



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 5243/1
File Number: 2012/006322-1
Duration of Permit: From 9 November 2012 to 9 November 2014

PERMIT HOLDER

Australian Wildlife Conservancy

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Lot 4282 on Deposited Plan 220779, Goodlands and Paynes Find
Lot 4253 on Deposited Plan 217804, Paynes Find

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 30.99 hectares within the area shaded yellow on attached Plan 5243/1.

CONDITIONS

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) 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.

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; and

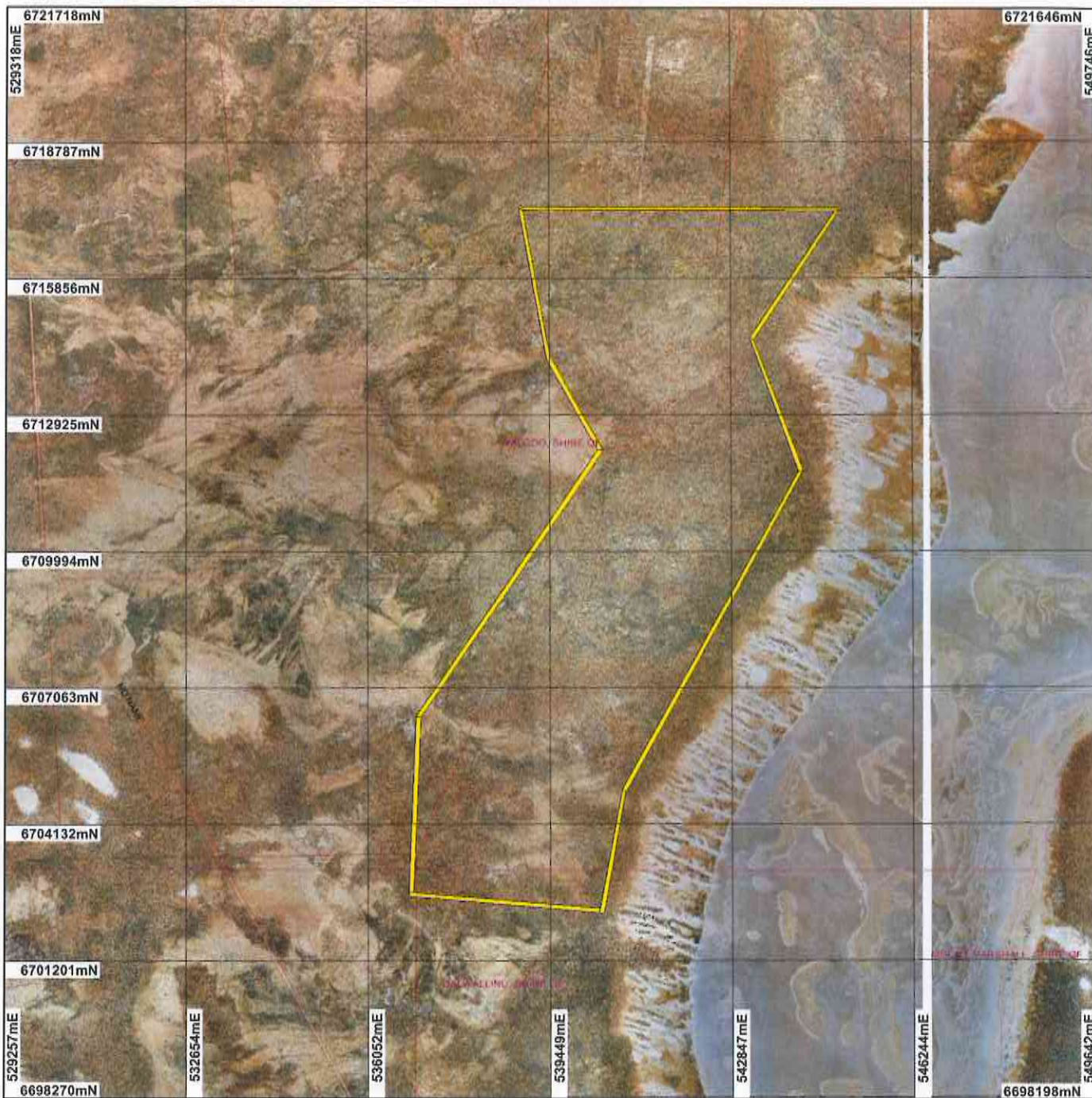
weeds/s means a species listed in Appendix 3 of the "Environmental Weed Strategy" published by the Department of Conservation and Land Management (1999), and plants declared under section 37 of the *Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act 1976*.

Roxane Shadbolt
A/MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

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

18 October 2012

Plan 5243/1



LEGEND

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local Government Authorities | <input type="checkbox"/> Marine Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Water |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cadastre | <input type="checkbox"/> Crown Lease | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Road Centrelines |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Freehold | <input type="checkbox"/> Lease / Reserve | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clearing Instruments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crown Reserve | <input type="checkbox"/> Lease on State Forest / Timber Reserve | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Areas Approved to Clear |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State Forest / Timber Reserve (cont) | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Roads | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mount Gibson 80cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2005 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Unallocated Crown Land (cont) | |

Jaeclean 80cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2005



Scale 1:113254
(Approximate when reproduced at Letter)

Geocentric Datum Australia 1994

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

R. Shadbolt 18/10/12
Roxane Shadbolt

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

Our environment, our future
WA Crown Copyright 2002

* 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.: 5243/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Australian Wildlife Conservancy

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 4282 ON PLAN 220779 (GOODLANDS 6468)
LOT 4282 ON PLAN 220779 (PAYNES FIND 6612)
LOT 4253 ON PLAN 217804 (PAYNES FIND 6612)

Local Government Area: Shire of Dalwallinu and Shire of Yalgoo

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
30.99		Mechanical Removal	Fence Line Maintenance

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 18 October 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 141 is described as medium woodland consisting of york gum, salmon gum & gimlet (Shepherd et al, 2001).	This application proposes to clear 30.99 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 4282 on Deposited Plan 220779, Goodlands and Paynes Find, and Lot 4253 on Deposited Plan 217804, Paynes Find, for the purpose of constructing a 10m wide feral animal proof fence.	Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994)	The vegetation description was obtained through aerial imagery (Mount Gibson 80cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2005) and information provided with the application.
Mapped Beard vegetation association 357 is described as medium woodland over scrub consisting of york gum over bowgada & jam (Acacia acuminata) (Shepherd et al, 2001).		To	
Mapped Beard vegetation association 437 is described as shrublands consisting of mixed acacia thicket on sandplain (Shepherd et al, 2001).	The fence is being constructed to help re-establish native fauna species that were once common throughout the area.	Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (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 30.99 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 4282 on Deposited Plan 220779, Goodlands and Paynes Find, and Lot 4253 on Deposited Plan 217804, Paynes Find, for the purpose of constructing a 10m wide feral animal proof fence. The fence is being constructed to help re-establish native fauna species that were once common throughout the area. The proponent has advised that the fence line will follow existing tracks on the property for 60 per cent of the fence length. The vegetation is in a good to completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition (Australian Wildlife Conservancy, 2012).

Four priority flora species have been mapped within the local area (20km radius), on the same soil and landform type as the application area. One of the priority species is a priority 1 tree species growing 2 to 5m in height. Given the previously disturbed nature of a significant portion of the application area, and the applicant's commitment to retain established trees, it is unlikely that the proposed clearing will impact upon these species.

No priority ecological communities (PEC) have been mapped in the local area (20km radius).

The local area (20km radius) surrounding the application area is well vegetated with approximately 75 percent of its pre-European vegetation remaining.

The proposed clearing for a feral animal proof fence is for the protection of native fauna, and will therefore aid in the enhancement of significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.

The disturbance caused by the proposed clearing will increase the likelihood of weeds spreading into adjacent vegetated areas. Weed management practices will assist in mitigating this risk.

Given the previously disturbed nature of the application area, its linearity, and the better condition of the surrounding vegetation in the local area (20km radius), the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology References:
-Keighery (1994)
-Australian Wildlife Conservancy (2012)

GIS Databases:
-SAC Biodatasets (accessed October 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 not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
Three fauna species of conservation significance have been recorded within the local area (20km radius), these being, *Cacatua leadbeateri* (Major Mitchell's Cockatoo), *Merops ornatus* (Rainbow Bee-eater) and *Leipoa ocellata* (Malleefowl).

The proposed clearing is for a feral animal proof fence to re-establish native species that were once common throughout the area (Australian Wildlife Conservancy, 2012). The feral animal proof fence will therefore aid in the enhancement of providing a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.

The fence line to be cleared is 10m wide and will follow existing tracks wherever possible to avoid unnecessary clearing.

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

Methodology References:
-DEC (2007)
-Australian Wildlife Conservancy (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**
Four species of rare flora have been mapped within the local area (20km radius). The closest of these species does not occur within 5km of the proposed clearing. The 10m wide application area is unlikely to include, or be necessary for the existence of rare flora.

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

Methodology GIS Databases:
-SAC Biodatasets (accessed October 2012)

(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**
No threatened ecological communities have been mapped in the local area (20km radius).

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

Methodology GIS Databases:
-SAC Biodatasets (accessed October 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 likely to be at variance to this Principle**
The area under application falls within two IBRA Bioregions, being Yalgoo (approximately 85 per cent) and Avon Wheatbelt (approximately 15 per cent) and two Shires, being Shire of Dalwallinu and Shire of Yalgoo. These Shires have 28 and 99 per cent pre-European vegetation remaining respectively.

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). Beard Vegetation

Association 141 has 30 percent of its pre European extent remaining within the Avon Wheatbelt bioregion and Beard Vegetation Associations 357 and 437 retaining greater than 90 per cent native vegetation within the Yalgoo bioregion.

Despite the application area partly falling within the extensively cleared Avon Wheatbelt bioregion, the local area surrounding the application area is well vegetated with approximately 75 percent of its pre-European vegetation remaining.

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

	Pre-European (ha)	Current Extent Remaining (ha)	Remaining (%)	Extent in DEC Managed Lands (%)
IBRA Bioregion				
Yalgoo	5,057,314	4,987,193	99	32
Avon Wheatbelt	9,517,110	1,732,027	18	10
Shire				
Dalwallinu	722,880	205,288	28	4
Yalgoo	2,794,644	2,790,720	99.8	23
Beard Vegetation Association in Bioregion				
141 (Avon Wheatbelt)	250,615	74,652	30	2
357 (Yalgoo)	11,284	11,284	100	0
437 (Yalgoo)	25,811	25,106	97	0

Methodology References:
 -Government of Western Australia (2012)
 -Commonwealth of Australia (2001)

(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 may be at variance to this Principle

A minor non perennial watercourse and a non perennial lake associated with Lake Moore occurs within the north west portion of the application area. Lake Moore is located 1.8km east of the application area. Several other non perennial lakes occur within 1km of the application area that are associated with Lake Moore.

There is the potential for some of the vegetation under application to be growing in association with these lakes and therefore the proposed clearing may be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology GIS Databases:
 -Hydrography, linear
 - Hydrography, hierachy

(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 application area is composed of 2 main soil types. Ms11 is described as alluvial plains with laterite residuals and gravelly neutral yellow earths. Associated on the plains are neutral hard yellow soils. Other soils include red earths and occasional dunes of red sands. There is often much stone and gravel on the soil surface (Northcote, 1960-1968).

Sv4 is described as saline valleys and salt lakes-salt-lake channels, mostly devoid of true soils, and their fringing areas. Common soils are gypseous and saline loams on riverine wash and usually underlain by clayey or sandy strata. Associated are small areas of the soils of the adjacent areas, with soils often underlain by calcrete (kunkar) and dunes and lunettes of sandy soils (Northcote, 1960-1968).

The proposed clearing is unlikely to cause wind erosion due to the soil types present and given the low rainfall (300mm per annum) and gently undulating topography of the local region, the likelihood of soil being eroded through surface water runoff is low.

The application area is mapped as highly saline to brine, measuring 14000-35000mg/L, however due to the linearity of the proposed clearing, and the previously disturbed nature of a significant portion of the application area, the risk of salinity causing land degradation is low.

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

Methodology References:
-Northcote (1960-1968)

GIS Databases:
-Salinity, Statewide
-Soils, Statewide
-Topographic Countours, 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**
The closest conservation reserve to the application area is Carlyarn Nature reserve located 14.4km south.

Given the distance of this nature reserve to the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology 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**
The topography of the local region surrounding the application area is low (gently undulating), as is the rainfall (300mm per annum), therefore surface water runoff is likely to be minimal.

The application area is mapped as highly saline to brine, measuring 14000-35000mg/L, however due to the linearity of the proposed clearing, and the previously disturbed nature of a large portion of the application area, the risk of increased groundwater salinity is low.

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

Methodology GIS Databases:
-Salinity, Statewide
-Topographic Countours, Statewide
-Rainfall, Mean Annual

(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**
Flooding is unlikely to be an issue given the topography on site and the low rainfall of the local region (300mm per annum).

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

Methodology GIS Databases:
-Rainfall, Mean Annual

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

Comments

No submissions from the public have been received.

The application area is zoned 'rural/mining' under the town planning scheme.

The Shire of Dalwallinu has advised that the application to construct an animal proof fence is consistent with the town planning scheme, and the Shire is supportive of the proposed clearing (Shire of Dalwallinu, 2012).

Methodology References:
-Shire of Dalwallinu (2012)

GIS Databases:
-Town Planning Scheme Zones

4. References

- Australian Wildlife Conservancy (2012) Additional Information for CPS 5243/1. DEC Ref: A541908
- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.
- 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 Dalwallinu (2012c) Direct Interest Submission from Bush Fire Control Officer for Clearing Application CPS5041/1. DEC Ref: A554321

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)