GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS
Area Permit Number: 4715/1
File Number: 2011/006839-1
Duration of Permit: From 6 February 2012 to 6 February 2014

PERMIT HOLDER
Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE
Southampton Road reserve (BALINGUP, 6253) (PIN 11584735, 11584734, 11584733, 11398451)

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY
The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 1.2 hectares of native vegetation within the combined areas cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 4715/1a, Plan 4715/1b and Plan 4715/1c.

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**
   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.

3. **Fauna management**
   (a) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the areas shall be inspected by a *fauna specialist* who shall identify *habitat tree(s)* suitable to be utilised as habitat by fauna listed in the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice*.
   (b) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, *habitat tree(s)* identified by condition 3(a) shall be inspected by a *fauna specialist* for the presence of fauna listed in the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice*.
   (c) Where fauna are identified in relation to conditions 3(b) of this Permit, the Permit Holder shall ensure that no taking of identified fauna occurs unless authorised under Regulation 15 of the *Wildlife Conservation Regulations 1970*.

4. **Records must be kept**

The Permit Holder must maintain the following records for activities done pursuant to this Permit:

(a) In relation to the clearing of native vegetation authorised under this Permit:
   (i) 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 or decimal degrees;
   (ii) the date that the area was cleared; and
   (iii) the size of the area cleared (in hectares).

(b) In relation to fauna management pursuant to condition 3 of this Permit:
   (i) the location of each *habitat tree* identified recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;
   (ii) the species name of fauna reasonably likely to utilise, or that have been observed utilising, the *habitat tree(s)*; and
   (iii) a copy of the *fauna specialist's* report.

5. **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 4 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 6 October 2013, the Permit Holder must provide to the CEO a written report of records required under condition 4 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under condition 5(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;

fauna specialist means a person with training and specific work experience in fauna identification or faunal assemblage surveys of Western Australian fauna;

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 50cm, 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*; and

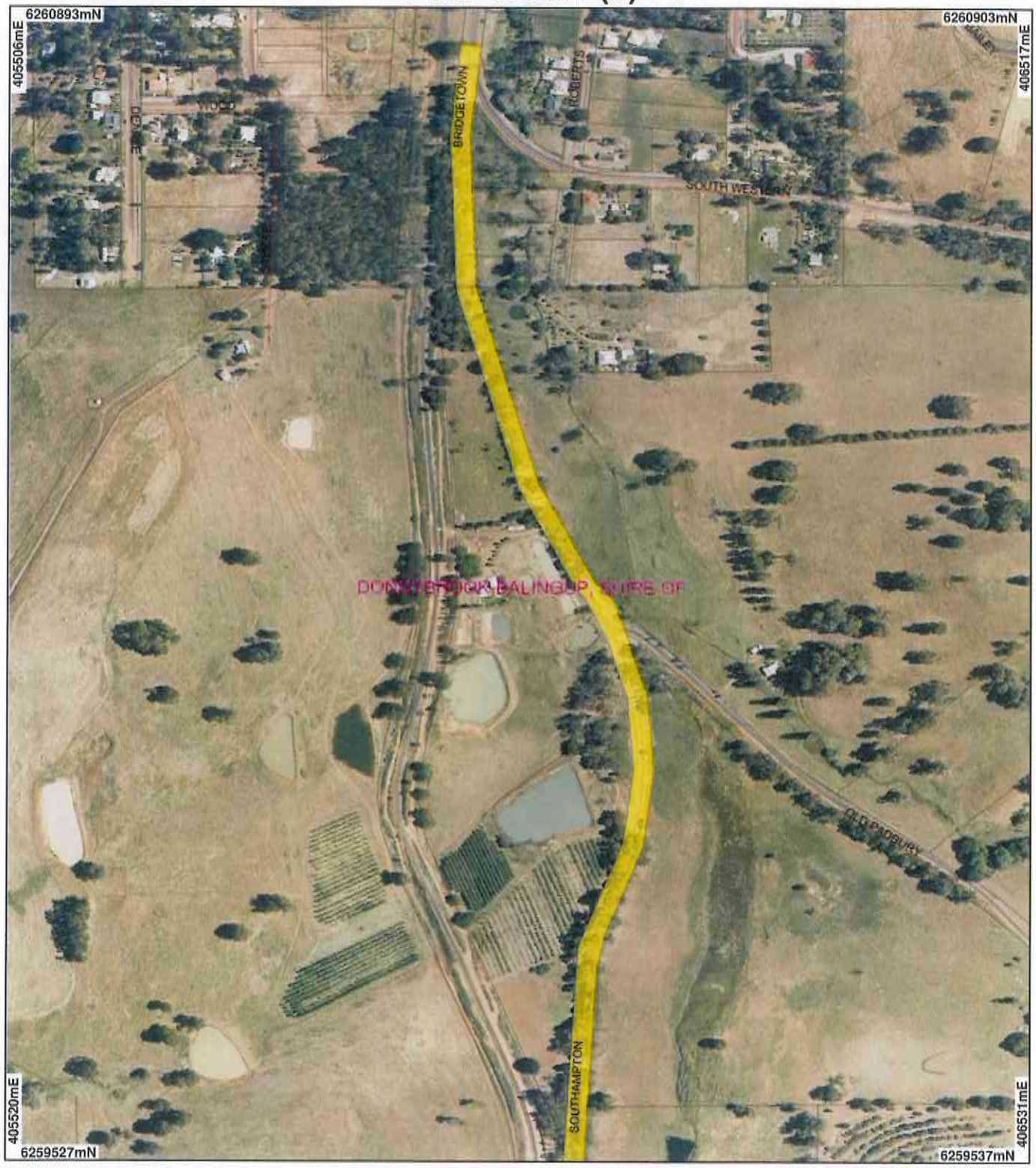
Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice means those fauna taxa gazetted as rare fauna pursuant to section 14(4)(a) of the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* (as amended).

M Warnock
A/MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

Officer delegated under Section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

12 January 2012

Plan 4715/1 (a)



LEGEND

- Road Centrelines
- Cadastre
- Clearing Instruments
- Areas Approved to Clear
- Local Government Authorities

Donnybrook 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004

N

0 150 m

Scale 1:6000

(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 12/1/12

M Warnock

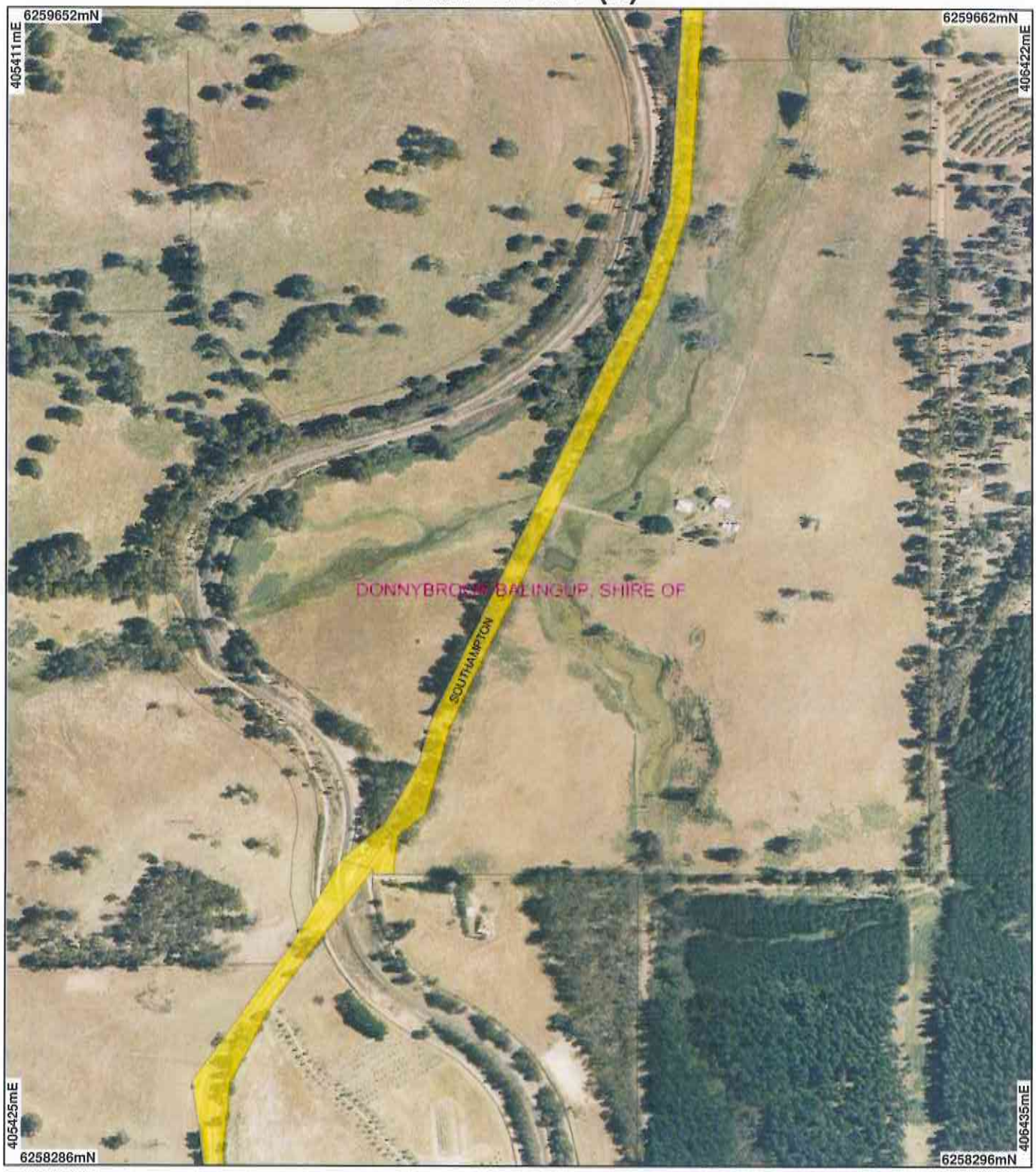
Officer with delegated authority under Section 20 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

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

Plan 4715/1 (b)



LEGEND

- Road Centrelines
- Cadastre
- Clearing Instruments
- Areas Approved to Clear
- Local Government Authorities

Donnybrook 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004

N

0 150 m

Scale 1:6000
(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 12/1/12

M Warnock

Officer with delegated authority under Section 20 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

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Department of Environment and Conservation

Our environment, our future

Plan 4715/1 (c)

LEGEND

- Road Centrelines
- Cadastre
- Clearing Instruments
- Areas Approved to Clear
- Local Government Authorities

Donnybrook 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004

N

0 150 m

Scale 1:6000
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amdunt Date 12/1/12

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Department of Environment and Conservation

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Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 4715/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: **Shire of Donnybrook - Balingup**

1.3. Property details

Property: ROAD RESERVE (BALINGUP 6253)
Local Government Area: Shire of Donnybrook - Balingup
Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

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

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 12 January 2012

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; jarrah-marri Shepherd, 2009 Mattiske Vegetation Complex: BL - Balingup: Open forest of Eucalyptus marginata subsp. marginata-Corymbia calophylla on slopes and woodland of Eucalyptus rudis on the valley floor in the humid zone. This vegetation complex is mapped over the centre half of the application area BLf (Balginup): Woodland of Eucalyptus rudis on valley floors and woodland of Eucalyptus patens-Corymbia calophylla on footslopes with some Eucalyptus marginata subsp. marginata on lower slopes in the humid zone. (Mattiske and Havel, 1998) Heddle Vegetation Complex: Dwellingup and Hester Complex (High Rainfall, Central and South): Open-forest; jarrah-marri; Balingup Complex in medium to high rainfall: central and south; Bridgetown complex in medium to high rainfall. (Heddle et al., 1980)	The Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup has applied to clear up to 4 metres of native vegetation from the Southampton Road reserve along a 3.07 kilometres in order to facilitate widening the road from a seal width of 4 metres to 6.2 metres for safety purposes. The maximum amount of clearing that will be required is 1.2 hectares. The Shire expects some clearing to be required on both sides of the road, however has also advised that the amount of clearing will be less than that applied for and will be determined once details designs are completed for the works (Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup, 2011). Aerial imagery and ground level photos provided by the Shire indicate that the application area supports vegetation in good to completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition, with some areas in the northern and southern portions of the application area retaining no native vegetation.	Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994) To Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery 1994)	Vegetation condition was determined from photographs supplied by the Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup (2011) and aerial imagery.

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

The Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup has applied to clear up to 1.2 hectares of native vegetation within Southampton Road.

The vegetation under application is considered to range from good to completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition.

There are mapped records of two priority flora species in the local area (10 kilometre radius), Tetratheca parvifolia (P3) and Grevillea ripicola (P4), however these records are known from soil types different to those mapped over the application area and are considered unlikely to occur within the vegetation under application. The proposed clearing is not likely to impact upon flora of conservation significance.

The vegetation under application is mapped as Beard Vegetation Association 3, which retains approximately 70 per cent of its pre-European extent, within the Warren IBRA bioregion (Shepherd, 2009) and the local area (10 kilometre radius) retains approximately 50 per cent native vegetation cover. The northern and southern ends of the application area are mapped as Mattiske Vegetation Complex BLf (Balingup) which is an underrepresented complex that retains approximately 11 per cent of the pre-European extent, with 1 per cent (25 hectares) held within the conservation reserve system (Shepherd, 2007). The sections of the application area mapped as this vegetation complex are largely cleared of native vegetation and are not considered to be representative of the BLf (Balingup) complex. The proposed clearing is therefore not likely to be at variance to Principle (e).

Considering the condition of the vegetation under application and exposure to disturbance related to the road and cleared adjacent properties, it is considered unlikely to comprise significant habitat for ground dwelling fauna, however it may comprise trees of a size that may contain hollows suitable for arboreal or avian fauna, including Carnaby's black cockatoo (Calyptorhynchus latirostris) (Endangered, Wildlife Conservation Act 1950; Endangered, Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999) and Baudin's black cockatoo (Calyptorhynchus baudinii) (Endangered, Wildlife Conservation Act 1950; Vulnerable, Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999), which are known from the local area. Given this, the clearing may be at variance to Principle (b). Fauna management practices will minimise impacts of the proposed clearing on indigenous fauna.

Two minor perennial watercourses intersect the proposed clearing area in an east-west direction. From aerial photography it appears that the watercourses are diverted through culverts under the existing road formation. The application area may support riparian vegetation in the vicinity of these watercourses and therefore the proposed clearing may be at variance to Principle (f), however given the relatively small scale of the clearing proposed it is unlikely to result in long term impacts to any watercourse or water quality within the area.

Soil disturbance and removal of native vegetation increases the risk of weeds and pathogens, such as dieback (Phytophthora cinnamomi), being introduced or spread. The management of weeds and dieback is of particular importance, as the proposed clearing is within a relatively high rainfall (900mm) area and is within approximately 100 metres of the Greenbushes State Forest, at the closest point. Weed and dieback management practices will minimise the risk of introduction or spread of pathogens and invasive species into the surrounding area and state forest.

Given the condition of the vegetation under application, the relatively small size (1.2 hectares) and linearity of the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to cause appreciable land degradation.

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

Methodology

References:
Keighery, 1994
GIS Databases:
- DEC Managed Lands & Waters - DEC 10/09
- Donnybrook 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004
- Hydrography, linear - DoW 07/06
- Mattiske vegetation - CALM 09/98
- NLWRA - DEC 09/11
- Pre-European Vegetation - DAFWA 03/07
- SAC Bio datasets (09/01/2012)

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

Comments

Southampton Road reserve is vested with the Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup.

There are no mapped Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the application area.

Methodology GIS Databases:
- Aboriginal Sites of Significance - DIA 02/10
- Cadastre - Landgate 12/09

4. References

Heddle, E. M., Loneragan, O. W., and Havel, J. J. (1980) Vegetation Complexes of the Darling System, Western Australia. In Department of Conservation and Environment, Atlas of Natural Resources, Darling System, 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.

Shepherd, D.P. (2007) Adapted from: 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.

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 Donnybrook-Balingup (2011) Application for clearing permit CPS 4715/1 - Southampton Road SLK 0.00 to 3.07 and supporting documentation. DEC Ref: A451431; A453157

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)