



## CLEARING PERMIT

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

<b>Purpose Permit number:</b>	CPS 4585/1
<b>Permit Holder:</b>	Brookfield Rail Pty Ltd
<b>Duration of Permit:</b>	22 November 2011 – 22 November 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 rail maintenance.

**2. Land on which clearing is to be done**

Rail Reserve, Pingelly (PIN 11836850)

**3. Area of Clearing**

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 2 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 4585/1.

**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. 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

**6. 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:

- avoid the clearing of native vegetation;
- minimise the amount of native vegetation to be cleared; and
- reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.

## 7. 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.

## 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*.



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Kelly Faulkner  
MANAGER  
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

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





26 October 2011

# Plan 4585/1



## LEGEND

### Clearing Instruments

-  Areas Approved to Clear
-  Road Centrelines
-  Cadastre
-  Narrogin 80cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2005



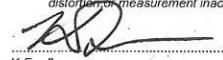
0 ~200 m

Scale 1:7360

(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 26/10/11  
K Faulkner

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.: 4585/1  
Permit type: Purpose Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Brookfield Rail Pty Ltd

### 1.3. Property details

Property: AVON LOCATION 13468 ( POPANYINNING 6309)  
Local Government Area: Shire of Pingelly  
Colloquial name:

### 1.4. Application

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

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant  
Decision Date: 26 October

## 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: 1023 Medium woodland; York gum, wandoo & salmon gum ( <i>Eucalyptus salmonophloia</i> ) (Shepherd, 2009).	The application is to clear 2ha of native vegetation for the purpose railway track maintenance. Within the application area a total 25 plant species have been identified with Fabaceae being the most dominant species (niche environmental services, 2011).  The vegetation under application comprises of low woodland of <i>Allocasuarina huegeliana</i> with the occasional <i>Eucalyptus wandoo</i> subsp. <i>Wandoo</i> and <i>E. Loxophleba</i> subsp. <i>Loxophleba</i> over an open shrubland of <i>Acacia acuminata</i> , <i>Hakea prostrata</i> and <i>Gastrolobium spinosum</i> and is considered to be in degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition (niche environmental services, 2011).  There is an existing track within the application area. The ground cover predominately consists of weed species, specifically <i>Romulea rosea</i> (niche environmental services, 2011).	Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)	Vegetation description was obtained through aerial imagery (Narrogin 80cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2005) and consultant's report (niche environmental services, 2011).

### 3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

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

The proposed clearing consists of 2 hectares within a 5.1 hectare footprint for the purpose of rail maintenance of the Beverly to Albany rail line. The application area is within the railway reserve, Popanyinning, approximately 2km south of the town of Pingelly. The application area has been previously disturbed given its proximity to the rail line and the highway (niche environmental services, 2011).

Within the local area (10km radius) several priority flora species have been recorded. Of the known priority flora, species *Anigozanthos bicolor* subsp. was mapped approximately 80 metres west of the area under application. The vegetation within the mapped recording of species *Anigozanthos bicolor* subsp. appears to be of a higher value to that of the application area. Furthermore the vegetation under application is subjected to ongoing disturbances and not linked to the vegetation of the mapped record *Anigozanthos bicolor* subsp., as the areas are separated by the Great Southern Highway. Given the disturbed nature of the vegetation under application and the adjacent vegetation that appears to have a higher value to that in the application area, it is unlikely the proposed clearing will significantly impact upon priority flora species *Anigozanthos bicolor* subsp.

A survey in July 2011 of the application area identified 25 plant species, 2 of which were non native. Of the 23 native flora species identified none were considered to be declared or priority flora species (niche environmental services, 2011).

Several fauna species of conservation significance have been recorded within the local area (10km radius). However, given the vegetation under application is considered to be in a degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition (niche environmental services, 2011) it is unlikely to compromise of significant habitat for conservation fauna species in the area. Additionally, the vegetation under application doesn't appear to serve as a corridor for fauna movement between vegetation areas.

Given the above, it is unlikely the proposed clearing will impact on the known conservation significant fauna in the area.

The area under application falls within the Avon Wheatbelt IBRA bioregion and the Shire of Pingelly, which have approximately 18 and 17 per cent respectively of their pre-European extent of vegetation coverage remaining (Shepherd, 2009). The vegetation under application is referred to as Beard 1023 which has approximately 11 per cent of its pre-European vegetation remaining (Shepherd, 2009).

The National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation include a target that prevents the clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30% of that present pre-European settlement (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001). The vegetation in the IBRA bioregion, Shire of Pingelly and the vegetation complex associated within the area under application are below the 30% threshold. Additionally, the local area (10km) surrounding the application area also appears to be extensively cleared, with approximately 15 per cent of its pre-European vegetation remaining.

Given the above, the vegetation under application may be significant as a remnant. However, the vegetation under application is considered to be degraded (Keighery, 1994) and not a true representation of the vegetation complex mapped in the area (niche environmental services, 2011). Further to this, the vegetation under application is not considered to be a part of an ecological linkage which serves as corridors for flora and fauna movement, therefore the vegetation under application is not considered significant as a remnant.

It should be noted that the application area is adjacent to remnant vegetation in a similar or better condition and the disturbance from the proposed clearing may increase the risk of weeds and dieback spreading into this area.

The implementation of weed and dieback management techniques will assist in mitigating the intrusion of weed and dieback into the adjacent vegetation.

Given the disturbance to the application area, linear shape of the proposed clearing along with the degraded (keighery, 1994) condition of the vegetation under application (niche environmental services, 2011), it is unlikely that the application will impact on, ground water, surface water quality or cause appreciable land degradation in the local area.

The application has been assessed against the clearing principles and is not likely to be at variance to the clearing principles.

**Methodology** Commonwealth of Australia (2001)  
DEC (2007)  
Keighery (1994)  
Shepherd (2009)  
niche environmental services (2011)

GIS Layers  
- SAC Biodatasets (accessed October 2011)

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

### Comments

The Shire of Pingelly has no objection to the application.

### Methodology

## 4. References

- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.
- DEC (2007 - ) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Environment and Conservation. URL: <http://naturemap.dec.wa.gov.au/>. Accessed October 2011
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- niche environmental services (2011) Report, In Brookfield Rail Clearing Permit Application CPS 4585/1 and supporting documentation. DEC ref: A425631.
- 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)