



## **CLEARING PERMIT**

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

### **PERMIT DETAILS**

Area Permit Number: 5489/1  
File Number: 2013/000864-1  
Duration of Permit: From 24 May 2013 to 24 May 2015

### **PERMIT HOLDER**

Harefield Pty Ltd

### **LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE**

Lot 77 on Deposited Plan 250606 (Amelup 6338)  
Lot 78 on Deposited Plan 250606 (Amelup 6338)  
Lot 82 on Deposited Plan 250607 (Amelup 6338)  
Lot 81 on Deposited Plan 250607 (Amelup 6338)  
Lot 80 on Deposited Plan 250607 (Amelup 6338)  
Lot 122 on Deposited Plan 252970 (Amelup 6338)  
Lot 172 on Deposited Plan 124077 (Amelup 6338)  
Lot 128 on Deposited Plan 252969 (Amelup 6338)  
Lot 143 on Deposited Plan 123797 (Amelup 6338)  
Lot 144 on Deposited Plan 123798 (Amelup 6338)  
Lot 173 on Deposited Plan 124078 (Amelup 6338)

### **AUTHORISED ACTIVITY**

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 1.22 hectares of native vegetation and 115 trees within the areas shaded yellow on attached Plan 5489/1.

### **CONDITIONS**

Nil.

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

M Warnock  
MANAGER  
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH







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

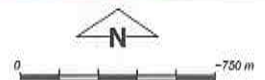
2 May 2013

# CPS 5489/1



## LEGEND

-  Road Centrelines
  -  Cadastre for labelling
  -  Clearing Instruments
  -  Areas Applied to Clear
  -  Areas Subject to Conditions (cont)
  -  Areas Approved to Clear
- Borden 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2006**



Scale 1:27998  
(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 2/5/13

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.



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## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 5489/1  
Permit type: Area Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Harefield Pty Ltd

### 1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 77 ON PLAN 250606 (House No. 2130 SANDALWOOD AMELUP 6338)  
LOT 78 ON PLAN 250606 (AMELUP 6338)  
LOT 82 ON PLAN 250607 (AMELUP 6338)  
LOT 81 ON PLAN 250607 (AMELUP 6338)  
LOT 80 ON PLAN 250607 (AMELUP 6338)  
LOT 122 ON PLAN 252970 (AMELUP 6338)  
LOT 172 ON PLAN 124077 (AMELUP 6338)  
LOT 128 ON PLAN 252969 (AMELUP 6338)  
LOT 143 ON PLAN 123797 (AMELUP 6338)  
LOT 144 ON PLAN 123798 (AMELUP 6338)  
LOT 173 ON PLAN 124078 (AMELUP 6338)

Local Government Area: Shire of Gnowangerup  
Colloquial name:

### 1.4. Application

|                    |           |                    |                     |
|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Clearing Area (ha) | No. Trees | Method of Clearing | For the purpose of: |
| 1.22               | 115       | Mechanical Removal | Grazing & Pasture   |

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant  
Decision Date: 2 May 2013

## 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 938 is described as Medium woodland; York gum & yate (Shepherd et al 2001). | The applicant proposes to clear 1.22 hectares of native vegetation and 115 native trees for the purpose of improving agricultural practices.                        | Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery 1994)              | The condition of the vegetation under application was determined by aerial imagery (Borden 50 cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2006). |
|   | The application area consists of single trees small groups of trees or parkland cleared with no understorey present (Commissioner Soil and Land Conservation 2013). | To Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (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**

The applicant proposes to clear 1.22 hectares of native vegetation and 115 native trees for the purpose of improving agricultural practices.

Numerous priority flora species have been recorded within the local area. The application area consists of single trees, small groups of trees or parkland cleared with no understorey present (Commissioner Soil and Land Conservation 2013). Given the lack of understorey within the application area it is unlikely the vegetation

proposed to be cleared is necessary for the continued existence of priority flora.

Two fauna species listed as rare or likely to become extinct under the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950 have been recorded within the local area (10 kilometre radius) being *Calyptrorhynchus latirostris* (Carnaby's Cockatoo) and *Leipoa ocellata* (Malleefowl) (DEC 2007-). Mature trees present within the application area may provide breeding habitat for Carnaby's Cockatoo.

The local area (10km radius) has been extensively cleared for agricultural purposes with approximately 20 per cent of vegetation remaining.

Although the local area has been extensively cleared the majority of the vegetation under application consists of scattered paddock trees, therefore the vegetation proposed to be cleared is not likely to comprise of a high level of biological diversity.

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

**Methodology**    **References:**  
- Commissioner Soil and Land Conservation (2013)  
- DEC (2007-)

**GIS Database:**  
- Borden 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2008  
- SAC Biodata sets - accessed March 2013

**(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 may be at variance to this Principle**  
Two fauna species listed as rare or likely to become extinct under the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950 have been recorded within the local area (10 kilometre radius) being *Calyptrorhynchus latirostris* (Carnaby's Cockatoo) and *Leipoa ocellata* (Malleefowl) (DEC 2007-).  
The mature trees present within the application area may provide breeding habitat for the Carnaby's Cockatoo.

Given the above the application area may be at variance to this principle.

**Methodology**    **Reference:**  
DEC (2007-)  
**GIS Database:**  
- SAC Biodata sets - accessed March 2013

**(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**  
Nine species of rare flora have been recorded within the local area. The closest is located approximately 3.3 kilometres south of the application area. The application area consists of single trees, small groups of trees or parkland cleared with no understorey present (Commissioner Soil and Land Conservation 2013).

Given the lack of understorey within the application area it is unlikely the vegetation proposed to be cleared is necessary for the continued existence of rare flora.

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

**Methodology**    **References:**  
- Commissioner Soil and Land Conservation (2013)  
  
**GIS Database:**  
- SAC Biodata sets - accessed March 2013

**(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 (TEC) have been identified within the local area (10 km radius).

The closest record of a TEC is "Montane Thicket of the Eastern Stirling Range" is located approximately 11 kilometres south west of the area under application.

Given the distance to the closest TEC it is unlikely the vegetation proposed to be cleared is necessary for the maintenance of this TEC. Therefore the clearing as proposed is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

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**Methodology** GIS Database:  
- SAC Biodata sets - accessed March 2013

**(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 may be at variance to this Principle**

The area under application is located within the Esperance Plains Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) bioregion. This IBRA bioregion has approximately 51 per cent of its Pre European vegetation extent remaining (Government of Western Australia 2011).

The application area is mapped as Beard Vegetation Associations 998 which retains approximately 34 per cent of its pre-European extent within the Esperance Plains IBRA bioregion (Government of Western Australia 2011).

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).

Digital imagery (Borden 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2006) indicates that the local area (10 kilometre radius) surrounding the area under application retains approximately 20 per cent vegetation cover.

The applicant is proposing to clear 1.22 hectares of native vegetation and 115 native trees for the purpose of improving agricultural practices. The vegetation is within the agricultural area defined in EPA Position Statement No. 2 (EPA 2000) which states that significant clearing of native vegetation has already occurred on agricultural land, leading to a reduction in biodiversity and increase in land salinisation, and therefore any further reduction in native vegetation through clearing for agriculture cannot be supported. The EPA (2000) recommends that all existing native vegetation be protected from passive clearing through, for example, grazing by stock or clearing by other means.

Although the vegetation remaining within the bioregion and vegetation association 998 retain levels higher than national objectives, the local area (10km radius) has been extensively cleared (approximately 20 per cent remaining).

The area under application consists of scattered paddock trees and does not contain a high level of biodiversity and therefore is not considered to be a significant remnant.

The local area (10km radius) has been extensively cleared, however the vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered to be a significant remnant.

Therefore the proposed clearing may be at variance to this principle.

|  | Pre-European (ha) | Current Extent Remaining (ha) | Remaining (%) | Extent in DEC Managed Lands (%) |
|--|-------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| IBRA Bioregion*                                |                   |                               |               |                                 |
| Esperance Plains                               | 2,899,950         | 1,489,289                     | 51%           | 54                              |
| Shire*   |                   |                               |               |                                 |
| Shire of Gnowangerup                           | 426,407           | 92,618                        | 22%           | 43                              |
| Beard Vegetation Association in Bioregion* 998 | 40,669            | 13,667                        | 34%           | 9                               |

\*Government of Western Australia (2011)

**Methodology** Reference:  
- Commonwealth of Australia (2001)  
- EPA (2000)  
- Government of Western Australia. (2011)

GIS Database:  
- Borden 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2008  
- NLWRA, Current Extent of Native  
- Sac bio datasets - accessed March 2013

**(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 at variance to this Principle**

Numerous watercourses are located within close vicinity of the application area. One minor watercourse

intersections one section of the application area.

Palinup River is located approximately 80 m south of the application area.

Given a watercourse intersects the application area the vegetation proposed to be cleared is considered to growing in association with a watercourse.

Therefore the clearing as proposed is at variance to this principle.

**Methodology** GIS Databases:  
- Hydrology, 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 has been mapped as soil types Od7 and Uf3. Uf3 is described as 'Undulating terrain traversed by numerous streams, many of which exhibit features of salinity; some gneissic rock outcrops; chief soils seem to be hard alkaline red soils and neutral red soils with hard alkaline yellow soils. Associated are soils on ridge slopes; some areas of soils on sandy deposits in some of the larger stream valleys' (Northcote et al 1960 - 1968).

Soil type Uf3 is described as dissected plateau at low elevation having an undulating to rolling ridge and slope relief with some steep bluffs adjacent to drainage-ways; some swamps: chief soils are hard neutral yellow mottled soils containing ironstone gravels in their surface horizons on the flat to gently undulating ridge crests. Associated are leached sands sometimes underlain by boulder laterite and soils on the ridge crests (Northcote et al 1960 - 1968).

Wind and water erosion is unlikely on the soil type found within the application area. Earthworks can and have been employed to reduce any risk of water erosion (Commissioner Soil and Land Conservation 2013). The area proposed to be cleared is well drained therefore the risk of waterlogging is unlikely with the clearing of native vegetation on this soil type (Commissioner Soil and Land Conservation 2013).

Given the above the clearing as proposed is not likely to cause appreciable land degradation and therefore is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

**Methodology** References:  
- Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2013)  
- Northcote et al (1968)

GIS Databases:  
- 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**

The closest conservation area is Stirling Range National Park which is located approximately 6 km south of the application area.

Given the distance to the closest conservation area and the completely degraded to degraded (Keighery 1994) condition of the vegetation under application it is unlikely the clearing as proposed will have an impact on the environmental values of any nearby conservation area.

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

**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 may be at variance to this Principle**

Numerous watercourses are located within close vicinity of the application area. One minor watercourse intersections one section of the application area.

Palinup River is located approximately 80 m south of the application area

Given a watercourse intersects the application area the removal of native vegetation may increase sedimentation into this watercourse.

Groundwater salinity ranges from 7000-14000 mg/L which is considered Highly Saline. Given the area under

Given the above the clearing as proposed may be at variance to this principle.

**Methodology** References:  
- Keighery (1994)

GIS Databases:  
- Hydrology, linear  
- Groundwater salinity

**(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**  
The area under application is well drained and is therefore not likely to cause or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding (Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation 2013).

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

**Methodology** References:  
- Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2013)

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

**Comments**

The applicant proposes to clear 1.22 hectares of native vegetation and 115 native trees for the purpose of improving agricultural practices.

The Shire of Gnowangerup (2013) has no objection the proposed clearing. 'Agriculture Extensive' is a permitted use in the General Agriculture zone under Local Planning scheme No2.

The area under application falls within EPA Position Statement No.2 agricultural area, which has a general presumption against clearing within this area for agricultural purposes (EPA, 2000).

In exceptional circumstances the EPA would consider supporting clearing for agriculture within this region if:

- (a) There are alternative mechanisms for protecting biodiversity.
- (b) The area to be cleared is relatively small, depending on the scale at which biodiversity changes over the area, including extent of vegetation in the surrounding area and recognising that values will vary for different ecosystems.
- (c) The proponent demonstrates that the elements set out in Section 4.3 of this Position Statement are being met. This will require extensive local and regional biodiversity work.
- (d) Land degradation, including aquatic environments and threatening processes, such as dieback, salinisation or disruption of catchment processes, on-site and off-site would not be exacerbated.

**Methodology** References:  
- EPA (2000)  
- Shire of Gnowangerup (2013)

#### 4. References

- Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2013) Advice for Clearing Permit CPS 5489/1. Department of Agriculture and Food. Western Australia. (DEC Ref:A617232)
- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.
- DEC (2007 - ) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Environment and Conservation. URL: <http://naturemap.dec.wa.gov.au/>. Accessed March 2013
- 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.
- Government of Western Australia. (2013). 2012 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of October 2012. 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 Gnowangerup (2013) Advice for Clearing Permit CPS 5489/1. Western Australia. DEC Ref: A611627

## 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)                    |