



## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 2954/1

Permit type: Area Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: WR Carpenter Agriculture Pty Ltd

### 1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 106 ON PLAN 59027 (House No. 10944 CARO CATABY 6507)

Local Government Area: Shire Of Dandaragan

Colloquial name:

### 1.4. Application

| Clearing Area (ha) | No. Trees | Method of Clearing | For the purpose of:   |
|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1.3                |           | Mechanical Removal | Building or Structure |

## 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 in area under application has been mapped as Le Sueur, which is described as mosaic scrublands of hakea scrub-heath/shrublands and dryandra heath (Beard 1980). | A site inspection undertaken by DEC staff (DEC 2009) has confirmed that the 1.3 ha area under application is remnant paddock trees (Eucalyptus tottiana, Banksia menziesii) with no native understorey. | Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery 1994) |         |

## 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**  
This proposal is to clear approximately 1.3 hectares of native vegetation within a cleared paddock to construct a cattle feedlot.

There are numerous records of priority flora taxa within a 10 km radius of the area under application, which are recorded from a variety of habitats. The vegetation in the area under application appears to be unfenced paddocks trees with no understorey and therefore it appears highly unlikely that any priority flora would be present.

A site inspection undertaken by DEC staff confirmed that the vegetation consisted only of remnant paddock trees with no native understorey, ranked as Completely Degraded in the Keighery scale (1994).

**Methodology** DEC 2009

GIS datasets:  
Dandaragan 50 cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004  
Hill River Moora 1.2m Orthomosaic - Landgate 1998

DEC SAC Biodatasets:  
WAHERB 3-12-2008  
DEFL 28-08-2008  
Fauna Jan 2008

**(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**

Within a 10 km radius of the area under application there are numerous records for Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo (*Calyptrorhynchus latirostris*), which is declared threatened fauna and is federally listed as endangered. These records primarily relate to nesting sites in marri or wandoo trees in a nature reserve.

The mature paddock trees in the area under application are described as Prickly Bark (*Eucalyptus todiana*), which is not a preferred nesting site for Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo.

Given the 'Completely Degraded' (Keighery 1994) nature of the area under application, it is unlikely to provide significant habitat for fauna indigenous to WA.

**Methodology**    DEC 2009  
                    Keighery 1994

GIS Datasets:  
DEC SAC Bio datasets: Fauna Jan 2009

**(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 68 records of 10 species of rare flora occurring within 10 km radius of the area under application. These records occur mainly in Wandoo or Banksia woodlands, with others occurring in heath vegetation. The vegetation in the area under application is remnant, unfenced paddocks trees with no native understorey and therefore it is highly unlikely that any rare flora would be present.

**Methodology**    DEC 2009

GIS datasets:  
Dandaragan 50 cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004  
Hill River Moora 1.2m Orthomosaic - Landgate 1998

DEC SAC Biodatasets:  
WAHERB 3-12-2008  
DEFL 28-08-2008

**(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 records of threatened or priority ecological communities occurring within a 10 km radius of the area under application. Additionally, the vegetation under application consists of mature paddocks trees, in a 'Completely Degraded' (Keighery 1994) condition and therefore does not constitute a threatened ecological community.

**Methodology**    DEC 2009  
                    Keighery 1994  
                    GIS datasets:  
                    Dandaragan 50 cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004  
                    Hill River Moora 1.2m Orthomosaic - Landgate 1998

DEC SAC Biodatasets:  
TEC PEC Boundaries Dec 2008

**(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 at variance to this Principle**

The IBRA lists the area under application as "Geraldton Sandplains", of which 42.77% vegetation remains. Within the local shire 31.47% of this vegetation type remains.

Beard's pre-European vegetation mapping of the area is "Le Seur Mosaic: Shrublands; hakea scrub-heath", of which 35.05% remains within the Bioregion (Shepherd 2007).

The clearing of 1.3 ha of scattered paddocks trees is not considered significant in that it will not reduce the vegetation representations below the 30% threshold set by the EPA (2000) nor be considered significant as a

remnant and therefore is not likely to be at variance to this principle. The area under application however, falls within the EPA's Position Statement No. 2 Agricultural Region where there is a general presumption against clearing for agricultural purposes. An offset would be required should the clearing application be approved.

**Methodology** EPA 2000  
Shepherd 2007  
Shepherd et al 2001

GIS datasets:  
IBRA Version 5.1 BOUNDARIES Dataset (Publication date 18 Oct 2000; accessed 6/2/2009)  
Local Government Authorities 2004

SAC Bio datasets:  
Pre-European vegetation (2001)  
NLWRA, Current Extent of Native Vegetation 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 vegetation to be cleared occurs directly above a mapped minor, non-perennial watercourse. It is a highly modified drainage line with no associated riverine vegetation. The Minyulo Brook is approximately 1.1 km south of the area under application and is described both as a significant stream and a minor non-perennial watercourse.

The area under application does not include any wetlands.

**Methodology** GIS datasets:  
Geomorphic wetlands  
ANCA wetlands  
EPP Lakes Policy Area  
DATASET TITLE: Hydrography, Linear, Department of Water (DoW), Western Australia (2004)

**(g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.**

**Comments** **Proposal may be at variance to this Principle**  
The proposed clearing is situated directly over an old drainage line, mapped as a minor non-perennial watercourse, which feeds into the Minyulo Brook. This stream is associated with salinity risk. Some potential for land degradation from the removal of mature native trees may be possible although advice from the Commissioner Soil and Land Conservation (DAFWA 2009) indicates that the proposed clearing is unlikely to cause appreciable land degradation.

**Methodology** DAWAFA 2009  
GIS Datasets:  
Salinity Risk LM (25m) (DOLA 2000)  
Hydrography, Linear (DoW 2004)

**(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**  
Badgingarra National Park is approximately 6.3 km to the north-west of the area under application. Additionally, there are two nature reserves within the local (10 km radius) area.  
The proposed clearing of paddock trees is unlikely to impact on the values of either the reserves or the national park.

**Methodology** GIS Databases:  
Australia, Register of the National Estate (RNE) - Spatial Database (RNESDB) 12 March 2002 (accessed 6-2-2009)

**(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 may be at variance to this Principle**  
The area under application does not include any wetlands.  
The Minyulo Brook is approximately 1.1 km south of the area under application and is described as a significant stream; and a minor non-perennial watercourse. The vegetation to be cleared occurs directly above a mapped minor, non-perennial watercourse. The Minyulo Brook has been mapped as a salinity risk area.

The clearing of mature native trees within an old drainage line, which feeds into the Minyulo Brook may result in increased surface water flows.

**Methodology** GIS Datasets:  
Salinity Risk LM 25m (DOLA 2000)  
Topographic contours (DOLA 2002)  
Hydrography, Linear (DoW 2004)

**(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**  
The area under application receives approximately 700 mm of rainfall per annum and has an evapotranspiration rate of approximately 600 mm per annum. The landform of the area under application is of low gradient with sandy soils over an extensive and deep aquifer.

It is unlikely that the proposed clearing of 1.3 ha of paddock trees would result in increased flood risk.

**Methodology** GIS Datasets:  
Mean Annual Rainfall Data (Base Climatological Data Sets) based on the standard 30-year period 1961-1990, BoM 2001);  
Evapotranspiration (Mean Monthly and/or Mean Annual Data (Base Climatological Data Sets) based on the standard 30-year period 1961-1990. BoM 2001);  
Topographic Contours Statewide (DOLA 2002);  
Hydrogeology, Statewide, Department of Water, Western Australia (2002).

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

**Comments**  
The area under application falls within the EPA's Position Statement No. 2 Agricultural Region. There is a general presumption against clearing within the agricultural region for agricultural purposes. Given the small size (1.3 ha) of the applied area and the completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the vegetation (contains mature paddock trees only, without any understorey), clearing for agriculture in this instance, is unlikely to impact on the biodiversity of the local area.

Additionally, the applicant has not applied for development approval or a DEC Industry Regulation Licence for the proposed 9 500 head cattle feedlot.

**Methodology** EPA 2000  
GIS Datasets:  
EPA Position Paper No.2 Agriculture Region, Department of Environmental Protection, WA (2000)

#### **4. Assessor's comments**

**Comment**

The application has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with s51O of the Environmental Protection Act 1986, and the proposed clearing is at variance to Principle (e), may be at variance to Principle (g) and (i) and is not likely to be at variance to the remaining clearing Principles.

#### **5. References**

- Beard J. S. (1979) The Vegetation of the Moora and Hill River Areas. Western Australia. Map and explanatory memoir 1:250,000 series. Vegmap Publications Perth WA.
- DAFWA (2009) Land Degradation Advice and Assessment Report for clearing permit application CPS 2954/1. Received 19/02/2009. Office of the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation, Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia (TRIM Ref. DOC77004).
- DEC (2009) Site Inspection Report for Clearing Permit Application CPS 2954/1, Lot 106 Caro Road, Cataby. Site inspection undertaken 06/02/2009. Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (TRIM Ref. DOC76156).
- Department of Conservation and Land Management (2002) A Biodiversity Audit of Western Australia's 53 Biogeographical Subregions.
- 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. (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.

## 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)                    |

