

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Purpose Permit Number: 4259/1

File Number:

2011/001219-1

Duration of Permit:

6 June 2011 to 6 June 2016

PERMIT HOLDER

James David Alexander

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Rifle Range Road Reserve, East Beverley (PIN: 11638114)

PURPOSE FOR WHICH THE CLEARING MAY BE DONE

Clearing for the purpose of access for fire control and sheep droving.

CONDITIONS

1. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 0.06 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross hatched yellow on attached Plan 4259/1.

2. 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

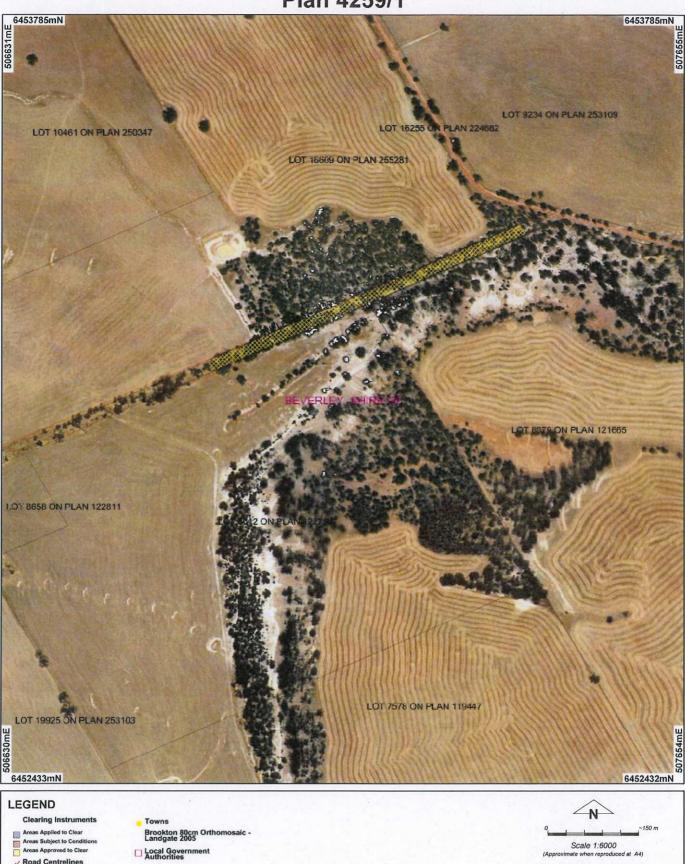
MANAGER

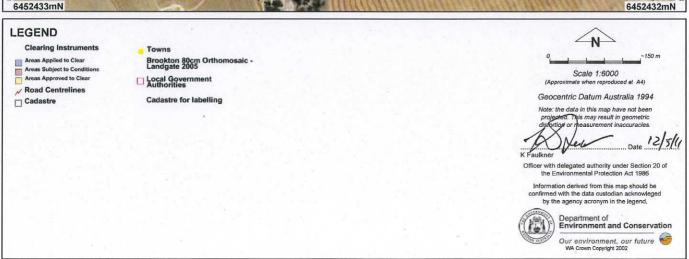
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

Officer delegated under Section 20 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

12 May 2011

Plan 4259/1







Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

Permit application details

Permit application No.:

Permit type:

Purpose Permit

Proponent details

Proponent's name:

James David Alexander

Property details

Property:

0.06

ROAD RESERVE (EAST BEVERLEY 6304)

Local Government Area:

SHIRE OF BEVERLEY

Colloquial name:

Rifle Range Road

Application

Clearing Area (ha)

Method of Clearing

For the purpose of:

Mechanical Removal

Access for fire control and sheep droving

Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application:

Grant

Decision Date:

12 May 2011

2. Site Information

Existing environment and information

2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description

Beard vegetation association:

Unit 1049 - Medium woodland; wandoo, York gum, salmon gum, morrel and gimlet (Hopkins et al, 2001).

Clearing Description

The vegetation under application is 0.06ha consisting predominately of approximately 12 medium height dead or highly senescent acacia and sheoak trees (DEC, 2011) in a 'degraded' (Keighery, 1994) condition.

Vegetation Condition

Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)

Comment

The vegetation condition and type was confirmed via a site visit undertaken by DEC in April 2011 (DEC, 2011) and through aerial imagery (Brookton 80cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2005).

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

The proposed clearing of 0.06ha (approximately 12 acacia and sheoak trees), mostly dead or highly senescent, for the purpose of access for fire control and sheep droving within Rifle Range Road reserve is not considered to have any significant environmental impacts and is not considered likely to be at variance to any of the clearing principles.

There is no indication that the vegetation provides significant habitat for indigenous fauna (DEC, 2011) and flora species and no threatened or priority ecological communities have been mapped within the vicinity of the proposed clearing area. The closest conservation area is Yandinilling Nature Reserve approximately 1.4km south. An on-ground assessment of the vegetation found that the ecological value of the vegetation under application is minimal with other corridors of vegetation nearby being in better condition (DEC, 2011) and the selective nature of the proposed clearing will ensure that there is retention of some vegetation within this road reserve.

No wetlands or watercourses are present through the site and given the small scale of proposed clearing and the overall 'degraded' (Keighery, 1994) condition of the vegetation under application, the clearing as proposed is not likely to result in any appreciable land degradation or flooding.

The vegetation is mapped as Beard vegetation association 1049 - Medium woodland; wandoo, York gum, salmon gum, morrel and gimlet of which only 6.84% of the pre-European extent of this vegetation type remains within the Avon Wheatbelt bioregion (Shepherd, 2009). Although this vegetation type is poorly represented and endemic to the Avon Wheatbelt bioregion (DEC, 2011 & Shepherd, 2009), the clearing proposed is limited to individual trees and therefore is unlikely to significantly impact upon this vegetation type. Measures to avoid and minimise clearing within this road reserve will assist in ensuring only required clearing is undertaken.

Methodology

References:

- DEC (2011)
- Keighery (1994)
- Shepherd (2009)

GIS Databases:

- Brookton 80cm Orthomosaic Landgate 2005
- DEC Tenure DEC
- Geomorphic wetlands Wheatbelt DEC
- Hydrography, linear DoW
- Hydrography, linear (hierarchy) DoW
- IBRA Australia DEH
- SAC Biodatasets DEC Accessed April 2011
- Salinity Risk LM 25m DOLA 00

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

Comments

The vegetation under application lies within the Rifle Range road reserve vested with the Shire of Beverley and zoned as 'Road' under the Town Planning Scheme. The Shire of Beverley is in support of the clearing of 0.06ha due to the small scale and nature of the clearing proposed (Shire of Beverley, 2011a). The footprint of the proposed 0.06ha was amended on 5 May 2011 to include an area that may require the clearing of five dead or highly senescent acacias and sheoaks east of the original footprint area. The Shire of Beverley advised that "Council has no objection to the additional clearing of the five acacias and sheoks on Rifle Range Road" (Shire of Beverley, 2011b).

The vegetation lies within EPA Position Statement No. 2 however, the clearing is selective and of a small scale and for fire control and sheep droving and therefore not for agricultural purposes.

Methodology

References:

- Shire of Beverley (2011a)
- Shire of Beverley (2011b)

GIS Databases:

- EPA Position Statement No. 2 DEP
- Town Planning Scheme Zones DPI

4. References

- DEC (2011) Site Inspection Report for Clearing Permit Application CPS 4259/1, Rifle Range Road Reserve, East Beverley.

 Site inspection undertaken April 2011. Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (DEC Ref. A390093).
- 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.
- Hopkins, A.J.M., Beeston, G.R. and Harvey J.M. (2001) A database on the vegetation of Western Australia. Stage 1. CALMScience after J. S. Beard, late 1960's to early 1980's Vegetation Survey of Western Australia, UWA Press.
- 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.
- Shire of Beverley (2011a) CPS 4259/1 Authorisation from Shire of Beverley for clearing within Rifle Range Road reserve, East Beverley. Shire of Beverley, Beverley, Western Australia (DEC ref A3788902).
- Shire of Beverley (2011b) Email providing authorisation from the Shire of Beverley for the clearing of five additional trees within Rifle Range Road reserve, East Beverley. Shire of Beverley, Beverley, Western Australia (DEC ref A393654).

5. Glossary

Term	Meaning
CALM	Department of Conservation and Land Management (now DEC)
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation
DEH	Department of Environment and Heritage (now DSEWPC)
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection (now DEC)
DoE	Department of Environment
DoIR	Department of Industry and Resources
DoP	Department of Planning
DPI	Department of Planning and Infrastructure (now DoP)
DRF	Declared Rare Flora
DSEWPC	Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (Australian Government)
EPP	Environmental Protection Policy
GIS	Geographical Information System
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community
WRC	Water and Rivers Commission (now DoW)