	The condition of the vegetation is likely to vary throughout the Shire with the overall vegetation condition expected to average to good condition given that the purpose for clearing is to remove dead trees or trees assessed by the shire as being a safety hazard (likely to be highly accessible ie in road reserves).  The overall condition of the vegetation of which the trees are a part, is unlikely to be compromised by the removal of individual trees. Remnant understorey will not be affected.

haematoxylon (Whicher Range)  
- 1182: Medium woodland; Eucalyptus rudis & Melaleuca raphiophylla  
- 1185: Medium woodland; jarrah, marri & blackbutt

(Shepherd et al., 2001; Shepherd, 2007)

### 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 proposed clearing is for up to fifty 50 dead trees or trees assessed by the shire as being a safety hazard scattered throughout land owned by or vested with the Shire of Capel.

The proposed clearing includes individual trees only and not remnant stands of vegetation.

Given that clearing is for dead trees or trees assessed by the shire as being a safety hazard only the biodiversity of the Shire of Capel is not likely to be significantly impacted through the clearing as proposed.

However, machinery used for clearing has the potential to introduce weeds and dieback into areas that are high in biodiversity throughout the Shire. Weed and dieback hygiene conditions will be placed on the permit to ensure surrounding vegetation is not compromised by the proposed clearing.

**Methodology**      GIS Database:  
SAC Biodatasets - accessed 28 Oct 08  
Pre European Vegetation - DA 01/01  
NLWRA, Current Extent of Native Vegetation 20 Jan 2001

#### (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 Shire of Capel is known to contain many fauna species which may be directly impacted by the clearing of dead trees or trees assessed by the shire as being a safety hazard.

The Brush Tailed Phascogale (*Phascogale tapoatafa*), Western Ringtail Possum (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*), Forest Red-Tailed Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksia naso*), Carnabys Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*) and Chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroi*) may all utilize tree hollows within the applied area.

Due to this, it is recommended that potential habitat trees be inspected for fauna prior to clearing and fauna management conditions will be a requirement of the permit.

**Methodology**      DEC 2008  
GIS Database:  
CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 01/06/05  
SAC Biodatasets - accessed 28 Oct 08  
NLWRA, Current Extent of Native Vegetation 20 Jan 2001

#### (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 proposed clearing is unlikely to impact on any rare or Priority flora as the clearing is for dead trees or trees assessed by the shire as being a safety hazard only.

Little to no understorey is anticipated to be removed to undertake the clearing of the trees and thus no rare or Priority flora are likely to be affected (DEC 2008).

A condition will be placed on the permit ensuring that clearing is avoided, minimised and impacts are reduced when determining trees to be cleared.

**Methodology**      GIS Database:  
SAC Biodatasets - accessed 28 Oct 08



**(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 11 occurrences of Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) within the Shire of Capel.

As the clearing is for up to 50 individual trees scattered throughout the shire it is unlikely that clearing within TECs and their buffers will have an impact on the environmental values of any TEC.

**Methodology** References:  
SAC Biodatasets - accessed 28 Oct 08

**(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 likely to be at variance to this Principle**  
The Shire of Capel retains approximately 34.08% native vegetation within the shire boundary.

Individual dead trees or trees assessed by the shire as being a safety hazard within this area under application are not likely to be of significant environmental value in a local context and taking into account the vegetation representation throughout the shire the clearing as proposed is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

**Methodology** GIS Database:  
SAC Biodatasets - accessed 28 Oct 08  
Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia - EA 18/10/00  
Local Government Authorities - DLI 8/07/04  
NLWRA, Current Extent of Native Vegetation 20 Jan 2001

**(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 Shire of Capel has many wetlands and watercourses within the shire boundary however as the clearing is only for up to 50 individual trees scattered throughout the Shire the clearing as proposed is not likely to impact on any watercourses or wetlands.

**Methodology** GIS Database:  
ANCA wetlands - Environment Australia 26/3/99  
CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 01/06/05  
EPP Lakes Policy Area - DEP 14/05/97  
EPP, Wetlands 2004 (DRAFT) - EPA 21/7/04  
Clearing Regulations, Environmentally Sensitive Areas 30 May 2005  
Geomorphic Wetlands (Mgt Categories), Swan Coastal Plain ? DEC 11/04/07  
Hydrography linear - DOW 13/7/06  
Hydrography linear (hierarchy) - DoW 13/7/06  
Ramsar wetlands - DEC 03  
South Coast Significant Wetlands - WRC 10/06/2003

**(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**  
Due to the proposed being for scattered trees throughout the Shire, it is considered unlikely that the proposed clearing will cause any land degradation.

**Methodology** GIS Database:  
Acid Sulfate Soil Risk Map, Swan coastal Plain - DEC 07/08/06  
Average Annual Rainfall Isohyets - WRC 29/09/98  
Annual Evaporation Contours (Isopleths) - WRC 29/09/98  
Hydrography, linear - DOW 13/7/06  
Salinity Risk LM 25m - DOLA 00  
Soils, Statewide DA 11/99  
Topographic contours statewide - DOLA and ARMY 12/09/02

**(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**  
The Shire of Capel has a number of conservation areas within the shire boundary including Tuart Forest

National Park, Ludlow State Forest, Coolilup State Forest, Capel Nature Reserve and Boyanup State Forest.

Given that the proposal is for 50 trees scattered throughout the Shire it is unlikely that the clearing of individual, accessible trees would impact on the environmental values of conservation areas with the Shire of Capel.

**Methodology** GIS Database:  
CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 01/06/05

**(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**  
Due to the proposed clearing being for scattered trees throughout the Shire, it is considered unlikely that the proposed clearing will cause deterioration in water quality within the Shire of Capel.

**Methodology** GIS Database:  
Evapotranspiration Isopleths - WRC 29/09/98  
Groundwater Salinity Statewide DoW 13/07/06  
Hydrographic catchments, catchments - DoW 01/06/07  
Hydrographic catchments, subcatchments - DoW 01/06/07  
Hydrography, linear - DOW 13/7/06  
Mean Annual Rainfall Isohytes (1975 - 2003) - DEC 02/08/05  
Salinity Risk LM 25m - DOLA 00  
Topographic Contours, Statewide - DOLA 12/09/02

**(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 proposed clearing being for scattered trees throughout the Shire, it is considered unlikely that the proposed clearing will increase the incidence or intensity of flooding within the Shire of Capel.

**Methodology** GIS Database:  
Hydrography, linear - DoW 13/7/06  
Mean Annual Rainfall Isohytes (1975 - 2003) - DEC 02/08/05  
Topographic Contours, Statewide - DOLA 12/09/02

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

**Comments**  
There are Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the Shire of Capel. DEC recommends consulting with local indigenous groups about the impact of the proposed clearing on these registered sites. Aboriginal Sites of Significance will need to be managed in accordance with requirements under the Aboriginal Heritage Act (1972) and with the Department of Indigenous Affairs (this was also provided as advice in the cover letter to the proponent).

**Methodology** GIS Database:  
Aboriginal Sites of Significance 26 April 2007  
Native Title Claims - LA 2/5/07  
RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas - DoW 13/07/06

#### 4. Assessor's comments

**Comment**

The application has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with s510 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986, and the proposed clearing may be at variance to principle (b) and is not likely to be at variance to principles (a), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i) and (j).

#### 5. References

- DEC (2008) Regional Advice - South West for Clearing Permit Application CPS 2771/1, Shire of Capel. Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (TRIM Ref. DOC67078).
- 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.
- Northcote, K. H. with Beckmann G G, Bettenay E., Churchward H. M., van Dijk D. C., Dimmock G. M., Hubble G. D., Isbell R. F., McArthur W. M., Murtha G. G., Nicolls K. D., Paton T. R., Thompson C. H., Webb A. A. and Wright M. J. (1960-68): 'Atlas of Australian Soils, Sheets 1 to 10, with explanatory data'. CSIRO and Melbourne University Press: Melbourne.



Shepherd, D.P. (2007). Adapted from: Shepherd, D.P., Beeston, G.R., and Hopkins, A.J.M. (2001), Native Vegetation in Western Australia. Technical Report 249. Department of Agriculture Western Australia, South Perth. Includes subsequent updates for 2006 from Vegetation Extent dataset ANZWA1050000124.

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
BCS	Biodiversity Coordination Section of DEC
CALM	Department of Conservation and Land Management (now BCS)
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection (now DEC)
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 DEC)

