



## CLEARING PERMIT

*Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986*

<b>Purpose Permit number:</b>	CPS 6010/1
<b>Permit Holder:</b>	Department of Corrective Services
<b>Duration of Permit:</b>	24 October 2014 to 24 October 2019

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 fire hazard reduction.

**2. Land on which clearing is to be done**

Lot 501 on Deposited Plan 69593 (Reserve 50756), Canning Vale

**3. Area of Clearing**

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 12.38 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 6010/1.

**4. Method of clearing**

The Permit Holder may only clear native vegetation via the method of burning.

**5. 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

**6. Avoid, minimise etc clearing**

In determining the amount of native vegetation to be cleared authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder must have regard to the following principles, set out in order of preference:

- (a) avoid the clearing of native vegetation;
- (b) minimise the amount of native vegetation to be cleared; and
- (c) reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.

**7. Dieback and weed control**

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

- (iii) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.
- (b) At least once in each 12 month period for the term of this Permit, the Permit Holder must remove or kill any *weeds* growing within areas cleared under this Permit.

#### **DEFINITIONS**

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

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

**dry conditions** means when soils (not dust) do not freely adhere to rubber tyres, tracks, vehicle chassis or wheel arches;

**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; and

**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 a Department of Parks and Wildlife Regional Weed Rankings Summary, regardless of ranking; or
- (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.



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Jane Clarkson  
MANAGER  
CLEARING REGULATION

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

24 September 2014

# Plan 6010/1



## LEGEND

- Road Centrelines
- Cadastre
- Local Government Authorities
- Clearing Instruments
- Areas Approved to Clear



0 ————— 300 m

Scale 1:10603  
(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.

..... Date .....

J. Clarkson

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

## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 6010/1  
Permit type: Purpose Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Department of Corrective Services

### 1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 501 ON PLAN 69593 (Lot No. 501 WARTON CANNING VALE 6155)  
Local Government Area: City of Gosnells  
Colloquial name:

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
12.38		Burning	Hazard reduction or fire control

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant  
Decision Date: 24 September 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 1001; Medium very sparse woodland; jarrah, with low woodland; banksia & casuarina	The proposed clearing consists of 12.38 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 501 on Deposited Plan 69593 (Reserve 50756), Canning Vale, for the purpose of fire hazard reduction.	Excellent: Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery 1994)  To  Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)	The condition and description of the vegetation under application was determined by a site inspection undertaken by the Department of Environment Regulation (DER 2014).  The eastern portion of the application area is comprised of Banksia woodland, with scattered areas of <i>Kunzea glabrescens</i> over a dense native understorey including <i>Hibbertia hypericoides</i> , <i>Macrozamia riedlei</i> and <i>Acacia pulchella</i> . This area is lower lying than the rest of the application area, as indicated by the presence of <i>Kunzea glabrescens</i> .  Progressing from east to west through the application area there is a change from lower lying vegetation in an excellent (Keighery, 1994) condition to upland vegetation consisting of scattered <i>Acacia</i> sp., <i>Banksia</i> sp., and <i>Eucalypt</i> sp. (native and non-native) over an understorey dominated by exotic grass species <i>Ehrharta erecta</i> . This area is likely to have been relatively recently cleared and may have been subject to some revegetation works.  The central portion of the application area changes back to a mixed Banksia woodland (largely in good to very good (Keighery, 1994) condition) within the western portion of the application area. Other species within this area include <i>Adenanthos cygnorum</i> , <i>Acacia pulchella</i> and other native and non-native (grasses) understorey species.

### 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 proposed controlled burn consists of 12.38 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 501 on Deposited Plan 69593 (Reserve 50756), Canning Vale, for the purpose of fire hazard reduction. The area under application is proposed to be burnt in accordance with a Bush Fire Management Plan established by the Department of Corrective Services in consultation with the City of Gosnells and the Fire and Emergency Services Authority (Department of Corrective Services, 2014).

The vegetation under application ranges from excellent to degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition, with the eastern portion largely in excellent (Keighery, 1994) condition, the central (northern) portion in a degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition and the western portion in a good to very good (Keighery, 1994) condition.

The majority of the application area is dominated by low woodland of *Banksia attenuata* and *Banksia menziesii* with scattered *Allocasuarina fraseriana* and *Adenanthos cygnorum* over a dense native understorey including *Hibbertia hypericoides*, *Macrozamia riedlei* and *Acacia pulchella*. The eastern portion of the application is relatively low lying and also includes patches of *Kunzea glabrescens*. The vegetation within the central portion of the application area has undergone the greatest level of disturbance and is dominated by exotic grass (*Ehrharta erecta*) (DER, 2014).

One species of rare flora has been mapped within Lot 501 (approximately 600 metres away) on a portion of adjoining vegetation consistent with that under application. The Department of Parks and Wildlife conducted a survey of the application area in September 2014 and did not identify this species.

The closest mapped priority flora (priority 4) occurs approximately 500 metres north of the application area. Priority 4 species are considered to have been adequately surveyed and not in need of special protection, but could be if circumstances change. Given the distance to this mapped occurrence, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact on the conservation status of this species.

The closest priority ecological community (PEC) to the application area is the priority 3 'Low lying banksia attenuata shrubland or woodlands'. This PEC has been mapped approximately 4.5 kilometres south east of the application area. A portion of the vegetation under application is consistent with the vegetation description of this PEC, however given the distance of the application area to this mapped occurrence, it is not likely that the proposed clearing will impact on this community.

The application area is largely comprised of low *Banksia* woodland (DER, 2014) which provides suitable foraging habitat for *Calyptorhynchus banksii* subsp. *naso* (forest red-tailed black-cockatoo), *Calyptorhynchus baudinii* (Baudin's cockatoo) and *Calyptorhynchus latirostris* (Carnaby's cockatoo), all listed as 'rare or likely to become extinct' under the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950. The application area may also contain suitable habitat for ground dwelling indigenous fauna such as *Isoodon obesulus* subsp. *fusciventer* (quenda) *Neelaps calonotos* (black-striped snake) and *Lerista lineata* (lined skink).

The local area surrounding the application (10 kilometre radius) retains approximately 15 per cent native vegetation.

A portion of the vegetation under application is located within Bush Forever Site 472 known as 'Canning Vale Prison Bushland'. The proposed burn will increase the risk of weeds and dieback spreading into this conservation area. Weed and dieback management practices will assist in mitigating this risk.

Aerial imagery indicates that the application area has not been subject to fire within the last 20 years. A minimum fire interval of 8 to 16 years (twice juvenile period) is recommended within *Banksia* woodlands based on the information for key flora fire response species (Wilson et al, 2010). For understorey density within *Banksia* woodlands, species richness has been shown to increase for the first five years after fire, with many shrub species reaching their greatest density two years after fire (Wilson et al, 2010). With reference to *Banksia attenuata* and *Banksia menziesii*, it is recommended that burning regimes maximise the amount of *Banksia* woodland in the 11 to 30 years since last fire (YSLF) bracket, to ensure food sources for Carnaby's cockatoo (Wilson et al, 2010).

Given that the application area has not been subject to fire within the last 20 years (and perhaps longer), the proposed burning is likely to result in a net increase in biodiversity, provided that subsequent burning of the site does not occur within 20 years of any initial burn.

As the vegetation under application is largely in good to excellent (Keighery, 1994) condition, includes suitable habitat for conservation significant fauna and forms part of Bush Forever Site 472, the proposed clearing may be at variance to this Principle.

##### Methodology

##### References:

- Keighery (1994)
- DER (2014)
- Department of Corrective Services (2014)
- Wilson et al (2010)

GIS Databases:  
-NLWRA, Current Extent of Native Vegetation  
-SAC Bio Datasets (Accessed July 2013)  
-Bush Forever Sites

**(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**

Several fauna species of conservation significance have been recorded within 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), *Myrmecobius fasciatus* (numbat), *Dasyurus geoffroyi* (chuditch), *Isoodon obesulus* subsp. *fusciventer* (quenda), *Lerista lineata* (lined skink), *Neelaps calonotos* (black-striped snake) and *Ctenotus ora* (coastal plains skink) (DEC, 2007- ).

Forest red-tailed black cockatoo, Baudin's cockatoo and Carnaby's cockatoo forage on the seeds, nuts and flowers of a large variety of plants including proteaceous species (*banksia*, *hakea*, *grevillea*), as well as *allocasuarina* and *eucalyptus* species, *Corymbia calophylla* and a range of introduced species (Valentine and Stock, 2008).

The native feeding records on the Swan Coastal Plain reveal that *Banksia* species account for nearly 50 per cent for Carnaby's cockatoo, with the majority of records from *Banksia attenuata* (Shah 2006). This species and the co-dominant *Banksia menziesii* are considered essential native food sources for Carnaby's cockatoo (Shah 2006). Basic ecological theory, expert opinion and recent evidence, suggests that the remaining native and pine plantation foraging habitat on the Swan Coastal Plain is just sufficient to support the current population of Carnaby's cockatoo. Therefore, it is considered that any reduction in foraging habitat will result in a reduction in the carrying capacity of the region and therefore a decline in the population of Carnaby's cockatoo. A recent study involving population analysis modelling suggests that if clearing continues to occur at its current rate without effective habitat restoration, the species is likely to decline to extinction in less than 20 years (Cockerill et al, 2013).

The application area is comprised largely of *Banksia attenuata* and *Banksia menziesii* low woodland in a good to very good (Keighery, 1994) condition, therefore it is likely that the 12.38 hectares of native vegetation under application provides significant foraging habitat for the three abovementioned species of black cockatoo.

The vegetation under application does not contain any large mature hollow bearing trees suitable as breeding habitat for black cockatoos or habitat for Southern brush-tailed phascogale, which has a preference for dry sclerophyll forest containing numerous hollow-bearing trees (Department of the Environment, 2013).

The application area may contain suitable habitat for chuditch, Southern death adder, coastal plains skink and numbat, however these species have not been recorded in the local area (10 kilometre radius) since 1988, and it is unlikely that the proposed burning of 12.38 hectares will impact on significant habitat for these species.

There are several recently mapped records in the local area for the lined skink, black striped snake and quenda. The lined skink and black striped snake have a preference for *Banksia* woodland, sandy coastal heath and low shrubland (Wilson and Swan, 2008), and those portions of the application area in very good (Keighery, 1994) condition, may provide suitable habitat for these species. However, the application area includes two compartments proposed for burning and the proponent has a commitment to burn only one compartment annually, in accordance with the Bushfire Management Plan. This approach will allow fauna to disperse into adjacent vegetation.

Aerial imagery indicates that the application area has not been subject to fire within the last 20 years. It is recommended that burning regimes maximise the amount of *Banksia* woodland in the 11 to 30 years since last fire (YSLF) bracket, to ensure food sources for Carnaby's cockatoo (Wilson et al, 2010). Therefore, given that the application area has not been subject to fire within the last 20 years (and perhaps longer), the proposed burning is likely to result in a net increase in biodiversity, provided that subsequent burning of the site does not occur within 20 years of the initial burn.

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

**Methodology** References:  
-DEC (2007- )  
-DER (2014)  
-Department of the Environment (2013)  
-Wilson and Swan (2008)

**(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**

The closest species of rare flora to the application area is a tuberous perennial herb with a preference for grey and brown sands or clay loam (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998- ). This species has been mapped within Lot 501 (approximately 600 metres away) on a portion of adjoining vegetation consistent with that under application.

The soils within the application area have been mapped by Northcote et al (1960-68) as sandy dunes with intervening sandy and clayey swamp flats with chief soils consisting of leached sands, and given that the vegetation under application is connected to vegetation supporting an existing mapped population, there is the potential for this species to occur within the application area.

Fire is considered detrimental to this species if occurring between July to November (during vegetative and flowering stages). It is indicated that fires may be beneficial in summer given the potential to promote flowering (Wilson et al, 2010).

The Department of Parks and Wildlife conducted a survey of the application area in September 2014 and did not identify this species. Therefore, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

**Methodology References:**

- Western Australian Herbarium (1998- )
- Wilson et al (2010)
- Northcote et al (1960-68)

**(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**

The nearest threatened ecological community (TEC) is situated approximately 3.7 kilometres south east of the application area and is described as 'Shrublands on dry clay flats'.

Given the distance of this mapped TEC to the application area, it is not likely that the vegetation under application comprises or is necessary for the maintenance of this TEC.

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

**Methodology GIS Databases:**

- SAC Bio Datasets (Accessed July 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 local area surrounding the application (10 kilometre radius) retains approximately 20 per cent native vegetation.

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).

Within constrained areas (areas of urban development in cities and major towns) on the Swan Coastal Plain, the target for representation of the pre-clearing extent of a particular native vegetation complex is 10 per cent (EPA, 2006). The area under application is classified as a constrained area.

The City of Gosnells and Beard Vegetation Association (1001) retain approximately 28 and 24 per cent pre-European vegetation respectively. These figures are greater than the abovementioned 10 per cent threshold in constrained areas, therefore the vegetation under application is not within an extensively cleared area.

The application area contains vegetation suitable to be utilised as foraging habitat for conservation significant fauna and contains a high level of biodiversity, therefore has environmental value, however the area under application is not within an area that has been extensively cleared.

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

	Pre-European (ha)	Current Extent (ha)	Remaining Extent (%)	Extent in DEC Managed Lands (%)
IBRA Bioregion Swan Coastal Plain	15,897	3,163	19	13
Shire City of Gosnells	12,716	3,672	28	16
Beard Vegetation Association in Bioregion 1001	57,410	14,151	24	5

Government of Western Australia (2013)

**Methodology**

References:

- Government of Western Australia (2013)
- Commonwealth of Australia (2001)

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 not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

No watercourses or wetlands have been mapped within the application area. The closest mapped wetland or watercourse to the application area is a conservation category dampland mapped approximately 200 metres west and a multiple use wetland mapped 180 metres north west.

The vegetation under application is separated from these mapped wetlands by a housing development to the north west and a major road to the west. Therefore it is not likely that the vegetation under application is growing in association with a watercourse or wetland.

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

**Methodology**

GIS Databases:

- Geomorphic Wetlands, Swan Coastal Plain
- 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 sandy dunes with intervening sandy and clayey swamp flats with chief soils consisting of leached sands, sometimes with a clay D horizon below 5 feet, on the dunes and sandy swamps. Associated are various soils in the clayey swamps.

Leached sands are highly susceptible to wind erosion, however any wind erosion that results from the proposed burn is likely to be short term, given that understorey species within Banksia woodland have been shown to reach their greatest density within two years after fire. Therefore the proposed clearing is unlikely to result in appreciable land degradation through wind erosion.

Given the high permeability of sandy soils and the distance to the closest mapped watercourse or wetland (180 metres), it is unlikely that the proposed clearing will result in water erosion causing appreciable land degradation.

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

**Methodology**

References:

- Northcote et al (1960-1968)

GIS Databases:

- Geomorphic Wetlands, Swan Coastal Plain
- Hydrography, linear
- Hydrography, hierachy



**(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 vegetation under application is partially located within Bush Forever Site 472 known as 'Canning Vale Prison Bushland' which includes approximately 49.28 hectares of vegetation. The application area includes approximately five hectares of this Bush Forever Site. The closest reserve to the proposed clearing is an unofficial A Class Nature Reserve situated approximately two kilometres south east of the application area and Piara Nature Reserve (C Class) is situated four kilometres south of the application area.

The vegetation under application is likely to assist in maintaining the ecological processes between Bush Forever Site 472 and two other adjoining Bush Forever Sites (253 and 389), therefore there is likely to be short term impacts on these processes post burning.

The application area has not been subject to fire within the last 20 years, and a minimum fire interval of 8-16 years (twice juvenile period) is recommended within Banksia woodlands based on the information for key flora fire response species (Wilson et al, 2010). For understorey density within Banksia woodlands, species richness has been shown to increase for the first five years after fire, with many shrub species reaching their greatest density two years after fire (Wilson et al, 2010). With reference to Banksia attenuata and Banksia menziesii, it is recommended that burning regimes maximise the amount of Banksia woodland in the 11 to 30 Years Since Last Fire (YSLF). Therefore, given that the application area has not been subject to fire within the last 20 years, the proposed burning is likely to result in a net increase in biodiversity, provided that subsequent burning of the site does not occur within 20 years of the initial burn.

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

**Methodology** References:  
-Wilson et al (2010)  
  
GIS Databases:  
-DEC Tenure  
-Bush Forever Sites

**(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**

No watercourses or wetlands have been mapped within the application area. The closest mapped wetland or watercourse to the application area is a conservation category dampland mapped approximately 200 metres west and a multiple use wetland mapped 180 metres north west.

Given the distance to the closest mapped watercourse, it is not likely that the proposed clearing will result in deterioration in the quality of surface water.

Groundwater salinity mapped within the application area is between 0 and 500 milligrams per litre. Given this low salinity level, it is considered that the proposed clearing will not lead to a perceptible rise in the watertable and thus an increase in groundwater salinity levels, particularly long term given the expected regeneration of much of the vegetation under application.

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

**Methodology** GIS Databases:  
-Groundwater Salinity, Statewide  
-Geomorphic Wetlands, Swan Coastal Plain  
-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 likely to be at variance to this Principle**

Given the distance to the closest mapped wetland or watercourse, it is not likely that the proposed clearing of 12.38 hectares will cause or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding.

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

**Methodology** GIS Databases:  
-Geomorphic Wetlands, Swan Coastal Plain  
-Hydrography, linear  
-Hydrography, hierachy

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

### Comments

The area under application is proposed to be burnt in accordance with a Bush Fire Management Plan established by the Department of Corrective Services in consultation with the City of Gosnells and the Fire and Emergency Services Authority (Department of Corrective Services, 2014). It is advised that the site has no recent fire history since at least 1999 with high fuel loads estimated to be in the range of 15 - 30 tonnes per hectare throughout the site. The burning is proposed to reduce the bushfire risk to both Hakea Prison and surrounding private properties (Department of Corrective Services, 2014).

The proposed burn is scheduled for several segments of vegetation within Lot 501, with a total of 13 segments and approximately 57 hectares proposed for burning. It is advised that in order to achieve a mosaic fuel age throughout the site, no more than 2 segments will be burnt in any one calendar year (Department of Corrective Services, 2014). The current application includes 2 of the 13 segments.

The City of Gosnells support the proposed clearing, as long as it is undertaken in accordance with the proponents Bush Fire Management Plan. It is noted by the City that the Bushfire Management Plan states that under no circumstance will two adjacent compartments be burnt within a twelve month period, and therefore if the area under application was burnt at the same time (consists of two compartments), the Bushfire Management Plan would be contravened (City of Gosnells, 2014).

No submissions from the public have been received for the proposed clearing.

### Methodology

#### References:

- Department of Corrective Services (2014)
- City of Gosnells (2014)

## 4. References

- City of Gosnells (2014) Direct Interest Submission for Clearing Permit Application CPS 6010/1. DER Ref A734340.
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- Wilson, S. and Swan, G. (2008) A Complete Guide to Reptiles of Australia. New Holland Publishers, Sydney.