



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 3028 / 1
File Number: DEC10785
Duration of Permit: From 26 April 2009 to 26 April 2011

PERMIT HOLDER

Andrea Hutcherson

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

LOT 42 ON PLAN 47204 (Lot No. 42 CAVES COWARAMUP 6284)

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

Clearing of up to 0.426 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 3028/1.

CONDITIONS

Nil.

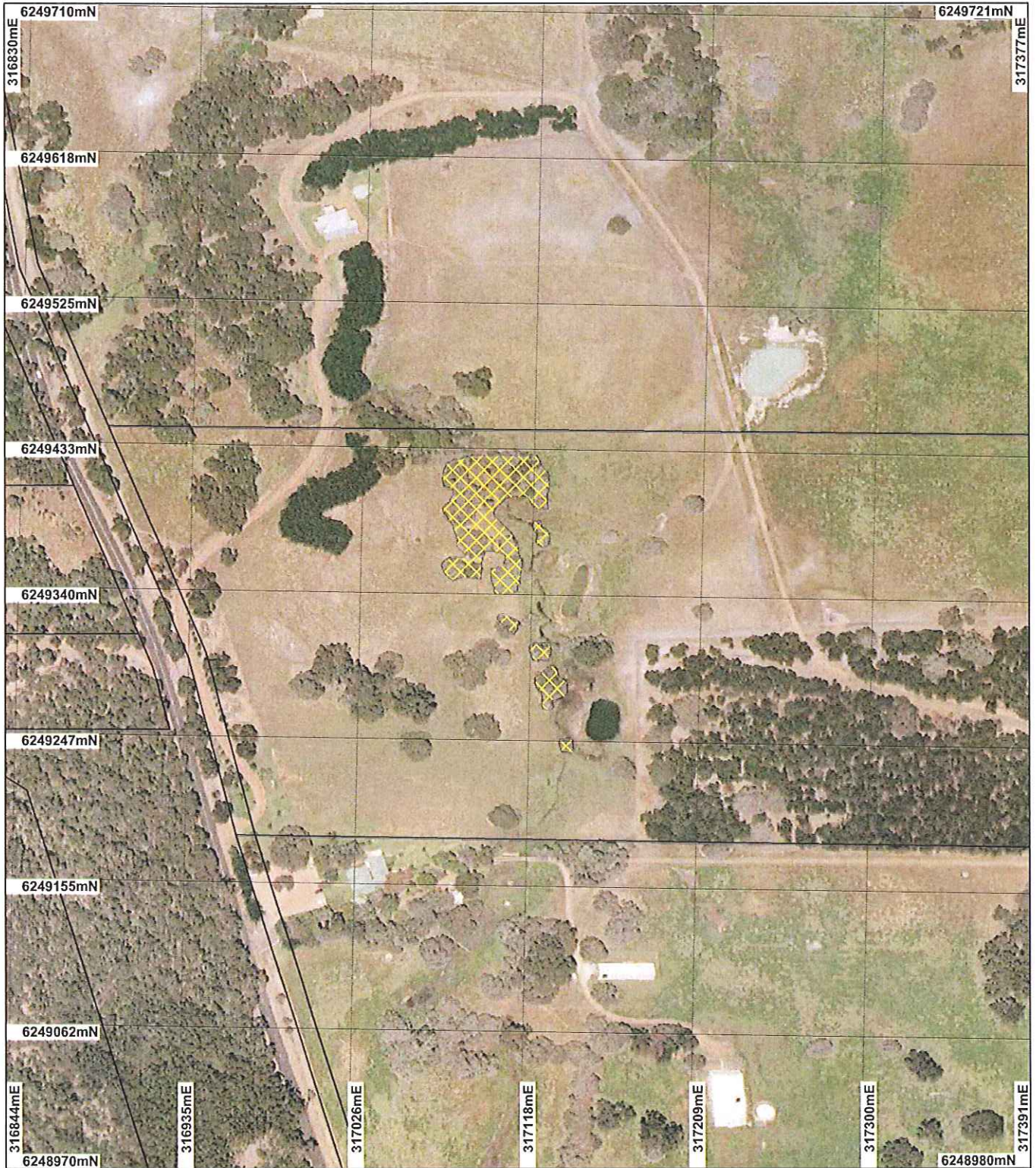
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K Faulkner", written over a horizontal line.

Kelly Faulkner
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

*Officer delegated under Section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986*

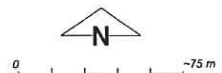
26 March 2009

Plan 3028/1



LEGEND

- Clearing Instruments**
-  Areas Approved to Clear
 -  Cadastre
- Busseton 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004



Scale 1:3251
(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

Geocentric Datum Australia 1994

Note: the data in this map have not been projected. This may result in geometric distortion or measurement inaccuracies.

K Faulkner Date 26/3/09
K Faulkner

Officer with delegated authority under Section 20 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Information derived from this map should be confirmed with the data custodian acknowledged by the agency acronym in the legend.



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* Project Data is denoted by asterisk. This data has not been quality assured. Please contact map author for details.



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 3028/1
 Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Ms Andrea Hutcherson

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 42 ON PLAN 47204 (Lot No. 42 CAVES COWARAMUP 6284)
 Local Government Area: Shire Of Augusta-Margaret River
 Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
0.426		Mechanical Removal	Dam 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
The vegetation under application consists of the following vegetation types:	The vegetation under application is in a degraded (Keighery 1994) condition. There is limited understory present due to deer having access to the area in the past. <i>Agonis flexuosa</i> is the dominant vegetation within the application area.	Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)	The condition of the vegetation under application was determined via the use of aerial mapping systems and photographs supplied by the applicant (Trim Ref: DOC79835).
Beard vegetation association 3 - Medium forest; jarrah-marri			
Mattiske - COWARAMUP (C1) : Open to tall open forest of <i>Eucalyptus marginata</i> subsp. <i>marginata</i> (Jarrah) - <i>Corymbia calophylla</i> (Marri) - <i>Banksia grandis</i> (Bull Banksia) on lateritic uplands in the hyperhumid zone.			
Mattiske - COWARAMUP (Cw1) : Mixture of open forest to woodland of <i>Eucalyptus diversicolor</i> (Karri) - <i>Corymbia calophylla</i> (Marri) and woodland of <i>Eucalyptus marginata</i> subsp. <i>marginata</i> (Jarrah) - <i>Corymbia calophylla</i> (Marri) on slopes and low woodland of <i>Melaleuca preissiana</i> (Moonah) - <i>Banksia littoralis</i> (Swamp Banksia) on depressions in the hyperhumid zone.			

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

The vegetation under application is considered to be in a degraded (Keighery 1994) condition. Peppermint trees are the dominant vegetation type and there is little understorey present. The vegetation under application is adjacent to a creek line within the Cowaramup Brook catchment area.

Within the local area (10km radius) there are many occurrences of the Western ring-tailed possum (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*), the closest being 1.7km north of the application area. While this species staple diet consists of peppermint leaves, it is unlikely that the vegetation under application offers any suitable or significant habitat for this species (DEC, 2007).

The rare flora species *Caladenia exelsa* was recorded 780 metres south of the application area and occurs on

the same soil and vegetation types as the applied area. However this species prefers dense, low scrub in banksia, jarrah and marri woodlands (Brown et al. 1998).

The soil and vegetation types of the application area are similar with those of the Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) "Low shrublands on acidic grey-brown sands of the Gracetown soil landscape system." The closest recorded occurrence of these communities was 4km north west of the application area. All of the TECs within the local area are buffered.

Due to the interference with the watercourse in order to construct the proposed dam, erosion and sedimentation may occur, thereby impacting on the surface water quality in the short term. Past disturbances of the water course are already evident, as deer have caused erosion of the banks (Trim Ref: DOC79835).

The vegetation under application is comprised of Mattiske C1 & Cw1. The percentage remaining of Cw1 is below the recommended 30% threshold for the retention of pre-European levels of vegetation (Commonwealth, 2001).

Due to the size and degraded condition of the vegetation under application, it is considered unlikely that the proposed clearing will have any significant environmental impacts.

- Methodology**
- Brown et al. (1998)
 - Commonwealth (2001)
 - DEC (2007)
 - Keighery (1994)
 - CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 01/06/05
 - Clearing Regulations, Environmentally Sensitive Areas 30 May 2005
 - Environmental Impact Assessments - EPA 22/2/07
 - Evaporation Isopleths - WRC 29/09/98
 - Hydrography linear - DOW 13/7/06
 - Hydrography linear (hierarchy) - DoW 13/7/06
 - Hydrogeology, Statewide 05 Feb 2002
 - Hydrographic catchments, catchments - DoW 01/06/07
 - Mattiske Vegetation (01/03/1998)
 - Pre European Vegetation - DA 01/01
 - SAC Biodatasets - accessed 19 Mar 2009
 - Soils, Statewide DA 11/99
 - Topographic contours statewide - DOLA and ARMY 12/09/02

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

Comments

The Department of Water (DoW) has deemed that a licence is not required under section 5C of the Rights In Water & Irrigations Act 1914. This is due to the creek on the property being classed as a spring (Trim Ref: DOC79834).

Methodology

4. Assessor's comments

Comment

The application has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matter in accordance with s510 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 has found:

- Principle (f) is at variance
- All other principles are not likely to be at variance

5. References

- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Targets and Objectives for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, AGPS, Canberra.
- DEC (2007) DEC Fauna Habitat Notes.xls. February 2007. Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia.
- 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)