GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 4383/1
Permit Holder:	Shire of Augusta - Margaret River
Duration of Permit:	1 August 2011 – 1 August 2016

The Permit Holder is authorised to clear native vegetation subject to the following conditions of this Permit.

PART I – CLEARING AUTHORISED

1. **Purpose for which clearing may be done**
   Clearing for the purpose of road works.

2. **Land on which clearing is to be done**
   Treeton Road Reserve, Cowaramup (6284)
   Warner Glen Road Reserve, Forest Grove (6286)

3. **Area of Clearing**
   The Permit Holder must not clear more than 0.33 hectares of native vegetation within the areas shaded yellow on attached Plan 4383/1a and 0.63 hectares of native vegetation within the areas shaded yellow on attached Plan 4383/1b.

4. **Application**
   This Permit allows the Permit Holder to authorise persons, including employees, contractors and agents of the Permit Holder, to clear native vegetation for the purposes of this Permit subject to compliance with the conditions of this Permit and approval from the Permit Holder.

5. **Type of clearing authorised**
   This Permit authorises the Permit Holder to clear native vegetation for activities to the extent that the Permit Holder has the power to clear native vegetation for those activities under the *Local Government Act 1995* or any other written law.

6. **Compliance with Assessment Sequence and Management Procedures**
   Prior to clearing any native vegetation under conditions 1, 2 and 3 of this Permit, the Permit Holder must comply with the Assessment Sequence and the Management Procedures set out in Part II of this Permit.

PART II – ASSESSMENT SEQUENCE AND MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

7. **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.

8. Dieback and 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* and *dieback*:

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

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

9. Records must be kept

The Permit Holder must maintain the following records for activities done pursuant to this Permit:
In relation to the clearing of native vegetation authorised under this Permit:

(a) the species composition, structure and density of the cleared area;
(b) 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;
(c) the date that the area was cleared; and
(d) the size of the area cleared (in hectares).

10. 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 9 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 1 May 2016 the Permit Holder must provide to the CEO a written report of records required under condition 9 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under condition 10(a) of this Permit.

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;

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; and

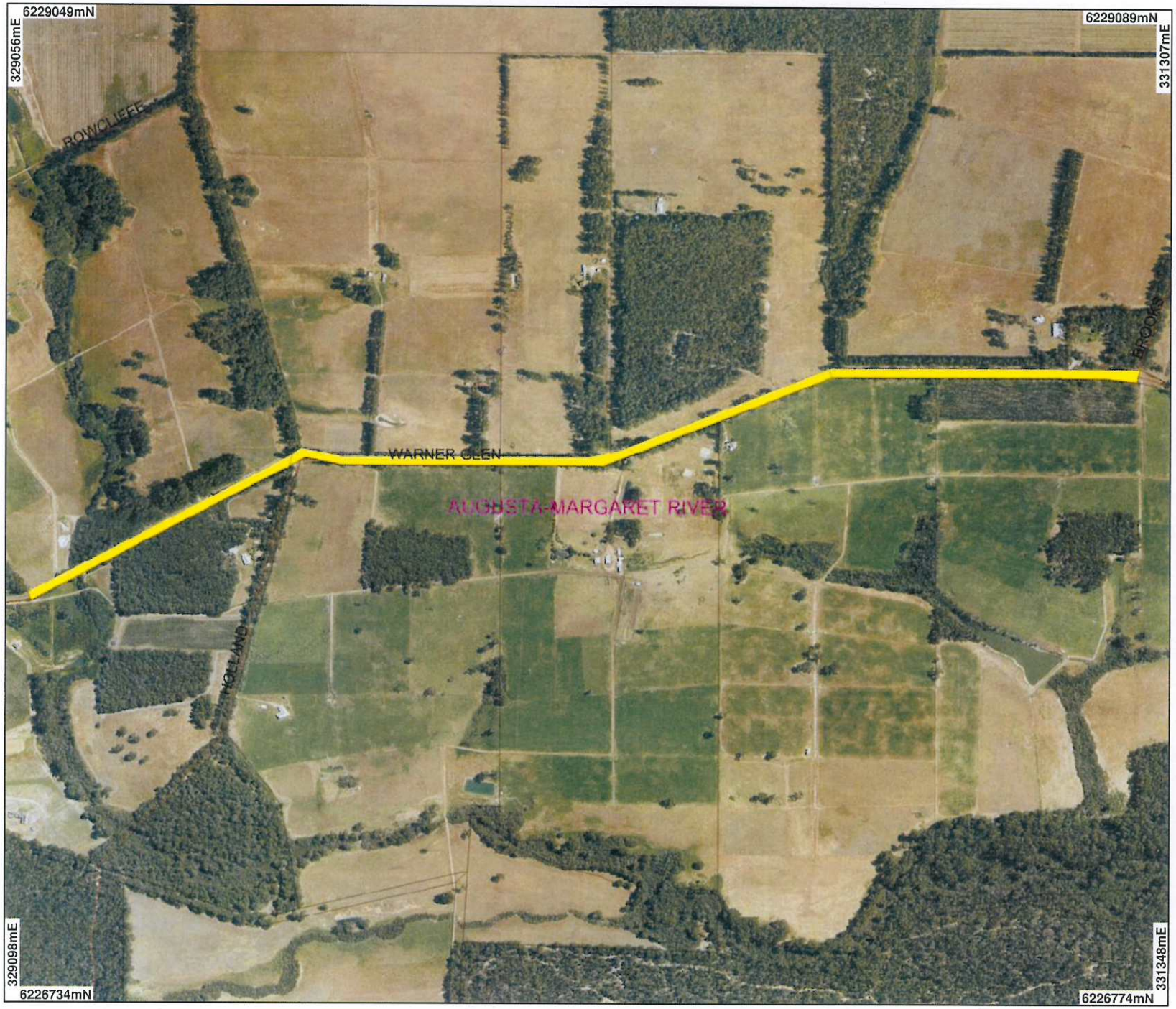
weed/s means a species listed in Appendix 3 of the "Environmental Weed Strategy" published by the Department of Conservation and Land Management (1999), and plants declared under section 37 of the *Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act 1976*.

Kelly Faulkner
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

Officer delegated under Section 20
Of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

7 July 2011

Plan 4383/1a



LEGEND

- Road Centrelines
- Cadastre
  Clearing Instruments
- Areas Approved to Clear
- Local Government Authorities
  Leeuwin 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004

N

0 ~300 m

Scale 1:11000
(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 7/3/11

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

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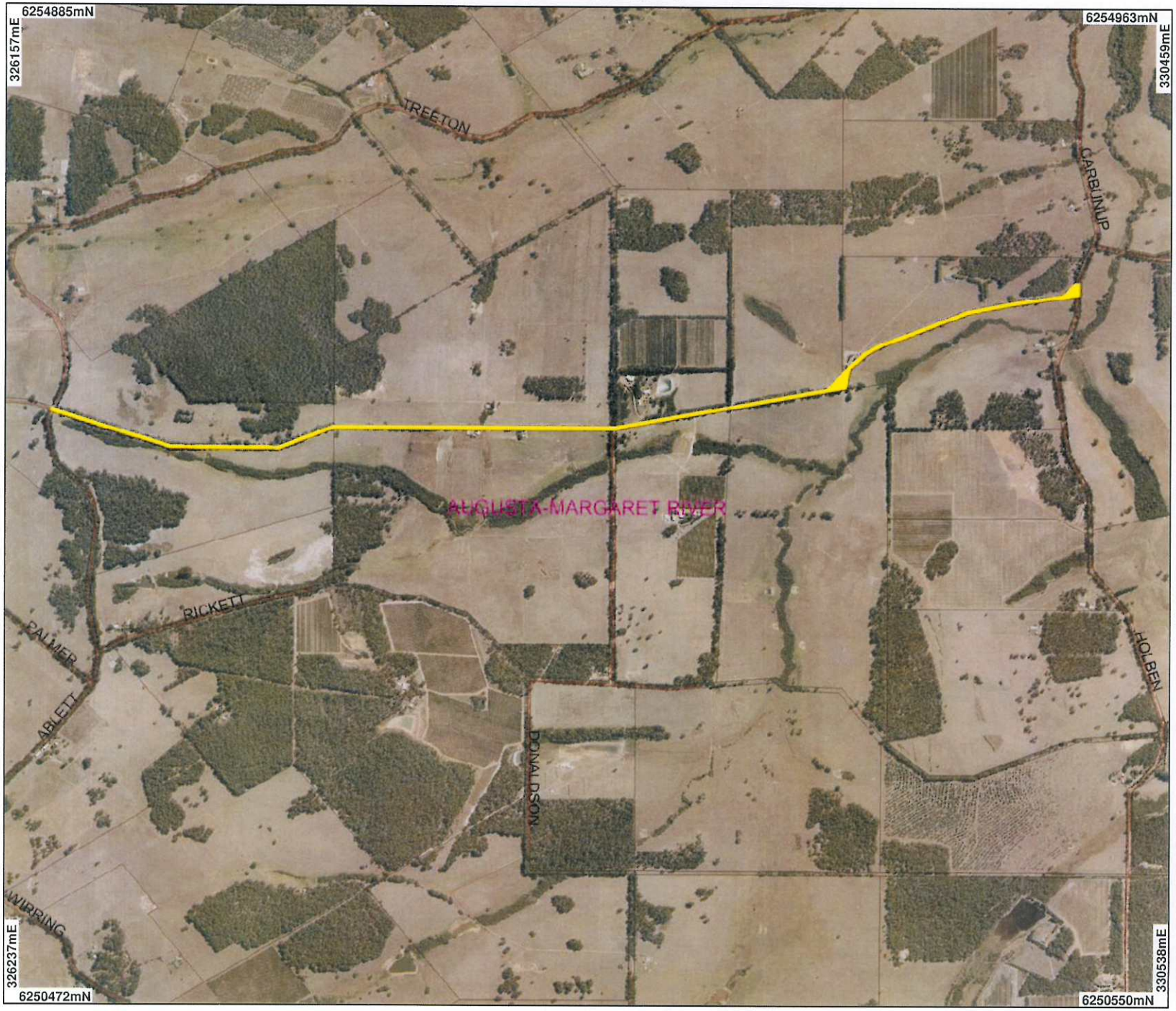
Plan 4383/1b



LEGEND

- Road Centrelines
- Cadastre
- Clearing Instruments
- Areas Approved to Clear
- Local Government Authorities
- Busselton 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2007

N

0 ~625 m

Scale 1:20998
(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 7/5/07

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.

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Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 4383/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Shire of Augusta - Margaret River

1.3. Property details

Property: TREETON ROAD RESERVE (COWARAMUP 6284)
WARNER GLEN ROAD RESERVE (FOREST GROVE 6286)
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:
0.96		Mechanical Removal	Road construction or maintenance

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: GRANT
Decision Date: 7 JULY 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
Beard Vegetation Association: 3 - medium forest; Eucalyptus marginata (Jarrah) Corymbia calophylla (Marri) (Shepherd 2009). Mattiske Vegetation Complex: W2 (Wilyabrup) (western 1/3 Treeton Rd) - Open forest of Corymbia calophylla-Allocasuarina decussata-Agonis flexuosa on deeply incised valleys in perhumid and humid zones. T (Treeton) (central 1/3 Treeton Rd and eastern 9/10 Warner Glen Rd) - Woodland of Eucalyptus marginata subsp. marginata-Corymbia calophylla with some Allocasuarina fraseriana on mild slopes in the perhumid zone. Tw (Treeton) (eastern 1/3 Treeton Rd) - Open forest of Eucalyptus patens-Corymbia calophylla-Eucalyptus marginata subsp. marginata on lower slopes and on floors of minor valleys in the perhumid zone. BK Blackwood (western 1/10 Warner Glen Rd) - Open forest of Corymbia calophylla-Eucalyptus marginata subsp. marginata on the variable slopes in perhumid and humid zones. (Mattiske and Havel, 1998)	The proposal is to clear 0.96 hectares of native vegetation for the purpose of roadworks within Treeton Road (0.63ha) and Warner Glen Road (0.33ha) reserves. The works on Treeton Road will extend along a 4.2 kilometre section and requires 0.63 hectares of clearing. The works proposed for Warner Glen Road will extend along a 2.2 kilometre section and requires 0.33 hectares of clearing. The works will increase the average width of both cleared corridors from 10.5 metres to 12 metres. The applicant has advised that the expected extent of clearing would be limited to the removal of regrowth within the existing drain lines and batter slopes that has regrown since the road was last reconstructed (30-40 years ago). The Treeton Road application area predominantly consists of Corymbia calophylla with some Eucalyptus marginata and exotic eucalypts and Agonis flexuosa at the western end of the applied area. There is very little understorey with Pteridium esculentum the dominant species, as well as scattered Xanthorrhoea preissii and kikuyu grass the dominant groundcover (DEC, 2011). Condition ranges from good to completely degraded (Keighery, 1994), with the majority degraded (DEC, 2011).	Excellent: Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery, 1994) To Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994)	The vegetation condition was determined by a site inspection conducted on 20 June 2011 (DEC, 2011).

Warner Glen Road application area predominantly consists of Corymbia calophylla with some Eucalyptus marginata and E. patens and exotic eucalypts overstorey, with stretches of no trees along the road (DEC, 2011). One location is in excellent (Keighery, 1994) condition, with a layer of sedges such as Loxycarya cinerea and Lepidosperma sp. plus Leucopogon verticillatus, however the majority of the groundcover consisted of weedy grasses including kikuyu grass and other weed species such as Watsonia sp. and Victorian tea tree (DEC, 2011). Vegetation ranges from excellent to completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition, with the majority in degraded condition (DEC, 2011).

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

The proposal is to clear 0.96 hectares of native vegetation for road upgrades within Treeton Road (0.63 hectares) and Warner Glen Road (0.33 hectares) reserves, for the purpose of road upgrades.

The vegetation along both sides of the Treeton Road application area is assessed as having Medium/Low conservation value (RCC, 2003). Both sides of the Warner Glen Road application area is mapped as having High conservation value along 1.6 kilometres of the western end, while the eastern end is designated as being of Low conservation value (RCC, 2003).

There is approximately 25% and 50% native vegetation remaining in the local area (10 kilometre radius) of the Treeton Road and Warner Glen Road application areas, respectively. The majority of this vegetation is within secure tenure.

There are numerous records of fauna species of conservation significance in the local area. Suitable habitat for the threatened western ringtail possum occurs at the western end of Treeton Road application area (DEC, 2011). Signs of this species were not observed during site inspection (DEC, 2011). If present, this species is not likely to be significantly impacted by the proposed clearing. In addition, one potential habitat tree was noted in each of the application areas, however no hollow bearing habitat trees were identified during recent site inspection (DEC, 2011).

Considering the small size and linearity of the application areas, the amount of vegetation in the surrounding areas, and the condition of the vegetation, application areas are not likely to be significant habitat for indigenous fauna.

Several flora of conservation significance, including two rare flora, occur within the local area on the same vegetation and soil types as the application areas. Considering the disturbed condition of the vegetation under application, it is unlikely that the application areas contain rare flora. Given the small size (0.96 hectare) and linear nature of the application area it is unlikely that the proposed clearing would significantly impact upon the populations of priority flora species, should they be present.

The western and of the Warner Glen Road application area crosses the Chapman Brook, a major perennial watercourse. The Treeton Road reserve is in close proximity to a minor watercourse and riparian vegetation occurs in the western section of the application area (DEC, 2011). The proposed clearing may include riparian vegetation.

The application area is in a high (1100-1200mm) rainfall area, where soil disturbance and the movement of machinery whilst undertaking clearing activities poses a high risk of introducing or spreading dieback and weeds to the areas under application and surrounding environment, including Forest Grove National Park. Weed and dieback management conditions will minimise this impact.

Due to the small size (0.96 hectares) and linearity of the proposed clearing, it is not likely to result in appreciable land degradation, water quality degradation, or increase the likelihood or intensity of flooding.

The proposed clearing may cause some short term water quality issues in terms of localised surface water sedimentation during works. However, these issues are likely to be minimal, as the clearing will occur along the edges of existing roads with supporting infrastructure to divert watercourses through drains and culverts.

Given the above, the proposed clearing may be at variance to Principle (f) and is not likely to be at variance to the remaining clearing principles.

Methodology

References:
DEC, 2011
Keighery, 1994

RCC, 2003
GIS Databases:
- Busselton 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2007
- DEC Managed Lands & Waters - DEC 28/10/09
- Hydrography, linear - DoW 13/7/06
- Leeuwin 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004
- Pre-European vegetation - DA 01/01
- SAC Biodatasets - 20/06/11
- Soils, Statewide - 30/11/99

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

Comments

The proposed clearing is located within the Busselton and Capel Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914 (RIWI Act) groundwater areas. The proponent is not proposing to take any groundwater, therefore no RIWI licences are required.

In September 2010 a clearing permit was granted for nearby sections of Treeton and Warner Glen Roads (CPS 3842/1).

RCC (2011) advised that, should a permit be granted, the Shire of Augusta - Margaret River should conduct clearing in line with best practice procedures, particularly as the area is in close proximity to the Forest Grove National park and near watercourses. Given the area is also within a high rainfall area, the RCC also recommends that the land manager undertake dieback management protocols when conducting any works along these road reserves (RCC, 2011). The RCC has offered to provide best practice clearing technique and dieback management techniques to the Shire on request.

There are no known Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the application areas.

Methodology

References:
RCC, 2011
Shepherd, 2009
GIS Databases:
- Aboriginal Sites of Significance - 26/04/07
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas - DoW 13/07/06

4. References

DEC (2011) Site Inspection Report and Regional Advice for Clearing Permit Application CPS 4383/1, Treeton and Warner Glen Roads. Site inspection undertaken 20/06/2011. Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia. DEC Ref: A408662

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.

RCC (2003) Roadside Vegetation Value Mapping - Shire of Augusta Maragaret River. Roadside Conservation Committee.

RCC (2011) Roadside Vegetation Value Advice - Treeton and Warner Glen Roads. Roadside Conservation Committee. DEC Ref: A407189

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)