



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 4906/1
Permit Holder:	Shire of Merredin
Duration of Permit:	11 May 2012- 11 May 2017

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 drainage upgrade.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Lot 13414 on Deposited Plan 33293, BURRACOPPIN, 6421

Lot 136 on Deposited Plan 165379, BURRACOPPIN, 6421

Crown Reserve 18613, BURRACOPPIN, 6421

Burracoppin Townsite Lots 141, 135 and 134 (unallocated Crown land), BURRACOPPIN, 6421

White Street Road reserve (PIN 1322533), BURRACOPPIN, 6421

Hunt Street Road reserve (PIN 1322531), BURRACOPPIN, 6421

Unnamed Road reserve (PIN 1322530), BURRACOPPIN, 6421

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 0.8 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 4906/1.

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 the activity described in condition 1 of this Permit to the extent that the Permit Holder has the power to carry out works involving clearing for the activity 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.

9. Fauna management

- (a) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the area(s) shall be inspected by a *fauna specialist* who shall identify *habitat trees* that contain hollows suitable to be utilised as *habitat trees* by fauna listed in the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice*.
- (b) Prior to clearing, any *habitat tree(s)* identified by condition 9(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 and *habitat trees* are identified in relation to condition 9(a) and (b) of this Permit, the Permit Holder shall ensure that:
 - (i) no clearing of the identified *habitat trees* occurs, unless approved by the CEO
 - (ii) no taking of the identified fauna occurs unless approved by the CEO.

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

10. 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;
 - (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 9 of this Permit:
 - (i) the location of each *habitat tree* and fauna 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 each fauna identified; and
 - (iii) a copy of the fauna specialist's report.

11. 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 10 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 11 February 2017, the Permit Holder must provide to the CEO a written report of records required under condition 10 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under condition 11(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, measured at 1.5m above the ground, of 50cm or greater, 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*.

Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice means those plant taxa gazetted as rare flora pursuant to section 23F(2) of the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* (as amended).



Kelly Faulkner
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

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

19 April 2012

Plan 4906/1



LEGEND

- Freehold
- Crown Reserve
- State Forest / Timber Resv
- Marine Park
- Crown Lease
- Lease / Reserve
- Lease on State Forest / Tr
- Public Roads
- Unallocated Crown Land
- Water
- Road Centrelines
- Clearing Instrument
- Areas Approved to Clear
- Merredin 50cm Ortho 2004

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



0 200 m

Scale 1:7245

(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

Geocentric Datum Australia 1984

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

[Signature] Date 19/6/12

K. Faulkner

Information derived from this map should be confirmed with the data custodian acknowledged by the agency acronym in the legend.



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1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 4906/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Shire of Merredin

1.3. Property details

Property:
CROWN RESERVE 18613 (House No. 144 WHITE BURRACOPPIN 6421)
LOT 13414 ON PLAN 33293 (Lot No. 13414 PARKES BURRACOPPIN 6421)
BURRACOPPIN TOWNSITE LOT 141 (Lot No. 141 WHITE BURRACOPPIN 6421)
LOT 136 ON PLAN 165379 (Lot No. 136 WHITE BURRACOPPIN 6421)
BURRACOPPIN TOWNSITE LOT 135 (Lot No. 135 WHITE BURRACOPPIN 6421)
BURRACOPPIN TOWNSITE LOT 134 (Lot No. 134 WHITE BURRACOPPIN 6421)
CROWN RESERVE 18613 (House No. 144 WHITE BURRACOPPIN 6421)
ROAD RESERVE (PIN 1322530, BURRACOPPIN 6421)
ROAD RESERVE (PIN 1322531, BURRACOPPIN 6421)
ROAD RESERVE (PIN 1322533, BURRACOPPIN 6421)

Local Government Area:

Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
0.8		Mechanical Removal	Drainage

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 19 April 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
Mapped Beard vegetation association 1057 is described as Mosaic; Shrublands; Medium woodland; salmon gum & gimlet / York gum & Eucalyptus sheathiana mallee scrub.	The proposed clearing of 0.8 hectares of native vegetation is for the purpose of drainage upgrade.	Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)	The condition of the vegetation was established through aerial imagery (Merredin 50cm Orthomosaic-Landgate, 2004) and site visit conducted by Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) officers (DEC 2012)
Mapped Beard vegetation association 1081 is described as Shrublands; mallee scrub, Eucalyptus longicornis & E. sheathiana. (Shepherd, 2009).	The vegetation under application consists of Wandoo, York Gum and Salmon Gum open woodland with Acacia sp. in completely degraded to good (Keighery, 1994) condition (DEC 2012). The majority of the application area is degraded (Keighery, 1994)	Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994)	

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

This application proposes to clear 0.8 hectares of native vegetation for the purpose of upgrading drainage.

The vegetation under application consists of Wandoo, York Gum and Salmon Gum open woodland with Acacia sp. in completely degraded to good (Keighery, 1994) condition (DEC 2012).

Due to the completely degraded to good (Keighery 1994) condition of the vegetation with the majority in a degraded (Keighery 1994) condition, it is considered unlikely for the proposed clearing to contain significant flora or biodiversity values. However, several mature eucalypt trees, some with visible hollows were found within the proposed site. Therefore the application area may contain significant fauna habitat.

Given the size (0.8ha) and predominantly degraded (Keighery 1994) condition of the area under application, it is not likely that the proposed clearing is at variance to this principle.

Methodology References

- DEC (2012)
- Keighery 1994
- GIS databases
- SAC Biodatasets (Accessed March 2012)

(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 at variance to this Principle**

Several mature Eucalyptus trees occur within the application area, some with visible hollows (DEC, 2012). These hollows may provide significant habitat for indigenous fauna as there is 20% of pre-European vegetation extent remaining in the local area (10km radius) and 10% pre-European vegetation extent remaining in the shire of Merredin. Therefore any remaining vegetation containing large mature trees would be considered significant in this highly cleared area.

The proposed clearing is at variance to this principle. Fauna habitat survey and management will mitigate this impact.

Methodology References

- DEC(2012)
- GIS databases:
 - Pre-European vegetation
 - NLWAR, Current Extent of Native Vegetation
 - SAC Biodatasets (Accessed March 2012)

(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**

Within the local area (10km radius) two species of rare flora have been recorded; Eremophila resinosa and Eucalyptus crucis subsp. crucis. Both these species have been recorded on different soil types and vegetation types than the application area.

The vegetation under application occurs in a degraded to good (Keighery, 1994) condition with the majority in degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition. Therefore, it is not likely that the area under application will contain habitat for these rare flora species.

The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology GIS databases:

- Pre-European vegetation
- SAC Biodatasets (Accessed March 2012)
- Soils 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**

There are no Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) mapped within the local area (10km radius), and the majority of the application area is in a degraded (Keighery 1994) condition (DEC 2012).

Therefore, it is unlikely that the application area contains or is necessary for the maintenance for a TEC. The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology References
 -DEC (2012)
 GIS databases:
 - SAC Biodatasets (Accessed March 2012)

(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 at variance to this Principle

The vegetation under application is described as Beard vegetation type 1057 and 1081 of which there is 38.5% and 18% of pre-European extent remaining within the Avon Wheatbelt bioregion (Shepherd 2009). There is 10% of pre-European vegetation extent within the Shire of Merredin and approximately 20% remaining in the local area (10 km radius).

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). The beard vegetation associations within the application area are below this recommended level.

Given the vegetation under application contains significant fauna habitat values and is within an extensively cleared landscape the area under application is at variance to this clearing principle. Fauna habitat survey and fauna management will mitigate this variance.

	Pre-European (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Remaining (%)	In DEC tenure (%)
IBRA Bioregion*				
Avon Wheatbelt	9,517,510	1,736,215	18	10
Shire of Merredin	145,311	14,383	10	19
Beard vegetation type in the Bioregion*				
1057	50,867	19,595	38.5	40.5
1081	15,148	2,675	18	16

(Shepherd 2009)

Methodology References
 -Commonwealth of Australia (2001)
 -Shepherd (2009)
 GIS Viewer:
 - Pre-European vegetation
 - DEC Tenure
 - NLWAR, Current Extent of Native Vegetation
 - SAC Biodatasets (Accessed March 2012).

(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 minor non perennial watercourse (a drain) runs adjacent to the application area.

During a site inspection (DEC, 2012) the area under application was not observed to support wetland or watercourse dependant vegetation.

Therefore, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this principle.

Methodology References
 -DEC (2012)
 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 main land degradation risk associated with the removal of vegetation on the identified soil types (hard alkaline red soils) (Northcote et al, 1960-1968) is water erosion. However as the area under application is narrow, is in a degraded (Keighery 1994) condition and occurs within a low rainfall area (400mm annually), it is not likely that the proposed clearing of 0.8ha would cause appreciable land degradation in the form of water erosion.

The area under application is highly saline (14000 to 35000 mg/L total dissolved solids), however due to the small size and degraded nature of the applied area it is not likely that the proposed clearing would result in appreciable land degradation

The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology References
-Northcote et al (1960-68)
GIS Databases
-Hydrography linear
-Salinity statewide
-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

There are no DEC-managed nature reserves located within or adjacent to the application area. The closest nature reserve occurs 1.6km southeast of the application area.

Given that the distance to the nearest conservation area and that the application area is relatively small (0.8ha) and in a predominately degraded (Keighery 1994) condition (DEC 2012), it is not likely that the proposed clearing will impact on any conservation areas.

The proposal is not likely to be at variance with this principle.

Methodology References
-DEC (2012)
-Keighery (1994)
GIS databases
-DEC Tenure

(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 minor non perennial watercourse (a drain) runs adjacent to the application area.

The proposed clearing of 0.8 ha adjacent to a drain may cause short term sedimentation of any surface water if present during clearing. However, this impact is considered minor due to the small size of the proposed clearing and short term impact.

Therefore, the proposal is not likely to be at variance with this principle.

Methodology GIS Databases
- Hydrography linear

(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 minor non perennial watercourse (a drain) runs along the whole of the application area.

Due to the small size (0.8ha) and degraded nature of the vegetation occurring within the area to be cleared, it is unlikely that the intensity or incidence of flooding will increase.

The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance with this principle.

Methodology GIS databases:

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

Comments

The proposal is to clear 0.8 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 13414 on Plan 33293, Lot 136 on Plan 165379, Crown Reserve 18613, Burracoppin Townsite Lots 141, 135 and 134 (Unallocated Crown Land), White Street Road reserve, Hunt Street Road reserve and Unnamed Road reserve, Burracoppin for the purpose of drainage upgrade, to reduce the incidence of flooding.

The application area occurs over the Burracoppin Drain which overflowed in February 2011. The Burracoppin community forum identified this drain as an issue and requested for the Shire of Merredin to upgrade the drain to prevent a similar event occurring again (Shire of Merredin 2012).

The application is within the EPA Position Statement No2 area in which further clearing for agriculture is not supported (EPA, 2000). However, the application is for the construction of a drain and not agriculture.

Department of Water (2012) advised that the proposed site of clearing is within a Proclaimed water course within the Avon River System Surface Water Area. A bed and banks permit is required under the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914 prior to the commencement of works on the watercourse.

Methodology

References

- Department of Water (2012)
 - EPA (2000)
 - Shire of Merredin (2012)
- GIS databases:
- EPA Position Statement No 2

4. References

- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.
- DEC. (2012) Site Inspection Report and regional advice for Clearing Permit Application CPS4906/1, Multiple Lots, Merredin. Site inspection undertaken 19/3/2012. Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (DEC Ref A488029). Department of Water (2012) Direct Interest Submission for CPS 4906/1. Shire of Merredin (DEC Ref A485509). Shire of Merredin (2012) Community forum submission for CPS4906/1.
- EPA (2000) Environmental protection of native vegetation in Western Australia. Clearing of native vegetation, with particular reference to the agricultural area. Position Statement No. 2. December 2000. 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.
- 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 Merredin (2012) Application for clearing permit and community forum submissions CPS 4906/1 – Merredin.

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)