



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 5719/1
File Number: 2013/003796-1
Duration of Permit: 8 November 2013 to 8 November 2015

PERMIT HOLDER

Premium Custody Services Pty Ltd

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Lot 12 on Deposited Plan 30830 (Meerup 6262)

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 12.5 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 5719/1.

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;

weed/s 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 former Department of Environment and Conservation Regional Weed Assessments, regardless of ranking; or
- (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.

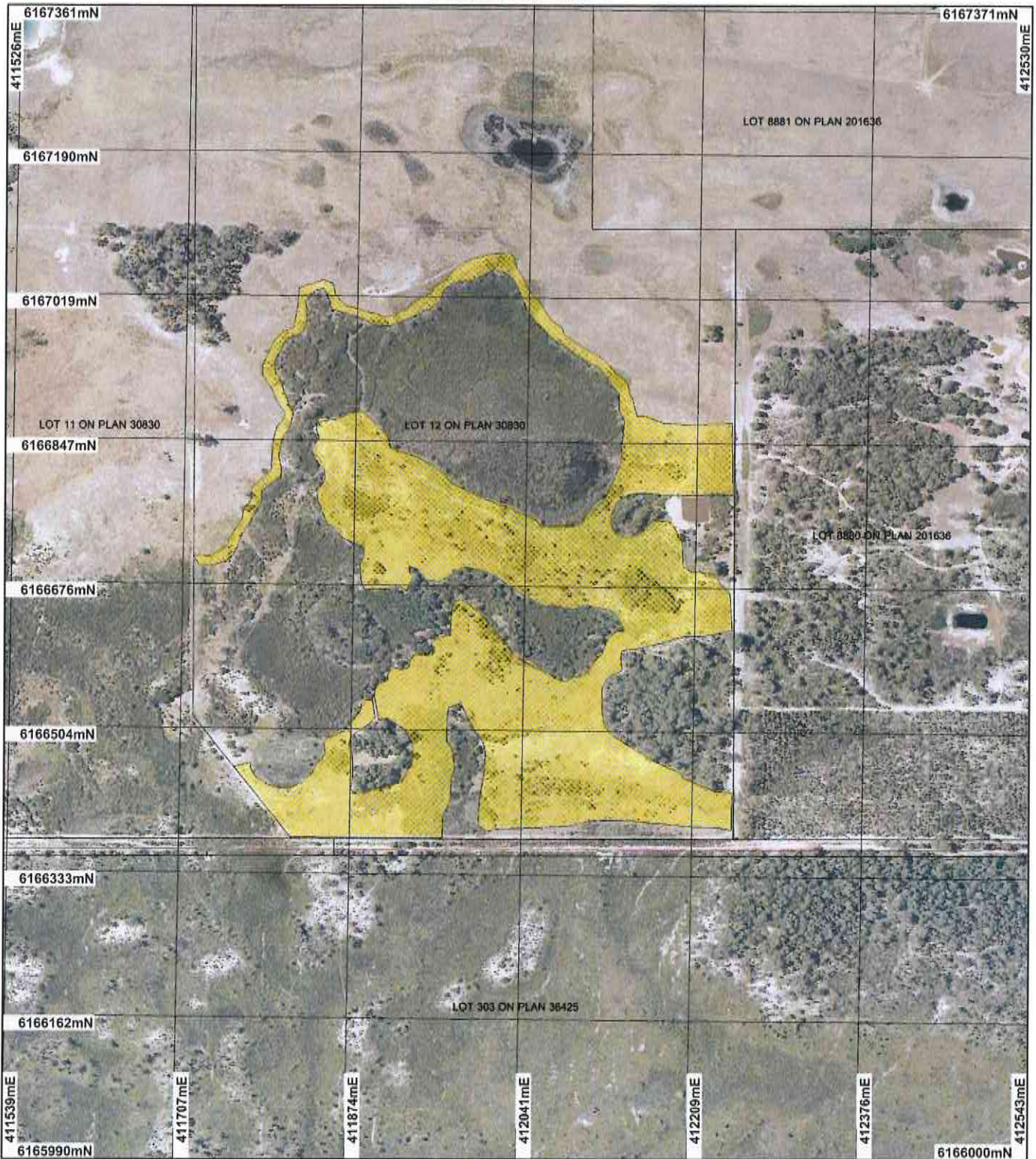
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M Warnock", written over a horizontal line.

M Warnock
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH





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

9 October 2013

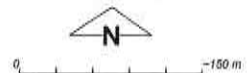
Plan 5719/1



LEGEND

-  Road Centrelines
-  Cadastre for labelling
-  Clearing Instruments
-  Areas Approved to Clear

Northcliffe 50cm Orthomosaic
- Landgate 2007



Scale 1:6000
(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 9/10/13
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.



Government of Western Australia
Department of Environment Regulation

WA Crown Copyright 2002



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 5719/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Premium Custody Services Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 12 ON PLAN 30830 (Lot No. 12 RICHARDSON MEERUP 6262)
Local Government Area: Shire of Manjimup
Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

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

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 9 October 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 23: Low woodland; jarrah-banksia (Shepherd et al, 2001)	The application is to clear 12.5 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 12 on Deposited Plan 30830, Meerup, for the purpose pasture.	Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery 1994)	The vegetation under application consists predominately of tea tree regrowth and been impacted upon from historical grazing with weed species within the applied area. The vegetation under application is considered to be in a completely degraded to good (Keighery, 1994) condition.
Mapped Beard vegetation association 3: Medium forest; jarrah-marri (Shepherd et al, 2001)		To	
Mattiske vegetation complex Blackwater (BWp): Mosaic of low open woodland of Melaleuca preissiana, low open woodland of Melaleuca cuticularis, open heath of Myrtaceae-Proteaceae spp. and sedgeland of Restionaceae spp. on low lying flats in hyperhumid and perhumid zones (Mattiske and Havel, 1998).		Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994)	The condition of the vegetation under application was obtained from aerial photography and photos provided from the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation, 2013.
Mattiske vegetation complex Collis 1 (Coy1): Tall open forest to woodland of Eucalyptus marginata subsp. marginata-Corymbia calophylla-Banksia grandis-Allocasuarina fraseriana on low hills and with Allocasuarina decussata on slopes in perhumid and humid zones (Mattiske and Havel, 1998).			

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 application is to clear 12.5 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 12 on Deposited Plan 30830, Meerup, for the purpose pasture.

The vegetation under application consists predominately of tea tree regrowth and is considered to be in a completely degraded to good (Keighery, 1994) condition. The application area has been subject to historical grazing, with weeds present within the clearing area.

Twelve fauna species listed as rare or likely to become extinct under the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950 have been recorded within ten kilometres of the area under application including *Calyptorhynchus banksii* subsp. *naso* (Forest Red-tailed black cockatoo), *Isodon obesulus* (Quenda), *Setonix brachyurus* (Quokka), *Nannatherina balstoni* (Balston's Pygmy Perch), *Ixobrychus minutus* (Little Bittern), *Galaxiella munda* (Western Mud Minnow) and *Galaxiella nigrostriata* (Black-stripe Minnow) (DPaW 2007-). Given the condition and that the vegetation consists predominately of tea tree regrowth, the vegetation proposed to be cleared is unlikely to contain significant habitat for fauna species indigenous to Western Australia.

Numerous priority flora species have been recorded within the local area (10 kilometre radius). Three priority flora species have been recorded within similar soil and vegetation types. Suitable habitat may occur within the application area for these priority flora species however given the area under application is considered to be in a completely degraded to good (Keighery 1994) condition, has been subject to grazing and contains predominately tea tree regrowth the area under application is not likely to support priority flora.

Given the above the clearing as proposed is not likely to comprise a high level of biological diversity and is therefore not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology

References:

- DPaW (2013)
- Keighery (1994)

GIS Database:

- SAC Bio Datasets August 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

Twelve fauna species listed as rare or likely to become extinct under the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950 have been recorded within ten kilometres of the area under application including *Calyptorhynchus banksii* subsp. *naso* (Forest Red-tailed black cockatoo), *Isodon obesulus* (Quenda), *Setonix brachyurus* (Quokka), *Nannatherina balstoni* (Balston's Pygmy Perch), *Ixobrychus minutus* (Little Bittern), *Galaxiella munda* (Western Mud Minnow) and *Galaxiella nigrostriata* (Black-stripe Minnow) (DPaW 2007-).

The vegetation under application is considered to be in a completely degraded to good (Keighery, 1994) condition consisting predominately of tea tree regrowth. Quenda may exist within the swampy areas on the property, however these areas are not included within the clearing application therefore it is unlikely the clearing as proposed will have a significant impact on this species.

Given the condition and that the vegetation consists predominately of tea tree regrowth, the vegetation proposed to be cleared is unlikely to contain significant habitat for fauna species indigenous to Western Australia.

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

Methodology

References

- DPaW (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

One record of a rare flora species (*Myriophyllum* sp) has been recorded within ten kilometres of the area under application. The closest record of this species is approximately 9.3 kilometres from the area under application on the same soil and Matiske Vegetation Complex (BWp) as the proposed clearing area.

Considering the distance of the recorded rare flora species to the clearing area and that the vegetation under application is regrowth and subject to historical grazing, it is unlikely the proposed clearing will impact on this rare flora species.

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

Methodology

GIS Database:

- Matiske Vegetation Complex
- SAC Bio Datasets August 2013
- Soils, 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 were no records of threatened ecological communities recorded within ten kilometres of the area under application.

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

Methodology GIS Database:
- SAC Bio Datasets August 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 area under application is represented by Beard vegetation associations 3 and 23 which have 79 and 72 per cent respectively of their pre-European vegetation remaining in the Warren IBRA Bioregion.

Mattiske vegetation complexes Blackwater and Collis 1 have also been mapped within the area under application and have 89 and 85 respectively of their pre-European vegetation remaining in the bioregion.

The National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation include a target that prevents the clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30 per cent of that present pre-European settlement (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001). All of the vegetation types located within the area under application are above the 30 per cent threshold.

Approximately 80 per cent of pre-European vegetation remains within 10 kilometres of the area under application, this includes large remnants within conservation areas in close proximity to the applied area.

The vegetation proposed to be cleared is in a completely degraded to good (Keighery 1994) condition and is not likely to comprise a high level of biological diversity and therefore is not likely to be a significant remnant. In addition the area under application is not located within an extensively cleared landscape.

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

	Pre-European (ha)	Current Extent (ha)	Remaining (%)	Extent in DEC Managed Lands (%)
IBRA Bioregion* Warren	833,985	664,435	79	84
Shire* Shire of Manjimup	697,369	586,906	84	93
Beard Vegetation Association in Bioregion*				
3	250,262.67	196,773	78	86
23	37,736.16	27,254	72	74
Mattiske Vegetation Complex **				
Blackwater (BWp)	32,296	28,807	89	79
Collis 1 (Coy1)	22,833	19,460	85	74

Methodology References
- Commonwealth of Australia (2001)
- Government of western Australia (2013)

GIS Databases:
- Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia
- Mattiske Vegetation Complex
- Pre European 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 may be variance to this Principle

A minor watercourse intersects the application area. The application area is mapped within two wetlands, the wetlands have been classified as a Sumpland (seasonally inundated basin) and Palusplain (seasonally waterlogged flat).

A site inspection undertaken by DPaW (2013) observed areas of inundation on the property.

The applicant has excluded areas of the wetlands that are densely vegetated, however some wetland

vegetation may occur within the area under application.

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

Methodology References:
- DPaW (2013)

GIS Databases:
- Geomorphic Wetlands, Augusta to Walpole
- 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**

Two landforms and soil types have been identified as occurring within the area under application. Blackwater podzols - Consisting of flat poorly plain with some linear dunes and granite domes on unconsolidated sediments on granite and siltstone. Soils are wet, semi-wet with pale deep sands (Commissioner of Soils and Land Conservation, 2013).

Collis yellow duplex - Low hills less than 20 metres high on deeply weathered mantle over granite rocks. Duplex sandy gravel, yellow-brown deep sandy duplex, loamy gravels, shallow gravels and stony soils (Commissioner of Soils and Land Conservation, 2013).

The area under application is well drained and is located on low sandy rises and ridges and therefore has a low risk of waterlogging. Some areas located within the property consist of very low areas, with a shallow water table present. The risk of waterlogging is highly likely in these low areas, especially during wetter months/years (Commissioner of Soils and Land Conservation, 2013). These areas prone to waterlogging are not located within the area under application.

The application area is relatively flat and therefore the clearing as proposed is unlikely to cause water erosion (Commissioner of Soils and Land Conservation, 2013). Wind erosion is unlikely to occur on the soil types present if the land used for livestock remains with a full pasture cover (Commissioner of Soils and Land Conservation, 2013).

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

Methodology References
- Commissioner of Soil 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 may be at variance to this Principle**

The southern border of the area under application adjoins onto the Boorara-Gardner National Park. The proposed clearing is unlikely to act as a corridor or linkage to facilitate the movement of fauna between areas of vegetation as large areas of remnant vegetation in an equal or better condition than the area under application will remain on the property. However, the clearing may impact the adjoining national park through the spread of weeds as an indirect consequence of the clearing. Weed management practices will help mitigate this risk.

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

Methodology GIS Database
- DEC Teunure

(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**

A minor watercourse intersects the application area. The application area is mapped within two wetlands, the wetlands have been classified as a Sumpland (seasonally inundated basin) and Palusplain (seasonally waterlogged flat).

A site inspection undertaken by DPaW (2013) observed areas of inundation within the property.

The risk of eutrophication is unlikely with the amount of clearing of native vegetation on the soil types present within the application and the intended land use, especially if the areas do not become waterlogged (Commissioner of Soils and Land Conservation, 2013).

Aerial imagery indicates that the applicant does not intend on clearing highly vegetated areas of the wetlands located within the property. Therefore surface water is not likely to be significantly impacted by the proposed

clearing. Any impacts area likely to be minimal and short term.

The clearing as proposed is not likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface water.

Groundwater salinity within the area under application is mapped at 500-1000 total dissolved solids mg/L which is considered 'marginal'. The clearing of vegetation predominately consisting of regrowth is not likely to impact upon ground water in the local area (10 kilometre radius).

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

- Methodology** **References**
- Commissioner of Soli Land Conservation (2013)
- GIS Databases:
- Geomorphic Wetlands, Augusta to Walpole
- Hydrology, linear

(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 located on low sandy rises and ridges and therefore has a low risk of waterlogging (Commissioner of Soils and Land Conservation, 2013).
- Therefore the clearing as proposed is not likely to cause or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding and therefore is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

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

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

- Comments**
The Shire of Manjimup (2013) has advised they have no objection to the proposed clearing and that there are no planning or other matters which would affect the proposal. The land is zoned by Local Planning Scheme No. 4 as 'General Agriculture' and planning approval for clearing of vegetation is not required.

- Methodology** **References:**
- Shire of Manjimup (2013)

4. References

Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2013); Land Degradation Advice and Assessment Report for clearing permit application CPS5719/1 received 24 September 2013; Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia (DER Ref: A677207).

Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.

DPaW (2007 -) NatureMap; Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Parks and Wildlife. URL: <http://naturemap.dec.wa.gov.au/>. Accessed August 2013

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) Application to Clear Native Vegetation - Lot 12 Richardson Road, Meerup 6262. Western Australia (DER Ref: A667806)

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
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