



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 3403/1
File Number: DEC13557
Duration of Permit: From 10 July 2010 to 10 July 2012

PERMIT HOLDER

Cotton Holdings Pty Ltd

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Lot 20 on Plan 11954 (ROELANDS 6226)

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 0.6 hectares of native vegetation, within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 3403/1

CONDITIONS

Nil.

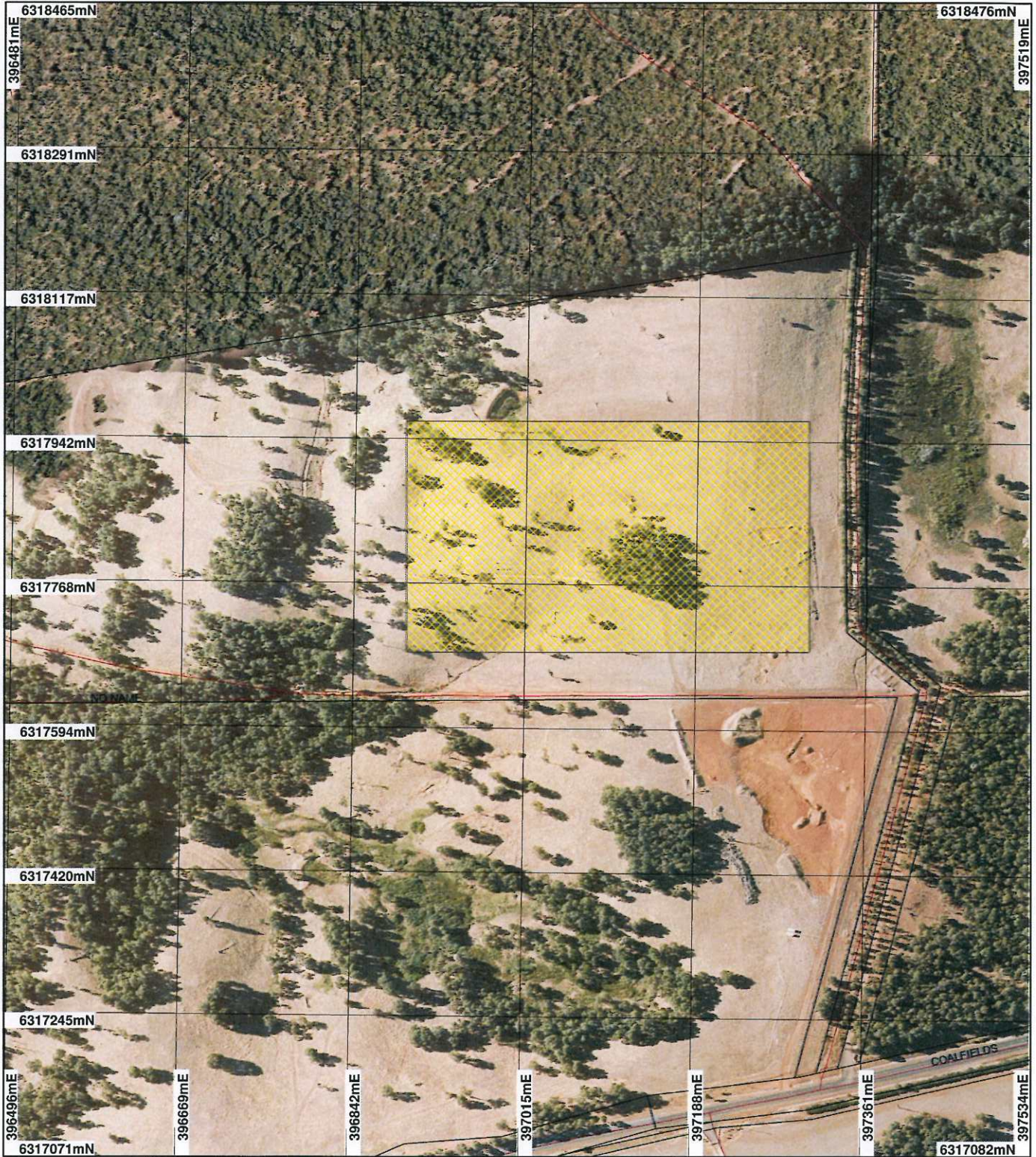
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K Faulkner', written over a horizontal line.

Kelly Faulkner
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

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

10 June 2010

Plan 3403/1



LEGEND

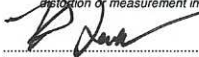
- Clearing Instruments**
-  Areas Approved to Clear
 -  Road Centrelines
 -  Cadastre
- Bunbury 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2006



Scale 1:6138
(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.

 Date 15/6/10

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.



Department of Environment and Conservation

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1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 3403/1
 Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Cotton Holdings Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 20 ON PLAN 11954 (ROELANDS 6226)
 Local Government Area: Shire of Harvey
 Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
0.6		Mechanical Removal	Extractive Industry

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
<p>Beard Vegetation Associations: 1184 - Medium woodland-fringing; jarrah, marri, Eucalyptus rudis & Agonis flexuosa and 3 - Medium forest; jarrah-marri (Shepherd 2007).</p> <p>Mattiske Vegetation Complex: Dwellingup (D1): Open forest of Eucalyptus marginata subsp. marginata (Jarrah) - Corymbia calophylla (Marri) on lateritic uplands in mainly humid and subhumid zones and Lowdon (Lo): Open forest of Corymbia calophylla-Eucalyptus marginata subsp. marginata-Agonis flexuosa with some Eucalyptus wandoo and occasional Corymbia haematoxylon on slopes, and woodland of Eucalyptus rudis-Melaleuca raphiophylla on valley floor in the humid zone (Mattiske & Havel 1998).</p>	<p>The proposal is to clear approximately 30 widely spaced individual trees and a centrally located isolated grove of trees consisting mainly of Eucalyptus marginata (jarrah) and some Corymbia calophylla (marri). There is no native understorey or groundcover remaining as the area under application is parkland cleared and the current landuse is pasture for livestock grazing.</p>	<p>Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)</p>	<p>Vegetation condition was determined from aerial imagery (Bunbury 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2006) and a report by an Environmental Management Consultant (Harewood 2009).</p>

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

The proposal is to clear 0.6 hectares of native vegetation for the purpose of extractive industry. The area under application is parkland cleared with a current landuse of pasture for livestock. It consists mainly of Eucalyptus marginata (jarrah) and some Corymbia calophylla (marri). The vegetation under application consists of approximately 30 widely spaced individual trees and a centrally located isolated grove of trees. There is no native understorey or groundcover remaining, as grazing of pasture is likely to have taken place routinely. The vegetation remaining in the local area (10 kilometre radius) is approximately 40 percent.

Conservation significant fauna known to occur within the local area (10 kilometre radius) include *Dasyurus geoffroii* (Chuditch) (Vulnerable), *Setonix brachyurus* (Quokka) (Vulnerable), *Pseudocheirus occidentalis* (Western Ringtail Possum) (Vulnerable), *Bettongia penicillata ogilbyi* (Woylie) (Endangered), *Macropus irma* (Western Brush Wallaby) (P2), *Isoodon obesulus fusciventer* (Quenda) (P5) and *Pachysaga munggai* (Insect-cricket) (P3). The nearest record is *Pseudocheirus occidentalis* (Western Ringtail Possum) was recorded approximately 1.6 kilometres south-east of the area under application.

The conservation significant fauna are not likely to be impacted by loss of significant habitat, as the vegetation under application is in a 'degraded' (Keighery 1994) condition within cleared parkland.

The mapped Beard vegetation association 3 has approximately 80.1 percent of its pre-clearing extent remaining with approximately 80 percent of it occurring within conservation estate. Beard vegetation association 1184 has approximately 42.2 percent of its pre-clearing extent remaining with approximately 15.9 percent of it occurring within conservation estate (Shepherd 2007).

The area under application has Mapped Mattiske vegetation complexes Dwellingup (D1) and Lowdon (Lo). D1 has approximately 89.7 percent of its pre-clearing extent remaining with approximately 6.7 percent of it occurring within conservation estate. Vegetation complex Lo has approximately 41.4 percent of its pre-clearing extent remaining with approximately 12.1 percent of it occurring within conservation estate (Mattiske & Havel 1998).

The mapped vegetation types are represented by more than the 30 percent threshold of pre-clearing extent recognised by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA 2000).

The nearest conservation area is Wellington National Park situated approximately 2.7 kilometres south-east of the area under application. Brunswick River runs approximately 3.5 kilometres north of the area under application while Collie River runs approximately 5 kilometres south of the area under application. Some of their tributaries, which are minor perennial watercourses, are situated closer to the area under application. The nearest of them is located approximately 40 metres to the south.

Mapped soil type has been described as ironstone gravels with sandy and earthy matrices (Northcote et al. 1960-68). Application area has a slightly hilly terrain, which is 225 metres on north-west rising to 280 metres on south-east, within a distance of approximately 300 metres. Mean annual rainfall for the region is 1100 millimetres, the ground water salinity level is low (500-1000 milligram/litre Total Dissolved Solids) and the area has no mapped risk of salinity. The risk of incremental flooding or deterioration of surface and ground water quality is not likely to be an issue as the area under application is small and situated within already cleared parkland.

The vegetation under application is situated within parkland cleared, and removal of this remaining vegetation as proposed may exacerbate land degradation in the form of soil erosion.

The proposed clearing is not likely to cause significant environmental impacts and therefore is not likely to be at variance to the Clearing Principles.

Methodology EPA (2000)
Keighery (1994)
Mattiske & Havel (1998)
Northcote et al. (1960-68)
Shepherd (2007)

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

Comments

An extractive industry licence has not been granted for the proposed gravel extraction.

A public submission dated 23 November 2009 expressed objection to the proposal in respect of potential impacts to visual amenities, rural lifestyle, habitat functions and scenic values (Public Submission 2009).

Methodology Public Submission (2009)

4. References

- 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.
- Harewood, G (2009). Environmental management consultant report on clearing permit application 3403/1, Lot 20 Coalfields Road, Roelands - Shire of Harvey (DEC TRIM Ref: DOC 102817).
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Mattiske, E.M. and Havel, J.J. (1998) Vegetation Complexes of the South-west Forest Region of Western Australia. Maps and report prepared as part of the Regional Forest Agreement, Western Australia for the Department of Conservation and Land Management and Environment 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.

Public Submission (2009) Proposed extractive industry Lot 20 Coalfields Road Roelands CPS 3403/1 Cotton Holdings application. 23 November 2009 (DEC TRIM Ref: DOC 109596).

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.

5. Glossary

Term	Meaning
CALM	Department of Conservation and Land Management (now DEC)
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection (now DEC)
DoE	Department of Environment (now DEC)
DoW	Department of Water
DMP	Department of Mines and Petroleum (ex DoIR)
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)