



## CLEARING PERMIT

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

<b>Purpose Permit number:</b>	CPS 4731/1
<b>Permit Holder:</b>	Shire of Wongan-Ballidu
<b>Duration of Permit:</b>	From 20 February 2012 to 20 February 2014

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 winding and realignment.
- 2. Land on which clearing is to be done**  
Waddington – Wongan Hills Road reserve (LAKE HINDS 6603)  
Lot 2282 on Plan 86112 (LAKE HINDS 6603)
- 3. Area of Clearing**  
The Permit Holder must not clear more than 0.5 hectares of native vegetation within the area crosshatched yellow on attached Plan 4731/1.
- 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. 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. 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*:

- (a) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
- (b) ensure that no *weed*-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill* or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and
- (c) 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 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 31 July 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 July and 30 June of the preceding year.
- (b) Prior to 20 November 2013 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:

*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;

*weeds* 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*.

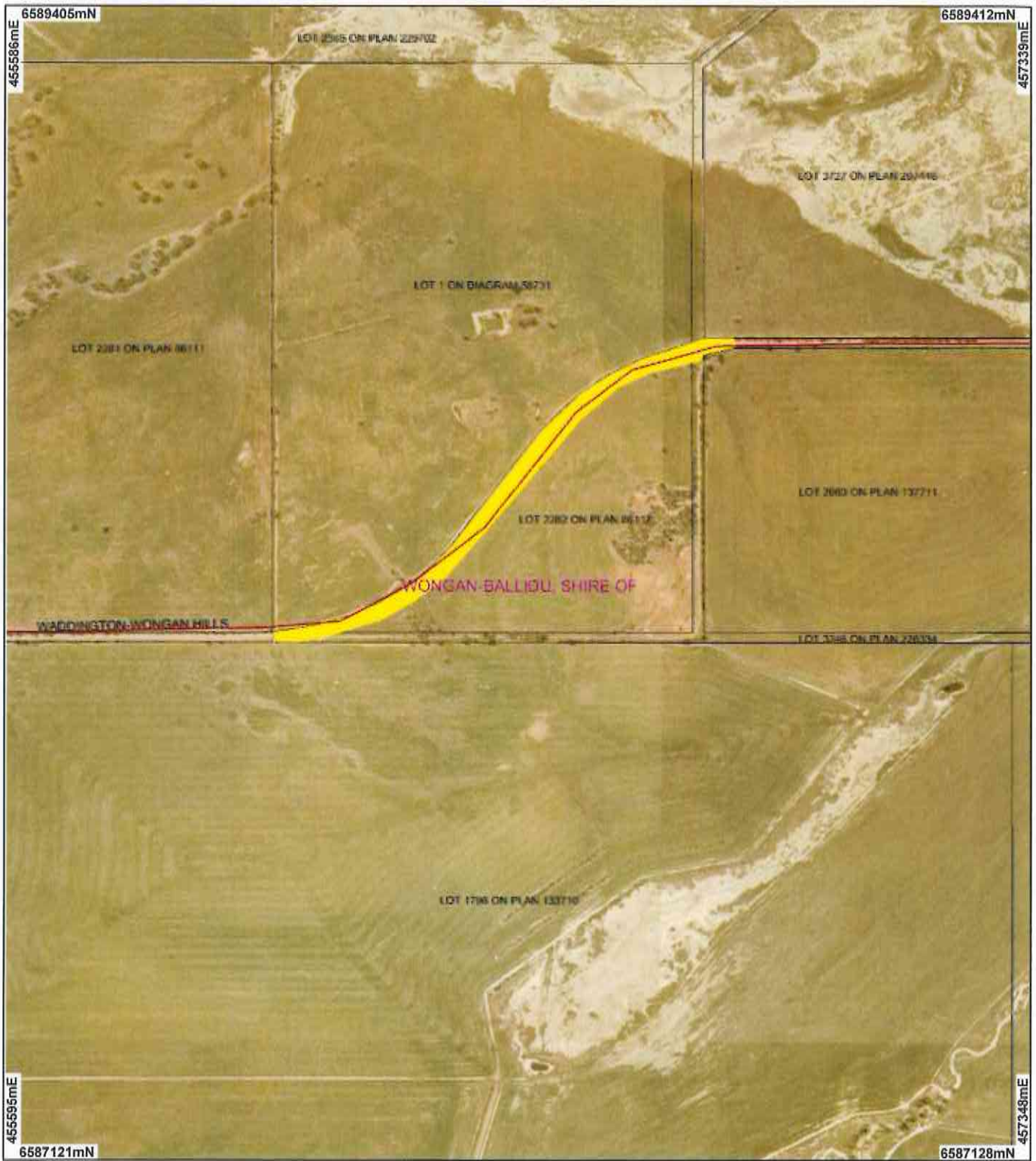


Kelly Faulkner  
MANAGER  
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

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

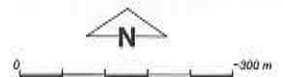
25 January 2012

# Plan 4731/1



## LEGEND

- Cadastral
- Clearing Instruments
- Areas Approved to Clear
- Road Centrelines
- Wongam 1.4m Orthomosaic - Landgate 2009
- Local Government Authorities



Scale 1:10179  
(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

Geocentric Datum Australia 1994

Note: The data on this map have not been projected. This may result in geometric distortion or measurement inaccuracies.

Date 25/1/12  
K Faulkner

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 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.: 4731/1  
Permit type: Purpose Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Shire of Wongan - Ballidu

### 1.3. Property details

Property: ROAD RESERVE (LAKE HINDS 6603)  
LOT 2282 ON PLAN 86112 (LAKE HINDS 6603)  
Local Government Area: Shire of Wongan- Ballidu

### 1.4. Application

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

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant  
Decision Date: 25 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 1024 (~90% of the vegetation under application) is described as Shrublands; mallee & casuarina thicket (Shepherd, 2009).	The application is for the proposed clearing of 0.5ha, primarily within the Waddington- Wongan Hills Road reserve and a small amount within freehold Lot 2282 on Plan 86112, for the purpose of road widening and realignment.	Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)  To	The vegetation condition and description was determined from aerial photography, a Department of Conservation site visit (DEC, 2012) and Roadside Conservation Committee advice (RCC, 2011).
Beard Vegetation Association 142 (~10% of the vegetation under application) is described as Medium woodland; York gum & salmon gum (Shepherd, 2009).	The vegetation proposed to be cleared consists of 30 trees (Eucalypt sp.) and a small quantity of grass undergrowth.	Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery 1994)	

## 3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

### Comments

This application is for the proposed clearing of 0.5ha (including approximately 30 Eucalyptus sp. trees and some grass understory) in a degraded to completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition primarily within Waddington- Wongan Hills Road reserve and a small amount within the freehold lot to the south of the road reserve, Lot 2282, for the purpose of road widening and realignment.

The Roadside Conservation Committee advised roadsides of the Shire of Wongan-Ballidu have been surveyed in 2005 (Roadside Conservation Committee, 2011). This section of Waddington-Wongan Hills Road was shown to have a conservation value of low-medium (Roadside Conservation Committee, 2005).

Two Beard vegetation associations are mapped within the application; 1024 and 142. These two vegetation associations retain approximately 11 per cent and 28 per cent respectively and 7 per cent of pre- European vegetation remains in the Shire of Wongan- Ballidu (Shepherd, 2009). The national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia has a target to prevent clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30 per cent of that present pre-1750, below which species loss appears to accelerate exponentially at an ecosystem level (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001). However, given the degraded to completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the vegetation under application, although it is in an extensively cleared landscape it is not representative of these vegetation associations and is hence not considered to be a significant remnant. Given the above, the proposed clearing is unlikely to be at variance to Principle (e).

A roadside survey of the Shire conducted in 2005 recorded 4 weed populations (RCC, 2011). A requirement to control weeds will assist in mitigating impacts to the poorly represented vegetation associations.

There are 5 threatened and priority fauna species recorded within a 10km radius, two of them are sedentary trapdoor spider species; *Aganippe castellum* (Tree-stem Trapdoor Spider) and *Idiosoma nigrum* (Shield-backed Trapdoor Spider) which are listed as rare or likely to become extinct under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* and Endangered and Vulnerable respectively under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* which may be affected by the proposed clearing by heavy machinery moving over their underground burrows.

The Shield-backed Trapdoor Spider is known to dig burrows in heavy clay soils in areas of open York gum (*Eucalyptus loxophleba*), Salmon gum (*E. salmonophloia*) and Wheatbelt Wandoo (*E. capillosa*) woodland, where Jam (*Acacia acuminata*) forms a sparse understorey and require a permanent layer of ground litter for foraging (DEC, 2008).

A DEC site inspection of the area under application confirmed trapdoor spider habitat is not present within the application area and no trapdoor spiders were sighted (DEC, 2012). Given the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to Principle (b).

In conclusion, the assessment of the application identified that the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to any of the clearing principles.

#### Methodology

References:

Commonwealth of Australia (2001)  
DEC (2007- )  
DEC(2008)  
DEC (2012)  
Keighery (1994)  
Northcote (1960-68)  
Roadside Conservation Committee (2005)  
Roadside Conservation Committee (2011)  
Shepherd (2009)

GIS Databases:

SAC Biodatasets (accessed 30/12/11)

#### Planning instruments, Native Title, Previous EPA decisions or other matters.

#### Comments

DEC's Roadside Conservation Committee (RCC) recommend the following actions that the Shire can take to minimise roadside disturbances:

- Adopting a road design that occupies the minimum of space
- Prune branches rather than removing the whole tree or bush
- Not dumping spoil in areas of native vegetation
- Avoid disturbance of soil to avoid an increase in the germination of weeds
- If possible, widen one side of the road. Retain the widest roadside to ensure that a wide road reserve remains on at least one side.

The RCC also recommends the Shire use the two documents below:

A technical report has been prepared to show how the Shire could manage the roadside vegetation depending on its conservation value. It can be found on the website: <https://www.dec.wa.gov.au/content/view/6081/2340/>.

Handbook of Environmental Practice for Road Construction and Maintenance Work.. This can also be found on the website: <https://www.dec.wa.gov.au/content/view/5909/2330/>.

The application falls within the Avon River System Surface Water Area under the *Rights in Water Irrigation Act 1914*. No watercourses have been recorded within the proposed clearing area.

No public submissions have been received.

#### Methodology

References:

Roadside Conservation Committee (2011)

GIS Databases:

- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts
- Geomorphic Wetlands- Wheatbelt

#### 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 30/12/2011.
- DEC (2008) Trapdoor spider habitat advice for land clearing application. Advice to Assessing Officer, Native Vegetation Conservation Branch, Department of Environment and Conservation, received 10/3/2008, Wheatbelt Region, Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia.
- DEC (2012) Site Inspection Report for Clearing Permit Application CPS 4731/1, Waddington- Wongon Hills Road Reserve, Lake Hinds. Site inspection undertaken 10/1/2012. Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (DEC REF A464786).
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Roadside Conservation Committee (2005) Roadside Vegetation and Conservation- Shire of Wongan- Ballidu, Department of Environment and Conservation, WA.
- Roadside Conservation Committee (2011) Email re Roadside Conservation Committee Advice for Native Vegetation Conservation Branch. Dated 21/12/2011. Roadside Conservation Committee, Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (DEC REF A461432).
- 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)