



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 4958/1

File Number: 2012/001988-1

Duration of Permit: From 15 June 2012 to 15 June 2014

PERMIT HOLDER

Michael Jerome Twomey

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Lot 22 on Deposited Plan 232760 (CROOKED BROOK 6236)

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 0.6 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 4958/1.

CONDITIONS

Nil.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kelly Faulkner", written over a horizontal line.

Kelly Faulkner
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

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

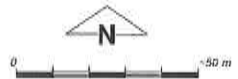
24 May 2012

Plan 4958/1



LEGEND

- Road Centrelines
- Cadastre
- Clearing Instruments
- Areas Approved to Clear
- Local Government Authorities
- Bunbury 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2008



Scale 1:2000
(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 24/8/12

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.



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 4958/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Michael Jerome Twomey

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 22 ON PLAN 232760 (CROOKED BROOK 6236)
Local Government Area: Shire of Dardanup
Colloquial name: Lot 22 Twomey Road

1.4. Application

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

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: GRANT
Decision Date: 24 May 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
<p>Beard Vegetation Association: 968 - Mosaic Medium woodland; jarrah, marri & wandoo (Shepherd et al., 2001)</p> <p>Hedde Vegetation Complex: Guildford Complex - A mixture of open forest to tall open forest of <i>Corymbia calophylla</i> (Marri) - <i>Eucalyptus wandoo</i> (Wandoo) - <i>Eucalyptus marginata</i> (Jarrah) and woodland of <i>Eucalyptus wandoo</i> (Wandoo) (with rare occurrences of <i>Eucalyptus lane-poollei</i> (Salmon White Gum). Minor components include <i>Eucalyptus rudis</i> (Flooded Gum) - <i>Melaleuca raphiophylla</i> (Swamp Paperbark) (Hedde et al., 1980).</p>	<p>The application is to clear 0.6 hectares of native vegetation on Lot 22 on Deposited Plan 232760, Crooked Brook, for the purpose of establishing an avocado plantation.</p> <p>The application area is on a predominantly cleared agricultural property and is adjacent to cleared farmland on three sides and a road.</p> <p>Photographs of the vegetation under application (CSLC, 2012) indicate that it comprises scattered large native trees over non-native pasture species. The vegetation under application is considered to be in completely degraded (Keighery, 1994).</p>	<p>Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994)</p>	<p>Vegetation condition was determined through aerial imagery (Bunbury 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2008) and photographs contained within a Land Degradation Report by the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (CSLC, 2012).</p>

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

The application is to clear up to 0.6 hectares of native vegetation in order to establish an avocado plantation.

The application area is parkland cleared and historically used for agriculture. The vegetation consists of scattered native trees over non-native pasture species and is considered to be in completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition. It is not considered representative of the mapped vegetation type.

The application area is located approximately 1.6 kilometres west of the Boyanup State Forest and is within a local area (10 kilometre radius) that is approximately 40 per cent vegetated, with approximately 15 per cent of the local area within Department of Environment and Conservation land tenure.

Black cockatoos breed in hollows in very long-lived trees (DSEWPC, 2011). The vegetation under application is approximately 2.5 kilometres east of an unconfirmed breeding area for Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*) (DSEWPC, 2011), which is listed as Endangered under the state Wildlife Conservation Act 1950 (WC Act) and Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act). The vegetation under application is mapped as unconfirmed feeding habitat for Carnaby's cockatoo and there is a known roost site approximately 6 kilometres to the south-southwest. Baudin's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudinii*), which is listed as Endangered under the WC Act and Vulnerable under the EPBC Act, and forest red-tailed black cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii* subsp. *naso*), which is listed as Vulnerable under the WC Act

and EPBC Act, may also occur in the area (DSEWPC, 2011). While the vegetation under application may include trees suitable for use by black cockatoos, given the amount of vegetation held in conservation reserve in the local area and the small amount of proposed clearing, it is unlikely to impact upon significant habitat

Considering the condition of the vegetation, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact upon flora of conservation significance.

There is a multiple use wetland mapped approximately 20 metres west of the application area. The wetland area contains a dam and is predominantly cleared for agriculture. The vegetation proposed to be removed may be growing in associated with this wetland area. Therefore, the proposed clearing may be at variance to Principle (f), however the proposed clearing is unlikely to have an appreciable impact upon the values of the wetland system.

The Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation advised that the potential for land degradation to occur as a result of the proposed clearing is low (CSLC, 2012).

Given the small scale of the proposed clearing, it is unlikely to result in water quality deterioration or increase in flood risk.

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

Methodology

References:

CSLC, 2012

DSEWPC, 2011

Keighery, 1994

GIS Databases:

- Bunbury 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2008

- Hydrography, linear - DoW 02/2004

- NLWRA, Current Extent of Native Vegetation - DEC 08/11

- Pre-European vegetation - DA 01/01

- SAC Biodatasets (Accessed 20/04/2012)

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

Comments

The applicant is the owner of the property.

The applicant has also applied to clear 1 hectare of native vegetation from an adjacent property, on the opposite side of Twomey Road, for the same purpose (CPS 4957/1).

The property is zoned general farming. The Shire of Dardanup advised planning approval is not required for this application (Shire of Dardanup, 2012).

The application area is within the Bunbury Groundwater area proclaimed under the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914. The Department of Water (DoW, 2012) advised that the applicant holds two 5C Licences to take water on Lot 22, GWL169027 and GWL169031; these licenses have a combined annual water entitlement of 527,490kL. They have been issued for the irrigation of avocados and pasture. The licenses contain conditions relating to water quality monitoring and water use, which will monitor for impacts relating to the activities (DoW, 2012).

A land degradation assessment by the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation reported that the soils within the application area appear to be in a transition zone of well drained, poorly drained and waterlogged land units (CSLC, 2012). The majority of the application area is reported to be similar to the unit 213FoCSs which is described as rapidly drained deep leached grey sands and occasionally deep yellow brown sands, however there is some potential waterlogging in susceptible areas towards the western side of the application area, which increases the risk of phosphate loss (CSLC, 2012). If planting of avocados were to occur on land that is prone to waterlogging, there is some risk of nutrient export causing land degradation, however this is unlikely to occur as avocado trees do not tolerate waterlogging and there is no defined drainage towards the Crooked Brook approximately 1.2 kilometres north (CSLC, 2012).

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

No public submissions have been received.

Methodology

References:

CSLC, 2012

DoW, 2012

Shire of Dardanup, 2012

GIS Databases:

- Aboriginal Sites of Significance - DIA 02/12

- RIWI Act, Groundwater areas - DoW 04/02
- Town Planning Scheme Zones - MFP 08/98

4. References

- CSLC (2012) Land Degradation Advice for CPS 4958/1. Received 22/05/2012. Commissioner Soil and Land Conservation, Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia. DEC Ref: A506579
- DoW (2012) Direct Interest Advice for CPS 4958/1. Received 17/05/2012. DEC Ref: A505430
- DSEWPC (2011) Draft Referral Guidelines for Three Threatened Black Cockatoo Species, July 2011. Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Populations and Communities. Commonwealth of Australia.
- Hedde, 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.
- 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 Dardanup (2012) Direct Interest Advice for CPS 4958/1. Received 18/05/2012. DEC Ref: A505431

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)