GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS
Area Permit Number: 4275/1
File Number: 2011/002078-1
Duration of Permit: From 30 May 2011 to 30 May 2013

PERMIT HOLDER
Ronald George Fletcher
Lynette Fay Fletcher

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE
Lot 2469 on Deposited Plan 203055, NILLUP 6288

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY
The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 7 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 4275/1.

CONDITIONS
1. The Permit Holder shall retain *habitat trees* found within the area cross hatched yellow on attached Plan 4275/1.

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

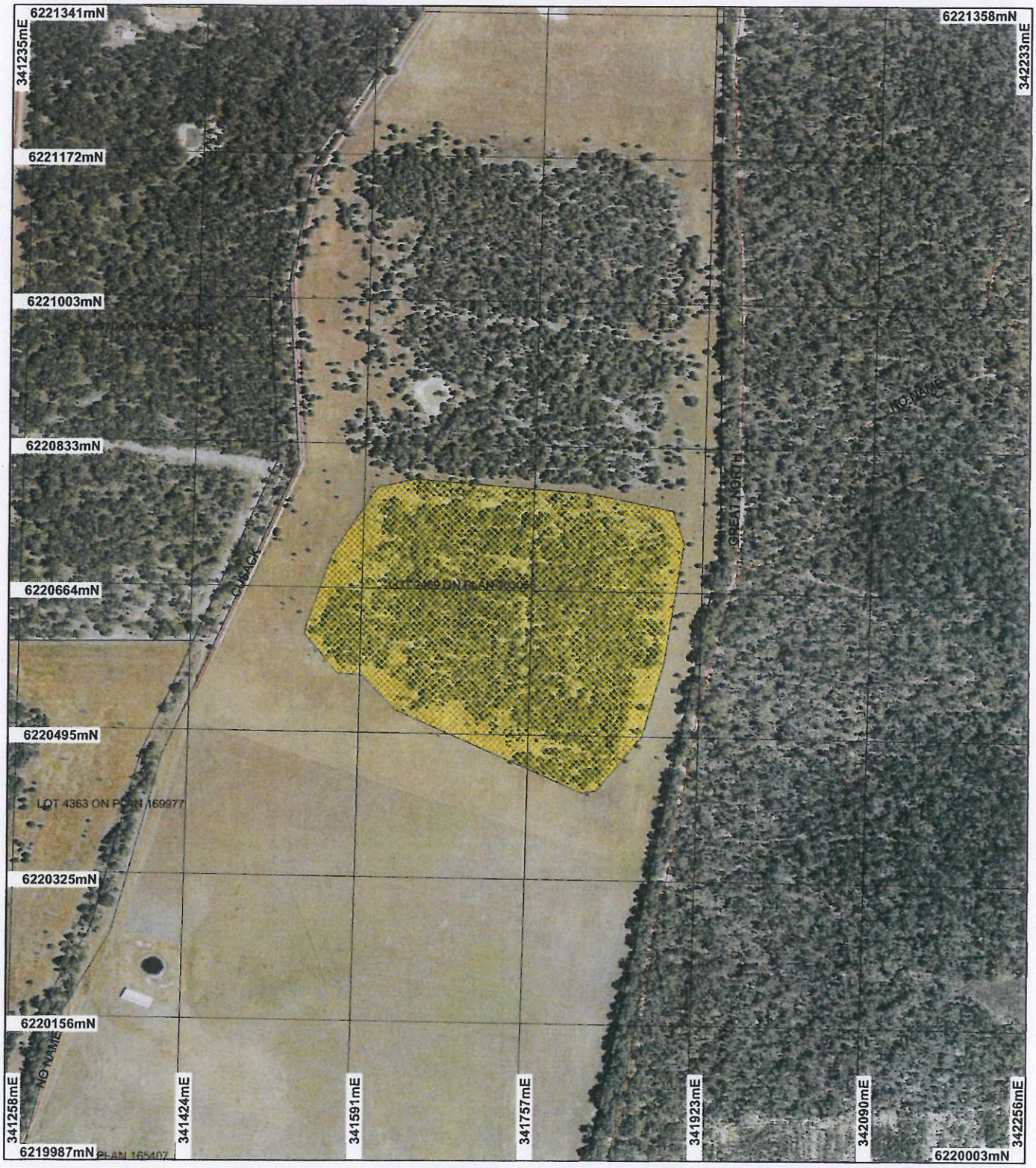
habitat tree(s) means trees that have a diameter, at average adult human chest height, of greater than 70cm, healthy but with dead limbs and broken crowns that are likely to contain hollows and roosts suitable for native fauna, or where these are not present then healthy but with the potential to contain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

Kelly Faulkner
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

Officer delegated under Section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

5 May 2011

Plan 4275/1



LEGEND

- Road Centrelines
- Cadastre for labelling
- ☐ Freehold
- ☐ Crown Reserve (cont)
- ☐ State Forest / Timber Reserve
- ☐ Marine Park
- ☐ Crown Lease
- ☐ Lease / Reserve
- ☐ Lease on State Forest / Timber Reserve (cont)
- ☐ Public Roads
- ☐ Unallocated Crown Land
- ☐ Water

Clearing Instruments

- ☐ Areas Approved to Clear

Leeuwin 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004

N

0 ~150 m

Scale 1:5940
(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 Date 5/5/14

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 acknowleged by the agency acronym in the legend.

Department of Environment and Conservation

Our environment, our future

** Project Data is denoted by asterisk. This data has not been quality assured. Please contact map author for details.*

Department of Environment and Conservation

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 4275/1

Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Ronald George and Lynette Fay Fletcher

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 2469 ON PLAN 203055 (House No. 216 CUSACK NILLUP 6288)

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:
7		Mechanical Removal	Grazing & Pasture

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant

Decision Date: 5 May 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
Mapped Beard (1980) vegetation association 3 is described as medium forest; Eucalyptus marginata (Jarrah) - Corymbia calophylla (Marri). Mapped Mattiske Vegetation Complex: Nd is described as Woodland to open forest of Eucalyptus marginata subsp. marginata -Corymbia calophylla - Banksia attenuata-Xylomelum occidentale-Nuytsia floribunda on low sandy rises above plain in the perhumid zone (Shepherd 2009, Mattiske 1998).	The proposed clearing of 7 ha is for the purpose of pasture. The vegetation under application consists of Corymbia calophylla and Eucalyptus marginata trees over Taxandria parviceps, Banksia grandis, Hakea amplexicaulis, Kingia australia, Podocarpus drouynianus and Mirbelia dilate over Banksia lindleyana and Astroloma sp. Nannup (P4). A small clump of Agonis flexuosa also occurs within the application area along the eastern boundary. The vegetation has been grazed by cattle and occurs in a predominately very good (Keighery 1994) condition with areas in good (Keighery 1994) condition.	Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994)	The condition of the vegetation was established through a site visit undertaken by DEC officers on the 13 of April 2011 (DEC 2011).

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 may be at variance to this Principle

The vegetation under application consists of Corymbia calophylla and Eucalyptus marginata trees over Taxandria parviceps, Banksia grandis, Hakea amplexicaulis, Kingia australia, Podocarpus drouynianus and Mirbelia dilate over Banksia lindleyana and Astroloma sp. Nannup (P4) in a predominately very good (Keighery 1994) condition (DEC 2011). A small clump of Agonis flexuosa also occurs within the application area along the eastern boundary (DEC 2011).

A Priority 4 flora species Astroloma sp. Nannup was observed throughout the application area (DEC 2011) however, it is considered for this species to be well represented in the adjacent South Blackwood State Forest and the local area (DEC 2011).

The application area contains fauna habitat for conservation significant black cockatoo species, Brush-tailed Phascogale and the Chuditch. However, it is considered that habitat for these species also occurs extensively

within the adjacent South Blackwood State Forest and nearby remnant vegetation on the property. In addition, there is ~ 60% of vegetation within the local area. Therefore, the application area is not considered to contain significant fauna habitat.

Given the very good (Keighery 1994) condition of the vegetation and that a Priority 4 flora species occurs within the application area, the proposed clearing may be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology References
-DEC (2011)
-Keighery (1994)
GIS Databases
-SAC Bio Datasets (4 April 2011)
- NLWRA, Current Extent of Native Vegetation

(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 not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

Eight conservation significant species have been recorded within the local area (10 km radius) of the area under application including, Calyptorhynchus banksii subsp. naso (Forest Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo), Calyptorhynchus baudinii (Baudin's Cockatoo), Galaxiella munda (Western Mud Minnow), Geocrinia alba (White-bellied Frog),Geocrinia vitellina (Orange-bellied Frog), Macropus irma (Western Brush Wallaby), Phascogale tapoatafa subsp. ssp. (WAM M434), (Brush-tailed Phascogale, Wambenger) and Pseudocheirus occidentalis (Western Ringtail Possum).

Forest red-tailed Black Cockatoo and Baudin's Cockatoo are known to feed on Marri and Jarah Trees and therefore the application area may provide feeding habitat for these species. However, during the site visit there was no evidence of foraging from Black Cockatoo species (DEC 2011). In addition, the application area did not contain habitat suitable for Western Ring-tail Possums (DEC 2011).

Numerous logs containing hollows were observed during the site visit that could provide habitat for Chuditch and a number of trees with small and medium sized hollows were also observed that could be suitable for Brush-tailed Phascogale and small parrot species (DEC 2011). There were also habitat trees that contained larger hollows and trees that have a potential for hollows to form. The applicant indicated during the site visit that most of the Jarah trees will be retained during the clearing operation to provide shade for cattle as well as any hollow bearing trees (DEC 2011). DEC officers' flagged 5 trees that contained hollows with marking tape for retention during the site visit (DEC 2011).

The application area occurs in close proximity (30m) to South Blackwood State Forest and to a large fenced off remnant of similar vegetation to the north (30m away). It is considered that fauna habitat for conservation significant black cockatoo species, Brush-tailed Phascogale and the Chuditch would occur extensively within the State Forest and the nearby remnant vegetation on the property. In addition, there is ~ 60% of vegetation within the local area. Therefore, the application area is not considered to contain significant fauna habitat and the proposed clearing is not considered to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology References
-DEC (2011)
GIS Databases
-SAC Bio Datasets (4 April 2011)
-NLWRA, Current Extent of Native Vegetation

(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**

Seven rare flora specie shave been recorded within the local area with two occurring in the same beard Vegetation association and Soil type as the application area. These are Reedia spathacea and Boronia exilis.

Reedia spathacea is a tufted perennial, grass-like sedge that occurs on peaty sand in swamps and along river edges (WA Herbarium 1998-).

Boronia exilis occurs within the Scott River area and grows in seasonally wet heath on grey silty sand with other Boronias (Brown et al 1998).

The application area consists of Jarrah and Marri woodland (DEC 2011) and does not contain wetland dependent vegetation, therefore it is considered unlikely for the proposed clearing to contain habitat for rare flora.

Methodology References
-WA Herbarium (1998)

-Brown et al (1998)
-DEC (2011)
GIS Databses
-SAC Bio datasets (4 April 2011)
-Pre - European Vegetation
-Soil, Statewide

(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

The closet recording of a Threaten Ecological Community (TECs) is of the Scott Ironstone Association which has been recorded 6.9 km southwest of the application area.

The proposed clearing is not considered to consist of this TEC and therefore the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

GIS Databases
-SAC Bio Datasets (4 April 2011)

(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 under application is described as Beard vegetation association 3 of which there is 69.35% of pre-European extent remaining within the Jarrah Forest Bioregion. (Shepherd 2009). In addition the vegetation is also mapped as Mattiske Vegetation Complex ND which has ~ 89.39% of pre-European vegetation remaining.

The vegetation extent in the Shire of Augusta Margaret River is 67.32% (Shepherd, 2009) and there is approximately 60% of vegetation remaining in the local area (10km radius).

The vegetation association/complex retains more than the threshold level (30%) recommended in the National Objectives Targets for Biodiversity Conservation, below which species loss appears to accelerate exponentially at an ecosystem level (Commonwealth of Western Australia 2001).

Given the above, it is not considered for the application to consist of a significant remnant in an extensively cleared area. Therefore, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.

Pre-European	Current extent	Remaining	% In reserves
	(ha)	(ha)	(%)
IBRA Bioregion			
Jarrah Forest*	4,506,656	2,514,549	56%
Shire of Augusta Margaret River*	22 3619.	150 534	67%
Beard Vegetation Association within Bioregion*			
3 - Medium forest; jarrah-marri	2,390,591	1,657,963	69%
Mattiske Vegetation Complex**			
Nd	2378	2126	39%

* (Shepherd, 2009)
** (EPA 2006)

Methodology

References
-Shepherd (2009)
-EPA (2006)
-Commonwealth of Western Australia (2001)
GIS Databases
-Pre-European vegetation
-Mattiske Vegetation Complex
-Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia
-NLWRA, Current Extent of Native Vegetation

(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

A perennial minor watercourse occurs 430m southeast and 600m south of the application area.

Given the distance to the nearest watercourse and that the vegetation consists of upland Marri and Jarah woodland (DEC 2011), it is not considered likely for the proposed clearing to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

References
-DEC (2011)
GIS Databases
-Hydrography, linear

(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 chief soils within the application area consist of hard acidic yellow mottled soils (Dy3.61) containing small to very large amounts of ironstone gravels (Northcote et al (1960-68).

It is not considered for the proposed clearing of 7ha to cause appreciable land degradation.

Methodology

References
-Northcote et al (1960-68)
GIS Databases
-Soils, statewide

(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

South Blackwood State Forest occurs 40m to the east of the application area and Blackwood River National Park occurs 2.1km north of the application area.

The proposed clearing is separated from South Blackwood State Forest by cleared land, a fire break and a fence. The proposed clearing is not considered to impact this conservation area though the spread of weeds or dieback. In addition, it is not considered for the proposed clearing to impact on any flora or fauna values of South Blackwood State Forest.

The proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

GIS Databases
-DEC, Tenure
- Leeuwin 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004

(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

A perennial minor watercourse occurs 430m southeast and 600m south of the application area.

Given the distance to the nearest watercourse it is not considered for the proposed clearing to cause deterioration of surface water. In addition, given the relatively small size of the proposed clearing (7ha) and that the local area has ~ 60% of pre-European Vegetation remaining, it is not considered for the proposed clearing to cause deterioration in underground water through salinity.

Methodology

GIS Databases
-Hydrography, linear
-Salinity , risk

(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

A perennial minor watercourse occurs 430m southeast and 600m south of the application area.

Given the distance to the nearest watercourse, it is not considered for the proposed clearing of 7ha to cause or

exacerbate flooding in the local area.

The proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology GIS Databases
-Hydrography, linear

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

Comments

The proposed clearing of 7 ha is for the purpose of pasture.

The Department of Water has no objections to the clearing and recognise the existing land use will continue. The subject land is located within a proclaimed groundwater area, proclaimed under the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914. Any groundwater abstraction in this proclaimed area is subject to licensing by the Department of Water. The landowner currently holds a groundwater license (2007) for stock and domestic purposes (Department of Water 2011).

The proposed clearing area is zoned Rural under the Shire of Margaret River -Augusta Town planning scheme.

Methodology References
-Department of Water (2011)
GIS Databases
-Town Planning Scheme Zones

4. References

Brown A., Thomson-Dans C. and Marchant N.(1998). Western Australia's Threatened Flora, Department of Conservation and Land Management, Western Australia.

Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.

DEC (2011) Site Inspection Report for Clearing Permit Application CPS 4275/1, Lot 2496 on DP 203055 Nilup. Site inspection undertaken 13 April 2011. Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (DEC Ref. A391140).

Department of Water (2011) Advice regarding CPS 4275/1 - Lot 2469 on Deposited Plan 203055 Nillup - RG and LF Fletcher. DEC ref A391727

EPA (2006) Guidance for the Assessment of Environmental Factors - Level of Assessment for Proposals Affecting Natural Areas Within the System 6 Region and Swan Coastal Plain Portion of the System 1 Region. Guidance Statement No 10. 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.

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.

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.

Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) FloraBase - The Western Australian Flora. Department of Environment and Conservation. http://florabase.dec.wa.gov.au/ (Accessed 4/4/2011).

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)