



## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 505/1  
Permit type: Area Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Mr Rodney John Winston Hester Emu Downs Grazing Company

### 1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 2028 ON PLAN 123963 (Lot No. 2028 JAYES WINNEJUP 6255)  
Local Government Area: Shire Of Bridgetown-Greenbushes  
Colloquial name: Jayes Road - Rodney Hester Nelson Location 2028

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
3.1	194	Mechanical Removal	Cropping

## 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 3 - Medium Forest: jarrah-marri	The proposed area to be cleared consists of isolated paddock trees and small stands spread across the property. It is not considered to have a high level of biological significance.	Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)	
Mattiske - Dwellingup (D1) Open forest of Eucalyptus marginata subsp. marginata-Corymbia calophylla on lateritic uplands in mainly humid and subhumid zones.			
Mattiske - Catterick (CCI) - Open forest of Eucalyptus marginata subsp. marginata-Corymbia calophylla mixed with Eucalyptus patens on slopes, Eucalyptus rudis and Banksia littoralis on valley floors in the humid zone.			

## 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**  
The area consists of isolated paddock trees and small stands spread across the location and is not representative of vegetation considered to be of a high level of biological diversity.

**Methodology** EPA (2000). (note this is Position statement No.2)

### (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**  
There was no request for assessment by CALM. Aerial Photography indicates that the vegetation may provide some habitat for fauna species, however the level of disturbance within the site is likely to limit the habitat value of the vegetation.

**Methodology** GIS database: Bridgetown 1m Orthomosaic - Dola 01

**(c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, significant flora.**

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

There were no Declared Rare Flora Sites identified within the local area (10km radius).

Carex Tereticaulis (Declared Rare Flora) occurs in two areas just outside the local area. One is located approximately 10.5km south east and the other is approximately 10.5km south west from the area under application.

**Methodology** GIS database: Declared Rare Flora and Priority Flora List - CALM 13/08/03

**(d) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a significant ecological community.**

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

There are no Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) or Threatened Plant Communities (TPC) within the local area (10km radius).

**Methodology** GIS database: Threatened Ecological Communities - CALM 15/07/03  
Threatened Plant Communities - DEP 06/95

**(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 application is located in the Jarrah Forest Bioregion (ILZ) in the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes. The extent of native vegetation in these areas is 58.3% and 67.9% respectively.

Both the Beard vegetation types and Matiske vegetation complexes have more than 30% native vegetation remaining.

The vegetation under application is of 'Least Concern' as the remaining vegetation is over 30%. The State Government is committed to the National Objective Targets for Biodiversity Conservation which includes a target that prevents clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30% of that present pre-1750 (Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002); EPA (2000)).

	Pre - European (ha)	Current Extent (ha)	Remaining (%)	Conservation status*	
IBRA *** Bioregion					
Shire (LGA)		4,503,156	2,624,301	58.3%	Least Concern
Beard Unit		135,387	91,961	67.9%	Least Concern
Veg Ass 3		3,046,385	2,197,837	72.1%	Least Concern
Matiske CC1		274,435	192,294	70.1%	Least Concern
D1		2,082,288	1,936,288	93%	Least Concern

**Methodology** Hopkins et al. (2001)  
GIS database:  
- Matiske Vegetation - CALM 24/03/98  
- Hedde Vegetation Complexes - DEP 21/06/95  
- Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia - EM10/10/00  
- Pre European Vegetation - DA 01/01  
- Local Government Authorities - DLI 8/07/04

**(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 at variance to this Principle**

There is a 2nd order perennial watercourse running through the centre of the property. Riparian vegetation exists for much of the stream, however isolated paddock trees make up the remaining vegetation on the property. There are 2 existing dams, one of which is located within the area to be cleared.

The proposed clearing runs parallel to the watercourse, however a buffer of 150m has been set. It is believed the buffer will prevent any adverse impacts to the watercourse.

There are three 1st order perennial streams within the proposed cleared area. One is located in the top north-eastern corner of the property with approximately 0.5ha riparian vegetation. This vegetation provides a corridor between the adjoining properties, one of which is state forest. The second is located in the south-eastern corner and has an area of approximately 0.8ha of riparian vegetation. A dam has been constructed on the third stream with virtually no riparian vegetation existing along the watercourse.

The riparian vegetation will be retained to remain consistent with this principle.

**Methodology** GIS database:  
- Hydrography Linear - DoE 1/2/04

**(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**

No assessment was requested from the Department of Agriculture.

There is a low risk of salinity within the proposed clearing. The groundwater salinity is mapped at 1000-3000mg/L, however the amount of clearing proposed should not have any affect on the quality. There is no information for Acid Sulphate Soils on the property.

**Methodology** GIS Database:  
- Salinity Mapping LM 25m - DOLA 00  
- Salinity Monitoring LM 50m - DOLA 00  
- Salinity Risk LM 25m - DOLA 00  
- Groundwater Salinity, Statewide - 22/02/00

**(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**

State forest reserve borders two sides of the property, the Hester State Forest and a Timber Reserve vested to the Conservation Commission. The vegetation on Location 2028 provides no significant ecological linkages or buffering to the reserve areas.

**Methodology** GIS database:  
- CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 1/03/04

**(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 area under application is at least 150m from the second order stream and involves clearing isolated paddock trees and small stands, and is therefore unlikely to have any impact on the surface or ground water quality. Riparian vegetation located on two first order streams within the proposed cleared area will be retained to prevent surface water quality deteriorating.

No salinity risk areas were identified. The property is located within the Hardy Estuary - Blackwood River Catchment that has an area of 13,729km<sup>2</sup>. The extent of proposed clearing is unlikely to have any impact on this catchment.

The property is not situated within a Public Drinking Water Source Area.

**Methodology** GIS database:  
- Hydrographic Catchments, Catchments - DoE 3/4/03

**(j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence of flooding.**

**Comments** **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**  
Due to the scale of the proposed clearing , flooding impacts are unlikely to occur.

**Methodology** GIS database:  
- Topographic Contours, Statewide - DOLA 12/09/02

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

**Comments**  
The property is zoned Rural - Extensive Farming

**Methodology** The property is located within two Native Title Claim areas, the Southern Noongar and the Wagyl Kaip.  
GIS database:  
- Town Planning Scheme Zones - MFP 8/98  
- Native Title Claims - DLI 19/12/04

**4. Assessor's recommendations**

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Decision	Comment / recommendation
Cropping	Mechanical Removal	3.1 194	Grant	<p>Two areas of riparian vegetation on the property were subject to negotiation. The applicant is agreeable for the condition requiring them to retain these areas be placed on the permit.</p> <p>The remaining area under application consists of isolated paddock trees and small stands. It is not considered to have a high level of biological diversity.</p> <p>It is therefore recommended that because the riparian vegetation on the property will be retained, the Department should grant the permit.</p> <p>Please also note that two Native Title Claims have been identified within the area proposed for clearing. It is recommended this be taken into account when making a final decision on the application.</p>

**5. References**

Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002) Biodiversity Action Planning. Action planning for native biodiversity at multiple scales ; catchment bioregional, landscape, local. Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Victoria.

Keighery, BJ (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

Mattiske Consulting (1998) Mapping of vegetation complexes in the South West forest region of Western Australia, CALM.

Shepherd, D.P., Beeston, G.R. and Hopkins, A.J.M. (2001) Native Vegetation in Western Australia, Extent, Type and Status. Resource Management Technical Report 249. Department of Agriculture, Western Australia.