



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 3888/1

File Number: DEC2010/005947

Duration of Permit: From 7 February 2011 to 7 February 2015

PERMIT HOLDER

Shire of Woodanilling

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Katanning – Dumbleyung Road Reserve (locally known as Oxley Road) SLK 12.32 to 14.32

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 2 hectares of native vegetation, within the hatched yellow on attached Plan 3888/1.

CONDITIONS

1. 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.

2. Offsets

If part or all of the clearing to be done is or may be at variance with one or more of the clearing principles, then the Permit Holder must develop and implement an *offset* in accordance with conditions 2(a) and (b) of this Permit with respect to that clearing.

(a) Determination of *offsets*:

- (i) in determining the *offset* to be implemented with respect to a particular area of native vegetation proposed to be cleared under this Permit, the Permit Holder must have regard to the *offset* principles contained in condition 2(b) of this Permit;
- (ii) the Permit Holder shall develop an *offset proposal* by 7 February 2012.
- (iii) once the Permit Holder has developed an *offset proposal*, the Permit Holder must provide that *offset proposal* to the CEO for the CEO's approval;
- (iv) the Permit Holder shall implement the *offset proposal* approved under condition (a)(ii); and
- (v) each *offset proposal* shall include a *direct offset*, timing for implementation of the *offset proposal* and may additionally include *contributing offsets*.

(b) For the purpose of this condition, the *offset* principles are as follows:

- (i) *direct offsets* should directly counterbalance the loss of the native vegetation;
- (ii) *contributing offsets* should complement and enhance the *direct offset*;
- (iii) *offsets* are implemented only once all avenues to avoid, minimise, rectify or reduce environmental impacts have been exhausted;
- (iv) the environmental values, habitat, species, *ecological community*, physical area, ecosystem, landscape, and hydrology of the *offset* should be the same as, or better than, that of the area of native vegetation being *offset*;

- (v) a ratio greater than 1:1 should be applied to the size of the area of native vegetation that is offset to compensate for the risk that the *offset* may fail;
- (vi) *offsets* must entail a robust and consistent assessment process;
- (vii) in determining an appropriate *offset*, consideration should be given to ecosystem function, rarity and type of *ecological community*, vegetation *condition*, habitat quality and area of native vegetation cleared;
- (viii) the *offset* should either result in no net loss of native vegetation, or lead to a net gain in native vegetation and improve the *condition* of the natural environment;
- (ix) *offsets* must satisfy all statutory requirements;
- (x) *offsets* must be clearly defined, documented and audited;
- (xi) *offsets* must ensure a long-term (10-30 year) benefit; and
- (xii) an *environmental specialist* must be involved in the design, assessment and monitoring of *offsets*.

3. Records must be kept

- (a) In relation to the clearing of native vegetation authorised under this Permit:
 - (i) the species composition, structure and density of the cleared area;
 - (ii) the location where the clearing occurred, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings;
 - (iii) the date that the area was cleared; and
 - (iv) the size of the area cleared (in hectares).
- (b) In relation to the offset of areas pursuant to condition 2:
 - (i) the location of any area of *offsets* recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings;
 - (ii) a description of the *offset* activities undertaken; and
 - (iii) the size of the *offset* area (in hectares).

4. Reporting

- (a) The Permit Holder must provide to the CEO on or before 30 June of each year, a written report:
 - (i) of records required under condition 3 of this Permit; and
 - (ii) concerning activities done by the Permit Holder under this Permit between 1 January and 31 December of the preceding year.
- (b) Prior to 7 November 2014 the Permit Holder must provide to the CEO a written report of records required under condition 3 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under condition 4(a) of this Permit.

Definitions

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

condition means the rating given to native vegetation using the *Keighery scale* and refers to the degree of change in the structure, density and species present in the particular vegetation in comparison to undisturbed vegetation of the same type;

contributing offset/s has the same meaning as is given to that term in the Environmental Protection Authority's *Position Statement No.9: Environmental Offsets*, January 2006;

direct offset/s has the same meaning as is given to that term in the Environmental Protection Authority's *Position Statement No.9: Environmental Offsets*, January 2006;

ecological community/ies means a naturally occurring biological assemblage that occurs in a particular type of habitat (English and Blythe, 1997; 1999);

environmental specialist means a person who is engaged by the Permit Holder for the purpose of providing environmental advice, who holds a tertiary qualification in environmental science or equivalent, and has experience relevant to the type of environmental advice that an environmental specialist is required to provide under this Permit;

Keighery scale means the vegetation condition scale described in *Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community (1994)* as developed by B.J. Keighery and published by the Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia;

offset/s means an offset required to be implemented under condition 2 of this Permit;

offset proposal means an *offset* determined by the Permit Holder in accordance with condition 2 of this Permit;

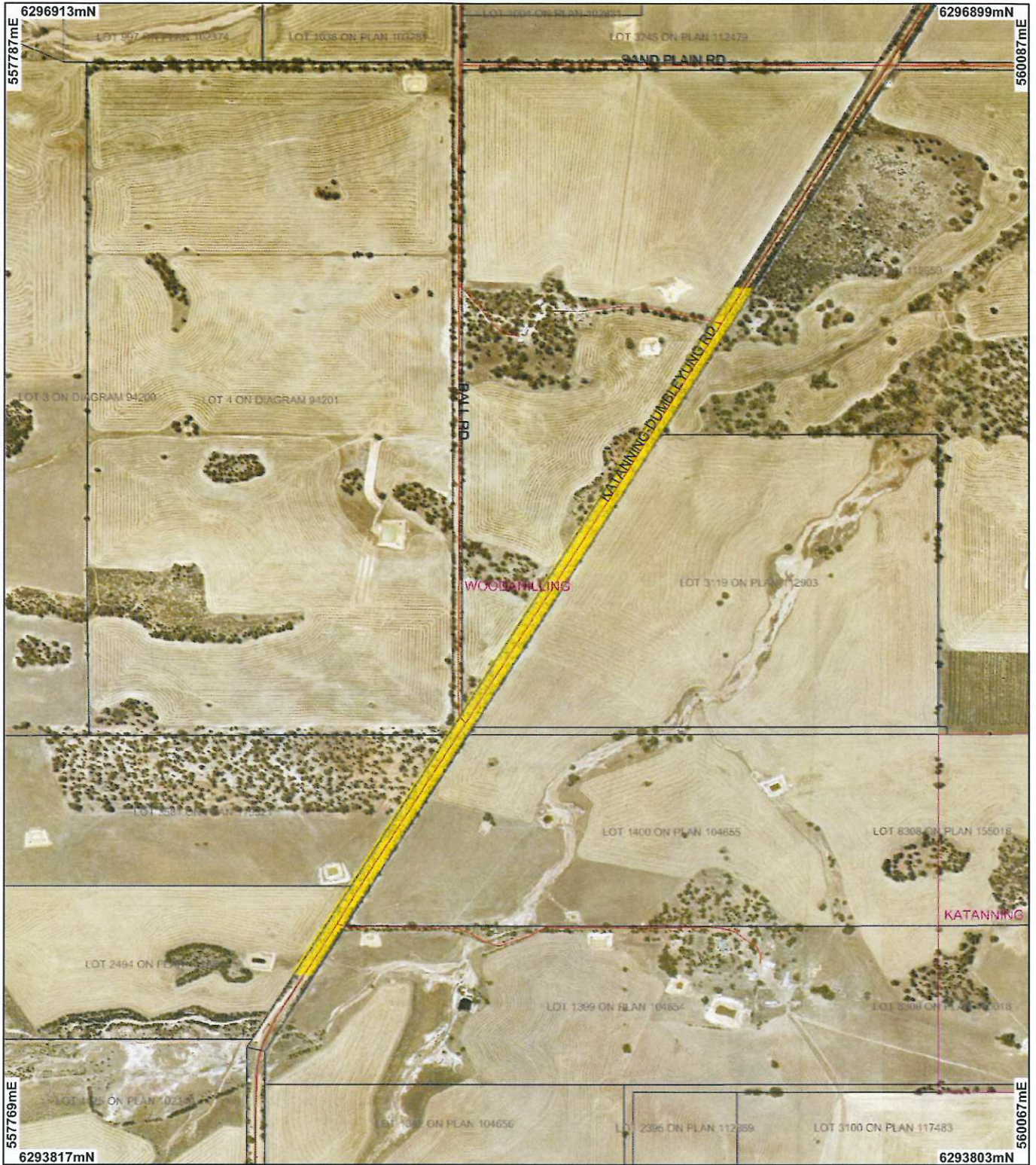


Kelly Faulkner
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

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

13 January 2011

Plan 3888/1



LEGEND

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
|  Clearing Instruments | Dumbleyung Kuerin 1.4m |
|  Areas Approved to Clear | Orthomosaic - Landgate |
|  Road Centrelines | 2002 |
|  Cadastre for labelling | |
|  Local Government Authorities | |



Scale 1:13616
(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 13/1/01
K Faulkner Date

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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1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 3888/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Shire of Woodanilling

1.3. Property details

Property: ROAD RESERVE (GLENCOE 6316)
Local Government Area:
Colloquial name: Oxley/Katanning-Dumbleyung Road reserve at Ball road intersection SLK 12.32 to 14.32.

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
2		Mechanical Removal	Road construction or maintenance

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: 13 January 2011
Decision Date: Granted

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 consisting of the following Beard vegetation association: -Beard 1023: Medium woodland; York gum, wandoo & salmon gum (Eucalyptus salmonophloia)	The vegetation under application appears to consist of wandoo, York gums and Allocasuarina over grassy weeds.	Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994)	The condition and description of the vegetation under application was determined via the use of aerial imagery, DEC regional advice (2010a), RCC advice (2010b) and photos supplied by the applicant

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

The proposed clearing of 2ha of native vegetation is for the purpose of road widening. The clearing is to occur over an approx length of 2.1km. The roadside vegetation at this location was mapped as having a medium-low conservation value (RCC, 2010a).

Within the local area (10km radius) there were six fauna species of conservation significance recorded:

- * Carpet python (*Morelia spilota imbricata*) recorded 1.3km south west (P4)
- *3 Carnaby's black cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*), the closest was recorded 4.3km south east (Endangered under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, Threatened under the Wildlife Conservation Act)
- *Red-tailed phascogale (*Phascogale calura*) recorded 5.5km south east (Endangered under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, Threatened under the Wildlife Conservation Act). There were also records of Western Brush Wallaby, Western Rosella and the White-browed Babbler found within the local area.

While the roadside is not of high conservation value, this section of vegetation does connect larger remnants of bushland and therefore acts as a biological corridor, particularly for native fauna in a highly cleared landscape (approximately 10% remaining vegetation within the local area). Therefore the proposed clearing may be at variance to principle (b).

The Shire retains 19.83% of pre-European levels of vegetation (Shepherd, 2009). The vegetation type impacted by the proposed clearing (Beard 1023) has only 10.97% remaining and 11.01% remaining within the bioregion (Shepherd, 2009). The applied area is a significant remnant of this vegetation type (RCC 2010a).

The national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia has a target to prevent clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30 per cent of that present pre-1750, below which species loss appears to accelerate exponentially at an ecosystem level (Commonwealth of Australia 2001, EPA 2000). Therefore the proposed clearing is at variance to principle (e).

Four priority flora species are mapped as occurring within the same vegetation (Beard 1023) and soil type

(Ub90 or Va64) as the applied area (Shepherd, 2009; Northcote et al. 1960-1968). However given the condition of the vegetation under application the applied area is unlikely to be significant habitat for these species. As the clearing is minimal the Region sees no concerns as the clearing is unlikely to disturb the priority species present within close proximity of the applied area (DEC 2010a).

Given the above, the proposal is at variance to principle (e), may be at variance to principle (b) and not likely to be at variance to the remaining clearing principles.

An offset condition would mitigate impacts of clearing a biological corridor that is contained within a highly cleared landscape. The clearing will result in the loss of potential fauna habitat.

Methodology Commonwealth of Australia 2001
DEC (2010a)
RCC (2010a)
RCC (2010b)
EPA (2000)
Northcote et al. (1960-1968)
Shepherd (2009)
GIS Databases:
-SAC Biodatasets - accessed August 10
-DEC tenure (DEC 2010)
- NLWRA, Current Extent of Native Vegetation 20 Jan 2001
- Hydrography linear - DOW 13/7/06
- Soils, Statewide DA 11/99
- Dumbleyung Kokerin 1.4m Orthomosaic ? DLI November 2002
- Pre European Vegetation - DA 01/01
- EPBC Act (1999)

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

Comments

A submission from the Roadside Conservation Committee was received and comments addressed above (RCC 2010a)

The Shire of Woodanilling has received funding from Main Roads to undertake the road widening.

Methodology

4. References

- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.
DEC (2010a) Regional Advice. Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (DEC Ref. A329318).
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.
RCC (2010a) Roadside Conservation Committee Advice, Department of Environment and Conservation. DEC Ref: A327627).
RCC (2010b) Roadside Conservation Committee Advice, Department of Environment and Conservation. DEC Ref:DOC117552).
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)