



## CLEARING PERMIT

*Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986*

### PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 3844/1

File Number: 2010/005202-1

Duration of Permit: From 2 October 2010 to 2 October 2012

### PERMIT HOLDER

Colin James and Anna Marie Butcher

### LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

LOT 5 ON PLAN 224523 (DALE 6304)

LOT 4 ON PLAN 224523 (DALE 6304)

LOT 12 ON PLAN 224523 (DALE 6304)

LOT 13 ON PLAN 224523 (DALE 6304)

LOT 14 ON PLAN 224523 (DALE 6304)

LOT 23 ON PLAN 224523 (DALE 6304)

LOT 24 ON PLAN 224523 (DALE 6304)

LOT 17 ON PLAN 111790 (DALE 6304)

LOT 18 ON PLAN 111178 (DALE 6304)

LOT 300 ON DIAGRAM 75317 (DALE 6304)

LOT 25928 ON PLAN 84601 (DALE 6304)

LOT 25929 ON PLAN 167455 (DALE 6304)

LOT 152 ON PLAN 224523 (DALE 6304)

LOT 3 ON PLAN 224523 (DALE 6304)

LOT 9 ON PLAN 224523 (DALE 6304)

LOT 11 ON PLAN 224523 (DALE 6304)

### AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 505 native trees, within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 3844/1.

### CONDITIONS

Nil.

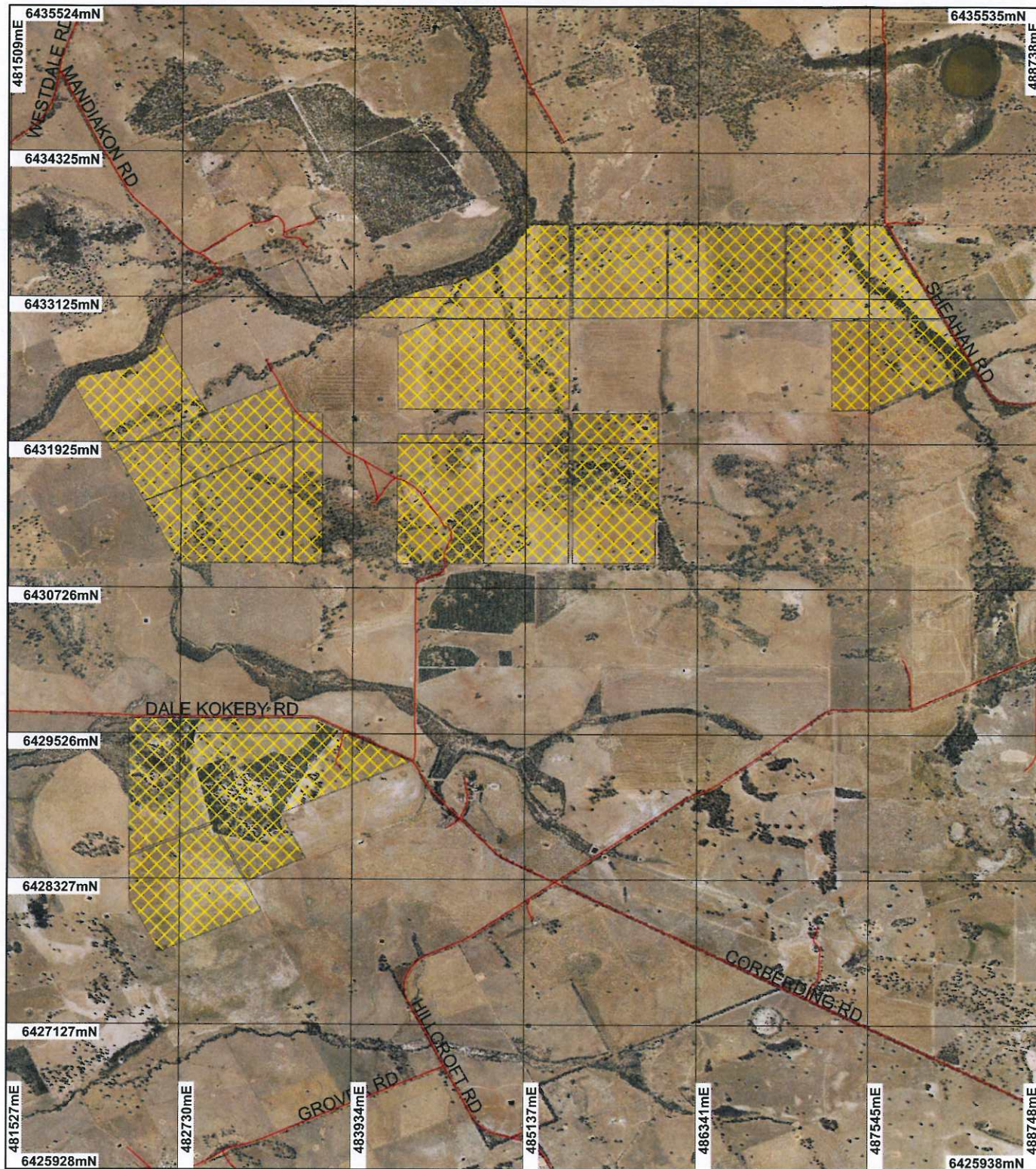
Kelly Faulkner  
MANAGER  
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

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

2 September 2010



# Plan 3844/1



## LEGEND

### Clearing Instruments

- Areas Approved to Clear
- Road Centrelines
- Cadastre
- Beverley 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2006



0 1.25 km

Scale 1:42411

(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 2/9/10

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.: 3844/1  
Permit type: Area Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Colin James and Anna Marie Butcher

### 1.3. Property details

Property:

- LOT 5 ON PLAN 224523 ( DALE 6304)
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- LOT 4 ON PLAN 224523 ( DALE 6304)
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- LOT 11 ON PLAN 224523 ( DALE 6304)
- LOT 11 ON PLAN 224523 ( DALE 6304)

Local Government Area:

Colloquial name:

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
	505	Mechanical Removal	Cropping

## 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 is mapped as being comprised of the following vegetation types:  - Beard 352: Medium woodland; York gum	The proposed clearing of 505 native trees is to occur across 16 different Lots, over an area of 856 hectares. The area under application has been	Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery 1994)	The condition and description of the vegetation under application was determined via the use of aerial imagery and photos supplied within the land degradation assessment report (Commissioner for Soil and Land Conservation, 2010).

- Beard 949: Low woodland; banksia

- Mattiske (Wi): Mixture of woodland of Eucalyptus rudis-Melaleuca raphiophylla, low forest of Casuarina obesa and tall shrubland of Melaleuca spp. on major valley systems in arid and perarid zones.

- Mattiske (Mi): Open woodland of Eucalyptus wandoo over Acacia acuminata with some Eucalyptus loxophleba on valley slopes, with low woodland of Allocasuarina huegeliana on or near shallow granite outcrops in arid and perarid zones.

- Mattiske (Y6): Woodland of Eucalyptus wandoo-Eucalyptus accedens, less consistently open forest of Eucalyptus marginata fs24 subsp. thalassica-Corymbia calophylla on lateritic uplands and breakaway landscapes in arid and perarid zones.

(Shepherd, 2009; Mattiske, 1998).

The majority of the vegetation is mapped as being Beard vegetation 352 (DEC, 2010).

pasture cleared and grazed by stock. No understorey species are present, the vegetation is considered to be paddock cleared (only scattered paddock trees remaining) and does not resemble any of the mapped vegetation associations of the local area.

### 3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

#### Comments

The proposed clearing of 505 native trees is to occur across 16 different Lots, over an area of 856 hectares. The area under application is currently utilised for cropping purposes and stock grazing. No understorey species are present, the vegetation is considered to be paddock cleared (only scattered paddock trees remaining) and does not resemble any of the mapped vegetation associations of the local area. The vegetation under application is considered to be in completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition.

The proposed clearing is to occur within the agricultural area covered by the Environmental Protection Authority's Position Statement No. 2, where the continued clearing for agriculture purposes is not supported (EPA, 2000). Only 18% & 13.77% of pre-European levels of native vegetation remain in the IBRA Bioregion and Sub Region (inclusive of all Beard vegetation types for these regions) (Shepherd, 2009). Further to this, the local area (10km radius) has been extensively cleared, with 10-15% of native vegetation remaining. However, the Shire has approximately 36.04% of pre-European levels of vegetation remaining. The 505 scattered paddock trees are not considered to be a remnant within an extensively cleared area.

There are no records of any trees containing hollows or nesting activity for threatened or other fauna species and it is unlikely that any rare or priority flora species will be impacted by the proposed clearing, as no understorey species are thought to be present on site (DEC, 2010). Photos supplied by the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2010) show only scattered trees without understorey species.

The properties where the 505 native trees are to be cleared have been well managed and no signs of degradation or other risks to the environment are present (Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation, 2010). The proposed clearing is considered unlikely to cause appreciable land degradation (Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation, 2010).



The Dale river is situated directly north of Lot 4 and several minor non-perennial watercourses run through all but three of the properties where clearing is proposed. The applicant has demonstrated a history of land care and has planted over 160,000 trees on the property since 1982, mostly along watercourses and ridges (Shire of Brookton, 2010). The applicant has also stated that clearing of vegetation growing on ridges, gullies or seasonal watercourse will not occur.

Given that the proposed clearing will only apply to 505 scattered native trees spread over an area of 856ha, the proposed clearing is unlikely to present any significant environmental issues.

#### Methodology

##### References:

- Commonwealth of Australia (2001)
- Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2010)
- DEC (2010)
- EPA (2000)
- GIS DataSets:
  - Beverley 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2006
  - DEC Tenure (2009)
  - Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia - EA 18/10/00
  - Pre European Vegetation - DA 01/01
  - Hydrography linear - DOW 13/7/06
  - Hydrography linear (hierarchy) - DoW 13/7/06
  - Mattiske Vegetation (01/03/1998)
  - Clearing Regulations, Environmentally Sensitive Areas 30 May 2005
  - NLWRA, Current Extent of Native Vegetation 20 Jan 2001
  - SAC Bio Dataset - accessed August 2010
  - Soils, Statewide DA 11/99

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

##### Comments

The proposed clearing is to occur within the agricultural area covered by the Environmental Protection Authority's Position Statement No. 2, where the continued clearing for agriculture purposes is not supported. The principal aspects of EPA Position Statement No. 2 (EPA, 2000) that DEC considers relevant are:

There is a general presumption against clearing for agriculture within the agricultural region defined in EPA Position Statement No. 2.

In exceptional circumstances the EPA would consider supporting clearing within this region if:

(1) There are alternative mechanisms for protecting biodiversity that would see an overall environmental benefit as a result of the proposal.

(2) The area to be cleared is relatively small, depending on the scale at which biodiversity changes over the area, including extent of vegetation in the surrounding area and recognising that values will vary for different ecosystems.

(3) The proponent demonstrates that the elements set out in Section 4.3 of the Position Statement are being met. This will require extensive local and regional biodiversity work.

(4) Land degradation, including aquatic environments and threatening processes, such as dieback, salinisation or disruption of catchment processes, on-site and off-site would not be exacerbated.

The applicant has demonstrated a history of land care and has planted over 160,000 trees on the property since 1982, mostly along watercourses and ridges (Shire of Brookton, 2010), thereby providing an overall environmental benefit and improving the biodiversity of the local and regional area.

The area impacted is relatively small and consists of 505 scattered paddock trees, spread over 16 lots and 856ha.

The properties where the 505 native trees are to be cleared have been well managed and no signs of degradation or other risks to the environment are present. The proposed clearing is considered unlikely to cause appreciable land degradation (Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation, 2010).

Given the above, the proposed clearing is considered to fit the exceptional circumstance outlined by the EPA.

#### Methodology

##### References:

- DEC (2010)

#### 4. References

- Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation Land degradation assessment report (2010). Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia. DEC Ref: A328940
- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.
- DEC (2010) Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia, Wheatbelt region advice (DEC Ref: A328885).
- 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.
- 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.
- Shepherd, D.P. (2009) 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
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)