



## CLEARING PERMIT

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

### PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 5553/1  
File Number: 2013/001742-1  
Duration of Permit: From 28 June 2013 to 28 June 2015

### PERMIT HOLDER

David Bowman Tapley

### LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Lot 5 on Diagram 92809 (North Walpole)

### AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 10 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched cross hatched yellow on attached Plan 5553/1.

### CONDITIONS

#### 1. 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*:

- (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;

*weeds* means any plant -

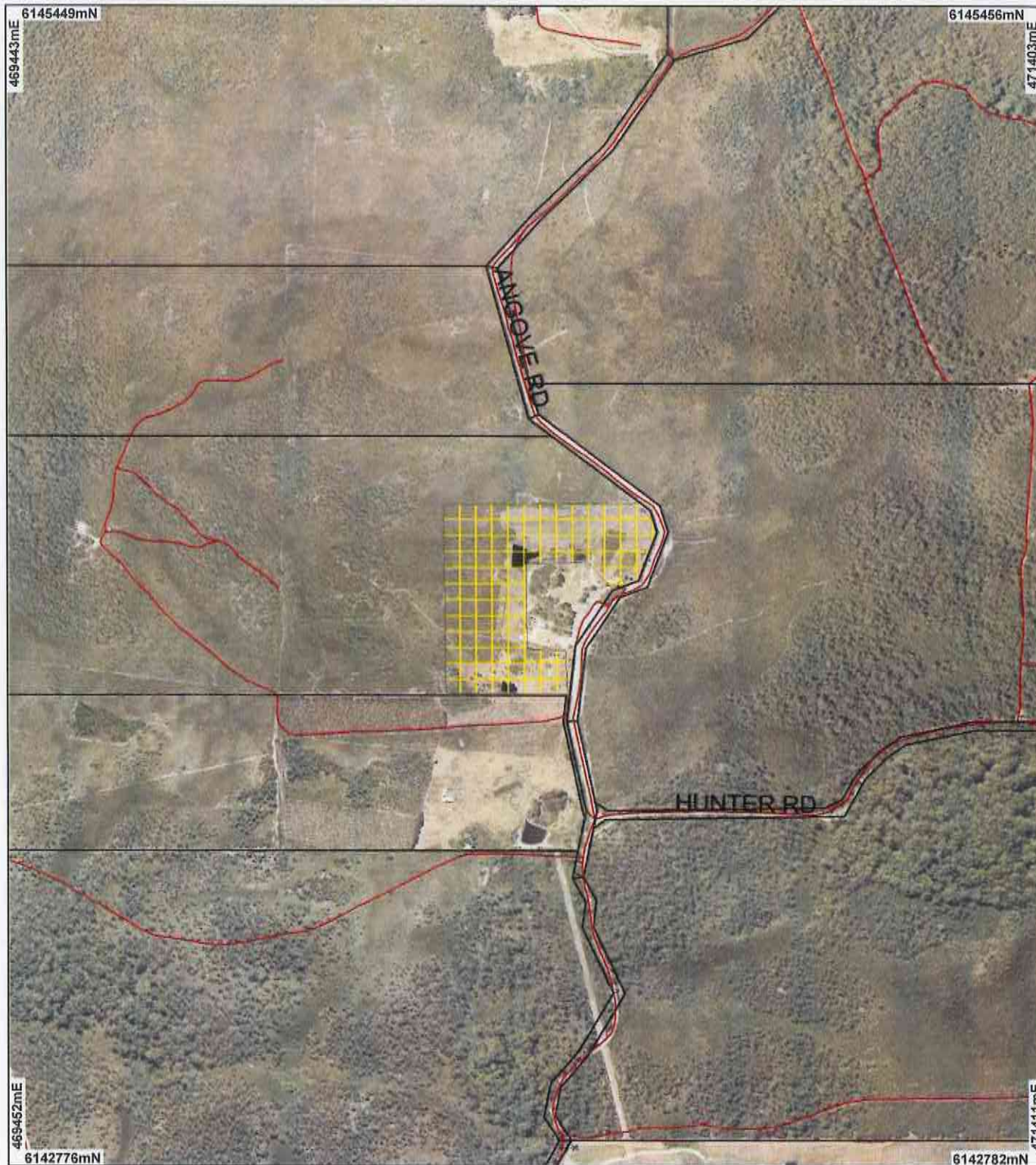
- (a) that is a declared pest under section 22 of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*; or
- (b) published in the Department of Environment and Conservation Regional Weed Assessments, regardless of ranking; or
- (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.

M Warnock  
MANAGER  
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

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

6 June 2013

# Plan 5553/1



## LEGEND

- Road Centrelines
- Areas Approved to Clear
- Cadastre

Deep River 50cm Orthomosaic  
- Landgate 2007



Scale 1:11720  
(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 Wamock* Date 6/6/13

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 is denoted by asterisk. This data has not been quality assured. Please contact map author for details.



## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 5553/1  
Permit type: Area Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: David Bowman Tapley

### 1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 5 ON DIAGRAM 92809 (House No. 380 ANGOVE NORTH WALPOLE 6398)  
Local Government Area: Shire of Manjimup  
Colloquial name:

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
10		Mechanical Removal	Grazing & Pasture

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant  
Decision Date: 6 June 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 3: Medium forest; jarrah-marri (Shepherd et al, 2001) Mattiske vegetation complex Quagering (Q): Mosaic of low open woodland of Eucalyptus marginata subsp. marginata-Banksia ilicifolia-Nuytsia floribunda and low open woodland of Eucalyptus patens-Melaleuca preissiana-Nuytsia floribunda on less undulating flats in hyperhumid and perhumid zones (Mattiske and Havel, 1998).	The application is to clear 10 hectares of native vegetation for the purpose of grazing and pasture. The vegetation under application is dominated by Tea tree, Bottle brush and exotic grasses and is in a degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition (DEC, 2013).	Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)	The condition of the vegetation under application was determined via a site inspection undertaken by the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC, 2013)

## 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 at variance to this Principle

The application is to clear 10 hectares of native vegetation for the purpose of grazing and pasture. The application area is approximately 18 kilometres north from the town site of Walpole. The vegetation under application is dominated by Tea tree, Bottle brush and exotic grasses on sandy soils (DEC, 2013). The vegetation under application consist of regrowth over a 4 to 20 year period and is considered to be in a degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition (DEC, 2013).

Several priority flora species have been recorded within 10 kilometres of the area under application. Of the mapped priority flora, no species have been recorded within the same soil or vegetation types as the applied area.

A Priority Ecological Community (PEC) referred to as *Reedia spathacea* - *Empodisma gracillimum* - *Sporadanthus rivularis* dominated floodplains and paluslope of the Blackwood plateau has been recorded approximately five kilometres away from the applied area.

The vegetation is dominated by Tea tree, Bottle brush and exotic grasses on sandy soils in a degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition (DEC, 2013) and is therefore not likely to contain priority flora or be representative of a PEC.

The application is not at variance to this principle.

The vegetation surrounding the property is undisturbed (DEC, 2013) and appears to be in an excellent (Keighery, 1994) condition. The proposed clearing may indirectly impact on the surrounding vegetation through the spread of weeds. Weed management practices will assist in mitigating the impacts.

**Methodology**   References  
- DEC, 2013  
- Keighery, 1994  
GIS Layers  
- SAC Bio Datasets (May 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 is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**  
There have been nine fauna species of conservation significance recorded within a 10 kilometre radius of the application area, including; Phascogale tapoatafa subsp. tapoatafa (Southern Brush-tailed Phascogale, Wambenger), Galaxiella munda (Western Mud Minnow), Geocrinia alba (White-bellied Frog) Calyptorhynchus banksii subsp. (Forest Red-tailed black cockatoo), Calyptorhynchus baudinii (Baudin's Cockatoo) and Calyptorhynchus latirostris (Carnaby's cockatoo) (DEC, 2007-).  
  
The vegetation under application is in a degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition (DEC, 2013) consisting of regrowth over a 4 to 20 year period. The area surrounding the application has approximately 85 percent of pre-European vegetation remaining in the local area (10 Kilometres).  
  
Considering the degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition (DEC, 2013) of the vegetation under application and the remaining vegetation in the local area, the application area is not likely to comprise of significant habitat for indigenous fauna to Western Australia.  
  
The application is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

**Methodology**   References  
- DEC, 2013  
- DEC, 2007-  
- Keighery, 1994

**(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**  
Rare flora species from the following genera; Reedia, Boronia and Grevillea have been recorded within 10 kilometres of the area under application. All of the recorded species have been mapped within different soil and vegetation types as the area under application. In addition, the vegetation consist predominately of Tea tree, Bottle brush regrowth in a degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition (DEC, 2013) and not likely to provide habitat for rare flora.  
  
The application is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

**Methodology**   References  
- DEC, 2013  
- Keighery, 1994  
GIS Layers  
- SAC Bio Datasets (May 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**  
There are no known threatened ecological communities within 10 kilometres of the area under application.  
  
Considering this the application is not likely to be at variance to this principle

**Methodology**   GIS Layers  
- SAC Bio Datasets (May 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 is not at variance to this Principle**  
 The vegetation under application is represented by Beard Vegetation Association 3 and Matiske Vegetation Complex Quagering which have 68 and 95 percent respectively of their pre-European vegetation remaining in the Jarrah Forest bioregion.

Both the mapped Beard vegetation association and Matiske vegetation complexes are above the threshold level of 30 percent recommended in the National Objectives Targets for Biodiversity Conservation, below which species loss appears to accelerate exponentially at an ecosystem level (Commonwealth of Australia 2001).

The application does not occur within an extensively cleared landscape with approximately 85 percent of vegetation remaining within a 10 kilometre radius of the area under application.

Given that the vegetation associations/complexes are well represented and that the proposed clearing does not occur within an extensively cleared landscape, the vegetation under application is not significant as a remnant.

The application is not at variance to this principle.

	Pre-European (ha)	Current Extent Remaining (ha)	Remaining (%)	Extent in DEC Managed Lands (%)
IBRA Bioregion Jarrah Forest	4,506,660	2,459,298	55	68
Shire Shire of Manjimup	697,369	586,906	84	94
Beard Vegetation Association in Bioregion 3	2,390,591	1,631,110	68	80
Matiske Vegetation Complex Quagering (Q)	14,958	14,276	95	92

**Methodology**      Reference:  
 - Commonwealth of Australia, 2001  
 - Government of Western Australia, 2013  
 GIS Databases:  
 - Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation  
 - NLWRA, Current Extent of Native Vegetation

**(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**  
 Approximately 50 percent of the area under application is within a mapped Palusplain seasonally waterlogged flat Augusta to Walpole Geomorphic Wetland. This wetland covers a total of 180.7 hectares.

Given the area under application is within a wetland, water dependent vegetation will be impacted upon.

The application is at variance to this principle.

**Methodology**      References:  
 - DEC, 2013  
 - Keighery, 1994  
 GIS Layers  
 - Augusta to Walpole Geomorphic Wetland

**(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 landform and soils under application can be described as poorly drained flats and very gentle slopes on sandy sediments and quartzite over deeply weathered mantle over granitic rocks in the forests between Fly Brook and Deep River. Pale deep sands, wet soils, semi wet soils and grey deep sandy duplexes (Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation, 2013)

The soils within the applied area have a very high risk of waterlogging however, the clearing as proposed is not likely to further increase this risk (Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation, 2013). Additionally, there is approximately 85 percent of vegetation within a 10 kilometre radius of the applied area. This remaining vegetation will act as a buffer to the cleared area preventing a further increase of waterlogging to the area (Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation, 2013).

The clearing as proposed is unlikely to cause land degradation in the form of increased salinity, eutrophication, wind and water erosion (Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation, 2013).

The application is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

**Methodology** References:  
Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation, 2013

**(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 is the Forest Grove National Park which is approximately 1.2 kilometres away from the applied area.

Approximately 85 percent of vegetation remains within 10 kilometres of the area under application, additionally the vegetation is not a stepping stone for fauna movement to the nearby national park. Considering this and the distance from the application area to the National Park, the clearing as proposed is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

**Methodology** GIS Layers  
- 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**

Approximately 50 percent of the area under application is within a mapped Palusplain seasonally waterlogged flat Augusta to Walpole Geomorphic Wetland.

The clearing as proposed may cause some short term localised surface water sedimentation that may impact upon the wetland however, these effects are likely to be minimal.

The application is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

**Methodology** GIS Layers  
- Augusta to Walpole Geomorphic Wetland

**(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 vegetation under application is in a degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition (2013) and is within a geomorphic Augusta to Walpole wetland. The soils within the applied area have a very high risk of waterlogging (Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation, 2013).

Given the application falls within a wetland it is likely that the proposed clearing will incrementally contribute towards waterlogging, however it is unlikely that it will increase or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding in the local area.

The application is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

**Methodology** References:  
- DEC, 2013  
- Keighery, 1994  
GIS Layers  
- Augusta to Walpole Geomorphic Wetland

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

**Comments**

The Shire of Manjimup (2013) advises that it has no objection to the application and that there are no planning or other matters which would affect the proposal.

A submission was received from the Walpole/Tingledale LCDC (2013) group who advise that the application area consists of tee tree regrowth on previously cleared land. Tee tree cultivation has been carried out over

the application area for future flower picking/harvesting. This has led to a large amount of re seeding to the applied area over the last 5-7 years. The venture has been unsuccessful and the owner would like to return the area back to pasture. The Walpole/Tingledale LCDC have no objection to a permit being granted.

The clearing under application falls within Deep River Water Reserve a priority not assigned Public Drinking Water Source Area. The Department of Water (DoW, 2013) generally does not support the clearing of wetland dependant vegetation. DoW acknowledges the application is within the Deep River Water Reserve and that the catchment is not an active water source. DoW has no objection to the clearing within the Deep River Water Reserve.

#### Methodology References

- Department of Water, 2013
- Shire of Manjimup, 2013
- Submission, 2013

## 4. References

- Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation Land degradation assessment report (2013). Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia. TRIM Ref DOCA633830.
- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.
- DEC (2013) Site Inspection Report for Clearing Permit Application CPS 5553/1, Lot 5 Angove Road, North Walpole. Site inspection undertaken 26 May 2013. Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (TRIM Ref. DOCA636613).
- Department of Water (2013). Advice received for clearing permit application CPS 5553/1 - Tapley (DEC Ref:A630039) 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.
- Mattiske, E.M. and Havel, J.J. (1998) Vegetation Complexes of the South-west Forest Region of Western Australia. Maps and report prepared as part of the Regional Forest Agreement, Western Australia for the Department of Conservation and Land Management and Environment 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 Manjimup (2013). Advice received for clearing permit application CPS 5553/1 - Tapley (DEC Ref:A630039).

## 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)