



## CLEARING PERMIT

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

### PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 4083/1

File Number: 2010/009844-1

Duration of Permit: From 24 January 2011 to 24 January 2013

### PERMIT HOLDER

Shire of Augusta-Margaret River

### LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Lot 131 on Plan 216053 (House No. 14 BARRETT MARGARET RIVER 6285) Crown Reserve 27633

Lot 259 on Plan 240426 (MARGARET RIVER 6285) Crown Reserve 27633

Road Reserve (MARGARET RIVER 6285) PIN 11413994

Road Reserve (MARGARET RIVER 6285) PIN 1165520

### AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 2.1 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 4083/1.

### 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. Dieback and weed control

- (a) 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* and *dieback*:
  - (i) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
  - (ii) shall only move soils in *dry conditions*;
  - (iii) ensure that no *dieback* or *weed*-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill* or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and
  - (iv) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.
- (b) At least once in each 12 month period for the term of this Permit, the Permit Holder must remove or kill any *weeds* growing within areas cleared under this Permit.

### 3. Fauna management

- (a) The Permit Holder shall retain *habitat tree(s)* found within the area cross hatched yellow on attached Plan 4083/1.
- (b) The Permit Holder shall retain *Agonis flexuosa* trees and *Eucalyptus* species that have a diameter, at human chest height, greater than 10 centimetres.

### DEFINITIONS

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

*dieback* means the effect of *Phytophthora* species on native vegetation;

*dry conditions* means when soils (not dust) do not freely adhere to rubber tyres, tracks, vehicle chassis or wheel arches;

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

*habitat tree(s)* means trees that have a diameter, at average adult human chest height, of greater than 70cm, healthy but with dead limbs and broken crowns that are likely to contain hollows and roosts suitable for native fauna, or where these are not present then healthy but with the potential to contain hollows and roosts;

*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*.



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Kelly Faulkner  
MANAGER  
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

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

30 December 2010

# Plan 4083/1



## LEGEND

### Clearing Instruments

-  Areas Approved to Clear
-  Road Centrelines
-  Cadastre
-  Busselton 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2007



0 -125 m

Scale 1:4971

(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 30/2/10

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.: 4083/1  
Permit type: Area Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Shire of Augusta - Margaret River

### 1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 131 ON PLAN 216053 (House No. 14 BARRETT MARGARET RIVER 6285)  
ROAD RESERVE ( MARGARET RIVER 6285)  
LOT 259 ON PLAN 240426 ( MARGARET RIVER 6285)  
ROAD RESERVE ( MARGARET RIVER 6285)

Local Government Area: Shire of Augusta-Margaret River

Colloquial name:

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
2.1		Mechanical Removal	Hazard reduction or fire control

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant  
Decision Date: 30 December 2010

## 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>The vegetation under application is mapped as being composed of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Beard vegetation association 3: Medium forest; jarrah-marri; and</li> <li>- Matiske vegetation complex Wilyabrup (W1): Tall open forest of Eucalyptus diversicolor-Corymbia calophylla-Allocasuarina decussata- Agonis flexuosa on deeply incised valleys in the hyperhumid zone.</li> </ul> <p>(Shepherd, 2009; Matiske and Havel, 1998)</p>	<p>The condition of the vegetation proposed for clearing is considered to vary from good to excellent (Keighery, 1994)(DEC, 2010). The vegetation to be cleared within the western section of the applied area consists of predominately Eucalyptus diversicolor with some Corymbia calophylla and Eucalyptus marginata over Agonis flexuosa (DEC, 2010). At the eastern edge of the burn buffer access track, some Eucalyptus patens were noted. A. flexuosa is scattered throughout the applied area, however it is more prevalent in the north-west corner (DEC, 2010). Understorey species included Trymalium odoratissimum subsp. Trifidum, Bossiaea linophylla, Acacia urophylla and Xanthorrhoea preissii. Weed species are evident throughout the existing tracks (DEC, 2010). The eastern section of the applied area is comprised of an overstorey of C. calophylla and E. Marginata and E. diversicolor are absent. The vegetation in this section is in excellent (Keighery, 1994) condition with very few Watsonia occurrences (DEC, 2010)</p> <p>Asparagus scandens, a weed of National significance is considered likely to occur and Watsonia species have been observed within the applied area (DEC, 2010)</p>	<p>Excellent: Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery, 1994)</p> <p>To</p> <p>Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery, 1994)</p>	<p>The condition and description of the vegetation under application was determined via the use of aerial imagery, supporting information provided by the applicant (AMRSC, 2010) and a DEC conducted site inspection (DEC, 2010).</p>

## 3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

### (a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.

#### Comments **Proposal is at variance to this Principle**

A proposal to clear 1.9 hectares of native vegetation was initially received; however the applicant amended the area to allow for 2.1 hectares to be cleared. The proposed clearing is required for a fire hazard separation zone and access tracks to allow emergency vehicles access through the reserve. The hazard separation zone (HSZ)

will involve establishing a 30 metre separation zone measured from the reserves boundary and will include a 6 metre cleared fire break. The 6 metre cleared fire break will allow for a hard surfaced access track and be located along the boundary of the reserve. The amount of clearing required within the 6 metre fire break will require 3-4 metres of clearing depending on the vegetation present. A large portion of these access tracks have already been constructed at a width of 2 metres (AMRSC, 2010b). Once the required clearing is complete, the vegetation is to be burnt and/or slashed when required to maintain reduced fuel loads (AMRSC, 2010a).

The access tracks proposed to be cleared which dissect the central part of the reserve and protrude from the boundaries of the reserve (the burn buffer access tracks), will predominately require the clearing of understorey species and trimming of tree branches. There are existing tracks and clearing in these sections is anticipated to be minor (AMRSC, 2010a; AMRSC, 2010b).

The establishment of the HSZ will involve parkland clearing of understorey species along the western boundary of the reserve. The HSZ is required to reduce the risk of ember attack and radiant heat on nearby buildings (AMRSC, 2010a). A rotary slasher will be used to clear within the HSZ, slashing all trees less than 10cm in diameter shrub species to a height of no more than 15cm. All Peppermint (*Agonis flexuosa*) and Eucalyptus trees with a diameter at breast height of greater than 10cm, will be retained and the overstorey connectivity of the forest is to be retained, reducing impacts to Western ring-tail possums (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*) (AMRSC, 2010a).

The condition of the vegetation proposed for clearing is considered to vary from good to excellent (Keighery, 1994) condition (DEC, 2010) with the local area (10km radius) retaining approximately 50% native vegetation. The vegetation under application has also been identified as being within 100 metres of a regionally significant linkage (Molloy et al, 2009; Ekologica, 2009).

Twenty six priority flora and three rare flora species were recorded within the local area (10km radius). Of these *Gahnia scleroides* (P3) is known to occur within the applied area (AMRSC, 2010a; Ekologica, 2009). A flora search has been conducted over parts of the area proposed to be cleared, however a full flora survey was not undertaken. The applicant has advised that a designated flora and fauna specialist is to be onsite during the slashing operation at all times to ensure that species of conservation significance within the permit area are protected.

*Asparagus scandens*, a weed of national significance is considered likely to occur and *Watsonia* species have been observed within the applied area (DEC, 2010). In addition, due to the high rainfall, the area is within a dieback risk zone. Weed and dieback control conditions will reduce the risk of weed and pathogen invasion and spread.

Given the above, the proposed clearing is considered to be at variance to this principle.

**Methodology** AMRSC (2010a)  
AMRSC (2010b)  
DEC (2010)  
Ekologica (2010)  
Molloy et al. (2009)  
GIS Databases;  
- Busselton 50cm Orthomosaic - Langate 2007  
- SAC Biodatasets (accessed Dec 2010)  
- Matiske Vegetation (1998)  
- Pre European Vegetation (DA 2001)  
- Clearing Regulations, Environmentally Sensitive Areas (2009)  
- Current Extent of Native Vegetation (NLWRA 2001)

**(b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.**

**Comments Proposal is at variance to this Principle**

There are known occurrences of the Western ring-tail possum within and surrounding the application area (with a sighting during spotlight surveying), as well as several other fauna species of conservation significance recorded within close proximity to the applied area. All Peppermint (*Agonis flexuosa*) and Eucalyptus trees with a diameter at breast height of greater than 10cm will be retained and the overstorey connectivity of the forest is to be retained, reducing impacts to Western ring-tail possums (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*) (AMRSC, 2010a).

The Chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroii*), Quenda (*Isodon obesulus fusciventer*) and the Brush tailed Phascogale (*Phascogale tapoatafa*) were all recorded within 1km of the applied area and are likely to frequent or utilise the area under application (Green Iguana, 2009). In addition to the abovementioned species, the South west carpet python (*Morelia spilota imbicata*), Nicholls toadlet (*Metacrinia nicholli*), Mourning skink (*Egernia luctuosa*) and two other skink species *E. pulchra* and *Glaphyromorphus gracilipes* may be impacted by the proposed clearing. (Green Iguana, 2009). The applicant has advised that a fauna specialist will be present onsite during clearing activities (AMRSC, 2010a). Fauna management conditions will reduce the potential impacts to local fauna species.

**Methodology** AMRSC (2010a)  
Green Iguana (2009)  
GIS Databases:  
- SAC Biodatasets (accessed DEC 2010)

**(c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora.**

**Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

The declared rare flora species recorded within the local area (10km radius), *Caladenia excelsa*, *C. lodgeana* and *Drakaea micrantha*, prefer soils that differ to those mapped over the applied area (Brown et al. 1998; WA Herbarium 1998-). No rare flora was observed during a rare flora search of the application area, (Ekologica, 2009).

Considering this, it is unlikely that the vegetation under application contains rare flora and the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance with this principle.

**Methodology** Brown et al. (1998)  
Ekologica (2009)  
WA Herbarium (1998-)  
GIS Databases:  
- Mattiske Vegetation (01/03/1998)  
- Pre European Vegetation - DA 01/01  
- SAC Biodatasets - accessed 11 Feb 08  
- Soils, Statewide DA 11/99

**(d) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a threatened ecological community.**

**Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

There are no known threatened ecological communities (TEC) recorded within the local area (10km radius). This being considered, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

**Methodology** GIS Databases:  
- Pre European Vegetation - DA 01/01  
- SAC Biodatasets - accessed 11 Feb 08  
- Soils, Statewide DA 11/99

**(e) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.**

**Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

The vegetation types mapped as occurring within the applied area are well represented. Beard vegetation association 3 has 80.27% of its pre-European levels remaining within the bioregion (Shepherd, 2009) and the mapped Mattiske complex, Wilyabrup (W1), retains 60% (Mattiske and Havel, 1998). In addition, the local area (10km radius) has approximately 50% remaining native vegetation.

Given the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

**Methodology** GIS Databases:  
- Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia - EA 18/10/00  
- Local Government Authorities - DLI 8/07/04  
- Mattiske Vegetation - CALM 1/03/1998  
- Pre European Vegetation - DA 01/01  
- SAC Biodatasets (accessed DEC 2010)  
- NLWRA, Current Extent of Native Vegetation 20 Jan 2001

**(f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.**

**Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

There are no mapped wetlands or watercourses within the applied area. The closest watercourse (Margaret River) is adjacent to the eastern corner of the proposed clearing area. The vegetation in this section is in excellent (Keighery, 1994) condition (DEC, 2010) and only minor clearing is required at this location.

Given the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on vegetation associated with a wetland or watercourse, therefore the proposed clearing is considered not likely to be at variance to this principle.

**Methodology** DEC (2010)  
Keighery (1994)  
GIS Databases:  
- Hydrography linear - DOW 13/7/06  
- Hydrography linear (hierarchy) - DoW 13/7/06

**(g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.**

**Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

The proposed clearing of 2.1 hectares of native vegetation is required for a fire hazard separation zone and access tracks to allow emergency vehicles access through the reserve. The hazard separation zone (HSZ) will involve establishing a 30 metre separation zone measured from the reserves boundary and will include a 6 metre cleared fire break. The 6 metre cleared fire break will allow for a hard surfaced access track and be located along the boundary of the reserve. The amount of clearing required within the 6 metre fire break will require 3-4 metres of clearing depending on the vegetation present. A large portion of these access tracks have already been constructed at a width of 2 metres (AMRSC, 2010b).

Given that the purpose of the clearing is to reduce fuel loads and that the majority of the vegetation within reserve 27633 is to be retained, the proposed clearing is not likely to result in appreciable land degradation.

**Methodology** AMRSC (2010b)  
GIS Databases:  
- Busselton 50cm Orthomosaic - Langate 2007  
- Soils, Statewide DA 11/99

**(h) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.**

**Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

Keenan State Forest is located 1km north east and Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park is situated within the local area (10km radius).

Bramley National Park is adjacent to the eastern section of the application area and is also located 200m north east of the western section of the applied area. The vegetation under application is considered to provide a buffer to this National Park (Ekologica, 2009).

However, given that the purpose of the clearing is to reduce fuel loads, the local area (10km radius) has approximately 50% remaining native vegetation and the majority of the vegetation within reserve 27633 is to be retained, the proposed clearing is not likely to significantly impact on the environmental values of nearby conservation areas.

**Methodology** GIS Databases:  
- DEC Tenure (DEC 2010)  
- Current Extent of Native Vegetation (NLWRA 2001)

**(i) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.**

**Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

The closest watercourse (Margaret River) is adjacent to the eastern corner of the proposed clearing area. The vegetation in this section is in excellent (Keighery, 1994) condition (DEC, 2010) and only minor clearing is required at this location.

Given that the purpose of the clearing is to reduce fuel loads, the local area (10km radius) has approximately 50% remaining native vegetation and the majority of the vegetation within reserve 27633 is to be retained, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact the quality of surface of groundwater.

**Methodology** DEC (2010)  
Keighery (1994)  
GIS Databases:  
- Hydrography linear - DOW 13/7/06  
- Hydrography linear (hierarchy) - DoW 13/7/06  
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide DoW 13/07/06

**(j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.**

**Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

Given that the purpose of the clearing is to reduce fuel loads, the local area (10km radius) has approximately 50% remaining native vegetation, and the majority of the vegetation within reserve 27633 is to be retained, the proposed clearing is not likely to lead to an increase in flood duration or intensity.

**Methodology GIS Databases:**

- NLWRA, Current Extent of Native Vegetation 20 Jan 2001
- Hydrography, linear - DOW 13/7/06
- Mean Annual Rainfall Isohytes (1975 - 2003) - DEC

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

**Comments**

The applicant has advised that the proposed clearing for fire hazard reduction within suitable Western Ringtail possum habitat has been referred to the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (SEWPC) to determine whether the clearing is deemed to be a controlled action (AMRSC, 2010a).

The applicant will be conducting clearing activities in accordance with the Shire's Fire Preparation Notice 2010-2011.

Some sections of the proposed clearing occur within an Aboriginal site of significance. The applicant will be notified of its obligations under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972.

**Methodology AMRSC (2010a)**

- GIS Databases:
- Aboriginal Sites of Significance 26 April 2007

## 4. References

- AMRSC (2010b) Shire of Augusta Margaret River, Memorandum, DEC Clearing Application, Barret Street Reserve (R27633) - Supporting document. DEC Ref: A349300
- AMRSC (2010b) Shire of Augusta Margaret River, Memorandum, Amendment to DEC Clearing Application. DEC Ref: A356344
- DEC (2010) Site Inspection Report for Clearing Permit Application CPS 4083/1, Lot 131 on Plan 216053, Margaret River. Site inspection undertaken 16/12/2010. Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (DEC Ref: A357111).
- Ekologica (2009) Report on a rare flora survey of part of R27633
- 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)