



## CLEARING PERMIT

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

### PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 4963/1  
File Number: 2012/002068-1  
Duration of Permit: From 23 June 2012 to 23 June 2014

### PERMIT HOLDER

Mark Johnson  
Julie Catherine Johnson

### LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Lot 10 on Plan 13267 (Beedelup, 6260)

### AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 2 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 4963/1.

### CONDITIONS

#### 1. 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*:

- clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
- shall only move soils in *dry conditions*;
- ensure that no *dieback* or *weed*-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill* or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and
- restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.

#### 2. Vegetation management

The Permit Holder must retain trees that have a diameter, measured at 1.5m above the ground, of 50cm or greater.

### 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;

*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*.

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

Matt Warnock  
MANAGER, COMPLIANCE AND AUDIT  
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

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

1 June 2012

# Plan 4963/1



## LEGEND

- Clearing Instruments**
- Areas Approved to Clear
  - Road Centrelines
  - Cadastre
  - Image Index (cont)
- Recently added
- Coverage
- Donnelly 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2007**



0  ~200 m

Scale 1:7296

(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.

*M. Warnock* Date 1/6/12

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 acknowledged by the agency acronym in the legend.



Department of Environment and Conservation

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



## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 4963/1  
Permit type: Area Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Mark and Julie Catherine Johnson

### 1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 10 ON PLAN 13267 (House No. 106 HOPGARDEN BEEDELUP 6260)  
Local Government Area: Shire of Manjimup  
Colloquial name:

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
2		Mechanical Removal	Hazard reduction or fire control

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant  
Decision Date: 1 June 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
The area under application is mapped as Beard Vegetation Association 1144. This vegetation association is described as 'Tall forest; karri & marri (Corymbia calophylla)' (Shepherd et al., 2001).	This application proposes to clear up to 2 hectares of native vegetation to reduce fire hazard.  The area under application consists of Karri, <i>Agonis flexuosa</i> and <i>Eucalyptus Marginata</i> (DEC, 2012). This area is regrowth vegetation and was cleared 50-60 years ago (DEC, 2012).  It is the applicants intention to parkland clear the area to reduce fuel load. After initial clearing the applicant will allow scrub to grow back and will then manage it through slashing (DEC, 2012).	Excellent: Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery 1994)	The condition of the vegetation under application was determined via a site inspection conducted by Department of Environment and Conservation officers (DEC, 2012).

## 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 may be at variance to this Principle

This application proposes to clear up to 2 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 10 on Plan 13267, Beedelup, for the purpose of fire hazard reduction. The applicant proposes to parkland clear the area to reduce fuel load.

The area under application is in an excellent (DEC, 2012) condition.

The local area is well vegetated with approximately 90% native vegetation remaining within a 10km radius. The application area is surrounded by remnant vegetation and therefore the disturbance caused by the clearing may increase the likelihood of weeds passing into adjacent vegetation. Weed and dieback management practices will assist in mitigating this risk.

No priority flora or priority ecological communities are mapped within close proximity of the application area. The closest mapped priority flora, *Dillwynia* sp. Capel (P1), has been recorded approximately 3.9 km west of the application area. This species was mapped on different soil and vegetation types.

The dense understorey present in the area under application may provide suitable habitat for ground dwelling fauna. The local area contains approximately 90 per cent vegetation cover, therefore the 2ha area under

application is not likely to provide significant fauna habitat.

Given the excellent condition of the vegetation under application it may contain a high level of biodiversity and therefore, may be at variance to this principle.

**Methodology** GIS Database:  
SAC Biodatasets - accessed April 2012  
Donnelly 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2007

**(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 not likely to be at variance to this Principle**  
Within the local area (10km radius) four fauna species listed as rare or likely to become extinct (Wildlife Conservation Act 1950) have been recorded. These species are Baudin's Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudinii*), Carnaby's Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*), Chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroii*) and Quokka (*Setonix brachyurus*) (DEC, 2007-).

The dense understorey present in the area under application may provide suitable habitat for ground dwelling fauna such as Quokka and Quenda.

Large trees may provide nesting habitat for black cockatoos however no hollows were observed during the site inspection (DEC, 2012). It is the applicant's intention to retain large trees. Retaining large trees will reduce the risk of fauna being negatively impacted by the proposed clearing.

The local area is well vegetated with approximately 90% native vegetation remaining within a 10km radius.

Given the large amount of vegetation remaining within the local area it is not likely that the 2 hectare area under application will provide significant habitat for native fauna.

Therefore the clearing as proposed is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

**Methodology** GIS Database:  
SAC Biodatasets - accessed April 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**  
There is one recorded occurrence of rare flora within a 10km radius of the applied area, namely *Caladenia harringtoniae*.  
*C. harringtoniae* is known to occur in winter wet flats and along margins of lakes, creeklines and granite outcrops (WA Herbarium, 1998-) As the area under application is located on the mid and upper slopes and given that there are no mapped watercourses within the applied area, the vegetation under application is not likely to be suitable habitat for this rare flora.

Therefore the clearing as proposed is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

**Methodology** References:  
Western Australian Herbarium (1998-)  
GIS Database:  
SAC Biodatasets - accessed April 2012  
Hydrography linear  
Topographic contours 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 known Threatened Ecological Communities within the local area (10km radius).

Therefore the clearing is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

**Methodology** GIS Database:  
SAC Biodatasets - accessed April 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 not at variance to this Principle**

The area under application is located within the Warren Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) bioregion. This IBRA bioregion has approximately 80 per cent of its Pre European vegetation extent remaining (Government of Australia, 2011).

The application area is mapped as Beard Vegetation Associations 114 and Matiske Vegetation Complex CRb. These vegetation types have approximately 80 and 88 per cent of their pre-European extent remaining in the Warren Plains bioregion respectively (Government of Australia, 2011).

Digital imagery (Donnelly 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2007) indicates that the local area (10km radius) retains approximately 90 per cent vegetation.

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).

Both the vegetation types and local area retain above the nationally recommended level, Therefore the area under application is not a significant remnant in an extensively cleared area.

The clearing as proposed is not at variance to this principle.

	Pre-European (ha)	Current Extent Remaining (ha)	Remaining (%)	Extent in DEC Managed Lands (%)
IBRA Bioregion* Warren	833,982	667,165	80	82.5
Shire Shire of Manjimup	697,371	589,249	85	92
Beard Vegetation Association in Bioregion 1144	160,315	127,381	80	91
Matiske Vegetation Complex Crowea (CRb)	52,753	46,468	88	83

**Methodology**

References:  
Commonwealth of Australia (2001)  
Government of Australia (2011)  
Matiske

GIS Database:  
Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia  
Local Government Authorities  
Matiske Vegetation  
Pre European Vegetation  
SAC Biodatasets - accessed April 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**

No wetlands or watercourses are located within the application area.

The closest mapped watercourse is Beedelup Brook which is located approximately 0.5km south of the application area.

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

**Methodology**

GIS Database:  
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 area under application is mapped as soil type Cb40 which Northcote (1960-68) describes as 'Swampy plains: chief soils are leached sands, some of which have a thin peaty surface horizon. Associated are small hummocks of leached sands'.

This application proposes to parkland clear an area of approximately 2ha. The applicant has advised that after the initial clearing, scrub will be permitted to grow back (DEC, 2012). The initial clearing may cause minor, short term erosion however the soil will be stabilised when vegetation starts to grow back.

Given the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to cause appreciable land degradation.

**Methodology** References:  
DEC (2012)

GIS Database:  
SAC Biodatasets - accessed April 2012

**(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**

Approximately 95% of the local area is within DEC tenure.

The closest conservation reserve is the Greater Beedelup National Park which is located approximately 300m north of the application area.

The Donnelly State Forrest lies 1km south of the application area.

Given the distance between the proposed clearing and the closest conservation reserve it is unlikely that the clearing will impact upon the environmental values of these reserves. There are large areas of vegetation and roads located between the clearing area and the reserves which will decrease the possibility of weeds from the clearing area passing into these reserves.

The clearing as proposed will not sever any ecological corridors.

Given the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to cause appreciable land degradation.

**Methodology** GIS Database:  
- 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**

The groundwater salinity within the application area is 500-1000 milligrams per litre of Total Dissolved Solids. This level of groundwater salinity is considered to be marginal. The proposed clearing is not likely to have a significant impact on the quality of groundwater in the local area.

No watercourses are located in close vicinity to the application area.

The area under application is not located within a public drinking water source area.

Given the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

**Methodology** GIS Databases:  
- Groundwater Salinity  
- Hydrography, linear  
- Rainfall, Mean Annual Isohytes

**(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 at variance to this Principle**

The proposed clearing of 2 hectares within a highly vegetated area will not increase the incidence or intensity of flooding.

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

**Methodology** GIS Databases:  
- Hydrography, linear  
- Topographic Contours, Statewide

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

#### Comments

The Shire of Manjimup (2012) has advised that they support the proposed clearing and have provided the following comments:

- Council notes that the purpose of clearing is to reduce fuel loads as the current loads are considered excessive (approx 60-80 tonnes per hectares).
- Council supports parkland clearing rather than reduce fuel loads rather than burning given the property backs onto Beedelup National Park, with the potential risk of a fire breaking through a containment being very high.
- As the clearing is to ensure compliance with the Shire of Manjimup's Firebreak and Fuel Hazard Reduction Notice, no Planning Approval will be necessary in this case as the Local Planning Scheme No 4 exempts clearing under the Bush Fires Act 1954.
- It is understood that large standing trees are to remain

The applicant has advised that larger trees within the application area will be retained. Vegetation Management practices will be imposed to ensure trees that have a diameter, measured at 1.5m above the ground, of 50cm or greater are retained.

The applicant has applied for a Commercial Producers Licence from Wildlife Licensing, DEC.

The area under application is located within the Donnelly River Groundwater area, which is an area proclaimed under the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914.

**Methodology** References:  
Shire of Manjimup (2012)

GIS Databases:  
- RIWI Groundwater areas  
- Local Government Authority

## 4. References

- DEC (2007 - ) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Environment and Conservation. URL: <http://naturemap.dec.wa.gov.au/>. Accessed April 2012.
- DEC (2012) Site Inspection Report for Clearing Permit Application CPS 4963/1, Lot 10 Hoggarden Road, Beedelup. Site inspection undertaken 16 April 2012. Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (DEC Ref: A494197).
- Government of Western Australia (2011); 2011 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). WA Department of Environment and Conservation, Perth.
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Northcote, K. H. with Beckmann G G, Bettenay E., Churchward H. M., van Dijk D. C., Dimmock G. M., Hubble G. D., Isbell R. F., McArthur W. M., Murtha G. G., Nicolls K. D., Paton T. R., Thompson C. H., Webb A. A. and Wright M. J. (1960-68): 'Atlas of Australian Soils, Sheets 1 to 10, with explanatory data'. CSIRO and Melbourne University Press: Melbourne.
- 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 Manjimup (2012) Planning Advice for Clearing Permit Application CPS 4963/1, Lot 10 Hoggarden Road, Beedelup (DEC Ref: A491545).
- Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) FloraBase - The Western Australian Flora. Department of Environment and Conservation. <http://florabase.dec.wa.gov.au/> (Accessed April 2012).

## 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)