



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 5995/1
File Number: 2014/000060-1
Duration of Permit: From 17 May 2014 to 17 May 2016

PERMIT HOLDER

Robert John Clare
Dennis Percy Clare

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Lot 21 on Deposited Plan 63605

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 2.91 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 5995/1.

CONDITIONS

Nil.

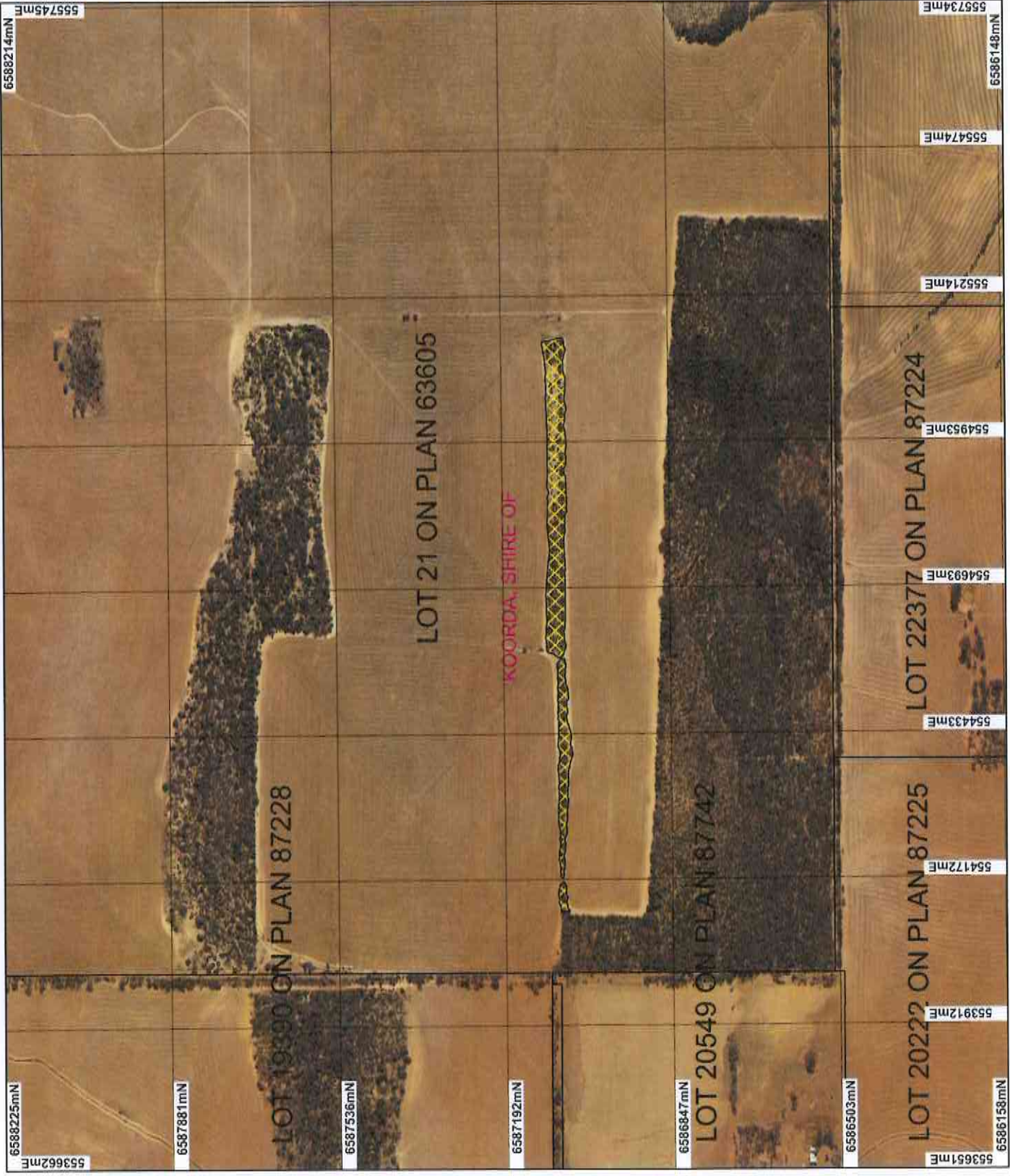
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane Clarkson', written over a horizontal line.

Jane Clarkson
A/MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

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

17 April 2014

Plan 5995/1



LEGEND

- Cadastral
 - Local Government Authorities
 - Clearing Instruments
 - Areas Approved to Clear
- Bencubbin 2436 Feb 2011 Mosaic

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



Scale 1:10000
 (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.

J. Clarkson Date 17.4.14

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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Clearing Permit Decision Report

Government of Western Australia
Department of Environment Regulation

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 5995/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Robert John and Dennis Percy Clare

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 21 ON PLAN 63605 (Lot No. 21 EAST BOUNDARY DUKIN 6475)
Local Government Area: Shire of Koorda

1.4. Application

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

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 17 April 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
The vegetation under application is mapped as Beard vegetation association 1024 which is described as Shrublands, mallee and casuarina thicket (Shepherd et al, 2001).	To clear 2.91 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 21 on deposited plan 63605, Dukin, within the Shire of Koorda, for the purpose of improving management of water and wind erosion.	Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994).	The condition of the vegetation under application was determined via aerial imagery and a site inspection undertaken by the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2014).

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 up to 2.91 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 21 on deposited plan 63605, Dukin, within the Shire of Koorda, for the purpose of improving management of water and wind erosion.

A site inspection undertaken by the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2014) noted that the vegetation under application has been accessible to livestock and consistently grazed in the past.

The local area (10 kilometre radius) surrounding the application retains less than 10 percent native vegetation. The mapped Beard vegetation type within the Avon Wheatbelt IBRA bioregion retains approximately 11 percent native vegetation (Government of Western Australia, 2013). Given this, the application falls within a highly cleared landscape.

Five fauna species listed as rare or likely to become extinct under the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950 have been recorded in the local area (10 kilometre radius). Given the condition of the understorey, its linear shape and as they are all ground dwelling fauna, the application area is not likely to contain suitable habitat for these species.

One rare flora species and one priority flora species has been recorded within the local area (10 kilometre radius). Given the distance to these species (6.5 and 9.5 kilometres respectively), the disturbance history of the vegetation and its linear shape, they are not likely to be present within the application area.

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

Methodology References:
Government of Western Australia (2013)
Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2014)

GIS Datasets:
- SacBiodataSets - accessed April 2014

(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**
A site inspection undertaken by the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2014) noted that the vegetation under application has been accessible to livestock and consistently grazed in the past.

The local area (10 kilometre radius) surrounding the application retains less than 10 percent native vegetation. The mapped Beard vegetation type, within the Avon Wheatbelt IBRA bioregion, retains approximately 11 percent native vegetation (Government of Western Australia, 2013). Given this, the application falls within a highly cleared landscape.

Five fauna species listed as rare or likely to become extinct under the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950 have been recorded in the local area (10 kilometre radius). Given the condition of the understorey, its linear shape and as they are all ground dwelling fauna, the application area is not likely to contain suitable habitat for these species.

Larger remnants of native vegetation in a better condition to the application area exist approximately 400 metres to the north and 160 metres to the south of the application area. Given this, the application area is not likely to be significant in the movement of fauna across the highly cleared landscape.

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

Methodology References:
Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2014)
Government of Western Australia (2013)

GIS Datasets:
- Landgate Virtual Mosaic
- NLWRA Current extent of native vegetation

(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**
A site inspection undertaken by the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2014) noted that the vegetation under application has been accessible to livestock and consistently grazed in the past.

One rare flora species has been recorded within the local area (10 kilometre radius). Given the distance to this species and as it is an understorey species within an area that has been consistently grazed, it is not likely to be present within the application area.

Given the above the application is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology Reference:
Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2014)

GIS Databases:
- SAC Biodatasets - accessed April 2014

(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**
No threatened ecological communities have been mapped within 100 kilometres of the application area. Given this the application is not at variance to this principle.

Methodology GIS Databases:
- SAC Biodatasets - accessed April 2014

(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 may be at variance to this Principle

The area under application is located within the Avon Wheatbelt Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) bioregion. This IBRA bioregion has approximately 18 percent of its pre-European vegetation extent remaining (Government of Western Australia, 2013).

The vegetation under application is mapped as Beard vegetation association 1024 of which there is approximately 11 percent of its pre-European extent remaining within the Avon Wheatbelt bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2013).

The area under application is located within the Shire of Koorda, within which there is approximately 14 percent pre-European extent remaining (Government of Western Australia, 2013).

The local area (10 kilometre radius) is highly cleared with less than ten percent native vegetation remaining.

The national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia has a target to prevent clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30 percent of that present pre-1750, below which species loss appears to accelerate exponentially at an ecosystem level (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001).

A site inspection undertaken by the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2014) noted that the vegetation under application has been accessible to livestock and consistently grazed in the past. The application area is not likely to contain rare or priority flora and is not considered significant fauna habitat.

The vegetation under application is devoid of understorey species and in a degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition. Given this it is not considered to be representative of Beard vegetation association 1024. Furthermore, larger remnants of native vegetation in a better condition to the application area exist approximately 400 metres to the north and 160 metres to the south of the application area.

The application area falls within a highly cleared landscape and is of significant size. However, given its linear distribution, degraded understorey and position within the landscape it may not be a significant remnant.

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

The purpose of the clearing is to realign the paddock vegetation from east west to north south, in order to follow the contours of the land and assist in managing wind and water erosion (Clare, 2014). The applicant intends on creating five native vegetation windbreaks across the paddock, each 12 metres wide, resulting in 3.5 hectares of revegetated land. Revegetation of 3.5 hectares of native vegetation is likely to limit the impact of clearing within a highly cleared landscape.

	Pre-European (ha)	Current Extent Remaining (ha)	Remaining (%)	Extent in DEC Managed Lands (%)
IBRA Bioregion*				
Avon Wheatbelt	9,517,109	1,778,407	18	9
Shire*				
Shire of Koorda	283,081	40,504	14	5
Beard Vegetation Association in Bioregion*				
31024	142,777	16,263	11	5

Methodology References:
Clare (2014)
Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2014)
Commonwealth of Australia (2001)
*Government of Western Australia (2013)
Mattiske Consulting (2013)

GIS Databases:
- SacBiodataSets - accessed April 2014
- Landgate Virtual Mosaic

(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 at variance to this Principle

No watercourses or wetlands have been mapped within the application area. The closest falls approximately

450 metres from the application area and is a minor non-perennial watercourse running through a paddock. Given this, the application is not at variance to this clearing principle.

Methodology

GIS Datasets:
- Landgate Virtual Mosaic
- Hydrography 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

The Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2013) undertook a site inspection of the application area on the 28 March 2014. The corresponding Land degradation assessment report found that the risk of the proposed clearing causing land degradation is low, noting:

- No change in salinity is expected
- Wind erosion is unlikely
- The proposed clearing has a low risk of water erosion and no significant change is expected
- Given the soil type, the risk of eutrophication is low
- The proposed clearing areas are well drained.

Given this, the application is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology

References:
Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2014)

GIS Datasets:
- Hydrography linear
- Topographic contours

(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 nearest conservation area to the proposed clearing is an un-named A class nature reserve, approximately 7.5 kilometres north-west of the application area.

Given the distance to the nearest reserve, as the application area is not likely to contain rare or priority flora and is not likely to form significant fauna habitat, the application is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology

GIS Datasets:
- DEC Tenure
- SacBiodataSets - accessed April 2014

(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

The application is for the purpose of instating vegetated windrows for erosion management. No watercourses are mapped within or within close proximity to the application area.

A site inspection undertaken on behalf of The Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2014) found the risk of clearing the vegetation causing salinity to be low. The inspection also found that the risk of significant erosion and eutrophication to be low, therefore the application is not likely to deteriorate the quality of surface or underground water.

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

Methodology

References:
Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2014)

GIS Databases:
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide
- Topographic Contours, Statewide

(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

No watercourses or wetlands have been identified within the application area. A site inspection undertaken on behalf of The Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2014) found that the proposed clearing area is generally well drained and no change in the occurrences of waterlogging is likely.

Methodology The application is not at variance to this clearing principle.
References:
Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2014)

GIS Datasets:
- Hydrography linear

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

Comments The purpose of the clearing is to realign the paddock vegetation from east west to north south, in order to follow the contours of the land and assist in managing wind and water erosion (Clare, 2014). To achieve this, the applicant intends on creating five native vegetation windbreaks across the paddock, each 12 metres wide, resulting in 3.5 hectares of revegetated land.

No Aboriginal sites of significance area mapped within the application area.

No submissions from the public were received in relation to this application.

Methodology References:
Clare (2014)

GIS Data sets:
- Aboriginal sites of significance

4. References

- Clare (2014) Information submitted in support of clearing permit application CPS 5995/1. Robert John Clare. Received 5 February 2014 (DER ref: A722585).
- Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2014) Advice received in relation to clearing permit application CPS 5995/1. Lot 21 on Deposited Plan 63605, Dukin (DER Ref: A745846).
- DEC (2007 -) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Environment and Conservation. URL: <http://naturemap.dec.wa.gov.au/>. Accessed April 2014.
- 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.
- 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.