



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 3340 / 1
File Number: DEC13279
Duration of Permit: From 30 November 2009 to 30 November 2011

PERMIT HOLDER

Shire of West Arthur

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

HOWIE ROAD RESERVE (DARKAN 6392)

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

Clearing of up to 0.3 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 3340/1.

CONDITIONS

1. Habitat trees

- (a) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the area(s) shall be inspected by a *fauna specialist* who shall identify tree(s) that contain hollows suitable to be utilised as habitat by fauna listed in the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2* (2008).
- (b) Following completion of the requirements of condition 1(a), and where hollows were identified, the Permit Holder shall undertake the following:
 - i. remove and retain intact hollows identified in condition 1(a);
 - ii. identify surrogate trees and locations for relocation of the hollows identified in condition (b)i. ; and
 - iii. install the hollows prior to 18 July 2011.

2. Records must be kept

The Permit Holder must maintain records pursuant to condition 1 of this Permit for the location of each *habitat tree* identified recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings.

3. Reporting

- (a) The Permit Holder must provide to the CEO, on or before 30 June of each year, a written report of records required under condition 2 of this Permit and activities done by the Permit Holder under this Permit between 1 January and 31 December of the preceding year.
- (b) Prior to 18 July 2011 the permit holder must provide to the CEO a written report of records required under condition 2 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under condition 3(a) of this Permit.

Definitions

The following meanings are given to terms used in this Permit:

fauna specialist means a person with training and specific work experience in fauna identification or faunal assemblage surveys of Western Australian fauna; and

habitat tree(s) means trees that have a diameter, at average adult human chest height, of greater than 70 centimeters, healthy but with dead limbs and broken crowns that are likely to contain hollows and roosts suitable for native fauna, or where these are not present then healthy but with the potential to contain hollows and roosts.

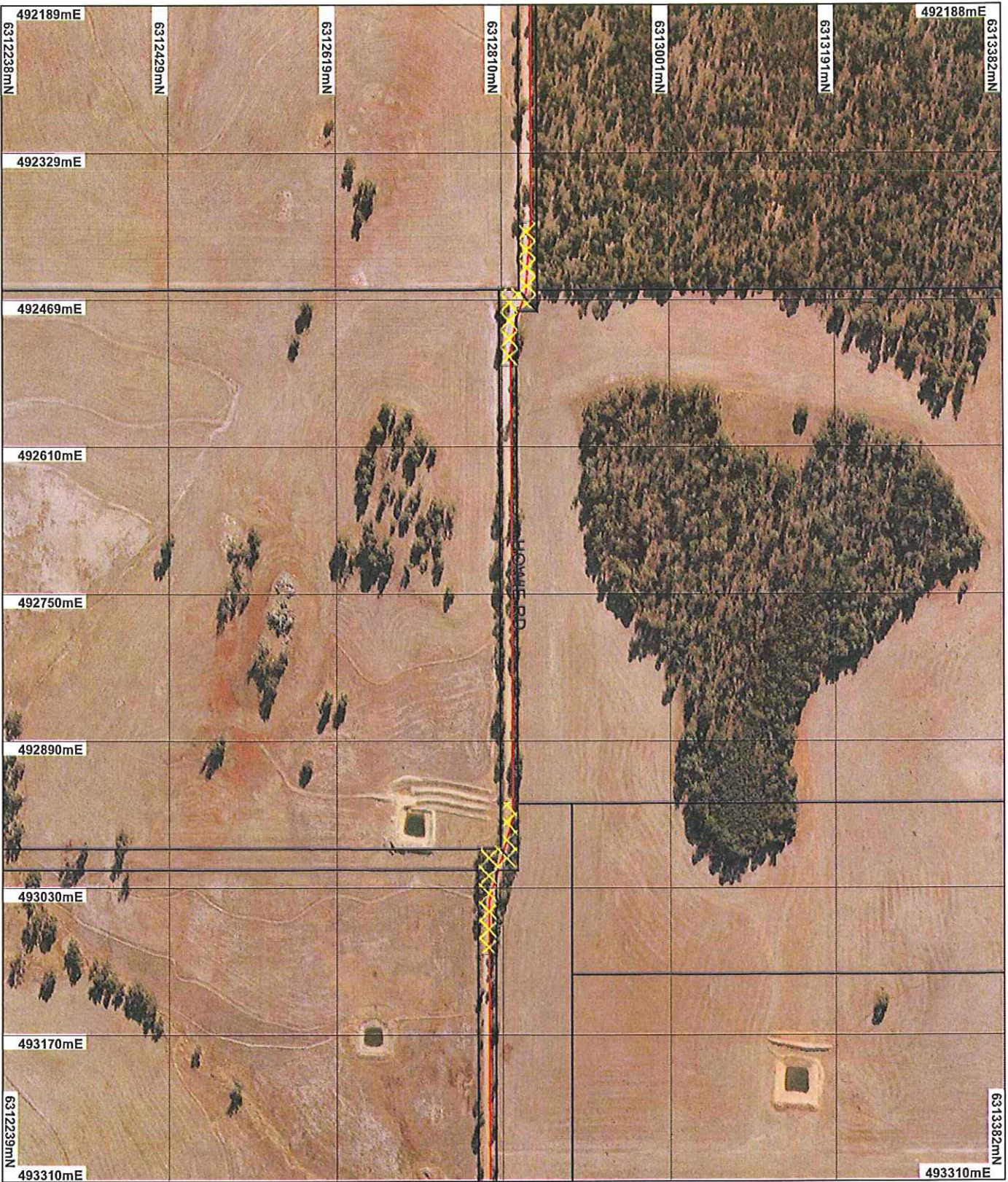


Kelly Faulkner
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

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

29 October 2009

Plan 3340/1



LEGEND

- Road Centrelines
- Cadastre
- Clearing Instruments
- Areas Agreed to Clear
- Decade 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2006

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



Geocentric Datum Australia 1994
 Note: the data in this map have not been projected. This may result in geometric distortion or measurement inaccuracies.

Kelly Faulkner
 Kelly Faulkner Date 29/9/09

Information derived from this map should be confirmed with the data custodian acknowledged by the agency acronym in the legend.
 Officer with delegated authority under Section 20 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986





1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 3340/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Shire of West Arthur

1.3. Property details

Property: ROAD RESERVE (DARKAN 6392)
Local Government Area:
Colloquial name: Howie Road reserve

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
0.3		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 vegetation association: 4 - Medium woodland; marri & wandoo and 3 - Medium forest; jarrah-marri (Shephard 2007).	Vegetation proposed to be cleared consists of 2 large trees, 41 medium trees and 28 small trees. The vegetation has been assessed as degraded to completely degraded due to disturbance from surrounding agricultural landuses and pasture and weed species (DoE 2005; Shire of West Arthur 2009).	Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)	Vegetation condition was determined from a site inspection conducted on 15 August 2005 that covered the area under application, and information supplied by the Shire of West Arthur (DoE 2005; Shire of West Arthur 2009).

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

The proposal is to clear 0.3 ha of native vegetation for the purpose of road realignment. Vegetation proposed to be cleared consists of 2 large trees, 41 medium trees and 28 small trees (Shire of West Arthur 2009). Vegetation has been assessed as 'degraded' to 'completely degraded' (Keighery 1994) due to disturbance from surrounding agricultural landuses and weed invasion (DoE 2005).

There are no priority or rare flora species within a radius of approximately 6 kilometers and no threatened ecological communities or fauna species of conservation significance within the local area (10 kilometer radius). Larger trees may provide habitat for native fauna including Carnaby's Black Cockatoos. There are no watercourses or wetlands in close proximity to the area under application. Proposed clearing areas are flat with low relief topography and the soils are chiefly hard neutral and acidic yellow mottled soils (Northcote et al. 1960-68).

Vegetation under application is mapped as Beard vegetation associations 3 and 4 (Shepherd 2007). Beard vegetation association 3 has a pre-clearing extent of approximately 69 percent with approximately 23 percent of it occurring within conservation estate. Beard vegetation association 4 is represented by approximately 24 percent of its pre-clearing extent with approximately 17 percent of it occurring within conservation estate. Shire of West Arthur has approximately 28 percent of its pre-clearing extent of vegetation remaining.

The threshold of native vegetation to be retained, as recognised by the EPA, is above 30 percent of its pre-clearing extent (EPA 2000). The Beard vegetation association 4 and vegetation representation within the Shire are under the 30 percent threshold.

Given that the vegetation may provide habitat for species of conservation significance, the proposal may be at variance to Principle (b). Conditions will be placed on the Permit requiring a survey for hollowed habitat trees prior to clearing, and installation of intact hollows on surrogate trees. As significant environmental impacts are unlikely, it is considered that the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to other Principles.

Methodology DoE (2005)
EPA (2000)
Keighery (1994)
Shepherd (2007)
Shire of West Arthur (2009)

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

Comments

There are no requirements for other approvals.

The area under application falls within EPA Position Statement No. 2 according to which clearing of native vegetation within the Intensive Landuse Zone is no longer supported for agricultural development (EPA 2000). The proposed clearing is for road realignment.

Methodology EPA (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 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

- DoE (2005) Site Inspection Report for Clearing Permit Application CPS 842/1, Darkan, Site inspection undertaken 15/08/2005. Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (DEC TRIM Ref. SWO28647 and SWO28648).
- EPA (2000) Environmental protection of native vegetation in Western Australia. Clearing of native vegetation, with particular reference to the agricultural area. Position Statement No. 2. December 2000. Environmental Protection Authority, 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.
- 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.
- Shire of West Arthur (2009) Application for a clearing permit. Shire of West Arthur, Western Australia (DEC TRIM Ref. DOC 99036).

6. Glossary

Term	Meaning
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation
DoE	Department of Environment
GIS	Geographical Information System
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)