GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS
Area Permit Number: 5831/1
File Number: DER 2013/000874 -1
Duration of Permit: 29 March 2014 to 29 March 2016

PERMIT HOLDER
Barry William Bell

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE
Lot 1362 on Deposited Plan 114679 (Capel 6271)
Lot 2187 on Deposited Plan 126326 (Capel 6271)

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY
The Permit Holder is authorised to clear 38 dead native trees only within the area cross hatched yellow on attached Plan 5831/1.

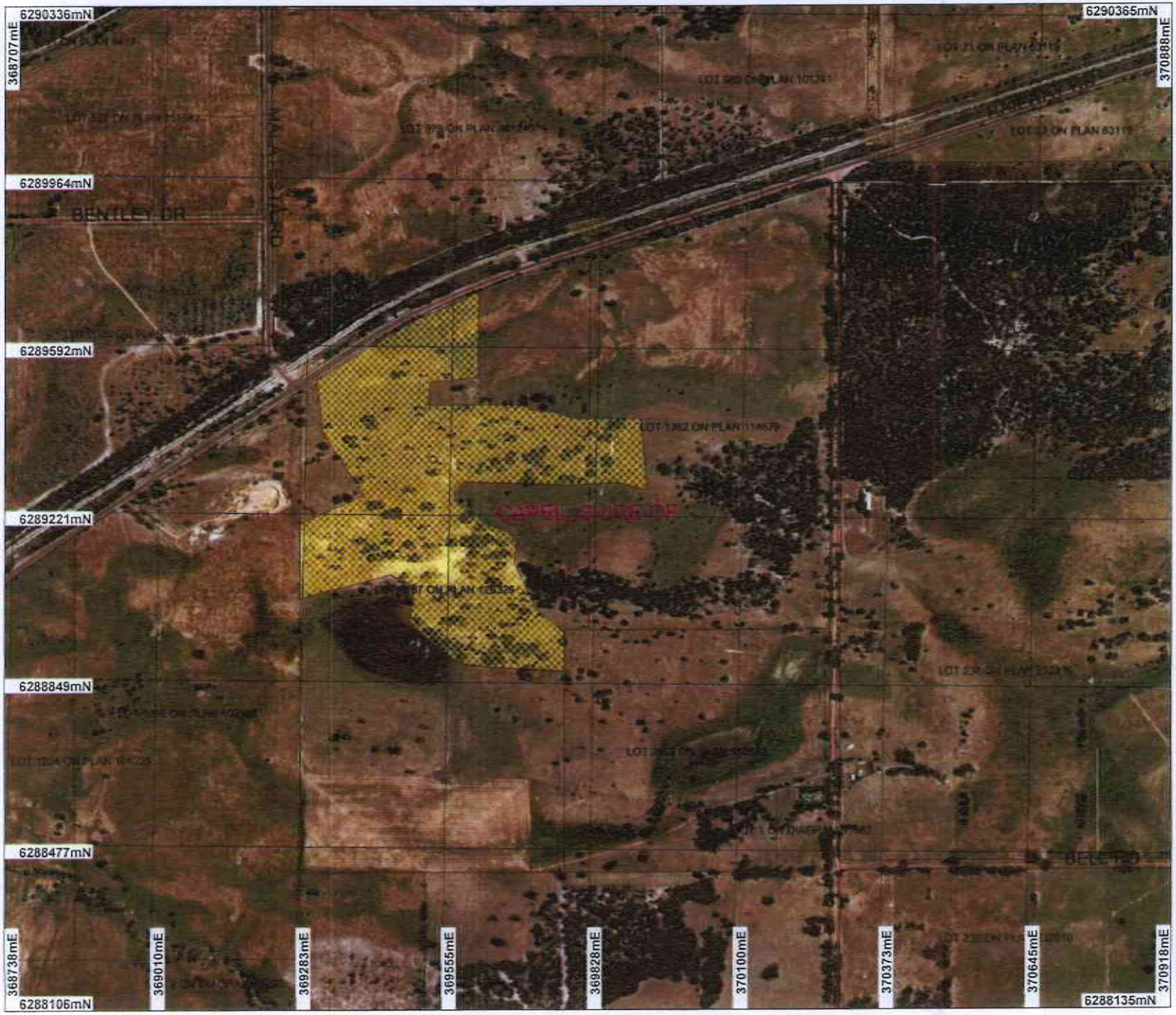
CONDITIONS
Nil.

M Warnock
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

Officer delegated under Section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

27 February 2014

Plan 5831/1



LEGEND

- Road Centrelines
- Cadastre
- Local Government
- Clearing Instrument
- Areas Approved to Clear

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

N

0 ~300 m

Scale 1:10627
(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.

27/2/14
Date

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

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Clearing Permit Decision Report

Government of Western Australia
Department of Environment Regulation

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 5831/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: **Barry William Bell**

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 1362 ON PLAN 114679 (CAPEL 6271)
LOT 2187 ON PLAN 126326 (CAPEL 6271)
Local Government Area: Shire of Capel

1.4. Application

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

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 27 February 2014

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 1000 is described as medium forest comprised of jarrah and marri, low woodland of banksia and low forest of teatree (Melaleuca sp.) (Shepherd et al, 2001).	The proposed clearing consists of 38 native trees within Lot 1362 on Deposited Plan 114679 and Lot 2187 on Deposited Plan 126326, Capel, for the purpose of grazing and pasture.	Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery 1994)	The amended application area has been parkland cleared and is comprised of dead Eucalyptus marginata (Jarrah) and Corymbia calophylla (Marri) over pasture grasses with evidence of previous grazing. The condition and description of the vegetation was determined via a site inspection (DER, 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 likely to be at variance to this Principle

The amended area of proposed clearing consists of 38 dead native trees within Lot 1362 on Deposited Plan 114679 and Lot 2187 on Deposited Plan 126326, Capel, for the purpose of grazing and pasture. The vegetation under application is in a completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition (DER, 2013).

The application area has been parkland cleared and the vegetation under application is largely comprised of dead Eucalyptus marginata (Jarrah) and Corymbia calophylla (Marri) over pasture grasses with evidence of previous grazing (DER, 2013).

Several species of rare and priority flora have been mapped in the local area (10 kilometre radius), however given the completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the vegetation on site (DER, 2013) and the lack of native groundcover, it is unlikely that the application area includes rare or priority flora species.

There are no threatened or priority ecological communities mapped within the local area (10 kilometre radius).

The proponent has amended the application area to include only dead vegetation and avoid several large healthy Agonis flexuosa which provide suitable habitat for western ringtail possums (Pseudocheirus occidentalis). The amended application area also excludes several large trees with hollows, to minimise potential impacts to Calyptorhynchus banksii subsp. naso (forest red-tailed black-cockatoo), Calyptorhynchus baudinii (Baudin's cockatoo), Calyptorhynchus latirostris (Carnaby's cockatoo) and Phascogale tapoatafa subsp. tapoatafa (southern brush-tailed phascogale) (DER, 2013), all listed as 'rare or likely to become extinct' under the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950.

There is approximately 20 per cent native vegetation remaining in the local area of the proposed clearing (10 kilometre radius).

Given that the application area has been parkland cleared and is devoid of native understorey species, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology References:
-Keighery (1994)
-DER (2013)

GIS Databases:
-SAC Bio Datasets (Accessed December 2013)
-NLWRA, Extent of Native Vegetation

(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**
Several fauna species of conservation significance have been recorded in the local area (10 kilometre radius) including, Calyptorhynchus banksii subsp. naso (forest red-tailed black-cockatoo), Calyptorhynchus baudinii (Baudin's cockatoo), Calyptorhynchus latirostris (Carnaby's cockatoo), Phascogale tapoatafa subsp. tapoatafa (southern brush-tailed phascogale) and Pseudocheirus occidentalis (western ringtail possum) (DEC, 2007 -).

A site inspection of the application area (DER, 2013) revealed the presence of several large Agonis flexuosa, which are a preferred habitat for western ringtail possums (WRP's). A previous site inspection undertaken in 2009 identified WRP scats around several large Agonis flexuosa located in the southern portion of the application area (DEC, 2009). The proponent has amended the application area to exclude large healthy Agonis flexuosa. Therefore, it is not likely that the proposed clearing will impact on significant habitat for WRP's.

The application area is situated within a Carnaby's cockatoo confirmed breeding area and there are several large jarrah and marri trees on site with hollows that may be large enough to provide breeding habitat for all three of the aforementioned species of black cockatoo. The proponent has amended the application area to reduce impacts to black cockatoo's via the exclusion of several large trees with hollows.

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

Methodology References:
-DEC (2009)
-DER (2013)
-DEC(2007-)

(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**
Several species of rare and priority flora have been mapped in the local area (10 kilometre radius), the closest of which occurs approximately 900 metres south west of the application area. This species is a tuberous perennial herb, with a preference for grey sand in low lying situations adjoining winter wet swamps (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-).

Given the completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the vegetation on site (DER, 2013) and the lack of native groundcover, it is unlikely that the application area includes this species.

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

Methodology References:
-Western Australian Herbarium (1998-)

GIS Databases:
-SAC Bio Datasets (Accessed December 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 at variance to this Principle**
The closest threatened ecological community (TEC) to the application area is located one kilometre north east and is known as 'Shrublands on dry clay flats'. The vegetation under application is not representative of this TEC.

The proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology GIS Databases:
-SAC Bio Datasets (Accessed December 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 likely to be at variance to this Principle

There is approximately 20 per cent native vegetation remaining in the local area of the proposed clearing (10 kilometre radius).

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).

The Swan Coastal Plain, Shire of Capel and mapped Beard Vegetation Association (1000) retain approximately 39, 34, and 27 per cent pre-European vegetation remaining respectively (Government of Western Australia, 2013).

The vegetation remaining in the local area and Beard Vegetation Association 1000 are both below the 30 percent threshold, however given that the amended application area has been parkland cleared, includes dead vegetation and excludes trees with large hollows, it is not likely that the vegetation under application represents a significant remnant.

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

	Pre-European (ha)	Current Extent (ha)	Remaining (%)	Extent in DEC Managed Lands (%)
IBRA Bioregion*				
Swan Coastal Plain	1,501,222	587,709	39	35
Shire*				
Shire of Capel	55,945	19,122	34	44
Beard Vegetation Association				
1000	94,175	25,093	27	17

Government of Western Australia (2013)*

Methodology References:
-Commonwealth of Australia (2001)
-Government of Western Australia (2013)

GIS Databases:
-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

A multiple use palusplain is mapped over approximately 50 per cent of the application area. One flora species (Melaleuca preissiana) which commonly grows in association with watercourses and wetlands occurs within the eastern extent of the application area (DER, 2013).

The proposed clearing is unlikely to significantly impact the remaining environmental values of this wetland, however given the above, the proposed clearing is at variance to this Principle

Methodology References:
-DER (2013)

GIS Databases:
-Geomorphic Wetlands, Statewide
-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 soils within the application area have been mapped by Northcote et al (1960-68) as leached sands, sometimes with a clay D horizon below 5 ft, on the dunes and sandy swamps. Associated are various soils in the clayey swamps.

Sandy soils are prone to wind erosion, however given the small area and completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the vegetation under application, it is unlikely that wind erosion resulting in appreciable land degradation will occur.

Sandy and gravely soils are highly permeable, therefore water erosion resulting from the proposed clearing is unlikely.

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

Methodology

References:
-Northcote et al (1960-1968)

GIS Databases:
-SAC Bio Datasets (Accessed December 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 area to the proposed clearing is an un-named Nature Reserve located approximately two kilometres south west of the application area. Tuart Forest National Park is located approximately 4.9 kilometres west of the application area.

The vegetation under application is unlikely to impact upon the environmental values of the abovementioned conservation areas, however it does form part of an ecological linkage identified in the South West Regional Ecological Linkage project. It is therefore likely to assist in creating a stepping stone between areas of high quality vegetation.

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

Methodology

GIS Databases:
-SWREL-AL
-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

A multiple use palusplain is mapped over approximately 50 per cent of the application area. Given that the application area has been parkland cleared and contains no native undertsorey, it is unlikely that the proposed clearing will cause deterioration in the quality of the surface water associated with this wetland.

Groundwater salinity on site is mapped at 500 to 1000 milligrams per litre (marginal). Given this low salinity level it is not likely that the proposed clearing will lead to a perceptible rise in the watertable and thus an increase in groundwater salinity levels.

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

Methodology

GIS Databases:
-Groundwater Salinity, Statewide
-Geomorphic Wetlands, Statewide
-Hydrography, linear
-Hydrography, hierachy

(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 at variance to this Principle

Given the small size of the application area and completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the vegetation under application (DER, 2013), the proposed clearing will not cause or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding.

The proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology References:
-DER (2013)
-Keighery (1994)

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

Comments

The proposed clearing consists of 38 native trees within Lot 1362 on Deposited Plan 114679 and Lot 2187 on Deposited Plan 126326, Capel, for the purpose of grazing and pasture. The proponent has advised that large healthy trees will be retained on site.

The proponent has amended the application to exclude all living trees and several trees containing large hollows.

A permit to clear 40 trees within Lot 2187 (including a portion of the application area) was granted to the proponent in March 2010 (CPS 3488/1). The proponent initially applied to clear 45 trees, many of which are included within the current area under application, however was advised that several of the trees had significant value as fauna habitat for western ringtail possums and a revised clearing area was negotiated. The proponent did not clear under clearing permit CPS 3488/1, therefore the proponent has submitted another application to clear.

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

No public submissions have been received for the proposed clearing.

The Capel Land Conservation District Committee has advised that it does not object to the proposed clearing, provided that the applicant plants a similar number of trees of the same species in an adjoining area (Capel LCDC, 2013).

Methodology References:
-Capel LCDC (2013)

GIS Databases:
-Town Planning Scheme Zones

4. References

Capel LCDC (2013) Submission for Clearing Permit Application CPS 5831/1. Capel Land Conservation District Committee. DER Ref A702241.

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

DEC (2009) Site Inspection Report for Clearing Permit Application CPS 3488/1. Site inspection undertaken 19/01/2010. Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (TRIM Ref. DOC116576).

DER (2013) Site Inspection Report for Clearing Permit Application CPS 5831/1. Site inspection undertaken 22/11/2013. Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia (DER Ref A702159).

DPaW (2007 -) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Parks and Wildlife. URL: http://naturemap.dpaw.wa.gov.au/. Accessed December 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.

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.

Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) FloraBase - The Western Australian Flora. Department of Parks and Wildlife. http://florabase.dec.wa.gov.au/ (Accessed October 2013).