



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 5895/1
File Number: DER2013/001205-1
Duration of Permit: From 15 March 2014 to 15 March 2016

PERMIT HOLDER

Justin Thomas Griffiths

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Lot 12153 on Deposited Plan 206303 Karri Hill Road, Crowea

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 16 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 5895/1.

CONDITIONS

1. Vegetation management

The Permit Holder shall not clear native vegetation within 30 metres of the *riparian vegetation* of any *watercourse* or *wetland* within and/or adjacent to the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 5895/1.

2. Fauna management

The Permit Holder shall not clear *habitat trees* within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 5895/1.

3. Dieback and 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* and *dieback*:

- clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
- ensure that no *dieback* or weed-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill* or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and
- 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:

dieback means the effect of *Phytophthora* species on native vegetation;

fill means material used to increase the ground level, or fill a hollow;

habitat tree 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;

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; and

weed/s means any plant -

- that is a declared pest under section 22 of the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007; or
- published in a Department of Parks and Wildlife Regional Weed Summary, regardless of ranking; or
- not indigenous to the area concerned.

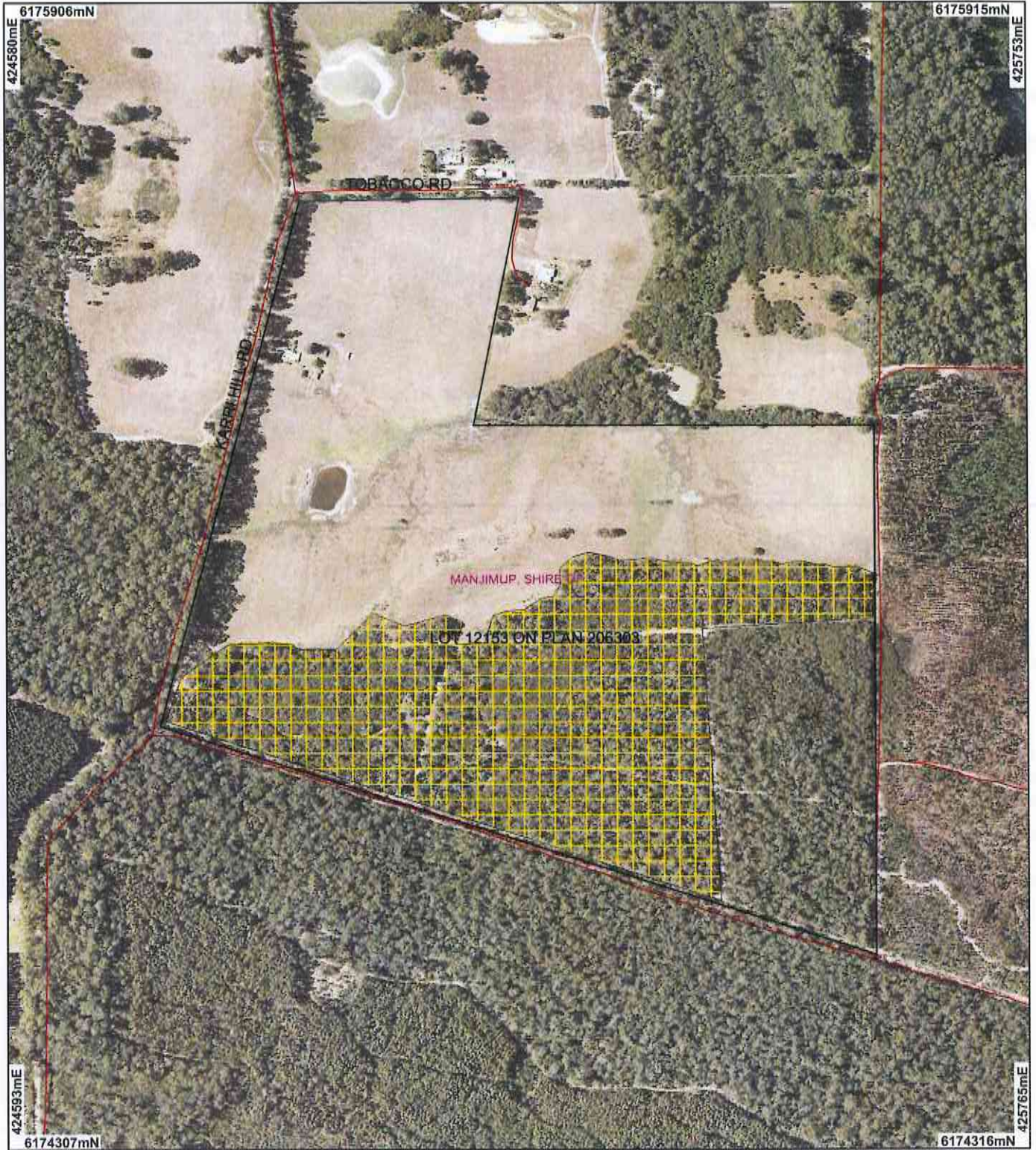
A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "M Warnock".

M Warnock
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

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

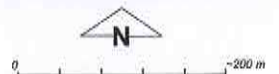
13 February 2014

Plan 5895/1



LEGEND

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Northcliffe 50cm Orthomosaic
- Landgate 2007 | Road Centrelines |
| Clearing Instruments | Cadastre |
| Areas Approved to Clear | Local Government
Authorities |



Scale 1:7000
(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 13/2/14

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



Clearing Permit Decision Report

Government of Western Australia
Department of Environment Regulation

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 5895/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Justin Thomas Griffiths

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 12153 ON PLAN 206303 (House No. 200 KARRI HILL CROWEA 6262)
Local Government Area: Shire of Manjimup
Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

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

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 13 February 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; Eucalyptus marginata (Jarrah) - Corymbia calophylla (Marri) and Beard vegetation association 1144: Tall forest; karri & marri (Corymbia calophylla) (Shepherd et al, 2001)	The clearing consists of 16ha of understorey vegetation for the purposes of establishing pasture and fire hazard reduction.	Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994)	The vegetation condition is based on aerial photography and site photographs taken 4 December 2013 (Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation 2013).

Mapped Mattiske vegetation complex Angove (A): Open forest of Eucalyptus marginata subsp. marginata-Banksia ilicifolia-Nuytsia floribunda with some Eucalyptus diversicolor on gently sloping sandy terrain in hyperhumid and perhumid zones, and Mattiske vegetation complex Crowea (Cry): Tall open forest of Corymbia calophylla with mixture of Eucalyptus marginata subsp. marginata and Eucalyptus diversicolor on uplands in hyperhumid and perhumid 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 may be at variance to this Principle

The proposal is to parkland clear up to 16 hectares of native vegetation on Lot 12153 for the purpose of pasture and to reduce fire danger. The area under application is in good (Keighery, 1994) condition being impacted by historical clearing and grazing.

Within the local area (10 kilometre radius) there are records for seven priority flora species. A number of these species occur within riparian areas associated with watercourses. A buffer of 30 metres to riparian vegetation will limit the impact of the potential habitat for priority flora.

Also within the local area, 67 species of non-conservation fauna taxon have been recorded. Several species of conservation significant fauna have been recorded in the local area and suitable habitat may be present on the

property for *Dasyurus geoffroi* (Chuditch, Western Quoll), *Pseudocheirus occidentalis* (Western Ringtail Possum) and *Setonix brachyurus* (Quokka). The proposed clearing will not include riparian vegetation however it will fragment connectivity between the riparian areas, limiting movement for these species and increasing potential for predation.

There are no Priority Ecological Communities (PEC) recorded in the local area.

Given the occurrence of priority flora and high fauna diversity in the local area, the clearing may be at variance to this principle.

Methodology Reference
- Keighery (1994)

GIS database
- SAC Biodatasets (accessed December 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**

Seven conservation significant fauna species have been recorded in the local area (10 kilometres radius) including:

Calyptorhynchus banksii subsp. *naso* (Forest Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo)
Calyptorhynchus baudinii (Baudin's Cockatoo (long-billed black-cockatoo)
Calyptorhynchus latirostris (Carnaby's Cockatoo (short-billed black-cockatoo)
Dasyurus geoffroi (Chuditch, Western Quoll)
Galaxiella munda (Western Mud Minnow)
Pseudocheirus occidentalis (Western Ringtail Possum)
Setonix brachyurus (Quokka)

The vegetation under application is predominantly tea tree and regrowth jarrah and marri in good (Keighery 1994) condition and may provide suitable habitat for significant fauna species including Quokka, which prefer dense riparian vegetation around watercourses and swamps. The proposed clearing will not include riparian vegetation however it will fragment connectivity between the riparian areas, limiting movement for these species and increasing potential for predation.

The vegetation has been subject to previous agricultural clearing and grazing however forms part of a significant fauna habitat that extends south to the Jane National Park.

Clearing will involve the removal of understorey vegetation resulting in a loss of habitat for ground dwelling fauna. The proponent intention is to parkland clear the application, leaving large habitat trees. The requirement to retain habitat trees will minimise impacts to avian fauna.

Given the vegetation is part of a significant fauna habitat, the clearing may be at variance to this principle.

Methodology Reference
- DEC (2007 -)

GIS Database
- SAC Biodatasets (accessed December 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**

Within the local area (10 kilometres radius), rare flora is known to occur within the margins of watercourses and inundated areas in low heath of tea tree and twine rushes.

A 30 metre vegetated buffer from riparian vegetation will ensure adequate protection of riparian vegetation and the potential rare flora habitat.

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

Methodology GIS Database
- SAC Biodatasets (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 likely to be at variance to this Principle

There are no known records of Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) within 10 kilometres of the area under application. Given the distance to the closest TEC, it is not considered likely that the vegetation under application comprises or is necessary for the maintenance of a TEC.

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

Methodology GIS Database
- SAC Biodatasets (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

The vegetation under application is described as Beard vegetation association 3 (45% of application area) and 1144 (55% of the application area), which there is 78% and 80% of pre-European extent remaining respectively (Government of Western Australia 2013). The vegetation under application is also mapped as Mattiske Vegetation Complexes Angove and Crowea, which there is 89% and 74% of pre-European vegetation extent remaining respectively (Mattiske and Havel1998).

The vegetation associations/complexes all retain more than the threshold level (30%) for pre-1750 vegetation remaining recommended in the National Objectives Targets for Biodiversity Conservation, below which species loss appears to accelerate exponentially at an ecosystem level (Commonwealth of Western Australia 2001). In addition, there is 84% of pre-1750 vegetation remaining in the Shire of Manjimup and approximately 80% remaining in the local area (10 kilometre radius).

Given the extent of vegetation remaining in the Shire and bioregion and the high representation of the vegetation types, the local area is not considered to be extensively cleared and the vegetation under application is not considered to be significant. Therefore, the clearing as proposed is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

	Pre-European (ha)	Current Extent Remaining (ha)	(%)
IBRA Bioregion			
Warren	833,985	663,202	79
Shire			
Shire of Manjimup	697,368	586,905	84
Beard Vegetation Association in Bioregion*			
3	250,262	196,094	78
1144	159,668	128,224	80
Mattiske Vegetation Association**			
Angove	39,698	35,683	89
Crowea	33,764	25,111	74

*Government of Western Australia (2013)

**Mattiske and Havel (1998)

Methodology References:
- Commonwealth of Western Australia (2001)
- Government of Western Australia (2013)
- Mattiske and Havel(1998)

GIS Database:
- Pre-European Vegetation
- Mattiske Vegetation
- IBRA WA (Regions - Sub Regions)

(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 not likely to be at variance to this Principle

Two first order perennial watercourses are present within the application area and flow north into the Warren River. The proposed clearing will leave a buffer either side of the watercourses. The Department of Water (2013) recommends the buffer to riparian vegetation to be a minimum of 30 metres in width.

Given that clearing will not involve riparian vegetation, the proposal is not likely to be at variance to the Principle.

Methodology References:
- DoW (2013)

(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 mapped soil type is Wd8, which is described as gently undulating drainage divides developed on quartzite with the chief soils being sandy yellow mottled soils with leached sands, sometimes associated with ironstone gravelly (Northcote et al 1960-8).

The risk of wind erosion or water erosion causing land degradation is low. The risk of salinity causing land degradation is also low (Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation 2013).

These soils have a very high risk of waterlogging most likely associated with watercourses (Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation 2013). Given that clearing will avoid existing watercourses and a buffer will remain, the risk of waterlogging causing land degradation is low.

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

Methodology References:
- Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2013)
- Northcote (1960 - 1968)

GIS Database:
- 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 may be at variance to this Principle

Directly south of the area to be cleared is the Warren State Forest, vested with the Conservation Commission of Western Australia. Approximately one kilometre further south is the Jane National Park.

The proposed clearing may indirectly impact on the environmental values of the adjoining conservation reserve through the spread of weed species and dieback. Weed and dieback management practices, requiring earth-moving machinery to be clean of soil and vegetation prior to entering the site, may reduce these impacts.

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

Methodology GIS Database:
- DPaW 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

Two first order perennial watercourses are present within the application area and flow north into the Warren River. The Warren River catchment is proclaimed under the Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947 to prevent salinisation of water resources. The Department of Water (DoW) advises that the property is located in Zone D, a low salinity risk part of the catchment. Clearing will reduce the area of native vegetation on the property to approximately 19% which is within DoW policy and guidelines for the catchment (DoW 2013).

A buffer will be left to the watercourses present in the southern portion of the property, minimising the potential for erosion and turbidity to affect water quality.

Provided a 30 metre vegetated buffer from riparian vegetation is protected, the clearing is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology References:

DoW (2013)

GIS database

- Groundwater Salinity Statewide
- Hydrographic catchments, catchments
- Hydrography, 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

Clearing of vegetation is unlikely to substantially increase surface runoff or contribute to localised flooding (Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation 2013).

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

Methodology Reference:
Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2013)

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

Comments

The application is to parkland clear 16 hectares of native vegetation for the purpose of pasture and fire hazard reduction. The property is zoned Priority Agriculture under the Shire of Manjimup Local Planning Scheme No 4.

No public submissions have been received.

The property is located within the Warren River and Tributaries Surface Water Area, proclaimed under the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914.

Compensation for injurious affection due to clearing prohibition at this property has not been paid under the Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947 (DoW 2013).

Methodology References:
DoW (2013)

4. References

- Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2013); Land Degradation Advice and Assessment Report for clearing permit application CPS 5895/1 received 16/12/2013; Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia (DER Ref A706203).
- DEC (2007 -) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Environment and Conservation. URL: <http://naturemap.dec.wa.gov.au/>.
- Department of Water (2013); Advice for clearing permit application CPS 5895/1 received 6/12/2013, Department of Water (DER Ref. A702399).
- 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.
- 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.
- Water and Rivers Commission (1996) Policy and Guidelines: Granting of Licences to Clear Indigenous Vegetation in Catchments Subject to Clearing Control Legislation. Water and Rivers Commission, Western Australia.