



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 5788/1
Permit Holder:	Department of Defence
Duration of Permit:	23 November 2013 – 23 November 2015

The Permit Holder is authorised to clear native vegetation subject to the following conditions of this Permit.

PART I – CLEARING AUTHORISED

1. Purpose for which clearing may be done

Clearing for the purpose of creating a safe parachute landing area.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Lot 13862 on Deposited Plan 160404 (Darkan)
Lot 13863 on Deposited Plan 160404 (Darkan)
Lot 13864 on Deposited Plan 122519 (Darkan)
Lot 9975 on Deposited Plan 233059 (Darkan)
Lot 9976 on Deposited Plan 233059 (Darkan)

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 181 native trees within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 5788/1.

4. Application

This Permit allows the Permit Holder to authorise persons, including employees, contractors and agents of the Permit Holder, to clear native vegetation for the purposes of this Permit subject to compliance with the conditions of this Permit and approval from the Permit Holder.

PART II – MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

5. Fauna management

- (a) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 5788/1 shall be inspected by a *fauna specialist* who shall identify *habitat tree(s)* suitable to be utilised as habitat by fauna listed in the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice*.
- (b) Within one week prior to clearing, *habitat tree(s)* located shall be inspected by a *fauna specialist* for the presence of fauna listed in the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice*.

- (c) Where fauna are identified under condition 5(b) of this Permit, the Permit Holder shall ensure that no taking of identified fauna occurs unless first approved by the CEO.

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

6. Records must be kept

The Permit Holder must maintain the following records in relation to fauna management pursuant to condition 5 of this Permit:

- (a) the location of each identified fauna species recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees; and
- (b) the species name of fauna observed utilising the *habitat tree(s)*.

7. Reporting

- (a) The Permit Holder must provide to the CEO on or before 30 June of each year, a written report:
- (i) of records required under condition 6 of this Permit; and
- (ii) concerning activities done by the Permit Holder under this Permit between 1 January to 31 December of the preceding calendar year.
- (b) If no clearing authorised under this Permit was undertaken between 1 January to 31 December of the preceding calendar, a written report confirming that no clearing under this permit has been carried out, must be provided to the CEO on or before 30 June of each year.
- (c) Prior to 23 August 2015, the Permit Holder must provide to the CEO a written report of records required under condition 6 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under condition 7(a) of this Permit.


DEFINITIONS

The following meanings are given to terms used in this Permit:

fauna specialist means a person with training and specific work experience in fauna identification or faunal assemblage surveys of Western Australian fauna;

habitat tree(s) means trees that have a diameter, measured at 1.5 metres from the base of the tree, of 50 centimetres or greater, that contains or has the potential to develop hollows or roosts suitable for native fauna; and

Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice means those fauna taxa gazetted as rare fauna pursuant to section 14(4)(a) of the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* (as amended).

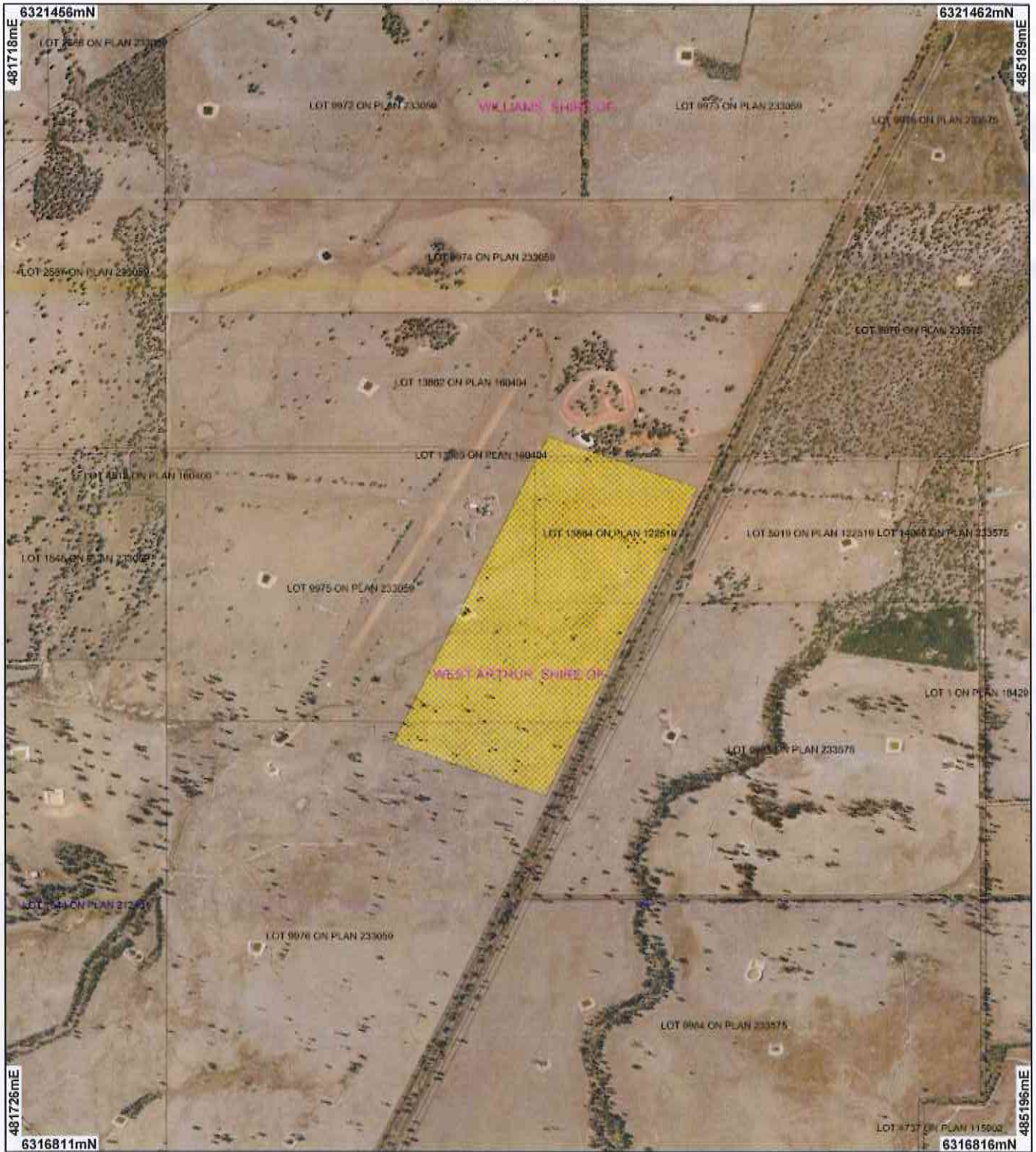


M Warnock
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

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

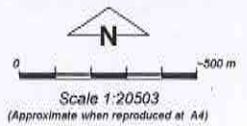
24 October 2013

Plan 5788/1



LEGEND

- Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas
- Local Government Authorities
- Cadastre for labelling
- Darkan 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2006
- Clearing Instruments
- Areas Approved to Clear



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 24/10/13
 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
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1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 5788/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Department of Defence

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 13864 ON PLAN 122519 (DARKAN 6392)
LOT 13863 ON PLAN 160404 (DARKAN 6392)
LOT 9976 ON PLAN 233059 (DARKAN 6392)
LOT 9975 ON PLAN 233059 (House No. 573 HILLMAN-DARDADINE DARKAN 6392)
LOT 13862 ON PLAN 160404 (DARKAN 6392)

Local Government Area: Shire of West Arthur
Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
	181	Mechanical Removal	Hazard reduction or fire control

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 24 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
The application area is mapped as Beard vegetation association 4 and is described as medium woodland; marri and wandoo (Shepherd et al 2001).	The application is to clear up to 181 native trees within Lots 13862 and 13863 on Plan 160404, Lots 9975 and 9976 on Plan 233059 and Lot 13864 on Plan 122519, Darkan, Shire of West Arthur, for the purpose of creating a safe parachute landing zone.	Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery 1994)	The properties under application do not contain any native understorey or ground cover, only paddock trees remain. The application area has been historically cleared and used for agricultural purposes. The vegetation under application is not representative of the original Beard vegetation association.

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

The application is to clear 181 native trees within a footprint of 74 hectares, on Lot 13862 and 13864 on Deposited Plan 160400, Lot 13863 on Deposited Plan 160404 and Lots 9975 and 9976 on Deposited Plan 233059, Darkan within the Shire of West Arthur, for the purpose of creating a safe parachute landing zone. The properties under application do not contain any native understorey or ground cover, only paddock trees remain. The application area has been historically cleared and used for agriculture purposes and is not representative of the original pre-European vegetation association (Shepherd *et al* 2001; DoD 2013a). The vegetation is considered to be in a completely degraded (Keighery 1994) condition.

There are numerous records of Carnaby's Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*; rare or likely to become extinct, Wildlife Conservation Act 1950 (WC Act); endangered, Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)), Forest red-tailed black-Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii* subsp. *Naso*; rare or likely to become extinct, WC Act; vulnerable, EPBC Act) and the Baudin's Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudinii*; rare or likely to become extinct, WC Act; vulnerable, EPBC Act) (DPaW 2007-) in the local area. These cockatoos nest in the hollows of large trees, generally within woodlands or forests but will also breed in isolated trees (Commonwealth of Australia 2012). Potential nesting trees are those with a minimum diameter, measured at 1.5 metres from the base of the tree, of 500 millimetres (Commonwealth of Australia 2012). There are several potentially hollow bearing Eucalyptus trees within the application area, which have the potential to provide nesting habitat for Carnaby's Cockatoos and Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoos.

Individually, the 181 trees proposed to be cleared do not represent or contain high biodiversity values.

However, collectively the trees represent approximately 1.8 hectares of potential Carnaby's and Forest red-tailed black Cockatoo breeding habitat. Fauna management practices will mitigate the potential impact to these species.

The area under application is located within an extensively cleared area of the Jarrah Forest Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) bioregion. This IBRA bioregion has approximately 55 per cent of its Pre European vegetation extent remaining (Government of Western Australia 2013). Vegetation remaining in the local area (20 kilometre radius) is at approximately 25 per cent where the mapped Beard Vegetation Association 4 under application retains approximately 28 per cent of its pre-European extent within the Jarrah Forest IBRA bioregion (Government of Western Australia 2013).

There are no rare or priority flora species or threatened ecological communities within 10 kilometres of the application area. Given the application area does not contain any native understorey or ground cover and only paddock trees remain, the proposed clearing will not impact upon significant habitat for rare or priority flora species, or threatened ecological communities.

Given the relatively small, degraded area under application the proposed clearing will not impact on conservation areas, cause or exacerbate land degradation or flooding, or impact on water quality.

The proposed clearing may be at variance to Principles (b) and (e) and is not at variance to the remaining clearing Principles.

Methodology

References

- DoD (2013a)
- Commonwealth of Australia (2001)
- Commonwealth of Australia (2012)
- Keighery (1994)
- Government of Western Australia (2013)

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

Comments

There have been no public submissions received for the proposed clearing.

The application is to clear 181 native trees within a footprint of 74 hectares, on Lot 13862 and 13864 on Deposited Plan 160400, Lot 13863 on Deposited Plan 160404 and Lots 9975 and 9976 on Deposited Plan 233059, Darkan within the Shire of West Arthur, for the purpose of creating a safe parachute landing zone. The applicant has advised that the Department of Defence (DoD) is in the process of introducing a new parachute into service and as a safety requirement the existing drop zone needs to be extended. The training required for the new parachutes involves additional aircrafts and crews allocated from Royal Australian Air Force to support the training. The applicant has advised there is urgency with the clearing as training is scheduled for 6 November 2013 and cannot be altered, otherwise it may have flow on effects to the training schedule across DoD (DoD 2013b).

The application area is zoned rural under the Local Town Planning Scheme.

Methodology

References

Department of Defence (2013b)

GIS Databases

-Town Planning Scheme Zones

4. References

- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.
- Commonwealth of Australia (2012) EPBC Act referral guidelines for three threatened black cockatoo species, Canberra.
- DoD (2013a) Application for Clearing Permit CPS 5788/1. Department of Defence (DER Ref: A668290).
- DoD(2013b). Re: Clearing Permit Application - Department of Defence CPS 5788/1(DER Ref: A667706).
- DPaW (2007-) Department of Parks and Wildlife. Fauna Habitat Notes.xls. February 2007. Department of Parks and Wildlife, 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.

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)