

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number: CPS 3692/2

Permit Holder: John Holland Pty Ltd

Duration of Permit: 27 June 2010 – 27 June 2015

The Permit Holder is authorised to clear native vegetation subject to the following conditions of this Permit.

PART I-CLEARING AUTHORISED

1. Purpose for which clearing may be done

Clearing for the purpose of six rail loop extensions.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

RAILWAY RESERVE (WIDGIEMOOLTHA 6443)

RAILWAY RESERVE (BINDULI 6430)

RAILWAY RESERVE (FEYSVILLE 6431)

RAILWAY RESERVE (SALMON GUMS 6445)

RAILWAY RESERVE (SCADDAN 6447)

LOT 600 ON PLAN 4405 (NULSEN 6450)

RAILWAY RESERVE (NULSEN 6450)

LOT 301 ON PLAN 49005 (PINK LAKE 6450).

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 1.75 hectares of native vegetation within the combined areas cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 3692/2a and Plan 3692/2b and Plan 3692/2c and Plan 3692/2d and Plan 3692/2e and Plan 3692/2f.

4. Application

This Permit allows the Permit Holder to authorise persons, including employees, contractors and agents of the Permit Holder, to clear native vegetation for the purposes of this Permit subject to compliance with the conditions of this Permit and approval from the Permit Holder.

5. Compliance with Assessment Sequence and Management Procedures

Prior to clearing any native vegetation under conditions 1, 2 and 3 of this Permit, the Permit Holder must comply with the Assessment Sequence and the Management Procedures set out in Part II of this Permit.

PART II - ASSESSMENT SEQUENCE AND MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

6. Avoid, minimise etc clearing

In determining the amount of native vegetation to be cleared authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder must have regard to the following principles, set out in order of preference:

- (a) avoid the clearing of native vegetation;
- (b) minimise the amount of native vegetation to be cleared; and
- (c) reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.

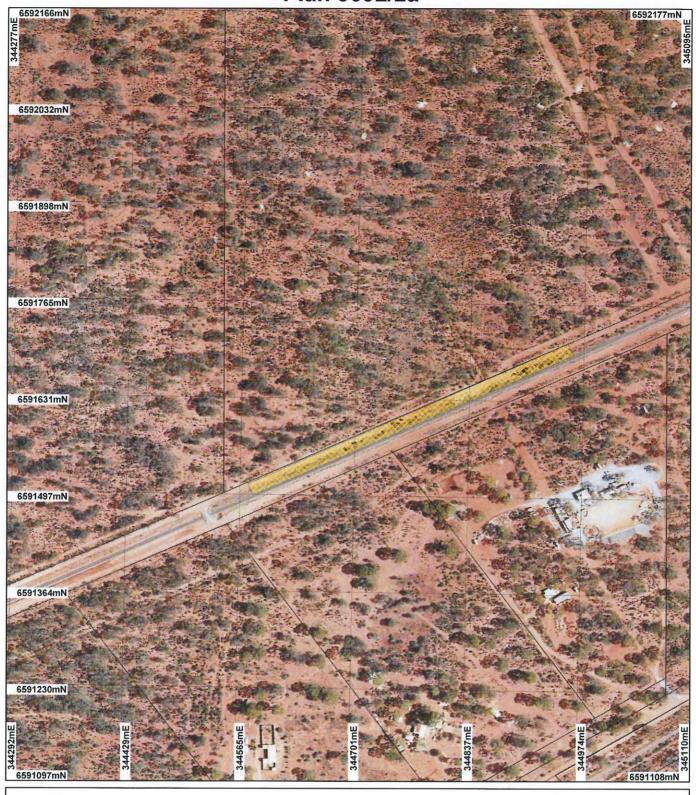
Kelly Faulkner MANAGER

NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

Officer delegated under Section 20 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

26 August 2010

Plan 3692/2a



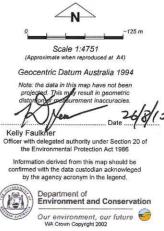


Clearing Instruments

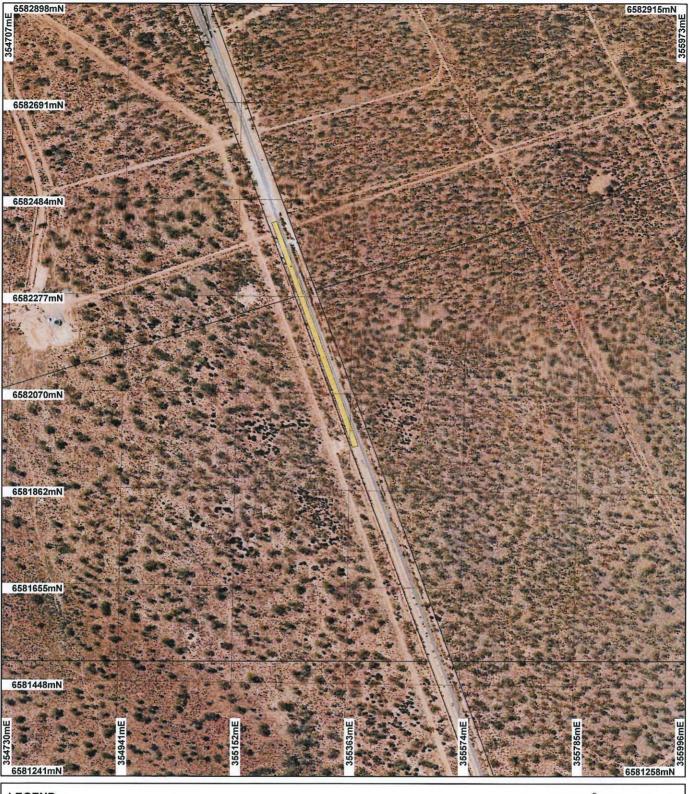
Areas Applied to Clear
Areas Subject to Conditions
Areas Approved to Clear

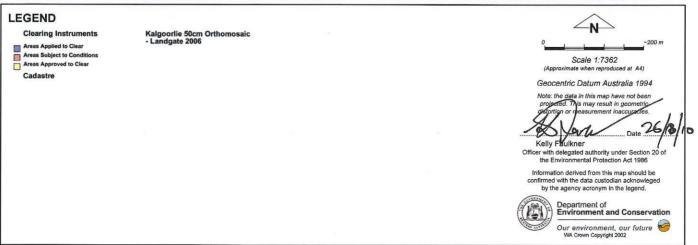
Cadastre

Kalgoorlie 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2006

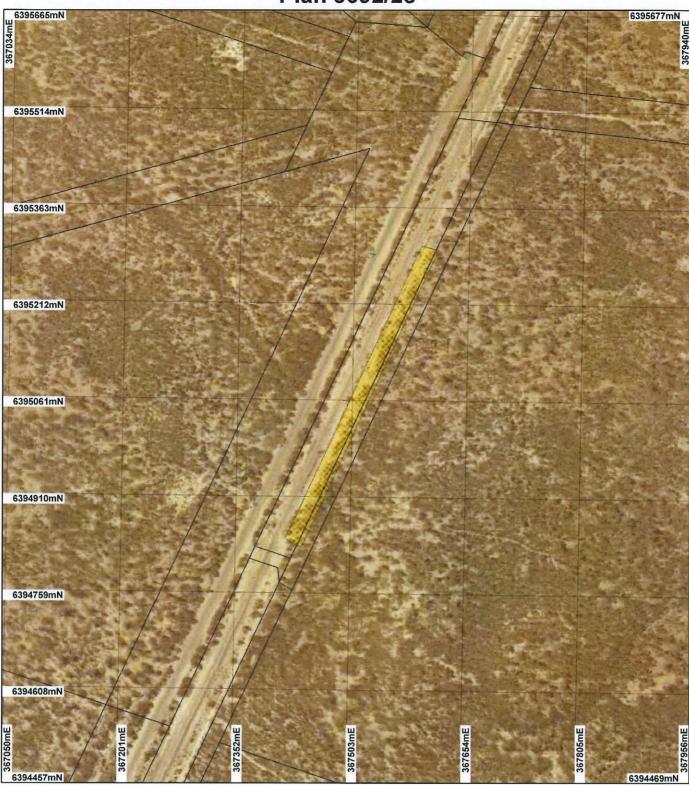


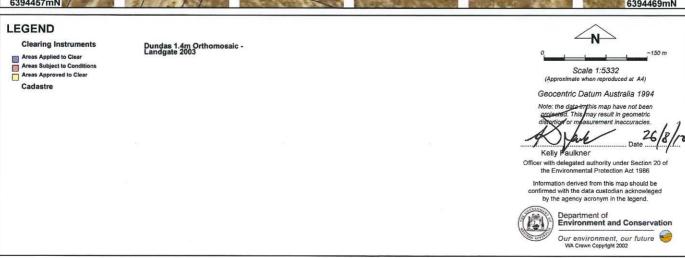
Plan 3692/2b





Plan 3692/2c





Plan 3692/2d



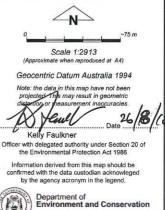


Clearing Instruments

Areas Applied to Clear
Areas Subject to Conditions
Areas Approved to Clear

Cadastre

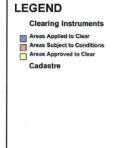
Dundas 1.4m Orthomosaic -Landgate 2003



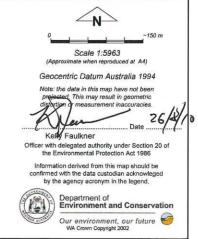
Our environment, our future WA Crown Copyright 2002

Plan 3692/2e



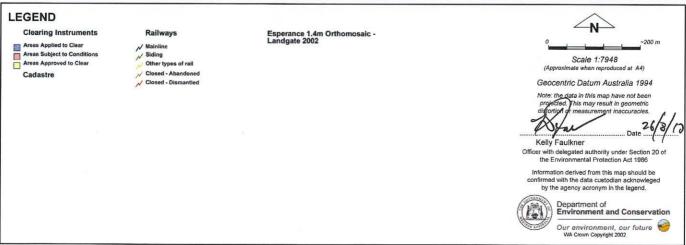


Scaddan 1.4m Orthomosaic -Landgate 2004



Plan 3692/2f







Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.:

3692/2

Permit type:

Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name:

John Holland Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property:

RAILWAY RESERVE (WIDGIEMOOLTHA 6443)

RAILWAY RESERVE (BINDULI 6430)
RAILWAY RESERVE (FEYSVILLE 6431)
RAILWAY RESERVE (SALMON GUMS 6445)
RAILWAY RESERVE (SCADDAN 6447)
LOT 600 ON PLAN 4405 (NULSEN 6450)
RAILWAY RESERVE (NULSEN 6450)
LOT 301 ON PLAN 49005 (PINK LAKE 6450)

Local Government Area:

Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)

1.75

No. Trees

Method of Clearing

Mechanical Removal

For the purpose of:

Railway construction or maintenance

2. Site Information

2.1. Existing environment and information

2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description

The six applied areas have the following Beard vegetation associations mapped:

West Kalgoorlie and South Kalgoorlie are 9 Coolgardie - Medium woodland; coral gum (Eucalyptus torquata) & goldfields blackbutt (E. le soufii); Dundas is 3106 Dundas - Medium woodland, salmon gum and Dundas blackbutt; Salmon Gums is 486 Lake Hope - Mosaic: Medium woodland; salmon gum & red mallee / Shrublands; mallee scrub Eucalyptus eremophila; Scadden is 47 Esperance - Shrublands; tallerack mallee-heath; and Esperance is 7048 and 42 both Fanny Cove -Shrublands; mallee & acacia scrub on south coastal dunes and banksia scrub-heath on Esperance coastal plains (Shepherd 2007).

Clearing Description

The vegetation proposed to be cleared consists of 1.75 hectares of native vegetation within six small areas, each consisting of less than 0.5 hectares, excluding the Esperance site which is 0.64 hectares. The vegetation has been assessed as ranging in condition at each site from 'degraded' to 'excellent' (Keighery 1994) condition (GHD 2009).

Vegetation Condition

Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994)

Comment

Vegetation condition was determined from information supplied by consultants for the applicant (GHD 2009), and aerial photography (GIS Map Reference: Scadden 1.4m 2004; Dundas 1.4m 2003; Peak Charles 50 cm 2007; Lort 1.4m 2003; and Esperance 1.4m 2003 Landgate Skyview ecw). A site visit was undertaken for the Esperance applied area only and this vegetation was found to range in condition from 'very good' to 'degraded' (Keighery 1994) condition (DEC 2010).

As above.

As above.

Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires As above.

As above.

intensive management (Keighery 1994)

Excellent: Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting

As above

individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery 1994)

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

The proposal to clear up to 1.75 hectares of native vegetation for the purpose of constructing six rail loop extensions within railway reserves between Kalgoorlie and Esperance is unlikely to have any significant environmental impacts. The vegetation is considered to range from 'excellent' to 'degraded' (Keighery 1994) condition within the six separate applied areas (GHD 2009, DEC 2010).

There are numerous declared rare and priority flora species records within the local area (a 20 km radius around each of the six applied areas) of each applied area but given that the proposed clearing is relatively minor at each site, especially given the local context, there is not likely to be any impacts on any threatened flora. No threatened ecological communities occur within the local area of the six applied areas.

The vegetation to be cleared is well represented in the local areas and given the local extent of native vegetation, the proposed clearing is not expected to have a detrimental impact on fauna.

The applied area in Esperance is approximately 1.5 km south of a mapped RAMSAR and ANCA wetland from the Lake Warden System; however the clearing at this site is approximately 0.5 hectares and is a narrow, linear remnant of predominantly acacia shrubland with localised areas of disturbance (GHD 2009, DEC 2010). The proposed clearing of this area is not expected to impact on the Lake Warden System due to the small amount of clearing proposed and due to the area and extent of native vegetation buffer between the applied area and the wetland.

It is considered that the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to any of the clearing principles.

Methodology

References:

DEC (2010) GHD (2009)

Keighery (1994)

GIS Lavers:

- DEC Estate DEC 2009
- Groundwater Salinity, statewide DoW 2006
- Hydrogeographic Catchments, Catchments DoW 2007
- Hydrogeology, statewide DOW 2006
- Hydrography, linear DOW 2006
- Pre-European vegetation DA 01201
- Mean Annual Rainfall Isohytes (1975 2003) DEC 2005
- SAC Biodatasets accessed June-July 2010
- Aerial photos: Scadden 1.4m 2004; Dundas 1.4m 2003; Peak Charles 50 cm 2007; Lort 1.4m 2003; and Esperance 1.4m 2003 Landgate Skyview ecw

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

Comments

No submissions from the public have been received.

City of Kalgoorlie Boulder advised that they have no objections to the proposed clearing within their local government area (City of Kalgoorlie Boulder 2010).

The Shire of Esperance wrote to DEC that they have no formal objection to the proposed clearing but that they would like to see the applicant minimise erosion risks and observe prohibited burning periods (Shire of Esperance (2010).

Methodology

References:

City of Kalgoorlie Boulder (2010) Shire of Esperance (2010)

4. References

City of Kalgoorlie Boulder (2010). Advice for clearing application CPS 3692/1 (DEC Ref: A302615). Unpublished advice to Department of Environment and Conservation.

DEC (2010). Site visit report for clearing permit application CPS 3692/2. Unpublished report to the Department of Environment and Conservation, Kensington WA (DEC Ref: A321046).

GHD (2009). Report for railway passing loops - Kalgoorlie to Esperance - report for clearing permit application October 2009 Unpublished report to John Holland Pty Ltd.

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.

Shire of Esperance (2010). Advice for clearing application CPS 3692/2 (DEC Ref: A318518 and317853). Unpublished advice to Department of Environment and Conservation.

5. 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)