



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 4082/1
File Number: 2010/009833-1
Duration of Permit: From 25 April 2011 to 25 April 2013

PERMIT HOLDER

Shire of Wagin

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

ROAD RESERVE (TILLELLEN ROAD, WAGIN 6315) - PIN: 11280319

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 1.54 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 4082/1.

CONDITIONS

1. Weed control

When undertaking any clearing or other activity authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder must take the following steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *weeds*:

- a) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
- b) ensure that no *weed*-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill* or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and
- c) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.

Definitions

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

fill means material used to increase the ground level, or fill a hollow;

mulch means the use of organic matter, wood chips or rocks to slow the movement of water across the soil surface and to reduce evaporation;

weed/s means a species listed in Appendix 3 of the "Environmental Weed Strategy" published by the Department of Conservation and Land Management (1999), and plants declared under section 37 of the *Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act 1976*.

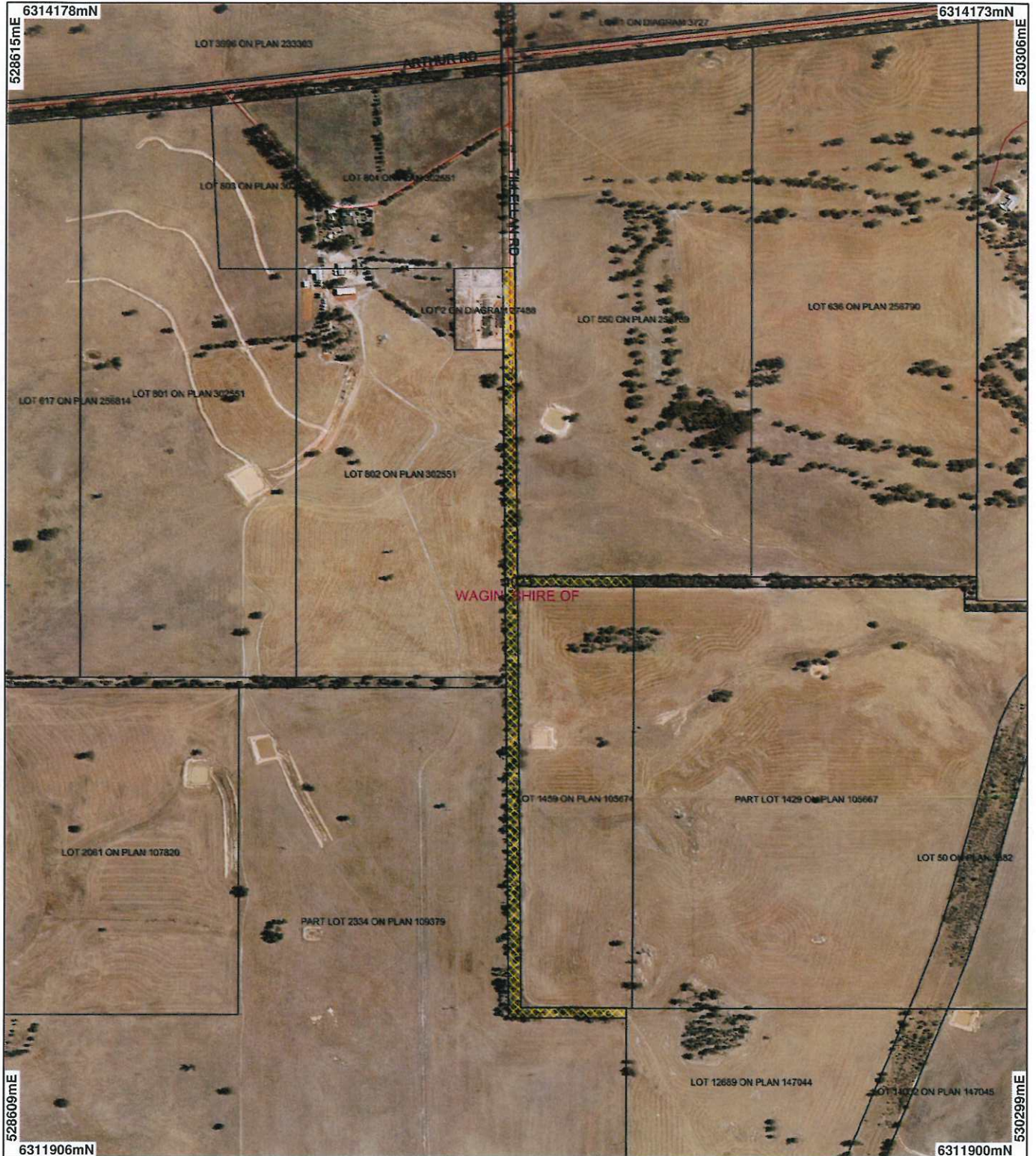
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kelly Faulkner", written over a horizontal line.

Kelly Faulkner
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

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

31 March 2011

Plan 4082/1



LEGEND

- Road Centrelines
- Local Government Authorities
- Areas Approved to Clear
- Cadastre for labelling
- Wagin 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2006
- Pre-European Vegetation Clearing Instruments (cont)



0 ————— 250 m

Scale 1:10000
(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 3/3/11

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.



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1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 4082/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Shire of Wagin

1.3. Property details

Property: ROAD RESERVE (WAGIN 6315)
ROAD RESERVE (WAGIN 6315)
Local Government Area: Shire of Wagin
Colloquial name: Tillellan Road reserve

1.4. Application

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

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 31 March 2011

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
Shepherd (2009) describes vegetation association 1023 as Medium woodland; York gum, wandoo & salmon gum (Eucalyptus salmonophloia)	The 1.54 hectares of vegetation under application are to be cleared for the purpose of road construction.	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.

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

The proposed clearing of 1.54ha of native vegetation is for the purpose of road construction. The clearing is to occur over an approx length of 1.9km. The roadside vegetation at this location is in a good (Keighery 1994) condition.

There are 4 known records of rare fauna species located within the local area (10km radius) of the application area. Red-tailed phascogales (*Phascogale calura*) prefer tall shrubland with a continuous canopy and is most often associated with *Eucalyptus wandoo* (DEC 2007), similar to that of the applied area. The Shire of Wagin also has a known population of phascogales (DEC, 2010) and given this, the species may utilise the vegetation under application.

The vegetation under application connects 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). The established trees may also contain hollows for other indigenous fauna in the local area. Given the above, this proposal may be at variance to principle (b).

There is one record of rare flora within the local area; *Banksia oligantha* is found 2.4km from the application area on different soil and vegetation types. In addition to this, 8 priority listed flora species were located within the local area. Given the previous disturbances and the surrounding good to degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition, the vegetation under application it is unlikely to be significant flora habitat.

The Shire retains 14.93% of pre-European levels of vegetation and the Avon Wheatbelt Bioregion retains 18.24% (Shepherd 2009). The vegetation type impacted by the proposed clearing (Beard 1023) has 10.97% remaining of its pre-European extent and 11.01% remaining within the bioregion (Shepherd 2009). The applied area is a significant remnant of this vegetation type.

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). Therefore the proposed clearing is at variance to principle (e). The Shire of Wagin in conjunction with DEC are developing a

strategic offset for clearing within the Shire.

The groundwater of the local area is mapped as highly saline, more than 35000mg/L. Rising watertables and salinity have been serious concerns for the Wagin community for many years (Crossley 2001). The removal of deep rooted perennial vegetation in areas with shallow groundwater, such as the vegetation in the applied area, can increase groundwater salinity. Therefore the proposed clearing is at variance to principle (i).

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

Methodology Weed management conditions will minimise and mitigate the risk of introduction of invasive species.
References
Commonwealth of Australia (2001)
Crossley (2001)
DEC (2007)
DEC (2010)
Shepherd (2009)
GIS Databases:
-SAC Biodatasets - accessed November 10
-DEC tenure
- NLWRA, Current Extent of Native Vegetation
- Wagin 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2006
- Pre European Vegetation
- Groundwater salinity, statewide

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

Comments

Application falls within the EPA Position Statement No.2, where further clearing for agriculture is not supported. The purpose of clearing is for road construction and not agriculture.

Town Planning Scheme Zone: Not mapped - designated road reserve

Methodology

GIS Databases:
-EPA Position paper No 2 Agricultural Region
-Town planning schemes

4. References

- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.
Crossley (2001) Groundwater study of the Wagin townsite. Resource Management Technical Report 223, Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia.
DEC (2007) DEC Fauna Habitat Notes.xls. February 2007. Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia.
DEC (2010) Regional Advice for Clearing Permit 4082/1 - Shire of Wagin DEC ref: A35371
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. (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)